

WO

VOLUME X / ISSUE I
November 2023

THE BLADE



Another **Banned** Book



PLUS ONLINE CONTENT

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UP-TO-DATE, ALL INCLUSIVE GUIDE**

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Letter From The Editor

Dear Reader,

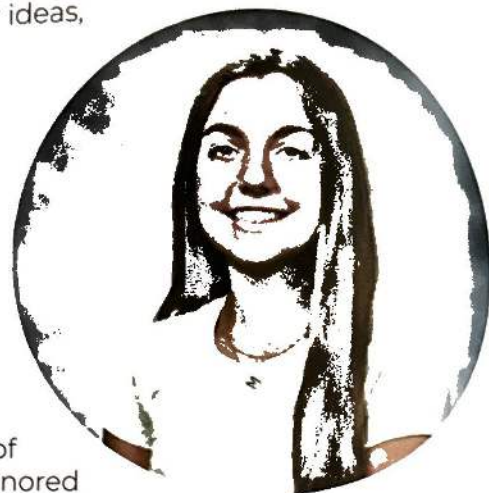
Congratulations on making it through the first quarter! We are very excited for you to read the first magazine of the 2023 - 2024 school year. In this issue we are covering a wide variety of topics from Twitter Changing to X, Florida Cell Phone Ban, How to Organize High School and Global Warming.

As you read through, remember this is a student-produced publication. The purpose of The Blade is to provide news and entertainment for students to see their viewpoints expressed in media and stories that they find interesting.

We want this issue and future issues to be different than years past and display growth. As we look ahead

to the school year, I encourage each of you to reach out with your ideas, feedback and contributions.

This magazine is a reflection of our school community and we want to ensure that it remains a vibrant and representative medium for all voices. I want to thank all the students and staff who have shared their stories, ideas and creativity with us. Your contributions have breathed life into the pages of this magazine and we are honored to be the platform that showcases your thoughts. I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed creating it.



Sincerely,

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Spread by: Jayleen Valdez

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TWITTER IS OUT

You might have woken up one day, checked your phone and saw a big white and black X instead of one of social media's most popular birds. Twitter has ceased to exist. We now have X.

Twitter has been an iconic part of social media since its existence began on March 21, 2006. People have scrolled for hours checking out daily news updates, funny memes, celebrity news/drama, etc.

According to David Sayce, on average there are around 6,000 tweets sent each second, over 350,000 per minute, over 500 million per day and around 200 billion tweets per year. But on July 24, 2023 at 5:53 p.m. the blue bird that everyone knew and loved was replaced by a black and white "X".

CEO, Jack Dorsey sold his company, Twitter, to Elon Musk on October 27, 2022 who completely re-branded the company. Is it just a name change? What else is going to change about the app?

"When the change was first made, I was so confused on where the app went," Kennedy Heslin, 11 said. "I checked my phone and it seemed to be gone. Now that it has changed, I miss Twitter, the X logo is just not the same."

Although the change was made, many haven't seen much change of the actual app utilities itself. Yes, while the iconic bird is now gone, X works almost the exact same way.



Kennedy Heslin, 11

Now that it has changed, I miss Twitter, the X logo is just not the same.



Musk supposedly has big plans for X. He could dabble in paid subscriptions, giving customers access to new features. He hopes to make X a super-app, a more popular version of Patreon. Something like China's "WeChat" which is a super combination of messaging, video conferencing, broadcasting, video games and so much more is potentially what Musk is striving for.

Although the name and logo were hard to ignore, there have been multiple other changes within the platform. Musk eliminated thousands of employees when he took over the company as well as changed the platform's features, including how to get verified and governing what can and can't be said.

"I don't mind all the changes now, but I'm not so sure what's going to happen in the future and I don't really know if I would like these changes," Alyssa Johnson, 9 said. "But you never know, we'll see."

Musk explained that he felt the bird no longer made sense as previously tweets could only be 140 characters whereas now you can post any length, including several hours of video.

So far, the iconic app isn't fully transformed yet, there is a long way to go. Users still have all the uses of the original app, but things may change.

AJ Alyssa Johnson, 9

I don't mind all the changes now, but I'm not so sure what's going to happen in the future and I don't really know if I would like these changes.



IS NEXT

Written by: Lauryn Nguyen, 11

More Than a Doll

The Barbie Movie: How It Has Impacted High School Girls

Written by: Reese Heitkamp, 9

The record-breaking, comedy film that has taken the world by storm, *The Barbie Movie*. Primarily focusing on feminist themes, women across the globe have come out and given their opinions on the movie's portrayal of what it means to be a woman.

For the past six months, the hit film "Barbie" has been a huge topic of discussion all over the world. Originally thought to be about a blonde, pink-loving, child's toy, viewers shortly realized that was not the case.

The titular character embarks on an extravagant journey with her friends, revealing her hidden potential while playing

a critical role in restoring Barbieland. Along the way, viewers see Barbie

struggling with the concepts of what it means to be a woman and how Barbie dolls have affected society among women.

Women's rights have been a highly sensitive issue in America over the years, and this movie was the icing on the cake. Right-wing Americans have come out with lots of criticisms for the film along with hate-posting, making video essays as to why you shouldn't see it, and even burning Barbie dolls.

"To me, it really spoke about the perspective of women's lives and how we're being mistreated by

"To me, it really spoke about the perspective of women's lives and how we're being mistreated by men, and how we don't get the same opportunities as men"

Amber Harris, 12



Spread by: Alexis Westbay

men, and how we don't get the same opportunities as men," Amber Harris, 12 said. "But, it showcases that by also being relatable to men as well, and being funny, and having moments that weren't about feminism. It was just so beautifully done, and I know I'm going to re-watch it again and again, and show my kids when I'm older, and show it to all of the men in my life."

Teens across the globe have resonated with Barbie. One of the main characters, Sasha played by Ariana Greenblatt, is a high school student who is angry about what Barbie has taught young girls. She highlights how growing up, girls don't realize the impact Barbie might have on them, but it provides unrealistic expectations later on in life.

"I resonate the most with Sasha because she was skeptical of the whole Barbie situation from the start," Sophia Chapman, 9 said. "But her character grew throughout the whole movie, and started to understand Barbie's point of view."

When you think about Barbie, you will often think of her male companion, Ken. Something that came out of the Barbie movie was how important Ken was to the entire

plot of the movie. When the couple travels to the real world, Ken starts to notice how the world is predominantly ran by men. He thinks this is wonderful and he starts to do research on the patriarchy. Skip 30 minutes later and Ken suddenly has taken all of the other Kens in Barbieland and flipped what was a land full of women's empowerment, to worship the patriarchy. In doing so, he ends up treating women with more disrespect, he steals Barbie's dream house to turn it into his own house and he rewrites what all of the Barbies have been doing for the past century.

This relates to society today because it shows how women aren't the only victims of the patriarchy. Obviously, women are the main targets of the patriarchy, but men are also affected by their own crazy standards and expectations of women. What men have been enforcing since the dawn of time, has now caught up to a lot of naive, innocent, and susceptible men. In the Barbie movie, Ken didn't even fully understand what the patriarchy was, like how lots of men today don't fully understand it. Many men today are not able to uphold their own idealizations, and the Barbie movie

perfectly demonstrates that through Ken.

"His character showed how the idea of the patriarchy isn't a real thing, like for him, he thought it was about horses, and then he was like 'oh shoot I don't care about it anymore because it's not horses'," Sydney Heitkamp, 12 said. "It shows how it's totally a social construct like everything else - things are only things because humans make them things. We all have this agreed-upon idea that this is what the patriarchy is and it's really not. To Ken, having his own house was his idea of patriarchy, and even the name 'Mojo Dojo Casa House' was his idea of patriarchy."

The Barbie movie has demonstrated many important themes that are relevant in our society today. Teens all over the world watched this movie and it has revolutionized feminism. With themes such as gender equality, fighting against the patriarchy and how kids are susceptible to propaganda, it could be the movie of this generation.



Too Much Sunshine in

Global Warming is Picking Up Speed

Written by: Alexis Westbay, 11

Florida, known as the sunshine state, has long been a haven for tourists, retirees, and nature enthusiasts drawn to its warm weather and pristine beaches. However, beneath the surface of this tropical paradise, a growing crisis looms: climate change. In recent years, Florida has become a front-line battle ground in the global struggle against the impacts of a warming planet.

Rising Seas and Vulnerable Coastlines:

One of the most immediate and visible consequences of climate change in Florida is rising sea levels. With its extensive coastline and low-lying terrain, the state is particularly vulnerable. Miami in particular, stands out as a city on the frontlines of the battle against sea level rise. As a phrase is often used "sunny day flooding" where streets flood even on clear days due to high tides, has become distressingly common. As rising sea levels continue some cities like Miami and Tampa are threatened.

Government Initiatives:

Florida's state and local governments have taken action to address the crisis. In 2019, governor Ron DeSantis appointed the states first Chief Resilience Officer, Julia Nesheiwat, to coordinate efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts. The state has also initiated programs to restore and protect natural buffers like mangroves and coral reefs, which helps absorb the energy of storm surges and rising tides.

Hurricane Intensity:

Florida's hurricane season has grown increasingly intense due to warmer ocean waters, fueling storms with more energy. Residents have experienced more frequent and severe hurricanes in recent years, with hurricane Irma in 2017 serving as a stark reminder of the need for preparedness and resilience.

Red tide and algal Blooms:

Florida's picturesque beaches have been marred by recurring red tide events and harmful algal blooms. These phenomena harm marine life, deter tourists and pose health risks to residents. This is caused by nutrient runoff, and to develop strategies for mitigation.

the Sunshine State

Endangered Wildlife:

Florida is home to numerous endangered species, from the iconic Florida panther to the elusive manatee. As their habitats shrink and face increased pressure from climate change, preserving these animals and their ecosystems is of paramount importance.

“Hurricanes affect me [and] my education as we can be out of school for multiple days, and we also have to make those days up.”

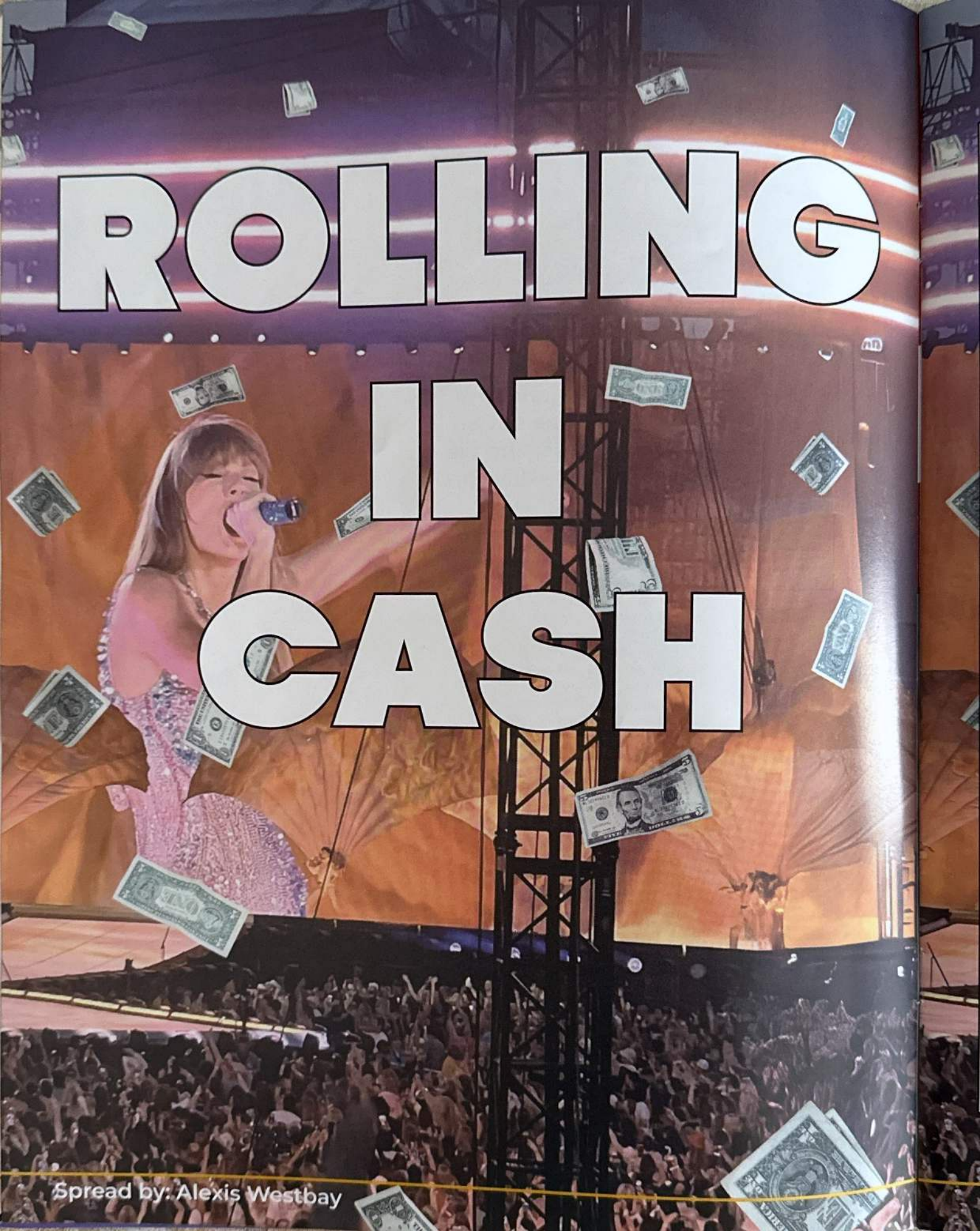
Kyara Licona 11

The Effects:

In Central Florida there are about on average one to two hurricanes per hurricane season. When these hurricanes hit, the WOHS staff has to decide on whether or not the school will stay open. If it doesn't stay open, they have to start canceling all after school activities depending on the size of the hurricane.

After they decide the length of how long the school will be out, they have to start thinking of how they will make up those days at WOHS. So it comes down to a lot of work for the students and staff at West Orange.

Florida's battle against climate change is a microcosm of the global challenge we face. Rising sea levels, extreme heat, and more powerful hurricanes threaten the state's unique ecosystems, economy, and the well-being of its residents. However, with proactive government measures, investments in renewable energy, and community-driven initiatives, Florida is setting an example for resilience and adaptation in the face of climate change.



ROLLING

IN

CASH

Spread by: Alexis Westbay

How are Concerts Affecting Orlando Economy?

Written by: Kaylie Strange, 12

Concerts bring big fun and big bucks to Orlando and surrounding areas. Artists, fans and small businesses benefit from local concerts. Popular entertainers like Taylor Swift and Beyonce have made an especially large impact on the local economy where they perform.

There have been many impactful concerts in the past that have benefited Orlando and businesses in the area. According to the Orlando Sentinel, Garth Brooks and Bad Bunny both broke records in March 2022. Garth Brooks had the highest concert gross, highest concert attendance, and highest food and beverage gross for the venue. Bad Bunny also broke records for the highest concert gross and highest concert attendance for a two-night event at the venue.

The Amway Center's highest grossing single day concert was Justin Timberlake in 2018, grossing more than \$2 million dollars. Concert-goers to these events benefit individuals and local businesses by frequenting their restaurants, staying at their hotels, parking in their lots, and using their transportation services.

Seniors Brianne Loughrey and Ayden Rieck help the local economy when they go to events by parking nearby and visiting eating establishments before or after the show. The economy is also bolstered by providing employment opportunities such as security personnel, ticket sellers, concession stand workers, and parking attendants.

While Orlando hosts a lot of exciting artists, they have missed out on bigger concerts like the most recent Beyonce and Taylor Swift tours. These tours have been shown to make a positive influence on the local economy. The effect Beyonce has on the local economy is being called the "Beyonce effect", where local economies have seen a boost in spending before and during her tour stop. Minority businesses also likely saw a boost. According to Thrillist, searches for black-owned, woman-owned, and LGBTQ+-owned businesses increased in the week leading up to Beyonce's show in multiple cities.

Taylor's only show in Florida, Tampa, was highly successful. According to the Tampa Bay Times, it in taxes alone were generated by her concert as well as millions in other revenues. Hotel revenues during Swift's shows were up over 100% compared to the same time last year. Raymond James Stadium profited an estimated \$5 million from her tour. According to WFTS Tampa Bay, there was a 26% increase in local spending during Taylor Swift's tour in Tampa, and it's expected that Beyonce's stop on August 16th had the same effect.

West Orange students would happily contribute to the economy if their favorite artists came to Orlando. Students enjoy a wide range of artists.

Loughrey said she would pay as much as it takes to see her favorite artist Bo Burnham in Orlando while Rieck wants to see

Twenty-One Pilots.

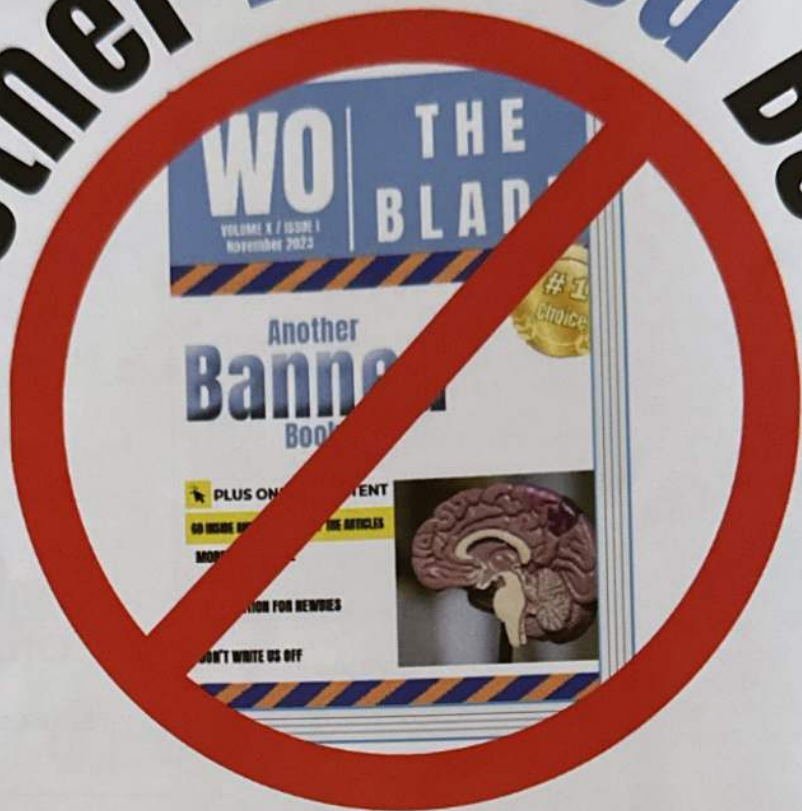
I would love to see my favorite bands Korn and Slipknot come to Orlando," Elana Strange, 9, said, and that she would pay up to \$1,000 to see them perform.

I would love to see my favorite bands Korn and Slipknot in Orlando.

ELANA STRANGE, 9

Concerts are great fun, but you can feel even better that you are also boosting the local economy when you attend your favorite artists' concert. Bigger tours that have brought millions to other cities would really benefit Orlando businesses, large and small alike. Also, don't underestimate the impact you can have by supporting local artists at smaller venues. Your support may have a small impact on the economy as a whole, but makes a big difference to the individual artists and venues.

Another Banned Book



AP Psychology Switched to AICE Psychology

Written By: Gabriella Lis, 11

On August 3rd, 2023 College Board announced, "Florida Department of Education has effectively banned AP Psychology in the state by instructing Florida superintendents that teaching foundational content on sexual orientation and gender identity is illegal under state law." They effectively said that the contents of this course were not age-appropriate, but never defined what age-appropriate meant. This sent most high school students who hadn't already taken the rigorous course into shock and those who had into confusion.

"I took AP psychology last year and I feel bad for those who won't get to experience it in all its glory," Olivia Rodgers, 11 said.

The list of student stances that view this ban negatively could go on continuously. Yet this further proves that who this affects isn't being taken into consideration when making future decisions.

“Those who were interested or want to study psychology at an advanced level no longer have those resources.”

Gabriella Cyprien, 12

"I think it affected Floridian students negatively because those who were interested or want to student psychology at an advanced level no longer have those resources," Gabriella Cyprien, 12 said.

In like manner, MSNBC affirms, "Understanding human sexuality is fundamental to psychology, and an advanced placement course that excludes the decades of science studying sexual orientation and gender identity would deprive students of knowledge they will need to succeed in their studies, in high school and beyond," Arthur C. Evans Jr., CEO of the American Psychological Association said.

AP African American Studies

Q: What is AP African American Studies?

A: The course tracks the Black experience from the early African Kingdoms to slavery and the civil rights movement through today.

Q: Why was it banned in Florida?

A: The course was banned due to the course lacking "educational value and historical accuracy" and allegedly violating Florida law.

"I don't see how there could be any positive effects from banning this course," Mackenzie Crownover, 11, said. "The material had never been controversial and was always based on facts or science, so there wasn't anything that I felt needed to be removed in the first place. My class was all 10th grade and up and everyone was mature enough to handle the 'difficult' topics we were talking about, which we didn't even

deal with often."

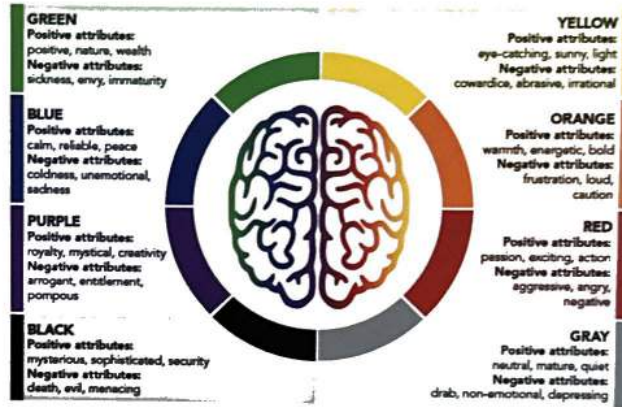
Nevertheless, the removal of this course prompted the addition of Cambridge AICE Psychology. AICE classes are typically essay and/or writing based while AP Psychology was a multiple-choice and free-response course. Consequently, AICE classes, while being more rigorous than honors, are less rigorous than AP.

Not only were they not the courses that students signed up for, but it wasn't the course that teachers were prepared to teach having had the removal of AP psychology only a week before school started.

This gave teachers only one week to change all of their future plans for the school year and find a way to educate students on psychology in a different way than they previously taught the course.

This has once again put Florida in the hot seat just following the banning of books highlighting certain communities, the removal of AP African-American studies and changing the curriculum to include the "benefits" of skills learned for personal use while enslaved. All of these events connect back to covering up different points of view and limiting future generations to only one way of thinking.

Psychology is an indispensable occupation especially in today's society with mental illness at an estimated 26% among teenagers and almost half of Americans will experience an episode of mental illness. Without the vital details of what psychology is and what it entails, how is one expected to succeed in this profession?



Psychology STATS

26% OF TEENS HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS

20%

OF ADOLESCENTS HAVE A DIAGNOSABLE MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER

1 in 3

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

45%

OF STUDENTS ADMIT TO BEING STRESSED ALMOST EVERYDAY IN SCHOOL

Nickname Bill

The "Parental Authorization for Deviation from Student's Legal Name Form" asks parents to sign if they wish to allow their child to be able to use a name aside from their legally given name on campus. Florida teachers now need a parent's signature before they may use a student's nickname in class, a consequence of the state's Parental Rights in Education Bill, also known as the Don't Say Gay Bill. Naming consent forms were mailed to parents at the beginning of the year.

New Curriculum

The Florida State Board of Education released a new social studies standard for middle school students. SS.68.A.A.2.3. benchmark is, "Examine the various duties and trades performed by slaves (e.g. agricultural work, painting, carpentry, tailoring, domestic service, blacksmithing, transportation)." Below the standard, "Benchmark Clarification: 1: Instruction includes how slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit."

Q & A



Mr. Murtagh

With the former AP Psychology teacher, now AICE

Q: How long have you been teaching AP Psychology?

A: He started the program in West Orange in 2008. He has been teaching psychology since the 90s

Q: What is the main difference of the curriculum?

A: AICE is much more research based focused. The test is more short answered essay, were the AP test is mostly multiple choice. AICE is more focus on specific topics of psychology

Q: How does the bill affect teachers and students?

A: The biggest way it affected students and teachers was the decision of taking AP psychology out, wasn't made until a week before school started.

Q: Why did they take AP Psychology out?

A: Due to the Parental Rights In Education Act.



How to Have the Best FALL

A Guide to Help you Cherish the Season

Written by: Wyatt Veronee, 10

As the leaves change colors and the crisp autumn air sets in, it's time to embrace fall. The fall season is a cherished time for many, marked by fun, creativity

and the opportunity to connect with friends and family. In this guide, we'll take you through a series of steps to ensure that you have the best fall season to date.

From pumpkin patch adventures to delicious fall treats, we've got you covered.

Visit a Pumpkin Patch



One of the quintessential activities of the Halloween season is picking out the perfect pumpkin to carve into a spooky masterpiece. To get started, some local pumpkin patches in the area are **Southern Hill Farms**, **First United Methodist Church of Winter Garden** and **Wildflower Farm Orlando**. These charming locations often offer more than just pumpkins; they provide a whole autumn experience.

Consider also checking out farms or rural areas known for their picturesque patches.

Once you've found the ideal patch, make sure to come prepared. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as you may be walking on uneven terrain. Be sure to bring cash for admission fees and pumpkin purchases.

As for carving, look up pumpkin carving designs to find inspiration. You'll also need a set of carving tools, which can typically be found at your local craft store. Before carving, first decide how you are going to light your pumpkin. For a candle, you'll want to carve your hole in the top of the pumpkin so that the lid can be removed; for LED battery-powered lights, your first

cut should be a circle from the bottom of the pumpkin.

You will find that each handles a different part of the carving process. You will need keyhole saw, fleshing tool, X-act blade and needle tools, many which are found at your local hardware and crafts store to carve in the details.

Use a keyhole saw to make the initial cut into the pumpkin. Use a fleshing tool for removing the pulp and seeds, and to thin the pumpkin's walls (this allows more light to come through your design). For a quick removal of seeds, use a hand mixer to get all of the seeds out.

Use a needle tool to transfer a design template to the surface of your pumpkin, which makes it easy to carve the perfect scary face. Use a melon baller to scoop out perfectly circular indentations. Now, what kind of design are you going to carve into your pumpkin this year?

Pumpkin Carving Hacks

Everyone's first instinct when it comes to carving a pumpkin is to cut the top open, but cutting the bottom open is actually better for the pumpkin. Cutting the bottom helps keep the side from caving in and also keeps the stem intact which gives nutrients to the pumpkin.

When gutting (removing the seeds) the pumpkin, use an ice cream scoop instead of your hands to help scoop out the seeds and scrape the sides of the pumpkin.

If you are carving a simple design, use a cookie cutter instead of a carving knife. Place the pumpkin on the side and

place the sharp side of the cookie cutter on the desired spot and use a rubber mallet to tap until it goes all the way through.

To keep your pumpkin from rotting, use petroleum jelly and rub it onto the carved areas to help protect the surface and seal in moisture.

Capture the Essence of Fall with Photos



Fall offers a stunning backdrop for photography enthusiasts. Whether you're using a professional camera or your smartphone, capturing the essence of autumn is a must.

Choose a scenic location like a park with colorful foliage, rustic barns or even your own

backyard. For wardrobe choices, consider earthy tones like deep reds, warm yellows and cozy flannels to complement the season's hues.

Experiment with various photography apps and filters to enhance the warmth and vibrancy of your photos. Popular filters such as "Autumn"

or "Vintage" can give your pictures a nostalgic touch. Remember to take candid shots of friends and family during your Halloween adventures – these spontaneous moments often turn out to be the most cherished.

Indulge in Fall Foods



Now Halloween season wouldn't be complete without savory fall foods. Warm up with a cup of steaming apple cider, spiced with cinnamon and cloves. You can also bake homemade

apple or pumpkin pies for a delightful treat.

Embrace the flavors of the season with dishes like roasted butternut squash soup, caramel apples and pumpkin spice lattes.

Consider hosting a Halloween-themed dinner party with friends and family, where everyone brings their favorite fall dish to share. It's a fantastic way to bond and create lasting memories.

Snickerdoodle Cookie Recipe

Dough Ingredients

- 2 ¾ cups of all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1 ½ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Cinnamon Sugar Coating

- ½ cup of sugar
- 2 tablespoons of cinnamon

Instructions

1) Preheat oven to 350

2) In a large bowl, mix together flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt together.

3) In a mixer, mix together butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla extract.

4) Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and mix well.

5) In a small bowl, combine 1/3 cup of sugar and 2 tablespoons of cinnamon.

6) Scoop out dough, roll it into a ball and then roll into the cinnamon mixture twice.

7) Place 2 inches apart on an un-greased cookie sheet.

8) Bake for 8-10 minutes. Move cookies to a wire rack to cool.

Apply to Your Life

The Do's & Don'ts of College Applications

Written by: Zachary Moore, 12

College planning started the day you stepped into high school. Your classes, the clubs you join and sports you play all affect what colleges you get accepted into.

Freshman Year

Focus on taking difficult classes, as well as courses within the computer science and arts programs. Do more than just the coursework, get involved with clubs and the community. This will help you determine what your interests are for the future, and build your resume.

"Students who excel in 9th grade school and enroll in college," Dave Bergman, College Transitions, said. "These students are more likely to remain in college beyond their freshman year than are students who struggled through their first year of high school."

Freshman year is the first time you are treated as an adult by your teachers. They have high expectations, but utilize the tools given to you by your teacher and the school to help you succeed. There are after school tutoring programs as well as opportunities with specific teachers for additional help on coursework.

Make sure to build a manageable course load that will help you to succeed in your classes. If you take all difficult classes and do poorly this will not reflect well on college applications. Create a schedule for yourself that allows you to create good time management.

During the summer you want to get involved with camps focused on music, arts and/or sciences. Summer is also a great time to volunteer locally and get involved with academic enrichment programs, according to Federal Student Aid.

Sophomore Year

Meet with your counselor to discuss post-graduation goals and map out classes for the future. As you approach the second half of high school, take the PSAT and/or PreACT to prepare for the tests ahead of time.

If you struggled freshman year with joining clubs, get involved heavily. Go to meetings for all different types of clubs and figure out the ones you're most interested in and get involved with those.

Start your college search. As you narrow down your interests, research colleges and their majors.

Saint Louis University suggests making two lists, one with schools that interest you and one with attributes that are important a future college has to you, such as dorms and parking.

This is a great time to begin your scholarship search. Find out about scholarships that apply to you, some can even be applied to in your sophomore year.

Junior Year

This is the most important year of your high school career. This is the year that colleges will be looking at when reviewing your application.

Take rigorous classes, keep up with assignments and maintain good grades. Talk with your counselor to see what classes you should take to set yourself up for the future.

When taking your first SAT and/or ACT, dedicate time to studying and focus on areas you can improve.

Join a study group or check out outside tutoring. It helps students identify strengths and weaknesses and develop a test prep strategy to reduce test anxiety, improve timing and teach tricks.

The tests begin early and last until about noon, get plenty of sleep and bring a drink and snacks to keep you going and focused.

Hopefully this is your third year involved in clubs, which is a great time to run for a leadership position. Get involved with after school tutoring programs and mentorship opportunities.

A summer job gives benefits like time and money management and improves your communication skills.

Senior Year

This is the year where your decisions start making an impact on your future. Where you choose to apply and what major you choose affect your future income, where you live and your lifestyle choices. When making your decision of what college to attend, talk to students, professors and visit the campus to see everything the school offers to you as a student.

Tips

Visit different types of colleges so you can see what type of campus life you prefer - do you want to be in the middle of a huge metropolitan city like Georgia Tech or NYU, on a beach like Palm Beach Atlantic or Pepperdine, in a "college town" like Clemson, Auburn, and Gainesville, or somewhere in between? If you can't go in person schedule a virtual tour!

Start applying for scholarships. Students can start applying for scholarships as early as 9th grade. Use a scholarship matching platform like Going Merry, FastWeb, Scholarship Owl or ScholarSnapp.

Check Out the Q&A with Mrs. Maroth Here

Zachary Moore, 12 interviewed Mrs. Maroth, the College and Career Specialist, about what colleges actually think about your applications, and it's available to read

now using the QR code. It includes common questions like, "How many colleges should I apply to?" and "Should students Apply for early decision?"



Organization For Newbies

Keep Track of Your Life

Written by: Francesca Mastroianni, 10

Entering high school can be stressful. It is a new place, new people and a lot more work. It can take some time to get used to it all, especially to find the best way to organize all the work. As you go through high school, look to find the ways that work best for you to stay organized.

"High school was more than I expected," Evan Wands, 9, said. "I tried to memorize all my homework, but when I got home I would forget it."

This can set back a freshman and stress them out. The planner "Class Tracker" is a great option to organize your day. This planner was made for high school students.

There is enough room to include all homework assignments for each different classes as well as extracurriculars and self care according to Class Tracker.

The planner separates all your work and when finished you check it off on the checklist. This planner typically costs around \$29 and includes a place to record your schedule and goals, monthly spreads, additional note pages and the weekly pages designed specifically with high school students in mind.

However, if spending money on a planner isn't in your budget, they offer a free pdf you can download with some of the planner's tools. So you can use it on your computer or print it out and bind it yourself.

"Keeping my work organized was the best thing," Lauren Gato, 12 said. "Now I don't forget anything, because I write it down."

Another great option to keep your work organized is an app. One app known to help students stay organized is Todoist. This app has a note section so you can write in, a reminder part in the app can send you notifications and it has a project organizer. This can help you and make sure you don't forget anything throughout the day all on your phone.

"To stay organized I write everything down in an app on my phone," Kate Beracoechea, 10. "It gives me daily reminders of what I have to accomplish that day."

Although everyone has something different that works for them, staying organized can help you be successful in high school and beyond.

< Notes Kate Beracoechea, 10

To stay organized I write everything down in an app on my phone. It gives me daily reminders of what I have to accomplish that day

Image Source: Canva

[Insert Style Here]

Gen Z: Comfort Above All

By: Samantha Wheeler, 10

High school can be a challenging time for many students and what they wear to school can have a significant impact on their mood and confidence levels throughout the day. For many, choosing an outfit is the first thing they think about when they wake up and start getting ready for school.

When you walk into your classroom your teacher is typically dressed in casual to formal attire. Outfits range from dress pants to jeans and button down shirts, t-shirts to school spirit shirts.

Let's say you walk in and you see that your teacher is wearing a crop top. Would it change your perception of the school and/or of that teacher?

"I think it would depend on the teacher," Carson Sturgis, 12. "But for the most part, I don't think it would matter."

For generations, adults have told children that you need to dress for success. People have been conditioned to

believe that what is worn affects not only how a person feels about themselves, but how well they will perform in a business or educational setting.

In 2004 Facebook CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, came into a business meeting wearing a robe and slippers. Posing the question, does what you wear have any impact on how well you perform in a job or school setting?

Since COVID-19-19-19, there has been a shift in clothing and styles. With everyone at home there has been a push towards comfortable clothing, since then we have seen trends push towards more casual items.

According to British Vogue's article Why Everyone Will Be Embracing Casual Comfort This Season, "Change is afoot, as fashion's onus is shifting towards a new sensibility. World, meet casual comfort: the antidote to the post-pandemic fascination with uncomfortable clothing. Blame it

on the free falling economy, or what the internet dubs "recession-core" but either way, fashion's attempts to make comfort, well, chic, befits the unsettled collective consciousness."

Today you tend to see students wearing comfortable clothing such as pajama pants, oversized t-shirts, sweatpants and even slippers. As these are the newest trending pieces of clothing, kids are influenced to wear them, which really isn't that bad if you love to be comfortable during school.

"I mostly wear oversized t-shirts to school everyday," said Anna Toadvine, 10, wearing shorts with an oversized American Eagle t-shirt. "That's what I'm most comfortable and it makes me feel confident and happy throughout the day."

In 2012, Adam D. Galinsky performed a study called, 'Enclothed Cognition.' It illustrated how clothing impacts human thinking based on the influence of the clothes symbolic meaning and the physical wear



Andreas Malmberg, 12

80 % OF FASHION GETS TRASHED

Kenzie Souza, 10



BLUE JEANS OWNED BY THE AVERAGE PERSON

HOW MUCH OF A \$22 T-SHIRT GOES TO WORKERS **18¢**

Spread by: Lex Catanzariti

of the attire. Galinsky explored the effects of wearing a lab coat. He experimented how someone performed better when wearing a lab coat rather than not wearing a lab coat. When people found out the effect of one simple piece of clothing, it made them think about the outfits they choose.

“When students put on an outfit that makes them feel good, they are more likely to feel confident.”

Ashlynnne Graham, 12

“I believe that the clothes a student chooses to wear can have an effect on their mood throughout the day,” said Ashlynnne Graham, 12, President of the Fashion Club. “Clothing influences self-perception, and when students put on an outfit that makes them feel good, they are more likely to feel confident.”

Gen Z has been breaking barriers with societal justice and promoting diversity, but they are also changing clothing norms. Students today aren't focused on what looks good to others, they are focused on what makes them feel their best.

“Dress for success is a phrase that I do not specifically associate with dressing a specific way, but rather a phrase that I believe is intended to encourage people to wear apparel that radiates confidence and comfort, performing well and gaining opportunities,” Graham said.

This could mean in order to be successful and able to focus in the classroom, you might prefer to wear your favorite sweatpants. For some, wearing jeans could be what encourages them to be the best students they can be.

“In order for me to be comfortable and successful during school, I wear comfy shorts like sweatshorts and normally pair it with a hoodie or oversized shirt,” Addy Petch, 10 said. “This helps me not worry about what I'm wearing and so then I can focus more on my work.”

Next time when picking out your outfit for school, think about how you'll feel throughout the day. Whatever you choose, make sure it's something that makes you feel confident and prepares you to feel like your best self for the day and make you a successful student.

FASHIONFACTS

GALLONS
IT TAKES TO
MAKE A
COTTON SHIRT

700

36% OF GEN-Z
BUY NEW
CLOTHES MONTHLY



Artelia Sumarik, 9 and Daniella Forsal, 9



M. Rodriguez 11

35

MILES DRIVEN MAKES THE
SAME EMISSIONS AS T-SHIRT

Image Source: Canva

DON'T WRITE US OFF

INCREASED PAY AND AI AMONG DEMANDS

Written by: Cadence Zenkel, 12

Across the country from Hollywood to New York City, all major studios have ceased their production process for any form of film. From Disney to Netflix, no studio is safe. As of right now, all upcoming TV shows and movies are being pushed back years due to the Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike. The film industry could plummet if a settlement cannot be found.

On May 2, 2023 the WGA union began a strike against film studios protesting that with the turn of a new era of the art of releasing film, so should their wages. Before streaming platforms grew in popularity, writers were paid through the amount of reruns

and other airings of productions they have worked on. But now, they are paid less. Due to streaming services, they no longer get paid for reruns or a percentage of the total project income percentage.

As a result the WGA has taken to the streets. All film writers are on strike until their wages are accommodated by the use of streaming services. This means that until there is a compromise, there is no one to write scripts for shows, causing films to be pushed back years.

"I've heard some complaining that they aren't able to pay for a vacation with what is on their paycheck," Broderick Soulsby, 9 said. "There should probably be

a bit more bargaining that way it's fair for both sides."

Despite what people think, neither side is budging. The producing companies are trying to wait until the writers have run out of their strike fund and the writers are not giving in until their demands are met. The strike has been going on for almost six months with no end in sight.

Without an end, production will be pushed back. Some of the shows affected include: Stranger Things, The Last of Us, Euphoria and Abbott Elementary. Additionally, series and movies are not the only productions put on hold.

INCREASE
PAY

BETTER
RESIDUALS

SHORTER
EXCLUSIVITY
DEALS

NO
AI!!!

Late-night shows are being momentarily halted. Until an agreement can be found there will be no SNL, Jimmy Fallon or Jimmy Kimmel. In fact, the only shows that will be continuing are reality TV shows.

Yet there is one show that is an outlier, the Drew Barrymore Show. This show is a talk show similar to those mentioned before. Yet Drew Barrymore is insisting that it is a news show, and not a talk show, which allows her to come back into production.

When the show first aired writers were a big part of the team but when it came back none of the

writers did. This is because it is a show that is under the jurisdiction of the WGA, therefore it cannot break the rules of the strike, meaning that its writers can not go back to work.

The show has had a lot of protests including its three top writers protesting outside during the filming of its first episode back. The show is clearly crossing the picket line even though Drew Barrymore is insisting that her show is crossing no lines.

Drew Barrymore may have been the first show to cross the picket line but it probably won't be the last. The industry has delayed

almost all big productions that require writers. This will have large lasting effects on the industry.

Just because the writer's strike seems to be halfway across the country in Hollywood does not mean that there aren't dramatic effects across the world. With hundreds of productions being delayed, there is a big chance that one of your favorite TV shows or franchises won't come out with new material for years to come. The world will be stuck in a whirlpool of reruns and "Big Brother" for the foreseeable future.


Fast Facts:

- Started on May 2, 2023
- Many movies and tv shows delayed
- It is the first Hollywood strike since 2007
- 98% of members voted to strike
- Includes 11,500 total members
- It has cost billions to the California economy
- Thousands of jobs have been lost

Shows Affected:

- Stranger Things
- Abbott Elementary
- Drew Barrymore Show
- Saturday Night Live
- Late Night Talk Shows
- Bunk'd
- The Handmaid's Tale
- Billions
- Pretty Little Liars

HOURS WITHOUT YOUR PHONE



Spread by: Mackenzie Hancock

Enhancing Focus and Learning Throughout Florida Schools

Written by: Ariana Kelley, 12

In an era dominated by technology, smartphones have become an integral part of our lives. However, their presence in educational settings has sparked debates regarding their impact on student focus and learning. Recognizing this concern, the state of Florida recently implemented a phone ban in schools.

The primary objective of the phone ban in Florida schools is to minimize distractions and enhance student focus during instructional time. Research has shown that the mere presence of smartphones can significantly reduce attention spans and hinder academic performance.

By removing this distraction, educators hope to create an environment conducive to learning and foster better student engagement. Although many students may disagree with this statement, some agree that absence of phones has been helpful.

"I feel that not having my phone during the school day has actually been very beneficial," Kaitlyn Lee, 11 said. "I've seen my focus level increase and my scores on assignments have been better than ever because of it."

One of the key benefits of the phone ban is the potential for improved academic performance. Without the constant temptation of notifications and social media, students can devote their full attention to classroom activities. This increased focus allows for better comprehension, retention of information, and active participation in discussions. Consequently, academic achievement is likely to rise, benefiting both students and schools.

Another advantage of the phone ban is the opportunity it provides for students to develop

and strengthen their face-to-face communication skills. With smartphones out of the picture, students are encouraged to engage in meaningful conversations with their peers and teachers. This fosters the development of essential social skills, such as active listening, empathy, and effective communication, which are crucial for success in both academic and professional settings.

"The phone ban has been very effective for our students," Simone Webster, staffing specialist said. "We have been monitoring them as much as we can and have seen the results. Students have actually been talking with one another and building on social their skills because of their lack of electronics during the school day."

The phone ban also serves as a preventive measure against cyberbullying and digital distress among students. With limited access to smartphones during school hours, the likelihood of online harassment and negative social interactions decreases significantly. By creating a safe and supportive environment, the ban aims to protect students' emotional well-being and promote positive relationships within the school community. While the phone ban presents numerous benefits, it also poses challenges that need to be addressed. One major concern is the potential resistance from students who rely on their phones for various legitimate purposes, such as accessing educational resources or communicating with parents.

To overcome this, schools can implement alternative strategies, such as designated phone-free zones or specific times for phone usage during breaks. Such places could include the cafeteria or front office.

Additionally, educating students about responsible phone

usage and providing alternative tools for learning can help alleviate their reliance on smartphones.

Many students who are just entering high school agree with this reasoning because they need their phone to communicate with their parents and family members throughout the day.

"I need my phone to be able to contact my mom and sister throughout the day," Avari Kelley, 10 said. "I am in the band and so I need to be able to tell them when to pick me up and what time practice and meetings are on certain days."

The Florida phone ban in schools represents a proactive step towards enhancing student focus, academic performance and social skills. This can help students succeed because their level of focus will be heightened which will in turn help their grades. By minimizing distractions and promoting face-to-face interactions, schools aim to create an environment that fosters learning and personal growth. While challenges may arise, with careful planning and consideration, the ban can be implemented effectively, leading to a more productive and enriching educational experience for students.

WALK A

Florida's New Laws on Bathrooms

Written by: Lex Catanzariti, 11

Separate but equal is never equal.

In *Brown v. Board of Education*, it was ruled that U.S. state laws establishing racial segregation in public schools are unconstitutional. Despite claiming to be equal according to the law, districts attended predominantly by students of color receive \$23 billion less in funding than primarily white districts according to Giving Compass.

Segregation has no place in education, yet OCPs schools are separating bathrooms. Not on the status of race, but on the status of gender conformity and birth sex.

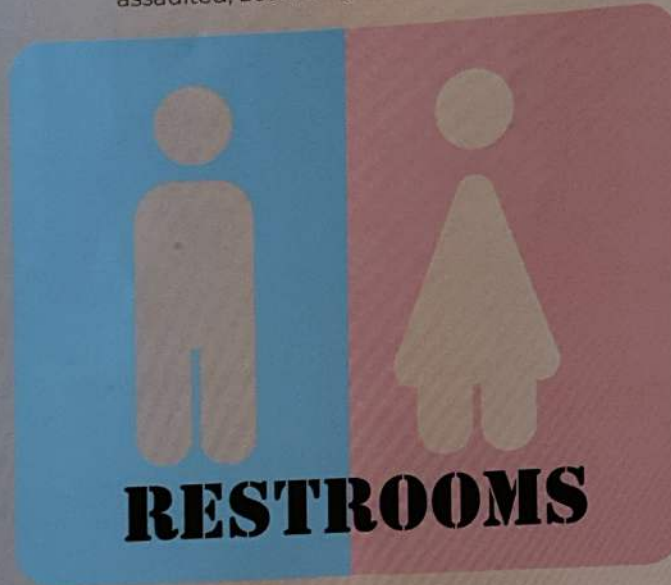
The exact law outlining this is HB 1521, self-proclaimed as the Safety in Private Spaces Act (SIP) and applies to all covered entities, including public shelters. This act also bans intersex people from all gendered restrooms in covered entities.

All public spaces are required to have a male, female and unisex restroom, but there is no law requiring equal amounts of said restrooms, or any unisex changing rooms. Additionally, unisex restrooms may not contain more than one toilet under the law.

If a person of 18 years or older enters a restroom and refuses to leave if asked, the police can be called and they can be charged for a level two misdemeanor which carries a fine up to \$500 and maximum sentence of 60 days in jail. Similarly, all educational facilities, such as schools and colleges, must have a punishment for that in their code of conduct.

"I don't think it is necessary, I really don't," Cole Oliaro, 12 said, on the subject of the new bill.

Despite being called the Safety in Private Spaces Act, half of gender-queer individuals are sexually assaulted, according to the AAP,



at a rate that nearly doubles when unable to use restrooms matching their gender identity. This can lead to substance abuse, dropping out of school, PTSD, eating disorders, depression and suicide.

West Orange High School has a total of 13 gender neutral bathrooms around campus. They are located in the media center, café, outside of guidance in the 800/performing arts building, the clinic and eight in the 900 building.

In contrast, there are over 100 female stalls and over 70 male stalls located around campus, with a bathroom in each hall of classrooms. This is approximately five times as many bathrooms for cisgender

students in comparison to gender neutral bathrooms.

One in ten students are gender diverse, according to the 2021 Pittsburgh study Prevalence of Gender-Diverse Youth in an Urban School District. If all transgender students went to one of the available gender neutral bathrooms at the same time during passing time, almost 10 people would be in line for each bathroom.

"If using a bathroom that isn't near their class makes a student late, we are always happy to accommodate [them] by giving them a free pass," Mr. Turner, Principal, said. "If they go during class they should have time to get back to class in a reasonable amount of time."

Yet it's not only transgender people affected by these laws, cis women who present as masculine can

also be questioned for being in the women's restroom, despite belonging there. People across the world get falsely accused of being transgender, and under these laws, can be arrested for using the bathroom and held in jail until it can be proved they are the gender they identify as. These laws have the ability to harm more than just transgender people, they have the potential to harm those who don't conform to typical standards of masculinity and femininity.

There has been found to be no link between letting transgender women use the women's room in connection with cis women's assault rate. Yet 36% of transgender women who are forced to use the

restroom are assaulted there. And in general, 50% of trans people report assault and harassment, according to the 2019 Harvard Study School Restroom and Locker Room Restrictions and Sexual Assault Risk Among Transgender Youth.

Transgender people have been using the bathrooms correlating to their gender identity at OCPS, and throughout Floridian schools for at least three years. There has not been one instance of sexual assault perpetrated by a

transgender student shows up on Google. The bill apparently stemmed from one i
Cou
Flo



new law is passed.

If you would like to help, you can email the governor about your concerns at <https://www.flgov.com/email-the-governor/>.



Intersex

Someone born with sexual anatomy that does not fit binary (male and female) sex classification.

Genderqueer

Someone who does not fully identify with the binary genders.



Transgender

Someone whose gender identity does not match their sex assigned at birth.

Gender Identity

One's internal sense of gender, whether being female, male, neither, both, etc.



Cisgender (cis)

Someones whose gender identity matches their sex assigned at birth.

Assigned Sex

The physical anatomy of a person being male, female or intersex, that they received at birth.

PRSRT STD
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ORLANDO, FL
PERMIT NO 992

subject of the new bill.
Despite being called the
Safety in Private Spaces Act, half of
gender-queer individuals are sexual
assaulted, according to the AAP,

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