New Kidz On The Block

It’s another year back at Kinder HSPVA for many, but for twelve special people, it’s their first time (with the exception of Ms. Manchac) at the wondrous 168,000 square feet of magic in downtown. We had the chance to sit down with the newest additions to the PVA family to get to know them better as we settle into the school year.

Questions For The Faculty

1) What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?
2) Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?
4) If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?
5) What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?

Some quick notes: We were unable to photograph Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Manchac for the block photo, but that doesn’t mean we don’t appreciate them! Thanks for your understanding!

In addition, our interviews for Ms. Llano, Ms. Melone, Ms. Jimenez, and Ms. Chandler couldn’t fit in this issue, so stay tuned for next time!
Mr. Barnes
by Catie Giesen

What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?
I teach Algebra 2 and AP Statistics. What I find most inspiring about mathematics is that it transcends history, language, and culture, yet it is influenced and shaped by all of them. I also feel inspired when students learn about parts of math that are not emphasized in our education system, such as the history of mathematics and the mathematics of art. Finally, I enjoy teaching AP Statistics because many students are surprised to see how little math is actually involved!

Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?
Prior to HSPVA, I taught for five years at Sam Houston High School on the Northside. As a native Houstonian, I have always heard great things about PV A, and as someone who taught for five years at a very large traditional school, I wanted to teach at a smaller, unique school. I decided to apply to PV A when I saw a math position available. What a great decision it was!

Book: Harry Potter
TV show: The Last Kingdom
Song: "Forever Young"
Breakfast food: Breakfast tacos
Candle scent: Eucalyptus

If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?
I would fly around the world in the year 1491 to see what the planet looked like before the Columbian Exchange.

What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?
Despite my interest in world history, cultures, and languages, I have never been out of the United States. I hope to change that in the next year!

---

Mr. Mendez
by Samiyah Green

What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?
I currently teach Creative Writing—Intro to Poetry, Social Justice Writing and Literary Performance—in the Creative Writing department. It is a fresh way to keep building my own craft while working with young writers who are sharpening their talents. We sharpen each other.

Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?
I previously worked as a Teacher Development Coach and a Curriculum Writer for English Language Arts (ELA) for HISD's District office. I traveled between three to four campuses, working with teachers who needed new perspectives on how to get the job done while also writing all the lesson plans that teachers across the district could use as a resource.

Book: Bury Me at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown.
TV Show: Abbott Elementary
Song: "En El Olvido" by Omar Apollo.
Breakfast Food: migas
Candle Scent: eucalyptus

If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?
I would tag along with John Legend and ask him to play songs while I write a new manuscript of poems.

What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?
Flying cucarachas creep me out.

---

Dr. Blandon
by Quentin Pham

What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?
I’m an assistant principal at Kinder HSPVA but previously taught English Language Arts. What inspires me about this position is that I get to work with all students and know them in ways that you may not know as a content area teacher.

Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?
I previously worked as an assistant principal in Spring ISD, and most of my experience has been in secondary school. I was drawn to HSPVA because it’s something unique I haven't done, and I wanted to lead from a different perspective.

Book: The Hunger Games, and I actually dressed up as Katniss Everdeen at a book fair once.
Movie: Armageddon.
Candle Scent: clean linen and cashmere.

If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?
I'd probably want to go to Heaven to center myself in a more tangible way.

What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?
I sleep with the TV on, playing the investigation Discovery channel.

---

Heard something hilarious in the hallways?
Submit your overheards to hspvapaper@gmail.com to be featured in the next issue of paper*! Select top-humor quotes may receive special recognition.
Mr. Fetting
by Dillon Hillard

What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?
I teach instrumental music, directing the wind and percussion program. What inspires me most about this subject is its variety and energy. Symphony orchestra has been around for centuries, but it’s nice to be a part of a medium that supports innovation.

Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?
I was at Jackson Intermediate School in Pasadena ISD. I was the assistant band director for all levels of band in seventh and eighth grade. There were obstacles with funding and students not having the background. It made it satisfying to achieve the goals despite the obstacles. I was interested in here because of the brand: there’s PVA recognition, the safe campus, and listening to recordings amused me. I wanted to be a part of it, then the job slot opened up, and the rest is history.

Movie: The Lord of the Rings trilogy
TV show: If you pretend season eight doesn’t exist, Game of Thrones. I loved that show, but they butchered it, and it was treacherous.
Song: “Family Line” by Conan Gray
Breakfast food: Basic eggs. Every so often, I will enjoy a lavender pancake from Whataburger.
Candle scent: natural scents, nothing artificial, so maybe pine-y or like an oak scent

If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?
I think I would go to the future, when humanity has the ability to explore other solar systems. We’re in an age where we missed all the discovery or exploration, so I’m looking forward to future exploration. Whenever Star Trek comes to real life.

What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?
I used to be a varsity wrestler back in high school.

Mr. Denning
by JJ LeGrand

What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?
I teach Performance Theatre & Acting. I am most inspired by how theatre helps us uncover the meta-stories that connect us all. I am fascinated by how training to be an actor also trains one to be a better human being.

Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?
I built the theatre program at McCallum Fine Arts Academy in Austin and was the head director there. Before that, I spent a decade performing leading and supporting roles in high-level professional theatre productions throughout the US and Europe.

In terms of education, I was accepted to the BFA Musical Theatre/Professional Actor Training Program at Wright State University and studied under professor Joe Deer, one of the top musical theatre educators in the world. I am in the final year of the MFA Directing program at the University of Idaho.

Book: A Shot In The Moonlight—How a Freed Slave and a Confederate Soldier Fought for Justice in the Jim Crow South by Ben Montgomery. This is the true story of how my great grandfather was one of the first former slaves to shoot a member of the KKK and be given a pardon by the governor. He then went on to sue the KKK for taking his land and WON! He was awarded millions of dollars in damages that were never paid, and, to top it all off, his lawyer was a white childhood friend and former confederate soldier!
TV Show: Stranger Things IV
Song: “Family Line” by Conan Gray
Breakfast Food: Realgood Food’s sausage breakfast sandwiches
Candle Scent: Magic Candle Company’s “Haunted”

If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?
I’d beam to the future to that moment when, facing my deepest fears and the strongest possible external opposition, I accomplished the thing that I was born to achieve—in spite of the suffering that life has brought me.

What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?
My secret is that… I know your secret.

Ms. Curtis
by Brian Olivera

What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?
I teach Acting to Levels I through IV. I believe in the power of theatre. It has the ability to change hearts and minds. The craft of acting is one that can be used in every field. It inspires creativity, confidence, deep thoughts, compassion, joy... It is everything! I believe everyone should, at some point in their life, take an acting class. Of course, I also believe everyone should learn to play an instrument, draw, dance, write, learn a foreign language, study history, and appreciate the beauty of math and science! You know, Renaissance People!

Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?
I recently came from Clear Springs High School in League City, TX. Prior to that, I worked at Theatre Under The Stars. When I graduated from St. Edward’s University in Austin, TX, I went to work in the industry. I have worked in theatre, film, commercials, and voice-overs. I have also directed, choreographed, and written for stage and film.

Book: The Alchemist by Paolo Coelho.
TV Show: Currently, Severance, Pennyworth, and Loot.
Breakfast: Basic eggs. Every so often, I will treat myself to a Honey Butter Chicken Biscuit from Whataburger.
Candle Scent: sandalwood.

If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?
Don’t need 24 hours to do whatever I want to do. I am doing it now, living in the moment and enjoying life as it comes. Manifesting!

What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?
I hate velvet. Can’t touch it. I appreciate the appeal of velvet on stage. It looks great under the lights, but I’d rather it not be anywhere near me.
The HSPVA All-School Musical:
A Brief History  

The All-School Musical: everyone’s favorite budget-breaking, teacher-troubling, time-consuming extracurricular. For those of you who are new (or have somehow missed it), HSPVA puts on a musical every semester in the Denney Theater, and involvement is open to students across all art areas. The spring show is the Black History All-School Musical, since it’s usually around February. “All-Schools” are a long-standing PVA tradition, but here’s a crash course in the 790 Austin headlining musical productions.

**Fela!** February 2019. Directed by Ms. McNeil & Choreographed by Ms. Jones. Highlight of the show: the first all-school at the 790 Austin campus, and HSPVA had the honor of doing the first amateur production of the show!

**Mary Poppins**, October 2019. Directed by Mr. Hune & Choreographed by Ms. Carothers. Highlight of the show: both Mary and Bert actually flew!

**The Color Purple**, February 2020. Directed by Ms. McNeil & Choreographed by Ms. Jones. Highlight of the show: quite literally everything because this show was incredible.

**Fame! The Musical**, Fall 2020/January 2021. Directed by Olson Scott Kelly. Highlight of the show: I think it was the biggest cast we’ve ever had for an All-School (because everyone just filmed themselves dancing at home and we edited the videos together).

**Once On This Island**, April 2021. Directed & Choreographed by Christian Warner. Highlight of the show: we filmed it in person and then streamed a recording! 10/10 Covid workaround.


**Dreamgirls**, February 2022. Directed by DeQuina Moore & Choreographed by Monica Jossette. Highlight of the show: all the juniors running offstage and immediately opening their computers to work on their research papers that were due the same week as the show.

**Mamma Mia!**, October 2022. Directed by Ms. Carothers & Choreographed by Ms. Jones. Highlight of the show: buy your tickets at hspvafriends.org/boxoffice/ to find out! (there may or may not be student-only front-row tickets coming soon, so keep an eye out!)

**The Wiz**, February 2023. Although the show has some time to come, stay tuned for audition/interview dates and requirements!

---

**Which Mamma Mia! Character Are You?**

by Andrew Hernandez, renowned Pisces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zodiac Sign</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ares- Rosie</td>
<td>A self-sufficient, independent leader with a sharp mind. Rosie is funny, feisty, and a self-declared lone wolf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taurus- Donna</td>
<td>Hardworking, stubborn, and business savvy, Donna is honest and just wants to provide for her daughter without all the drama that’s constantly chasimg her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gemini- Harry</td>
<td>Harry brings the best of both worlds: once a head-banging party animal, he is now a banker with a stable career. Harry is romantic and introverted, but not shy enough to keep himself from bursting into song for Sophie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer- Sky</td>
<td>Caring and selfless, Sky decided that Sophie was his destiny. He is willing to give his all for her and dedicate himself to her every need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo- Tanya</td>
<td>Materialistic, larger than life, and extravagant. Her main goal is to spread joy and charm, entertaining others and getting a hefty check for it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgo- Sam</td>
<td>Straight-laced and analytical, Virgos are grounded and sensible. Sam is the most composed of the three possible fathers and is the one that offers the most advice to Sophie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libra- Sophie</td>
<td>Constantly searching for romance and balance, Sophie’s main motive during the musical is to have a family by finding out who her father is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scorpio- Eddie</td>
<td>The other employee at the taverna, Eddie, doesn’t take his job very seriously. He’s laid back and fun-loving, but the most relaxed people are often the ones holding the most secrets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sagittarius- Bill</td>
<td>A renowned explorer and author, Bill is not afraid to discuss his exhilarating trips or the complexities of philosophy. He has secluded himself from love with his excursions, but is now back and determined to make amends with Donna.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capricorn- Pepper</td>
<td>Clumsy and wrapped up in his own fantasy, Pepper sees himself as a gift to all women, but the reality is a different story. He tries very hard to Impress Donna with his comedic antics during the runtime of the musical, his cheeky clumsiness part of his charm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquarius- Ali</td>
<td>Fun-loving, impulsive, and energetic, Ali is always there for Sophie. She’s loose and straightforward and ready to let the flow of the party guide her next move.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pisces- Lisa</td>
<td>Lisa is the other half of Sophie’s bridesmaids and best friends. She’s loyal, free-spirited, and delighted to help her friends at any turn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**UPCOMING!**

**Mamma Mia!**, October 2022. Directed by Ms. Carothers & Choreographed by Ms. Jones. Highlight of the show: buy your tickets at hspvafriends.org/boxoffice/ to find out! (there may or may not be student-only front-row tickets coming soon, so keep an eye out!)

**The Wiz**, February 2023. Although the show has some time to come, stay tuned for audition/interview dates and requirements!

---

**The HSPVA All-School Musical: A Brief History**

by Katie Randall

A picture from PVA’s 2021 Hairspray musical.
Socially Acceptable: High School Halloween?

by Hannah Horwath

As we rapidly approach Halloween, it's hard to determine where we as high school students fit in. Last year was my first year not going trick-or-treating (with the exception of 2020, but that year may have been a fever dream, so I'm not counting it). I still dressed up, but I spent the night handing out candy to kids half my age until I caved and went inside to watch Hotel Transylvania. So what is the socially acceptable spooky season activity for someone our age? Halloween is without a doubt my favorite holiday, and I can't help but bask in the sheer awesomeness of Hallo-week. It's a great representation of who we are as a school and everyone participates to some extent. It's an excuse to bond together with your people from friends to complete strangers. People who normally never interact are now connected by the fact that they are both dressed up as Homer Simpson. So what's with the stigma against teenagers going trick-or-treating? There are worse ways to spend a night, and if it makes you happy don't stop because of something as minuscule as age. In the end, Halloween (much like any Hallmark movie) is about having fun with people you care about, whatever that looks like. Whether you spend your night trick-or-treating, walking around showing off your costume, going to a party, sitting at home, or stealing your little sibling's candy and watching Hotel Transylvania, have a Happy Halloween!

Halloween Costumes Not to Reuse

by Charlotte Witz

If you're anything like me, you probably have issues with planning out a Halloween costume. I've had some pretty bad Halloween costume ideas in the past, so when I write this I am speaking from experience. I do not mean to offend anyone with my opinions, but the costumes listed here should NOT be your first choice costumes. Like ever.

**Ghostface**- This is the most common costume idea I've seen teenagers choose. It is incredibly overused. There are other slashers out there besides just Ghostface. Come on, spice it up a little. Just going as Ghostface for Halloween almost makes it look like you haven't seen any other horror movies besides Scream.

**Angel & Devil**- Another overused costume. Going as an angel/devil duo with your best friend or S/O can sound like a good idea, but please reconsider. The sheer number of people I see using this duo costume idea is shocking, and I can assure you that there are other duo costumes out there!

**Cat and/or Dog**- Almost anything is better than going as one of these two animals for Halloween. Not only are there far greater animal-themed costume ideas out there, but these are often horribly executed and appear thrown together at best.

**Any food duo**- Lazy, just lazy. I've seen an incredible number of these costumes at Halloween parties, on the streets, and in magazines. They're funny to think about wearing, but they are hardly ever a creative idea.

**Emily from Corpse Bride**- This costume idea isn't horrible, but it depends entirely on the execution. I've seen excellent Corpse Bride costumes and I've seen pretty horrific ones. If you are a master at face-painting/makeup and you are positive you can make this costume look incredible, I look forward to seeing it! But if you have little to no experience with makeup/costumes, this one probably isn't for you.

Everywhere You Need To Go Your First Year at PVA

by Nola Nelson

**Diversity Series**- I cannot stress enough that if you decide to only go to one show at PVA, make it a Diversity Series. They are a collection of any and every act and provide a magical experience.

**The All School Musical**- Are you really a PVA student if you don't attend at least one of these events? There is nothing like watching performances in the Ruth Denney Theater to remind you why we're all here.

**Discovery Green for Soft Serve**- This is an after-school activity I do not see enough of. It has some of the best ice creams and is cheaper than a visit to Phoenicia.

**Phoenicia**- You know I had to put this one. You will always run into someone you know; it's basically an extension of the cafeteria.

**The Terrace for Lunch**- Look, I'm not saying you should do this every day but if the weather is nice, it might make you feel like you're at Hollywood Arts.
NOPE: The Film
by Brian Olivera

Nope is Jordan Peele’s third directorial outing, and he’s not losing his touch any time soon. The film follows ranch owner siblings OJ (Daniel Kaluuya) & Emerald Haywood (Keke Palmer), who discover strange atmospheric disturbances in the sky above their farm and attempt to snap a photo of what they believe are aliens. I won’t go further into the plot; the movie is best experienced without knowing too much going in, and the details of what exactly the characters are dealing with are kept vague for a while.

As with Peele’s other horror films Get Out and Us, Nope is richly layered with social commentary and a multitude of themes that take some time to really sink in after your first viewing. Peele beautifully and effectively uses the language of cinema to convey the movie’s themes, utilizing lots of recurring symbolism to express the messages he wants to convey about how our society exploits and makes spectacle out of tragedy. The film’s message is ultimately one about hubris.

Don’t Worry Darling
by Mikey Harper

After months of buzz surrounding Olivia Wilde’s Don’t Worry Darling (starring Florence Pugh and Harry Styles), I caved and decided to see it on premiere weekend. In the wake of a questionable press run, the controversial events at Venice Film Festival, and endless waves of Harry Styles backlash on Twitter – the “Harry Styles School of Acting” jokes, the horrendous “our life” clip (which was even worse on the big screen), etc. – I wasn’t expecting a particularly impressive two hours and three minutes to come out of this.

But surprisingly, I was proven wrong. Don’t Worry Darling, despite its plot holes, wasn’t a bad film. In fact, certain aspects of it were actually really good: Pugh put on a phenomenal performance as usual, the storyline was interesting, and the cinematography/color scheme worked beautifully together. What I’m saying is, at its surface, this movie was a pretty solid psychological thriller with a few slip-ups every now and then. The only issue? Every good moment was dampened by the looming presence of Harry Styles and his stiff characterization of Jack Chambers.

Now, hear me out: I’m not a Harry hater. I’m not saying all this just because I’ve always been more of a Zayn kind of guy. I think Harry has had an extremely successful music career for good reason, but I also think it stops right about there. The truth of the matter is that his acting reminds me a lot of my dad; his emotion never quite reaches his eyes. Especially beside Florence Pugh, it’s shockingly clear how much he didn’t bring to the role of Jack. Florence learned how to become Alice, how to adopt the internal facets and complexities of her as a character. Harry learned his lines. There’s a specific scene near the end where he’s alone in the car, yelling in frustration. This should have been compelling. I wanted it to be compelling so, so badly. But if I’m being honest, I turned to my friend Tobi (who was kind enough to endure this with me), and I started giggling. We both did. The idea was there, it was a good writing choice, I liked it – Harry just couldn’t bring it to life. A lot of scenes felt like this, like he almost wanted to look at the camera but was too focused on trying to remember what yelling looks like.

And you may be thinking, what does this guy know? He couldn’t do it either! And to that, I say: you would be one hundred percent correct. I definitely couldn’t do that, and I wouldn’t even try. That would probably be why I’m not getting paid millions of dollars to do it, and why I stick to writing for the most part. I won’t say Harry should walk my path and stick to music, but Anyways, I’m gonna reiterate that I’m not a Harry hater (and we can talk about my Fine Line tracklist ranking if you don’t believe me), so please don’t find my address and doxx me over the announcements. This performance was just a miss for me, and as someone who is hopelessly devoted to My Policeman, I’m a little scared to see what damage he does to the role of Tom Burgess. We’ll cross that bridge when we get there.
**Bullet Train**

by Isabella Landin

From the hilarious ongoing jokes and witty one-liners to the well executed plot twist, it's obvious that Bullet Train isn't your run-of-the-mill star-studded wannabe action comedy, but from the director of Deadpool 2, I would expect no less. While the amusing comedy bits over lemons, tangerines, and Thomas and friends might just not be enough for some people, not to worry, there are plenty of action sequences and a peculiar set of intertwined stories for the thriller and mystery fans out there (and some pretty cool and unexpected cameos). Though the pretty complex plot full of assassins, snake venom, and gruesome fights, the real charm of the movie comes from the characters, who are not only each quirky in their own unique way but are also each given depth through the telling of each of their backstories. Overall, it's a fun movie that doesn't take itself too seriously, and is just as intriguing as it is comical and goofy.

**Pearl**

by Isobel Stevenson and Cassie Cardenas

Cassie Cardenas:

To put it simply, Pearl is the equivalent of American Psycho starring Christian Bale but for unhinged women who just let the intrusive thoughts transpire. Other than a movie hopper chasing us out of the theater, this movie was a great slasher. Following the events before the “X” Movie released in 2021, this set-to-trilogy has been jaw-dropping so far. This film takes on a trope that I don’t think has ever been executed in this type of way, the tortured artist (but in her case in a mentally unstable kind of way). Popular cinema such as Black Swan and Whiplash have similar storylines to this, imagining their dream and rise to success too harshly and letting it engulf their whole life which leads to the subsequent downfall of their well-being. It was interesting seeing how the main character’s emotional episodes played out. Her hoarded anger towards more fortunate people and her fear of ending up alone felt a little too “literally me.” In conclusion, the end credit scene was terrifying, and don’t interrupt me during one of my mental breakdown monologues either.

Isobel Stevenson:

Secluded on her parents’ Texas farmhouse in 1918, Pearl must take care of her ill father during the Spanish Influenza epidemic, she tends to animals in a barn house and helps her mother out around the home. While her husband is away serving in World War I, she feels unheard, wanting to achieve success in becoming a star of way. While staying with her parents, leading to the quick and unexpected rise of her kill count. This is an interesting and compelling look into what happens when you are not allowed to dream. Pearl is unlike any slasher movie and more so an interesting character study on the outlandish villain we see in its companion movie X. It’s as if the Texas Chainsaw Massacre had a conversation with the Wizard of Oz, and Pearl was born. I don’t recommend this movie or trilogy (made up of X, Pearl, and an upcoming film Maxxxine) to those who aren’t a fan of horror and are sensitive to more mature depictions on screen, but I do recommend it to those who crave a revival of old classic slashers. Where X is the main slasher, Pearl is its old ghost story counter part and Mia Goth is the star of it all.

**Frida’s Rhythm and Beats**

by Frida Ruiz Berman

October is one of those special months where its big event seems to permeate every day up until it happens. In my opinion, music elevates and gilds life in every way possible—it really is everything. So, in honor of this arguably perfect month, here is a curated playlist honoring all that is so wonderful about October.

**“Is It Any Wonder?” Durand Jones and the Indications**

This is one of those songs that draw on the charm of past artists like Al Green or Otis Redding. From the warm reverbed guitar to the steady beat and smooth vocals, the song recalls driving late at night or sitting down with a cup of tea and inexplicably thinking of someone you love—a sense of total satisfaction. This is the perfect song to unwind with after a true PVA day.

**“Haze Jane II” Nick Drake**

This recording somehow manages to capture the exact feeling of an imminent October and the excitement of it being cold enough to wear a turtleneck outside. Even though it’s a somewhat outdated instrument for pop music, Nick Drake’s composition uses the horn section masterfully. The horns create a warm tone fitting for a walk back home in the chilly air or sitting down cinematically in a coffee shop to write.

**“Rhymes Like Dimes” MF Doom**

This song feels like driving through a warm yet perfectly crisp October day with the windows down. Lately, nothing has hit like Doom—with its poetic lines to his insanely well-integrated samples, “Rhymes Like Dimes” has shaped up to be an incredible addition to this fall’s playlist. It’s a song that transmits faint optimism toward good times ahead, the inevitable charm of downtown Houston, and the descent back into the PVA groove.

**“Can’t Get Out of This Mood” Samara Joy**

Somehow this is the perfect fall jazz song for non-jazz lovers. From Samara’s second studio album, Linger Awhile, “Can’t Get Out of This Mood” is colored with images of leaves falling onto the pavement, being finally able to lay down in dim light after a long day, and being incredibly tired from the mid-fall semester workload. Samara’s rich tone shines in this recording, and even if you’re not into jazz, this song is worth a listen just for its incredible vocal quality.

**“Step On Me” The Cardigans**

If you’ve ever been looking for a simultaneously disturbing and delectable headbanger, “Step On Me” by The Cardigans is the perfect song for you. This song is an insanely emotional roller coaster while exploring the deep underbelly of teenage pink plastic love. With its incredible play on words, moody teenage tone, and eerie guitar riff, “Step On Me” is a great song to listen to while we all anxiously await Halloween. “The Great Pumpkin Waltz” by Vince Guaraldi Nothing could be a more perfect song for October than “The Great Pumpkin Waltz” by Vince Guaraldi. From the Charlie Brown soundtrack, Vince Guaraldi demonstrates his genius by showcasing the beauty found within simplicity. This song is one that inevitably reminds us of who did and didn’t grow up with the Charlie Brown movie of a simpler time when we could go to school and come home glowing with the prospect of leaves turning brown and a big Halloween feast at the end of the month. It’s a nostalgic and calming addition to the October chronicles.

**“Luna” The SMashing Pumpkins**

Last, but certainly not least, “Luna” by The Smashing Pumpkins is the perfect final addition to your fall playlist. Arguably, and certainly in my opinion, the most romantic song ever written, “Luna” is one of those songs that manages to make you feel all tingly and warm inside. With its catchy guitar riff, almost gloomy tone, and incredibly heartfelt lyrics, it has all the ingredients for a sad night alone in the fall, thinking about a special someone or sulking around with a warm drink. This is a song that allows you to put your headphones in and sink into it. “Luna” is truly a perfect song to welcome in the new fall season.
A Farewell to the Denney

For many of us, the Diversity Series is not only a show to present our many talents rather than what we initially go to school for but also a chance for the “underdogs” to be on a bigger stage and receive appreciation for all their gifts. Part of the excitement came from having most of our shows held in the Denny, but this year it’s different.

We no longer have our shows in the Denny but on the bus ramp, in the commons, and mainly in the studio theater. So, I took this opportunity to ask the student body what their opinions were on this shift. One student stated (from a band perspective), “It’s way more tight-knit in the studio theater, the sound system is easier in there because the space is tighter.” They proceeded to say, “Being closer makes the chemistry lock in.” While having chemistry within the band makes a stronger bond while playing, others say, “The Denny gives the shows a better effect and better visuals...the ambiance of the Denny brings the Diversity series’ idea to life”. From a performance standpoint, a student says, “It’s unfair making two shows and making it seem as if it were impossible for sets to be moved around.”

Finally, we close off with a student’s perspective for those who don’t usually get an opportunity to perform in the Denny, saying, “Having it in the Denny is a great opportunity for a lot of people to be able to perform that might not be able to in the Denny, non-performing artists might not go to the Denny or perform in the Denny for any reason other than Diversity Series. Every artist should be able to have that experience and to feel special.” Whether we agree or disagree with the location of shows being moved, the Diversity Series is a tradition I hope to see continue for years to come, and don’t forget to buy your tickets to each and every show!

The New Little Mermaid Controversy

“Wondering free, wish I could be part of your world.” The Little Mermaid is a 1989 animated musical that was recently adapted into a live-action film. So, what is the controversy surrounding this movie?

Well, Ariel is portrayed by an African American singer, Halle Bailey. Yes, I know it’s terrible. I mean it’s not like there are over hundreds of white representations in the Disney media. And the biggest component of this controversy is that society is not used to a young, talented, black female having such a big platform and starring in such a big movie. They make problematic statements such as, “The original Ariel didn’t look like that” or “If Tiana (from the Princess and the Frog) became white it would be a problem.”

These comments showcase how no matter how much we “grow,” racism will always be an underlying issue. Society will march and post BLM wishes. But when black excellence graces their screens it becomes a problem.

Taylor Swift Midnight Predictions

The release of Taylor Swift’s Midnights album is on the horizon, and many fans are speculating about what this means. First, here’s a quick recap on all things Taylor Swift:

- In 2019, producer Scooter Braun bought the copyright to Swift’s first 6 albums against her wishes.
- After the 2020 release of Folklore and Evermore, Swift began re-recording her stolen albums as “Taylor’s Version” to reclaim copyright.
- Since then, Fearless (TV) and Red (TV) have been released.
- Many theories arose about which album would be re-recorded next. Fans had believed that Swift might be re-recording her 6th album Reputation instead.
- The night of the VMA’s, Swift was wearing a dress reminiscent of the one from her music video “Look What You Made Me Do,” further pushing suspicions of Reputation’s re-release.
- At the VMA’s, Swift instead announced a brand-new album, telling her fans to meet her at midnight for more details.
- Now, Swift has begun announcing Midnights’ track names via TikTok.

With the album’s announcement, it was explained that Midnights would have a total of 13 tracks and would tell the story of 13 sleepless nights throughout Taylor Swift’s life.

As of the writing of this article, 4 track names have been released: Track 13 (Mastermind), Track 8 (Vigilante Sh*it), Track 7 (Question...?), and Track 8 (Midnight Rain). Swift appears to be following a pattern of releasing one track name every other night at 12 AM ET. If she continues on this schedule, the final track’s name will become known one week before the album is released.

Now for predictions:

Many fans believe that Midnights will contrast with her last few albums. (The album’s genre was classified as rock on Spotify.)

Midnights is theorized to be the opposite of Swift’s 7th album Lover, which was originally going to be titled “Daylight.”

Some believe that the final track name to be announced will be released alongside a single.
Crossword: Wheels on the Bus
by Sofia Fontenot

ACROSS
1. Wee chaps
5. Things on a 10-Down list
10. Disapproving cluck
13. Home to about 60% of people
14. “It’s true!”
15. Coke or Pepsi but not Sprite
16. Drink spiced with cardamom and cinnamon
17. Previously, to Shakespeare
18. Norse god of war and poetry
19. *Back-to-school class handout
21. The superior web browser
23. ____ Balls: pink coconut-covered Hostess cakes
24. Hunter with a belt made of stars
26. Riddler of ancient Greece
29. *What two reactants might do in chemistry class
32. What ends might justify
33. Big cat seen only at night
34. Suffix for polar or meteor
36. Religious branch
37. ____ sense of humor
40. A long way off
41. “Parallelogram one might learn about in geometry class
43. Baseball player from 47-Down
44. Yes, in Sr. Alarcon’s class
45. Anxiety from skipping a party, perhaps
46. A snowman’s hat?
47. Flying Solo through the stars?
48. Granny, to Gretel
49. Calm down
52 *Topic of an economy class
57 “____I!” ; “Me too!”
58 “It takes --- tango!”
60 Home for protons and electrons
61 Like sloths and slugs
62 Pet’s human
63 Suffix for exist or insist
64 Narwhal feature
65 Was, for many
66 Fermented rice drink

DOWN
1. Some bodies of eau
2 Like an oft-used hearth
3 Face of a clock
4 Enters on a ship, perhaps
5 How Sam I Am would not eat green eggs and ham
6 Cubes in a bowl of miso soup
7 U.N. organ
8 Scuff up
9 Item in a cabinet of curiosities
10 List used to keep track of class assignments
11 Like unlikely chances
12 Rick Riordan’s chronicles about Egyptian mythology
15 Ancient Roman horn in the shape of the letter ‘G’
20 Some raggedy dolls
22 Kind of spider that builds a funnel-shaped web
25 Actor’s part
26 Green iMessage texts on iPhones
27 Fellow classmates, for example
28 Dog who waited at a train station for his deceased owner for nine years
30 Sound at the beginning of celery and cyclops
31 Delicate jeweled headdress
35 The first sign of rain
37 Have ____ pick (have a grievance that must be talked out)
38 ____quat: Orange citrus about the size of a grape
39 ____ Beso (Anka’s 1962 hit, “That Kiss!”)
40 Suffix for enzymes
42 47-Down museum featuring the James Turrell light tunnel
43 Purple ‘superfruit’ berry
46 Lament after doing a workout or climbing HSPVA’s five flights of stairs
47 Home of the BE SOMEONE slogan, colloquially
48 Core of the Earth above the inner and below the mantle
49 Crossbody Girl Scout badge-holder
50 Capital of Norway
51 Prominent feature of blue cheese and garlic
52 Many might make up a yard of Halloween decorations
53 Scot’s refusals
54 One of the most active volcanoes in the world, located in Italy
55 It’s like a cozy coat for your foot
56 He makes up Captain Hook’s one-man crew
59 Common URL starter
HSPVA Survival Series: Academic Edition

The combined workload of academic and art areas proves to be time-consuming for all grades, making study skills and time-management essential. A current sophomore and junior provide their favorite tips to get them through the school year!

Study Skills - Memorization

Texts (eg. books):
- After going over the text, write down everything you remember and study missed details.
- Write your notes as questions (about the overall text) and answers to the questions.
- Doing matching games with flashcards

Language:
- Turn words and study guides into quizlets
- Practice pronunciation with tablemates

Science:
- Take lots of notes, tests will be based on these
- Ask lots of questions (preferably in person)
- Do homework during rehearsals for shows and musicals.
- Use a planner.
- Break things into chunks.
- Use the weekends wisely for work and review.
- Make time for things you enjoy.

Specific Tips

How to obtain leadership positions in clubs:
- Participate in the outside opportunities
- Be present at as many club meetings as possible
- Convey your passion for the club
- When applying for club officer, answer the questions honestly
- Finish things earlier than the deadline

Time Management

In the morning, prioritize self-care (eg. working out and showering) so your attention will be better during the day.

After school, have a 15-minute break before starting to work, don't stop working until all of your tasks are completed.

Do homework during rehearsals for shows and musicals.

Stress Management

Branch out into other hobbies and physical activities.

Go back to feelings of freedom in art and expression.

Remind yourself why you love what you do and what you're working towards.

Think about how low the stakes are for messing up on one small thing.

Horoscopes

by Gabby Iaroslavitz

ARIES

Hello! It has been a minute Aries, and most everything feels stagnant, doesn't it? Boring isn't bad! If anything, lean into that feeling, heal from old wounds, give yourself time to just be.

Listen to: Bad Habit - Steve Lacy

TAURUS

Taurus, you're stubborn, let's not beat around the bush here. It is one of your most powerful strengths but also one of your greatest weaknesses, so take time to think—do I engage or do I let this go?

Listen to: Storms - Fleetwood Mac

GEMINI

You are easily distracted, Gemini, but don't let this affect your efficiency, schoolwork, and closest relationships. New and shiny things aren't always better.

Listen to: Other People - Beach House

CANCER

This is an exciting time for you Cancer, and lots of new opportunities are coming your way. These new opportunities may unearth deep insecurity, though, and be sure to not let these fears hold you back.

Listen to: Let's Be Still - The Head And The Heart

LEO

You don't have to prove your worth to anyone, Leo. Feel power within your knowledge. Learn something new.

Listen to: Bad Habit - Steve Lacy

VIRGO

What are you lying to yourself about? There always seems to be drama around you; do what you can to not engage.

Listen to: Linger - Cranberries

LIBRA

You are working hard, don't let up. Bright new opportunities are coming in your academic and financial life. Also, happy birthday! Listen to: Easy On Your Own? - Alvvays

SCORPIO

Working with others will be a struggle this season. Don't let your temper get the best of you, it drives your loved ones away.

Listen to: Thunder - Lana Del Rey

SAGITTARIUS

A restoration of balance is coming into your life.

Listen to: Cherry Blossom Girl - Air

CAPRICORN

You may realize you are in relationships with people who don't serve you. Get ready for confrontation.

Listen to: Good Days - SZA

AQUARIUS

Aquarius, you are such unique problem solvers. Use these skills to de-escalate tense situations between your loved ones this season.

Listen to: In One Ear - Kid Bloom, Jesse

PISCES

Not everyone has to be your best friend, Pisces. Be kind to others, but keep your inner circle small. Having friends and having trust in people are not mutually exclusive.

Listen to: Eventually - Tame Impala

How to get teachers to like you:
- Don't be a teacher's pet
- Be quiet during class, and don't talk to your friends unless the environment is appropriate
- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- Show that you care about the class and work hard

How to be engaged in class
- Ask a question every class
- Make comments about the material
- Try to say 2 things every class period

Answers for the crossword!

Tag us on Instagram @hspvapaper with a picture of your completed puzzle!
Teacher Talk!

Ms. Manchac and Mr. Landry catch up after 2 years away to revive their old column, TEACHER TALK! A transcript of their conversation:

M: Hi Mr. Landry! Did I miss anything while I was gone?

Landry stares blankly.

M: Seems like only yesterday we were making viral handwashing videos and teaming up to destroy- er, engage and enlighten juniors everywhere!

L: Wow, you are A LOT. I don't remember you being this chipper.

M: I'm no longer crushed by the weight of 125 DBQs! Strange, I don't remember you being this much of a downer!

L: So much...has happened. Dr. Allen left, Dr. Rivas arrived. Some snakes appeared too but so far there has only been one known incident involving an office worker... poor Ophidian Bruja.

Manchac agog.

L: To be honest though, I don't even remember what life was like between 2020 and now. It is like there is some sort of mental block protecting me from... something...

M: You mean virtual and hybrid learning?!

Sounds of anguish and pain.

L: We do not speak those words here! In fact, the teachers go through the parking lot each fall and peel off the “H-word” tags from student cars. So much time staring at screens. So many blank circles with capital letters. So much lost learning.

M: Wow, OK. Well, I have been doing well, thanks for asking.

L: Sorry, how rude of me. Where were YOU the past two years?

M: Well, I've spent the past two years working for the HISD Social Studies department, supporting teachers through whispers hybrid learning, Temporary Online Learning, and teacher burnout that has led to the largest teacher shortage in U.S. history.

L: There's the ol' Manchac pessimism I remem- ber!

M: I did do some cool stuff like write lessons for the school district and research ethnic studies... but I realized that I missed working with kids so much. And of course, there is no greater, more creative place to be than HSPVA! Nothing makes me happier than seeing students’ wheels turning as they realize how the past impacts the present.

L: You know, it's coming back to me why I liked hanging out with you so much. I am glad you are back. Education is a calling and we were both lured here to help change the future. I am excited to see what we can create this year with the Juniors. They may be a rattled bunch, but there is so much potential there!

M: Likewise, my friend. I'm sure we can shape them up!

L: Do you think Kate is going to print this entire conversation as recorded?

M: I hope not, we spent 5 minutes debating whether concept checks or reading checks were better for crushing the joy of juniors so they had none left by senior year.

L: Truth.

This Year’s Fall Fashion

by Emery Goldstein

Fall is upon us. This, of course, brings with it the subject of this year’s autumnal fashion trends. A favorite pastime of mine has always been to see what the predictions are ahead of time, usually via one singular article (I am not a particularly thorough researcher). This year’s solitary bellwether article is ‘The 9 Fashion Trends That Are Dominating Fall 2022’ from ‘The Everygirl’ website, which, contrary to initial belief, does not speak for all fashion is ‘The 9 Fashion Trends That Are Dominating Fall 2022’ from ‘The Everygirl’ website, which, contrary to initial belief, does not speak for all.

Head-To-Toe-Leather- You must not blame the cows. I must admit I’m a little biased against the ‘leather’ look (meaning it doesn’t look good on me), but I have a sister who is particularly fond of it, so I’ll try to be fair. Proceed with caution. I realize that sounds grave, but I either picture a bold, confident, all-out look, which I wouldn’t even attempt, or a cozier, more comfortable look. I look forward to seeing what others will do with the idea.

Clogs- Please. I was living such an ideal existence. The article I'm referencing tells me that 'whether you like it or not, clogs are here, and I can. Once again, another look I don't like, but don't tell me how to live my life in a way I don't like. If I want to deny the comeback of clogs, I can. Once again, another look I don't doubt some people can rock, but one that haunts my sleep-deprived daydreams nonetheless.

Cargo Bottoms- Now in Cadet Kelly colors.

The Maxi-Skirt- This one I'm actually quite fond of. The store Anthropologie has always been recognized for its unique and eye-catching maxi skirts, but I'd need an actual job in anthropology to afford one outside of the sale price. So I'm excited to see they're coming back as a trend, and hopefully more accessible this time.

Ranking PVA Bathrooms

You might be wondering why I chose this topic. Well, it needs to be discussed! Some of the bathrooms at PVA earn a student’s love more than others. Here’s my ranking of the PVA bathrooms- which will be at the top?

On the bottom is the 1st floor bathroom. While convenient for after school or weekend events (like Carnaval!), it is not convenient at all for the day-to-day use of most students. It is isolated from all classrooms and is extremely cold in fall and winter. Overall, I avoid the 1st floor bathroom.

Second to last is the 5th floor bathroom. It’s small, it’s cramped, and awkwardly placed in front of the practice rooms. Plus, the water running through the sinks is often warm, which can be uncomfortable in summer and spring.

Next is the 2nd floor bathroom- I associate this bathroom with early, groggy mornings because all my math classes start early. However, it does have beautiful art to accompany the walk there, and I always get to peek into the art gallery. That being said, I don’t feel that I can fairly rank this bathroom because I don’t have a lot of experience with it- but it surely is not at the top.

Second is the 3rd floor bathroom. I hold some affection for this bathroom because it’s on the floor of classes that are hard but enjoyable. It’s usually empty during classes, which is good if you want to take a breather from a particularly difficult lesson.

Finally, at the top, due to sentimental value, is the 4th floor bathroom! It’s the closest to most academic classes and is particularly convenient for a creative writer. Though the line is unbearably long before lunch- so much so that it feels awkward to skip in front of the line just to wash your hands- its proximity to the majority of classes makes it the best of the bathrooms.
“I never knew that what I was doing was gaslighting.”
-Layla Crear

“Raise your hand if you’re not here.”
-Mr. Bingham

“I wanna make a Burn Book, but like a happy Burn Book.”
-Harper Zook

“So, like a scrapbook?”
-Mia El-Yafi

“Always think about number one: me.”
-Mr. Davis

“I wish I was John Wayne. He was racist though.”
-Frida Ruiz Berman

“Raise your hand if you’re not here.”
-Mr. Bingham

“Always think about number one: me.”
-Mr. Davis

“I wanna make a Burn Book, but like a happy Burn Book.”
-Harper Zook

“So, like a scrapbook?”
-Mia El-Yafi

“I wish I was John Wayne. He was racist though.”
-Frida Ruiz Berman

“Raise your hand if you’re not here.”
-Mr. Bingham

“Always think about number one: me.”
-Mr. Davis

“I wanna make a Burn Book, but like a happy Burn Book.”
-Harper Zook

“So, like a scrapbook?”
-Mia El-Yafi

“I wish I was John Wayne. He was racist though.”
-Frida Ruiz Berman

“Raise your hand if you’re not here.”
-Mr. Bingham

“Always think about number one: me.”
-Mr. Davis

“I wanna make a Burn Book, but like a happy Burn Book.”
-Harper Zook

“So, like a scrapbook?”
-Mia El-Yafi

“I wish I was John Wayne. He was racist though.”
-Frida Ruiz Berman

“Raise your hand if you’re not here.”
-Mr. Bingham

“Always think about number one: me.”
-Mr. Davis

“I wanna make a Burn Book, but like a happy Burn Book.”
-Harper Zook

“So, like a scrapbook?”
-Mia El-Yafi

“I wish I was John Wayne. He was racist though.”
-Frida Ruiz Berman

“Raise your hand if you’re not here.”
-Mr. Bingham

“Always think about number one: me.”
-Mr. Davis

“I wanna make a Burn Book, but like a happy Burn Book.”
-Harper Zook

“So, like a scrapbook?”
-Mia El-Yafi

“I wish I was John Wayne. He was racist though.”
-Frida Ruiz Berman

“Raise your hand if you’re not here.”
-Mr. Bingham

“Always think about number one: me.”
-Mr. Davis

“I wanna make a Burn Book, but like a happy Burn Book.”
-Harper Zook

“So, like a scrapbook?”
-Mia El-Yafi

“I wish I was John Wayne. He was racist though.”
-Frida Ruiz Berman

“Raise your hand if you’re not here.”
-Mr. Bingham

“Always think about number one: me.”
-Mr. Davis

“I wanna make a Burn Book, but like a happy Burn Book.”
-Harper Zook

“So, like a scrapbook?”
-Mia El-Yafi

“I wish I was John Wayne. He was racist though.”
-Frida Ruiz Berman