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\*TheHighSchoolforthePerformingandVisualArtsNewspaper

## 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.



Thank you Vex Butler for the generous donation of boxes from Firehouse Subs!

### 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?
- 3) What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?

- 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!

# Faculty Q+A

## 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 PVA, 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 PVA when I saw a math position available. What a great decision it was!

**What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?**

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 Art (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.

**What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?**

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.

**What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?**

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](mailto:hspvapaper@gmail.com)  
to be featured in the next issue of paper\*! Select  
top-humor quotes may receive special recognition.**

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# Faculty Q+A

## 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.

**What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?**

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: Mozart's third symphony

Breakfast food: Pancakes and bacon. Pancakes are not desert; name a single restaurant with pancakes listed as a dessert.

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.

**What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?**

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 accomplish 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.

**What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?**

Book: *The Alchemist* by Paulo 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: sandlewood.

**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.



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# Which *Mamma Mia!* Character Are You?

**Ares-** Rosie. A self-sufficient, independent leader with a sharp mind. Rosie is funny, feisty, and a self-declared lone wolf.

**Taurus-** Donna. Hardworking, stubborn, and business savvy, Donna is honest and just wants to provide for her daughter without all the drama that's constantly chasing her.

**Gemini-** Harry. 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.

**Cancer-** Sky. 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.

**Leo-** Tanya. Materialistic, larger than life, and extravagant. Her main goal is to spread joy and charm, entertaining others and getting a hefty check for it.

**Virgo-** Sam. 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.

**Libra-** Sophie. 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.

**Scorpio-** Eddie. 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.

**Sagittarius-** Bill. 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.

**Capricorn-** Pepper. 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.

**Aquarius-** Ali. 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.

**Pisces-** Lisa. 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.

by Andrew Hernandez, renowned Pisces



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# The HSPVA All-School Musical: A Brief History

by Katie Randall

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.

**Hairspray**, October 2021. Directed by Mr. Hune and Julia Krohn & Choreographed by Ms. Jones. Highlight of the show: the communal box of gumballs backstage leftover from making Penny's vanity.

**Dreamgirls**, February 2022. Directed by DeQuina Moore & Choreographed by Monica Josette. 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.



A picture from PVA's 2021 Hairspray musical.

## UPCOMING!

**Mamma Mia!**, October 2022. Directed by Ms. Carothers & Choreographed by Ms. Jones. Highlight of the show: buy your tickets at [hspvafriends.org/boxoffice/](https://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!

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# 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!



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# 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.



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# 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.

**Creative Writing Shows-** The most underrated events at PVA. A perfect showcase of what Creative Writing does. (Off the Page on December 13th!)

**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.



# paperviews\*

\*in case you care what we think

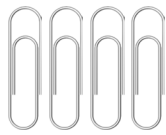
## ENTERTAINMENT

### 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.



*Nope* features slightly less horror than Peele's past films, leaning more towards a thriller, but still features some great horror sequences (if you've seen the film, you probably know the big one I'm talking about). The cinematography and editing are great, making the potentially boring setting of middle-of-the-desert California visually interesting. The performances from the cast are all solid; I particularly enjoyed leads Daniel Kaluuya and Keke Palmer, who have a great and believable sibling dynamic. Another standout performance for me was Steven Yeun as charismatic, egotistical local amusement park owner Jupe, whose story is essential to the themes of the film. "Nope" is a must-see for any fan of Peele's previous work, and an enjoyable and provocative viewing experience for anyone. Should you skip out on this film? NOPE!

### Don't Worry Darling

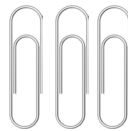
by Mikey Harper

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 movie:



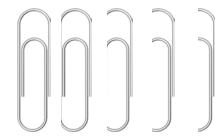
Harry Styles:



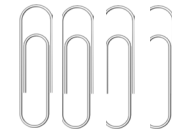
the internal facets and complexities of her as a character. Harry learned his lines. There's a specific scene near the end where he's alone in the car, yelling in frustration. This should have been compelling. I wanted it to be compelling so, so badly. But if I'm being honest, I turned to my friend Tobi (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

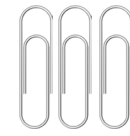
#### paperviews\* Ratings Beginning of Year Edition



After-show dancing at Carnival



Seeing juniors dressed up for Gilded Ball



Houston weather finally feeling like fall



Being bombarded by college emails



The broken down elevator and, with that, climbing five flights of stairs

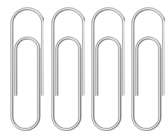




# Bullet Train

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 interwoven 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.

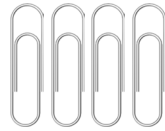


# Pearl

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-be 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

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 counterpart and *Mia Goth* is the star of it all.

# MUSIC

## 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.

**"Hazy 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 cynically in a coffee shop to write an email to @TheBaldLibrarian. From the criminally underrated Nick Drake, "Hazy Jane II" is a wonderful option to begin discovering his work this fall.

**"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 his 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" 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

by JJ LeGrand

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 Denney, but this year it’s different.

We no longer have our shows in the Denney 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 proceed to say, “Being closer makes the chemistry locked in.” While having chemistry within the band makes a stronger bond while playing, others say, “The Denney gives the shows a better effect and better visuals...the ambiance of the Denney 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 Denney, saying, “Having it in the Denney is a great opportunity for a lot

of people to be able to perform that might not be able to in the Denney, non-performing artists might not go to the Denney or perform in the Denney 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

by Samiyah Green

“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 on their Snapchat but when black excellence graces their screens it becomes a problem.

They don’t want to talk about how white-washed Pocahontas was or how they cast an Indian actress to play Jasmine who is an Arabian princess. They sweep all of these problems under the rug because it’s not as drastic as changing white to black. However, both of their cultures were a big part of who they are. Ariel had no connection to her culture besides her being a mermaid.

That’s why the backlash is so redundant. She didn’t have a strong accent like Merida, or a strong culture like Moana. If the culture is not a part of the princess’ identity then they should be free to cast whoever they think is a good fit. Halle Bailey is a talented actress and an even better singer which, believe it or not, is what really mattered for the character Ariel.

# Taylor Swift Midnight Predictions

by Catie Gieson

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\*t), Track 7 (Question...?), and Track 6 (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.

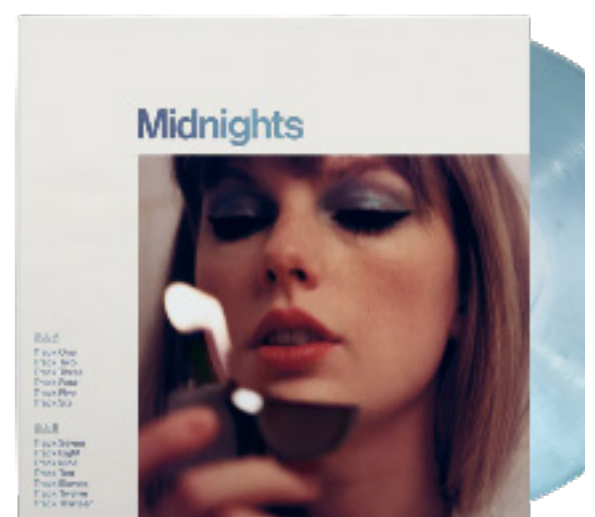
## Now for predictions:

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.

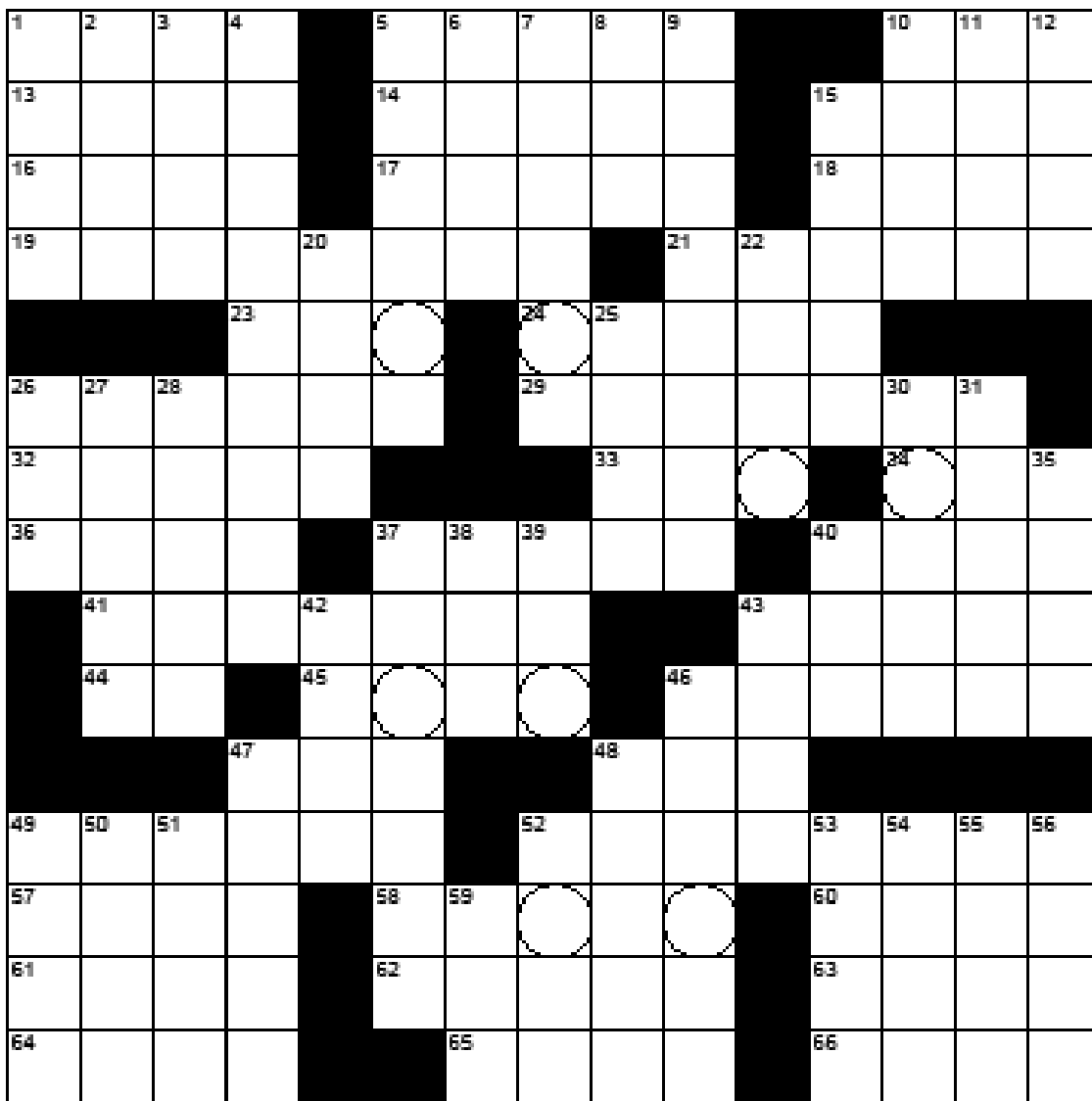
The likelihood of all of these theories being wrong is incredibly high, as Taylor Swift’s favorite thing is to send her fans on a wild goose chase. Regardless of what happens, many fans, including myself, are in for quite a few sleepless nights in the near future.





# Crossword: Wheels on the Bus

by Sofia Fontenot



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

## 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. "\_\_\_\_!" ; "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

# HSPVA Survival Series: Academic Edition

by Chloe Cheuk

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)

## Study Skills- Learning Difficult Concepts

- Find other ways to solve the problem.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Take advantage of outside resources and tutorials.

## 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.

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

- Get to know the current club officers
- Only stay in clubs that you're passionate about

### 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

## 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: Anything- Adrienne Lenker

## 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.

Re-establish boundaries and carry yourself confidently.

Listen to: Good Days- SZA

## CAPRICORN

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

Listen to: Cherry Blossom Girl- Air

## 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

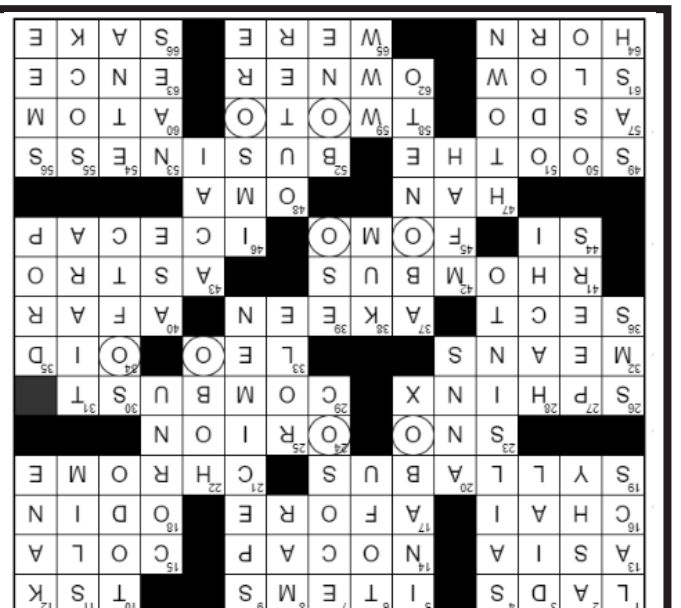
## PISCES

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

## Answers for the crossword!

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





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# Teacher Talk!

featuring Ms. Manchac and Mr. Landry

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 rattlepated 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.

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# This Year's Fall Fashion

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 of fashion is 'The 9 Fashion Trends That Are Dominating Fall 2022' from 'The Everygirl' website, which, contrary to initial belief, does not speak for 'everygirl'.

**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



by Emery Goldstein

they're chunkier and more out-there than ever'. Stop. I know I'm asking you how to live my life, 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.

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# 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 Carnival!), 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

by Natalia Alarcón-Castro

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.

# Overheard@PVA

"I never knew that what I was doing was gaslighting."

-Layla Crear

"Raise your hand if you're not here."

-Mr. Bingham

"He's like my gay best friend, but he's straight."

-Chloe Vuong

"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

"Getting hit by a car is so funny to me."

-Adrian Gomez

"Last night I found out that Transylvania is a real place."

-Kat Burns

"I'm not going to sit in the closet and write! What am I, Harry Potter?"

-Rafael Valdez

"I wish I was John Wayne. He was racist though."

-Frida Ruiz Berman

"This is math! This is like kindergarten math!"

-Ms. Childers

Why are there still poor people in the United States?

-Mr. Hammon

"She has no money. That's so sad."

-Ms. Apte

"Please move out of my chair, my left cheek can't take it anymore."

-Liam Mathus

"I got blood on the STAAR test and they made me redo everything."

-Lila Mankad

"Last year me and Luke used to go and bark at the underclassmen and they would all get scared."

-Christian Hinojosa

"Leave your phone in the room. I know about the 4th floor bathroom selfies."

-Ms. Switek

"I want to swim upstream and spawn."

-Brandon Leong, in a salmon-colored t-shirt

"How can you be Filipino and a woman?"

-Zech Bochetto

The provided dinner is pizza, so if you have a gluten allergy or just hate Italians, please let me know.

- Mr. Fetting

"Wait, does the school lunch take Apple pay?"

-Serenity Hughes

"No man is completely worthless- he can always be used as a bad example."

-Mr. Anawaty

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