

My constant companion since middle school... the Apple Podcasts app! I still remember from the first time I put on my headphones and listened to my first podcast, it was love at first listen. They gave me the ability to hear fascinating stories and interviews with the most interesting people in the world while going through my everyday life. While I was selective and judgemental with videos, for instance, I found myself having a deeper sense of empathy and connection with this medium. So when I joined my school's publication in high school, it was a no-brainer that we should have a podcast to utilize his medium to feature interesting students and cover important local issues. With support from the Online Editor in Chief, I was able to make that vision a reality this year. Despite having no prior experience, my passion and sheer will helped me tackle everything from setting up our publishing platform to finding guests to editing the audio. I obsessed over the smallest details from finding the right music, ensuring optimum audio quality, and writing compelling blurbs. Despite the challenges, the journey has been immensely rewarding. From hearing about the dedication it took for a student to become a nationally recognized euphonium player to hearing from first-hand sources about teacher grooming at our school, I have been able to interview fascinating individuals as well as dive deep into important local issues. But most importantly, I have been able to make an impact on our community by sharing these important stories with the student body. I could never have predicted the engagement the podcast would garner, receiving a hundred listens in the first few days of its release and had grown to over 700 listens to date. I have even had alumni reach and share their thoughts about an episode.

<https://anchor.fm/chsprospector/episodes/Ep-1-Natalie-Colegrove--Euphonium-player-and-Entrepreneur-eb7bj7>

This was a feature story on a junior at our school Natalie Colegrove who is a national level euphonium player, and an entrepreneur, selling music-related apparel. I interviewed her about her initial interest in music, explored the reason behind her rapid progression, the story behind starting her music apparel company, balancing music with school amongst other things.

<https://anchor.fm/chsprospector/episodes/Ep-2-Housing-and-Vallco-Debate-ea9kvo>

This episode is a moderated discussion between two housing activists at our school with different viewpoints on the controversial issue of housing and the Vallco development in Cupertino. I asked them about their broader philosophy, specific activism work, the city's housing policy, pros and cons of high-density housing, the intersection of transportation with housing, and their views on Vallco. They disagreed about various points so it was important for me to stay unbiased and give them both the chance to express their viewpoints.

<https://anchor.fm/chsprospector/episodes/Tino-fights-COVID-19-Jonathan-from-Cheffin-for-Charity-eekan2>

This episode is part of an ongoing series where I talk to students in my school doing something to curb the impacts of COVID-19. This episode featured Jonathon Dinh who started an organization called **cheffinforcharity**, which is a way for him to combine his passion for baking with helping the community. He sells different freshly baked goods and

donates the profits to charity. I interviewed him about the inspiration behind his idea, initial struggles, lessons learned, and his future plans.

<https://anchor.fm/chsprospector/episodes/Tino-fights-COVID-19-Ananya-and-Niyati-from-Write-To-Change-e-eeco3s>

This episode I interviewed two students about their initiative Write to Change, dedicated to helping support essential workers by creating cards and crafts to thank them. I covered their story, how they started and expanded the organization, and their goals for the future.

<https://anchor.fm/chsprospector/episodes/Discussing-Teacher-Grooming-at-Tino--Part-1-The-Problem-of-pqf9>

This episode is the first part of a two-part series that covers the problem of teacher grooming at Cupertino High School. This issue was uncovered by CHS alumna and activist Jasmine Till in a series of tweets and Instagram posts. It features interviews with Jasmine Till, CHS Principal Kami Tomberlain, and Associate Superintendent of the Fremont Union High School District, Tom Avvakumovitz.