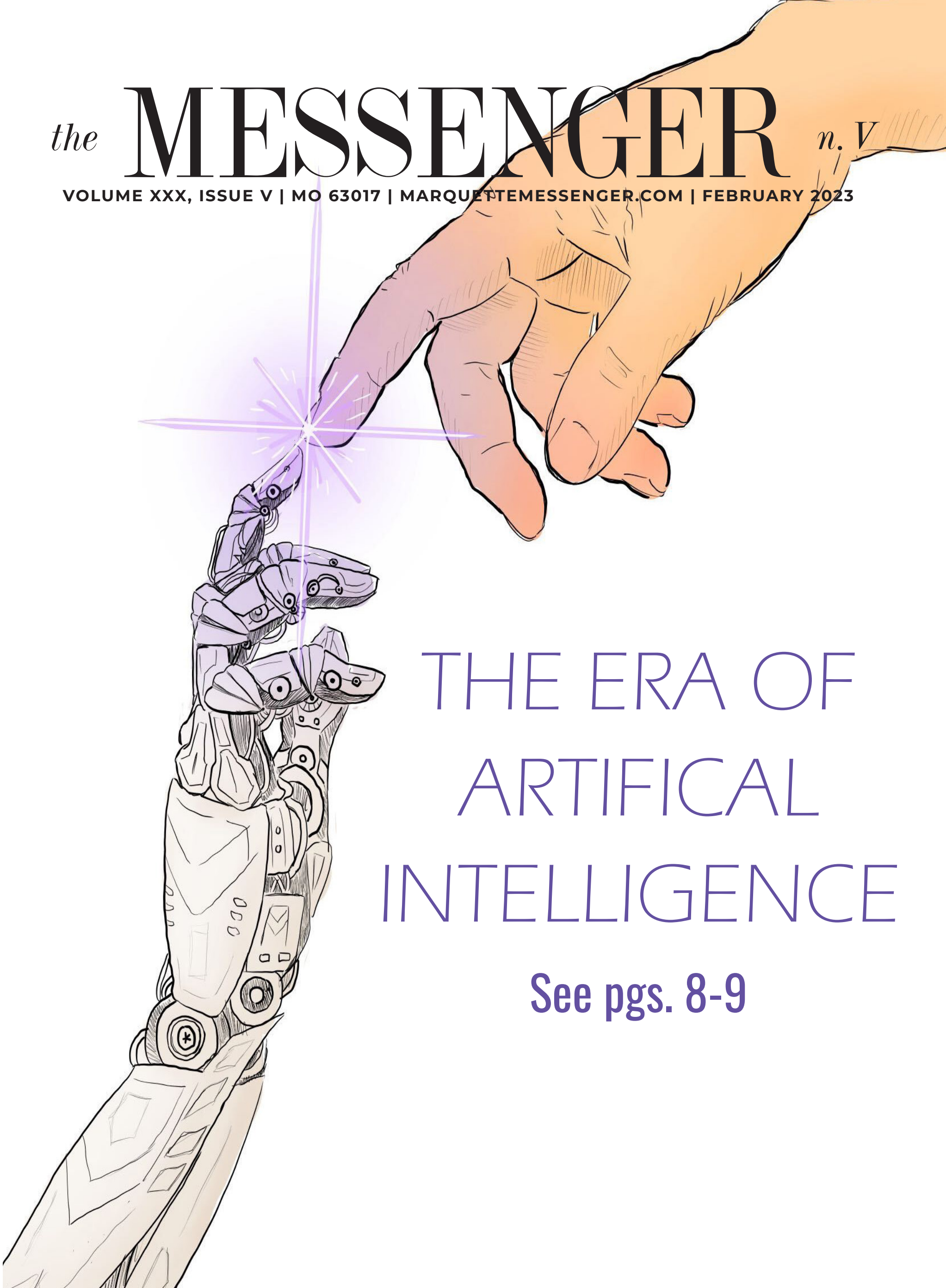


the **MESSENGER** *n. V*

VOLUME XXX, ISSUE V | MO 63017 | MARQUETTEMESSENGER.COM | FEBRUARY 2023



THE ERA OF
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE

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Students discuss differences in skiing and snowboarding sports. See full story on pg. 15.



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Photographs by Liza Cooper, Elliott Jorgensen, Xuefei Li, Shyam Punnachalil, Jacob Robinson, Gemma Speichinger and Anika Talyan.

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ABOUT US

The Messenger is a **public forum**, published eight times a year by students in the News Production class at Marquette High School, Chesterfield, MO, 63017. The publication serves to inform readers about issues concerning the community.

Opinions of Messenger columnists or the Editorial Board are not representative of the opinions of the entire Messenger staff or the administration. The full student publication **policy** can be viewed on the Messenger official website, marquettemessenger.com.

The Messenger takes **responses** for any issue. Send these to yourmhsnews@gmail.com. The Messenger reserves the **right to edit** submitted material and to refuse to print material because of space limitations, repetitive subject matter,

libelous content or any other reason the editor in chief and adviser deem appropriate, including advertisements and letters to the editor.

The Messenger is **nationally recognized** as a member of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA), the Journalism Education Association, Missouri Journalism Education Association and Quill & Scroll. This year, the publication was named a Hall of Fame recipient and Quill & Scroll George H. Gallup award winner. Past issues have been named NSPA Pacemaker finalists and CSPA Crown finalists. The Messenger website is a Distinguished Site recipient.

The publication **office** is located in Room 226, (636) 891-6000 ext. 26228.

Hockey continues tradition of haircutting. See full story on pgs. 15.



ONLINE
PREVIEW



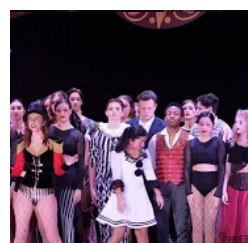
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MHSNews | The Deeper Meaning of ASL

by | Brie Inman



MHSNews | Vintage Vinyl: Four Decades of Music

by | Elliott Jorgensen and Owen DeArmond

RSD waits on AP African American Studies

willem HUMMEL

The College Board recently released a new course called AP African American Studies, and this new course was banned by Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida from being added to curriculum.

Nailah Bonner, senior, said she was disappointed, but not surprised.

“We are going into 2023, and we still have people out there like ‘no we can’t teach that’ or ‘we’re not going to teach that,’” Bonner said.

Bonner said the class is necessary as there is a lot more to African American history than just slavery and Jim Crow.

“It’s not just about Rosa Parks and MLK,” Bonner said. “Yes they were important, but there’s more people that contributed to the story.”

Sarah Clark, junior, said it would be great if an AP African American History class was offered.

“Others can learn more about our point of view in a deeper meaning,” Clark said. “Most of my Black history came from stories I see online or people that told me about it, other classes that I have taken off campus and not actually from school.”

Clark was also unimpressed with Florida’s ban on the AP African American Studies course.

“It’s very unfair that a lot of other cultures and different people get to have their own classes but it’s an issue with an African American,” Clark said.

Dr. Shelley Willott, assistant superintendent of learning and support services, said the program review for courses was last year and occurs every six years. This means the AP African American Studies class will not be considered until the program review cycle resets.

“We are always open to looking at that,” Dr. Willott said. “It’s important to know that in the past, when we added an AP course, we have typically sat back a year or two and watched how that course unfolded.”

The district is waiting to see how much of the content of the course overlaps with the Black Lit course, which is already running, Dr. Willott said.

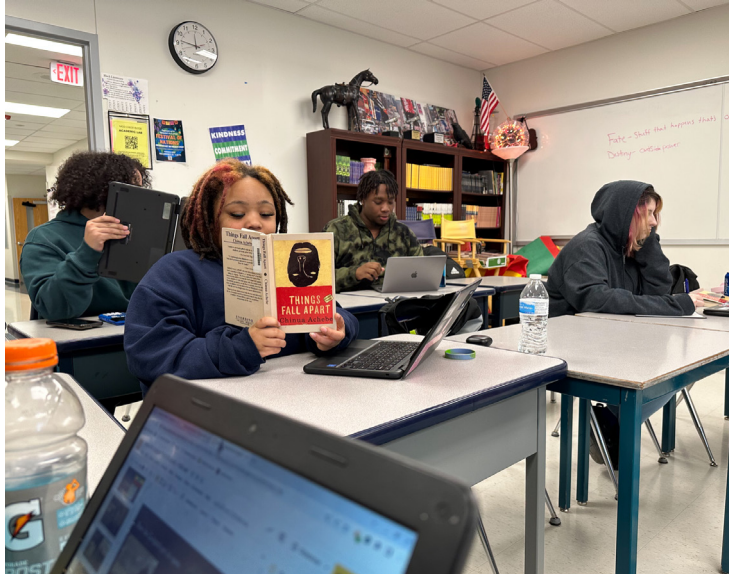
Scott Szevery, social studies department chair, said he would be thrilled if an AP African American Studies course was accepted.

“It’s an area of American history that definitely there’s a lot of interest in it right now, and it’s incredibly relevant to not just African Americans stories, but to the history of this nation as a whole,” Szevery said.

However, Szevery said he has concerns about the addition of new history classes because there are

already so many options for students and there is a possibility that there would not be enough students to fill new courses.

If a new course is added, Szevery said he would advocate for a different course to be dropped to restore a more finite number of choices.

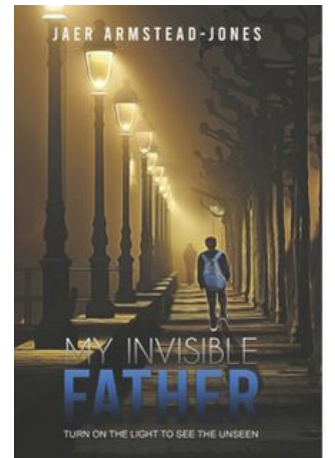


Students in the Black Literature class complete an assignment about a book written by a Black author. This class is similar to the AP African American Studies class now offered by College Board. *Photograph by Pranav Sriraman*

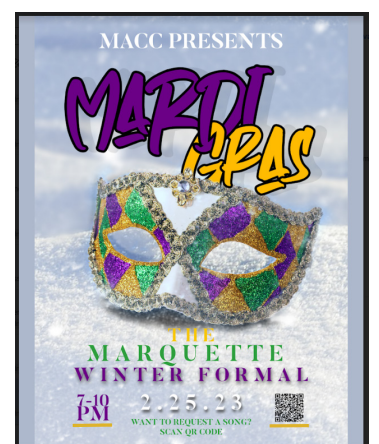
AT A GLANCE

The **2023-24 district calendar** has been approved. The last day of school was moved to May 31, and two professional development days were moved into the summer as well.

To celebrate **Black History month**, a St. Louis author, songwriter and educator Jaer Armstead-Jones will visit the Library on Tuesday, Feb. 21, during Ac Lab.



The annual **winter formal** is on Friday, Feb. 25, from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. The theme this year is Mardi Gras, and there will be a spirit week leading up to the dance.



Calendar, finals schedule cause frustration

willem HUMMEL

Bruno Bergoudian, senior, went to Brazil when Winter Break started, and missed the week before finals took place and the entirety of finals week.

He said that while he was in Brazil, he had to email teachers to stay on top of his big projects and not get behind.

Bergoudian said he would rather the semester end before break and finals along with it.

“It should be a time to rest your mind a little bit, have a break, but instead it feels like an extended weekend,” Bergoudian said.

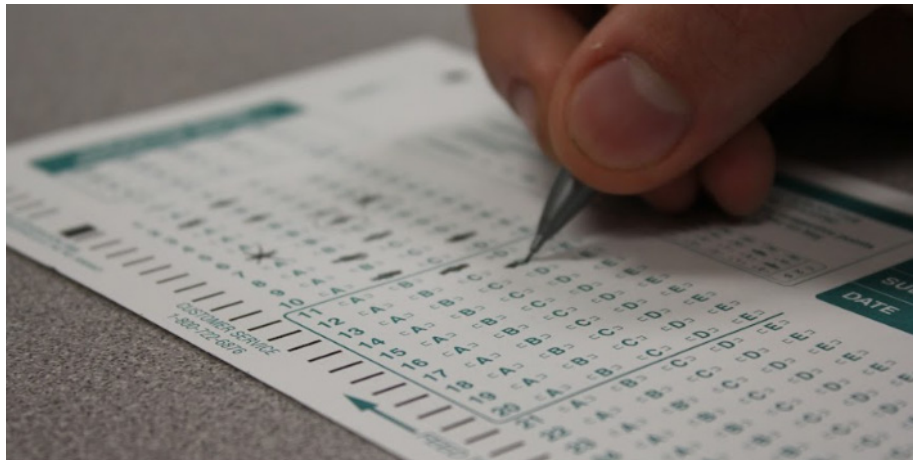
Glenn Hancock, director of research, evaluation and assessment, said the switch from pre-break to post-break finals occurred because of legislation passed in 2019 that pushed back the earliest possible start date of schools by four days. This decision was made to benefit the tourism agency and bound schools to this start date when they could previously apply for an exception.

“The committee that has parents, teachers, principals, they take feedback from everyone in the community and put together a proposed calendar,” Hancock said. “They share that proposed calendar for feedback, and then it gets presented to the Board.”

Lindbergh High School has managed to fit finals in before break despite the new legislation. Dr. Eric Cochran, principal of Lindbergh High School said their new system resulted in semesters with unequal lengths.

“We try to cram as many days into the first semester to make it a legitimate first semester,” Dr. Cochran said.

This creates a different experience for single semester



Missouri districts, students and staff have had to adapt to finals being pushed after Winter Break because of legislation that dictates when schools start for the year. *Photo illustration by Emma Tyulyayev*

courses, as the first semester has fewer learning days than the second semester, Dr. Cochran said.

“We really felt that at the high school, that finishing those finals and using a college-like schedule where those finals are done for the break was worth trying to preserve,” Dr. Cochran said.

Dr. Cochran said there is something better about a “clean break.”

Dr. Cochran said the legislation still creates a suboptimal academic situation.

“I think that that is not great for the mental health of our kids,” Dr. Cochran said. “If I had my choice, I would go back and remove that legislation. I think it’s bad for students.”

Additional Reporting by Zoya Shah.



Yana Dragnev, senior, and Jonathan Pirrello, junior, hang lights to celebrate Chinese New Year. Both students are part of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, and Dragnev helped found it. Last year, the DEI Committee created butterfly mural to beautify the hallway. *Photographs by Elliott Jorgensen, Annabelle Miller and Brie Inman*

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion lead to state recognition

liza COOPER

For the first time, MHS is one of four schools in the district to be recognized as a Missouri State School of Character.

In order to achieve this award, administrators submitted artifacts and lists of actions by various groups around the school that exemplify 11 designated principles. These include the establishment of core values, available opportunities and a school-wide culture of character.

Principal Dr. Steve Hankins attributed part of this accomplishment to the school's emphasis on the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). New initiatives such as the inclusion of DEI into course curriculums and the DEI Committee were the "missing link," Dr. Hankins said.

"Our DEI programs that we have are champions," Dr. Hankins said. "They have done a lot of campus modifications and look at ways to make kids feel included."

In an email notifying staff of the recognition, Dr. Hankins listed 41 instances where clubs, organizations and events propelled the school to achieve this status. Four of these were linked to the DEI Committee and even more had to do with the qualities of DEI.

This accomplishment comes in the wake of several issues in the district that have questioned the district's values.

In January, Dr. Terry Harris, former executive director of student services, resigned amid threats and efforts to block his actions to include more DEI principles in the district.

Last week, another issue arose when a Eureka High School (EHS) student posted a video in one of the school's bathrooms showing stalls

labeled "White toilet" and "Colored toilet."

Superintendent Dr. Curtis Cain released a statement shortly after the event, reassuring parents and staff that the student involved will be disciplined.

"Racism undermines our mission, commitments, character principles, reputation and the moral fabric and core values of our outstanding schools, district and community," he wrote.

In an interview with the Messenger, Dr. Cain said the district will continue to make sure students see their voices represented in schools.

"When I think of the Way Forward, our strategic plan, there are specific call outs in terms of what we're doing and how we're going about

doing it, in order to meet the needs of all students in the Rockwood School District," Dr. Cain said.

For now, DEI will continue to be promoted at MHS.

A checklist of initiatives was sent out to all Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), which are

groups of educators organized by courses within the school. The checklists included ways to incorporate DEI into everyday lesson plans.

"The DEI work in Marquette High School and how it's truly woven into the fabric of Marquette is very, very impressive," Dr. Cain said. "People feel as though they truly are home whenever I'm over at Marquette High School."

Shelly Justin, language arts teacher, is the staff leader of the committee.

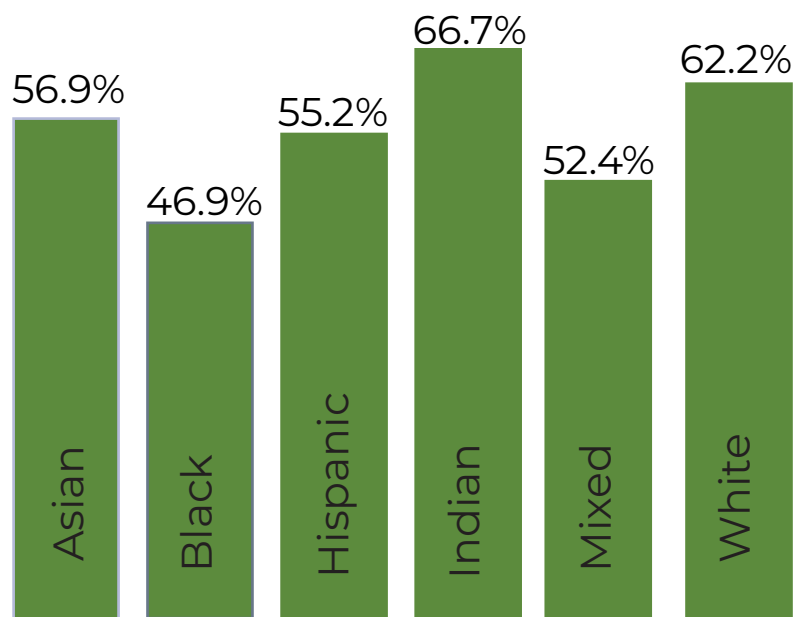
"On the outside, and in the last few years, there's been so much division," Justin said. "That's not really what's happening here. I want everyone to see that we all actually are trying to create something beautiful and we're trying to stay away from that negativity."

"Our DEI programs that we have are champions. They have done a lot of campus modifications and look at ways to make kids feel included."

Dr. Steve Hankins, principal

Within the school climate, do all students learn about cultural differences?

The Social Emotional Learning Survey that students took in the fall asked students to agree, strongly agree, disagree or strongly disagree to the above statement. The students who agreed with the statement are broken down by race.



Spring break service trip returns

parker BRANDT · annabelle MILLER

After a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Spring Break Service Trip has returned.

This year, from March 18 to 24, students of all grade levels and staff volunteers will travel to Fort Myers, Florida, to help the community in lieu of the devastation of Hurricane Ian in September.

Sophomore Principal Dr. Dan Ramsey has coordinated the trips since 2012, and is working with United Way to orchestrate it this year.

“We look to see if there’s adequate work, safe situations, and if we can find good community partners to work with,” Dr. Ramsey said.

Ever since starting the trips, students have been able to travel to not only benefit others and their communities, but to find themselves and earn up to 24 hours of community service.

“It’s just an amazing way that we can make a difference outside of Marquette,” Ramesy said.

Parents are encouraged to bring their kids to an informational meeting regarding the trip where they would be able to sign up to go and learn more about what it would entail.

Colonel Gary Wamble, ROTC instructor, has attended past trips and is invited on this year’s trip.

“It’s very enlightening to see kids give up their personal time to go down and help out others,” Dr. Wamble said.

As a chaperone, Dr. Wamble will be in charge of a group of students and will oversee them while they work. The student service groups travel to different work sites each day to experience a variety of service and to make the largest impact on the community.

“The trip itself is great for service learning because kids are able to go down there and help people who’ve been affected by the hurricane and disasters

around it,” Dr. Wamble said.

Archie Ramsey, sophomore, has attended the service trips before with their dad, Dr. Ramsey. Archie even experienced the trips before they were a student at MHS.

“We had planned a trip to Georgia for Spring Break in 2020, but, of course, COVID canceled that plan,” Archie said. “It would be nice to be able to do it again.”

They have enjoyed the experiences of getting to travel with their father and giving back to a community, while also getting to enjoy a vacation. They have been on trips to Florida and Texas.

“It’s important for students and staff to go on the trip because they’re giving a service to a community that really needs it after how much destruction was caused,” Archie said.

Associate Principal Dr. Tracy Waeckerle chaperoned a Spring Break trip to Houston, Texas, six years ago. About 100 students went on the trip to help repair flood damage, Dr. Waeckerle said.

“It’s always a really good group of kids that go and



Students rebuild the shoreline during a past Spring Break Service Trip. Students travelled to help communities affected by Hurricane Michael in Mexico City and Port St. Joe, Florida. This year, students can go to For Meyers, Florida. *Photograph by Amy Blumenfeld*

want to be there for the right reasons,” Dr. Waeckerle said.

The service work consisted of cleaning houses that had been flooded. Students disposed of ruined furniture, put up new drywall and replaced ruined landscaping.

Dr. Waeckerle said they also went on evening outings including a country music concert and rodeo.

“It’s a good way to spend your Spring Break where you’re giving back to the community, but you’re also having fun,” Dr. Waeckerle said.

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Illustrations by Emma Tyulyayev
Photograph by Xuefei Li

Senior succeeds in music and science

aarushi BUTE

At 5 years old, sitting in the audience at the Red Velvet Ball for the St. Louis Symphony, Alex Chen, senior, was amazed by pianist Lang Lang's performance.

"He is an icon especially for my culture because he grew up to be successful even as an artist," Chen said. "I just remember being amazed."

Twelve years later, Chen sat on the stage as a St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra member.

After applying to NPR's programs for Young Classical Musicians for five years, Chen was selected for their Learning and Media Fellowship.

"I met a lot of really great peers who are incredibly intelligent and also incredibly good at what they do with regards to music," Chen said. "When you get opportunities like this, to meet new musicians and have a connection with them, it shows how much you have left to learn. Even after 13 years, I'm still a beginner."

Chen hasn't only earned recognition in music but also in the field of science as a Top 300 scholar in the nationwide Regeneron Science Talent Search. Chen was the only student in Missouri chosen as a scholar.

To earn this recognition, he worked on a project through the class Authentic Science Research (ASR) II, where he investigated Geospatial Positioning and the limitations of the current positioning strategies to increase identification of objects.

"I think it's a great honor," Chen said. "Especially when you see a lot of extremely top-notch science programs with hundreds of dollars of funding, knowing that Marquette can go kind of toe to toe with them."

Chen said his background in music has helped him approach music in a unique way.

"[Musicians], especially the young ones, don't tend to take a scientific lens into what the composer wanted to do," Chen said. "So actually breaking the music down and trying to perform a project in a scientific way is really helpful for trying to understand the message that you're trying to create. And getting better at physically creating that message."

Nevertheless, Chen said he also tries to keep his worlds separate.

"Music is not my academic career path but it's a really big part of who I am, my identity," Chen said. "I could never let go of it and if anything goes wrong in my life, I resort to my piano."

In the future, Chen said he hopes to go into the field of business and science in order to create a meaningful impact from research that usually goes unnoticed.

Dr. Leigh VanHandel, associate professor of Music Theory at The University of British Columbia, said there's no question that music has an impact on the developing brain but its effect most likely does not engage with cognitive skills.

A popular misconception is that listening to music makes individuals stronger cognitively but there's been mixed research on the topic as it really depends on the person, Dr. VanHandel said.

"Interestingly, music generally improves simple task performance but it can also depend on whether you like external stimuli or not," Dr.

VanHandel said.

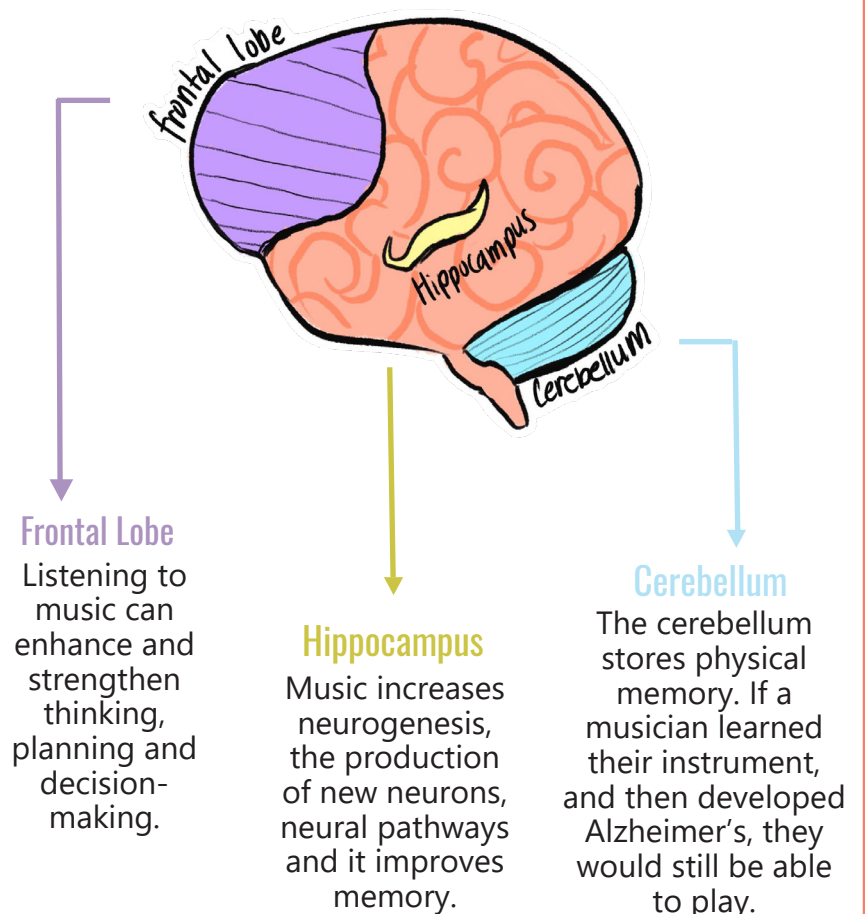
Dr. Cathy Farrar, science teacher, said Chen's project had a clear application to the world at large.

"Regeneron is looking for a couple of things in a future scientist. And he has kind of everything they need," Dr. Farrar. "He clearly has the content knowledge, but he also has the creativity for sciences as well as the ability to communicate that."

Dr. Farrar said Chen is a student that everyone likes to work with because he's friendly and is always talking about interesting things that he loves.

"It's a shame that he's going away to college," Dr. Farrar said.

Your Brain and Music



Information from University of Central Florida
Illustration by Emma Tyulyayev

Nailed It

Young entrepreneur channels creativity

eli FERGUSON

Samvida Batchu, sophomore, delicately brushes blue nail polish onto an acrylic nail. She recently got a message from a new client on Instagram for an order and is carefully completing it.

Batchu has been running her business, Samvida's Nail Salon, for a year and a half now.

"I've always been artistic, and nails were always something that could make me feel fancy while being artistic," Batchu said.

She was inspired to start her business during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

"It actually started as a joke between my family because I really like doing nails. I thought, 'Why not, let's just do it,'" Batchu said.

Since then, she has borrowed money from her parents to buy the initial supplies, created an Instagram account to reach clients and book appointments and gotten to work.

She now offers fake nail sets for pick-up and in-person nail painting out of her home. Solid regular polish is \$8, regular polish with a design is \$10 and tips are \$12.

"I think it's nice to have control over something. Especially, since I'm still a kid, I still live with my parents and they have the most control over most things," Batchu said. "But, this is one thing that is just mine."

Batchu is one of many young aspiring entrepreneurs across the nation. According to the Junior Achievement USA, 60 percent of teens want to launch their own businesses instead of working regular jobs.

Janet Koch, business teacher, spent 17 years working as a real estate lender. She said that starting small



Samvida Batchu, sophomore, started her own nail business during the COVID-19 pandemic. She makes sets of nails for purchase and paints peoples' nails during appointments they can book on her Instagram, @samvidasnailson. Photograph by Anvi Talyan

businesses can have many beneficial impacts on the economy and community.

"Of course, small businesses raise tax revenue, but small businesses provide a way for people to get to know other businesses in the community," Koch said. "It's really good to have a small community network of small businesses."

Koch said small businesses provide students with opportunities to build something from the ground up. They allow students to build networks and become more involved in the community, as well as gain experience in the workforce.

"I think if you start a business as a student you could get support from your teachers as well as family and friends," Koch said. "You could really start to make your network and move outward."

Varenya Vemulapalli, sophomore, recently had her nails done at Samvida's Nail Salon.

"I've never had a friend that owned a business. When I got my nails done by her it felt different," Vemulapalli said.

Vemulapalli said that by shopping from small businesses, people can get unique, quality products and know where the money is going.

"She's really friendly," Vemulapalli said. "She'll do anyone's nails and she's really good with

people."

Batchu hopes to expand Samvida's Nail Salon in the future, possibly including a subscription for a set of nails each month.

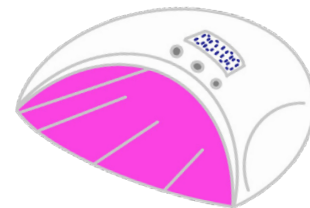
"I think it's nice to help other kids see that they're not too young to start a business," Batchu said. "You can start it literally out of your garage."



Types of Nail Polishes

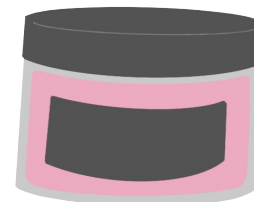
Traditional Nail Polish

This is the typical definition of "nail polish." It's painted on in multiple coats with a brush and has to air dry.



Gel Nail Polish

This is a longer lasting polish. The application is similar to regular polish, but takes 30-60 seconds under a UV lamp to cure and dry.



Dip Powder

This nail polish type requires a polish with powder dipped onto the nail, and then once covered in a top-coat, it is cured under a UV lamp.

Acrylic

This type of nail is a powder mixed with a monomer and applied with a brush. After it hardens, polish can be applied on top.



Illustrations by Parker Brandt

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Era of AI

People reflect on AI developments

shyam PUNNACHALIL · akhila SWARNA

It was the day of his language arts essay deadline, and a sophomore, who asked to remain anonymous due to potential disciplinary consequences, only had a blank document to submit.

“ChatGPT, write an essay about your journey as a researcher using hero archetypes.”

Within seconds of receiving the prompt, ChatGPT generated an essay tailored to the inserted prompt and minutes later, he turned in the essay.

“I just wanted to try the software out, but it didn’t really fit the prompt correctly. I got a pretty bad grade,” the student said.

ChatGPT, launched in November by OpenAI, is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that interacts with users in a conversational manner. This nature allows users to ask questions and receive answers or insert a prompt and obtain a detailed response.

The emergence of ChatGPT demonstrates a larger rise in AI. AI is expected to infiltrate daily life by 2025, play a greater role in certain jobs and impact human intelligence, according to Forbes.

Impact at MHS

Junior Abhiram Permareddy first learned of ChatGPT when he was exploring the artificial intelligence with his friends. While he has not used the software on school work, his friends have tested ChatGPT’s use on a couple homework assignments.

“It was really interesting to see how well it can just do it right when you ask it a question,” Permareddy said.

As a student interested in computer science, Per-

mareddy said this advanced technology is exciting.

“It’s interesting how schools are going to adapt and how this technology will change the future,” Permareddy said.

Rob Durham, language arts teacher, said he views ChatGPT as the equivalent of an English calculator.

“It has the chance to be as influential as the internet itself,” Durham said.

Within the classroom, Durham said grading writing generated by ChatGPT is often easier because there are fewer silly mistakes. However, the assignments are usually just as good as what the student can write.

Because of students using ChatGPT, Durham said he is moving toward more personal-styled writing for his assignments, such as poems about life. This teaching technique makes recognizing the use of AI on assignments easier.

“I think it’ll be a helpful tool, but as far as academia, that’s yet to be seen,” Durham said.

As a former language arts teacher, Dr. Richard Regina, senior principal, said anytime someone uses external assistance to create an entire assignment, they end up hurting themselves.

“They’re also really cheating themselves because they’re not preparing themselves for the future by having a computer or artificial intelligence write their document for them,” Dr. Regina said.

Dr. Regina said writing papers or essays is about the process, not the final product.

“I think it’s part of our job to make sure that we can encourage students not to rely on this but to rely on the knowledge they have,” Dr. Regina said.

A student who uses ChatGPT is copying an entire assignment, so the student will receive a zero on the assignment. Moving forward, behavioral consequences such as ISS could be assigned.

“Taking time to work through the writing process is an important life skill that’s going to benefit you later on in life,” Dr. Regina said.

Collegiate Perspective

While grading essays for his world religions course, Dr. Antony Aumann, professor of philosophy at Northern Michigan University, stumbled upon an essay that seemed to be a red flag. The student’s submission was far beyond his expectations for his students.

To test his suspicions, Dr. Aumann pasted the essay into ChatGPT and asked the AI ‘Hey, did you write this?’ The chat

responded with a 99.9% chance.

“There’s no getting around it,” Dr. Aumann said. “There’s no way to prevent people from using it.”

Colleges and universities are handling ChatGPT in different ways. Some professors are using AI detection software, which is prone to false positives and negatives, Dr. Aumann said.

“I think that the joy of writing is something the

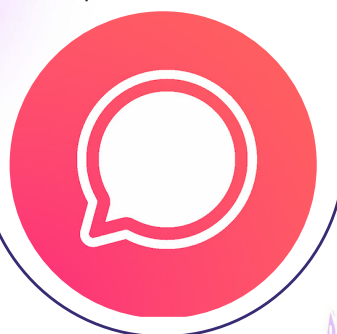
“You can use the chat for good or you can use the chat for evil. The choice is really yours. I would encourage you to choose wisely.”

Dr. Antony Aumann,
philosophy professor

Different AI programs

Chai

Users can have conversations with AI chatbots, that have many different personalities.



Synthesia

Videos can be created using AI avatars by giving them scripts.



ChatGPT

Dialogue-based language model allowing conversations with users.



Murf

Allows users to use AI voices to voice scripts made by users.

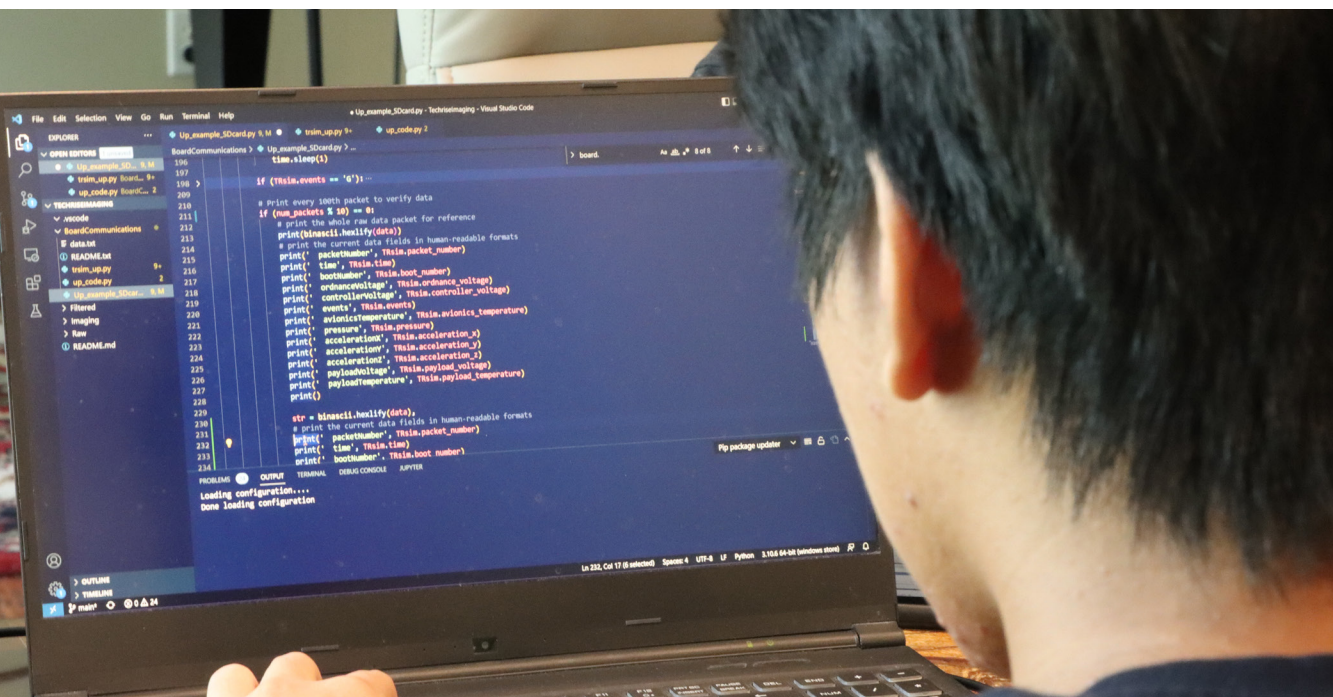


DeepDream

By inserting a prompt, the AI can synthesize psychedelic images.



Information from App Store



Zhao, junior, programs code onto the flight computer for Astral Orbit, a rocketry team. Zhao is an aspiring programmer and has tried using ChatGPT for code. Zhao said he didn't like it because he didn't find that it worked properly. He likens ChatGPT to StackOverflow, a question-and-answer website for programmers. Photograph by Shyam Punnachail

chat cannot take away from us," Dr. Aumann said.

Alternatively, some universities are starting to move to oral exams, but this approach doesn't work with larger classes, Dr. Aumann said. Also, the exams may not be an accurate representation of a student's knowledge due to external influences such as fear of public speaking.

Rather than "play cop," Dr. Aumann said he decided to integrate ChatGPT into the course curriculum.

"Students are already upset that there's a big gap between school and the real world, so if you say 'hey, there's this really cool thing, but we're not going to teach you how to use it,' that's just going to make students feel like that gap is even wider," Dr. Aumann said.

Dr. Aumann uses ChatGPT in the classroom as a discussion partner or editor for rough drafts.

Dr. Aumann said despite the emergence of AI like ChatGPT, there is still a crucial role for society to develop its own critical thinking.

"You can use the chat for good or you can use the chat for evil," Dr. Aumann said. "The choice is really yours. I would encourage you to choose wisely."

Real-World Application

Jason Zhao, junior, is an aspiring coder and intends to pursue a career in programming.

"Right now a lot of people in the programming industry are using ChatGPT to its full potential by asking questions to find help with any programming problems," Zhao said.

Zhao said ChatGPT is like StackOverflow, a question-and-answer website for programming professionals and enthusiasts.

Zhao said one issue programmers run into with ChatGPT is not knowing what to ask and how to ask.

"A lot of the time, I see programmers spending less time looking for the code on StackOverflow and spending way more time on ChatGPT asking ques-

tions," Zhao said.

Unlike Zhao, Vitaly Tyulyayev, owner of ActiveTick, a software data company, said AI is a great help for him and his company's efficiency.

"I've been using ChatGPT to generate a specific type of code. Rather than spending 10-15 minutes typing it myself, I can get it in 10 seconds and copy and paste it into my code," Tyulyayev said.

ActiveTick is a company that offers stock and market data and quotes to companies that use Tyulyayev's code for their products.

While it does help Tyulyayev with his efficiency, he does note that AI will cause problems with white-collar workers trying to get jobs. He also said it prevents aspiring programmers from getting more experience.

"It's a very disruptive technology for industries that require higher-level skills. People getting into programming can't find jobs. If it can do the job of a junior programmer, then there won't be a demand for them," Tyulyayev said.

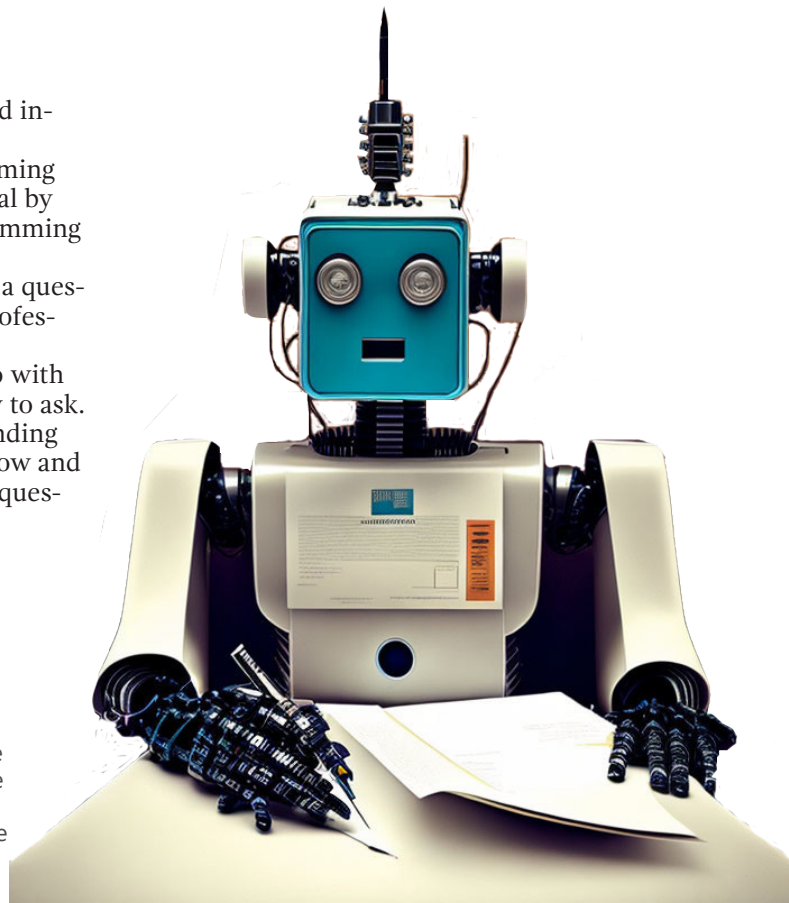


Image created by entering "Robot writing paper" into DeepDream, an AI art generator. There was an AI art boom in 2022, according to WIRED, with many people trying out art generators like DeepDream. Other AI art generators include Nightcafe and DALL·E.

Evolution of AI

1958

First AI programming language, Lisp, is created by "The father of AI," John McCarthy.



1964

The first chatbot, Eliza, was created as a therapist to help people feel heard.



2012

Kismet, one of the first robots to demonstrate both emotional and social interactions with humans, was made.



2017

The first AI musician, Amper, created an album and helped musicians solve problems.



2022

ChatGPT was created by OpenAI, reaching over one million users five days.



Illustrations by DALL·E
Information from Veelo

Holiday Celebrations

Valentine's Day brings friends, couples together

aarushi BUTE

Red hearts, pink drinks and delectable treats describe the TikTok that served as the inspiration for sophomore Lilah Tegman's Galentine's Day, a platonic Valentine's Day celebration with friends.

"I saw the TikTok and knew I had to do it with them," Tegman said.

Celebrating ahead of Feb. 14, Tegman and her friends made chocolate-covered strawberries, decorated cookies, had a sleepover and watched a couple of movies.

"For me, Galentine's represents friendship and appreciating everyone I love in a platonic way," Tegman said.

As someone who used to not like Valentine's Day, Tegman said spending time with her friends changed her perspective on the holiday. She intends to make this a tradition with her friends.

"It's a holiday

to connect, especially because the friend group I'm doing it with I met this year," Tegman said.

The word Galentine's Day was coined by fictional character Leslie Knope in the second season of the show "Parks and Recreation," in

"For me, Galentine's represents friendship and appreciating everyone I love in a platonic way,"

Lilah Tegman,
sophomore

2010.

Sophie Lane, sophomore, celebrated Galentine's Day for the first time last year.

This year, Lane said she once again plans to dress up with her friends and go out for dinner.

"Having small things like this makes me really appreciate my friends," Lane said.

While new traditions are arising such as Galentine's Day, Will Everson, senior, said he likes to celebrate Valentine's Day the old-fashioned way with his girlfriend of two years, Reilly Moroney, senior.

Last year, Everson said they went to a restaurant to celebrate over dinner. This year, he said they're planning on going to a museum and getting lunch afterward.

"It's just a great opportunity to celebrate being in a relationship," Everson said. "Having that person and any opportunity to show that person that you appreciate them is always a good thing."

Everson said he suggests putting yourself out there for Valentine's.

"Just have fun," Everson said. "Don't put too much pressure on yourself. And if you want your partner to ask you to be their valentine, make sure that they know that you want that."



Reilly Moroney, senior, poses with her boyfriend Will Everson, senior. Moroney and Everson have been together for two years, and have enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day together in the past by doing activities such as going out to eat on the holiday. Photograph by Reilly Moroney



Information from Cosmopolitan

Lunar New Year symbolizes new beginnings, renewal

emily CHIEN

Lucas Zhang, sophomore, gathered with all of his family to create rice balls and dumplings for Lunar New Year.

"Lunar New Year is all about celebrating tradition and being around the people I love and care about," Zhang said. "It's a meaningful holiday that's symbolic of good fortune."

Zhang has grown up celebrating the holiday with his family and believes Lunar New Year is a beautiful tradition that has much importance to Asian culture.

"It's a part of who I am as a person," Zhang said. "Being born Chinese American in a family of immigrants allows me to see the importance of the celebration."

Lunar New Year, which took place on January 22, marks the beginning of the new moon and is one of the most important social holidays for billions of people. It symbolizes new beginnings as the winter transitions to a season of renewal.

Lindsay Lee, senior, celebrated Lunar New Year by making cultural dishes with her family.

"It's meaningful in a way that it applies to a certain culture," Lee said. "It brings a lot of luck to a culture and also makes me feel more connected to my culture."

Daniel Moi, sophomore, also believes Lunar New Year is one of the most impactful holidays.

"The Lunar New Year brings a new me," Moi said.

Moi has celebrated Lunar New Year since he was a child and celebrated Lunar New Year this year with his parents, grandparents and aunts. He ate dumplings, soup dumplings, potato slices and pork buns with his family in commemoration of the holiday.

Eloise Zhou, senior, celebrated Lunar New Year on multiple days. On the first day, she had the staple dishes: fish and dumplings. On the second day, Zhou had soup.

"The first, second and seventh day of Lunar New



The dragon dance, dating back 2,000 years to ancient China, was originally performed for diplomats foreign to China, during the time between Han to the Tang dynasty. Now, it is performed during special occasions such as Lunar New Year, which was celebrated on January 22. The dance has maintained its popularity due to the dragon's prominence in Chinese culture, as they represent power and luck. The dragon dance is performed with the intent to ward off evil spirits and bring good fortune to a person's community. Information from National Library Board. Photographs by Daniel Moi

Year is the most prominent," Zhou said. "The seventh day is the ending and represents the day of the human."

Zhou never entirely understood the meaning of Lunar New Year, but this year she learned the holiday means family and togetherness.

"I used to really hate making dumplings because I can never get the skin right. But now I understand," Zhou said. "It's because its too much work for one person, so you have to have everyone working together at the same time."

2023 is the year of the rabbit

Instagram Influx

Students share their photography online

parker BRANDT • brooke ECK



Gemma Speichinger, senior, attends sports games to photograph students and capture candid moments. She posts many of her pictures on her Instagram account, @gemmaspeich.photos, and publishes the rest on her website, which she has linked in her Instagram bio. *Photographs by Gemma Speichinger. Photo illustration by Anvi Talyan*

Seeing the world through a viewfinder since the age of 10, Gemma Speichinger, senior, developed a love of and passion for photography.

Now, she shares her photo shoots and videography on her Instagram account, originally making the account private.

“Eventually, I decided that I wanted to make it public so that when I posted new photos, especially sports shoots, people would be updated with what I’d been working on,” Speichinger said.

Speichinger has collected more than 300 followers on her account, @gemmaspeich.photos, using her Sony A7 to photograph her favorite subjects: sports and people.

Speichinger said she loved being able to share her photos with others and to show off her passion. She continues to take photos and share them online, becoming even more inspired by taking Photography I and II.

“I want to intern in a creative field,” Speichinger said. “I plan to continue my love of photography into college and into my future career.”

Abbey Gradle, photography teacher, tries to encourage creativity and expression for her students by teaching them how to use digital and film cameras, along with how to use their personal devices to capture shots.

Gradle tries to teach composition rules and what qualities make a good photo, rather than how to use a fancy camera.

“At the beginning, giving them more structure helps them develop their own creative eye,” Gradle said.

This approach has pushed students to embrace what they were already

comfortable using: their phones and social media.

“It helps spark their interest outside of the classroom,” Gradle said.

Growing up with parents who are passionate about photography, Emma Hayes, junior, learned about self-expression through photos.

“I’ve really liked photography ever since middle school,” Hayes said. “But I didn’t actually get into it until I got a camera last summer.”

After being gifted a Canon G7 X, Hayes said she began finding any excuse to take photos. Once in high school, she was able to take Photography 1 and 2, as well as taking Yearbook Production this past year.

Taking yearbook inspired Hayes to create her Instagram account, @emmahayes_photography, where she has acquired almost 100 followers and shares her shots of school events, nature and her favorite subject: her friends.

“I like doing photo shoots with my friends,” Hayes said. “It’s always really fun.”

Unlike other student photographers, Nick Lee, senior, didn’t take a photography or production class.

“I started seeing a lot of digital photography going viral on social media,” Lee said.

He poured over YouTube for tutorials for taking good pictures and using his Canon PowerShot SD500.

Lee also has his own Instagram account, @picsbynicklee, where he has accumulated just under 200 followers.

“I like photography because it helps encapsulate moments with my friends, having fun and people just having a good time,” Lee said.

Digital Camera Comparison

When choosing a camera, students often pay attention to its frames per second (fps), a measurement of how many photo frames are captured every second, and its mega pixels (MP), a label for 1 million pixels, with a higher MP resulting in clearer pictures.

Sony A7

\$1,998

33MP

10 fps

Canon Powershot G7 X

\$629

20.1 MP

6.5 fps

Canon Powershot SD500

\$199.95

7.1 MP

30 fps

Information from Amazon

SPEAK OUT

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING THE WORLD TODAY?



MANASWINI GUNTURU,
freshman

“There’s a lot. But I would say climate change. It’s going to hurt a lot of people and animals in the future, and there’s a good chance we won’t have a sustainable future.”



JACOB YN,
sophomore

“Environmental effects are also a big problem. At the rate we’re going now, we will end up using up the planet. There won’t be anything for future generations.”



OWEN DEARMOND,
junior

“The biggest problem is corrupt governments, like in Russia. Russia has Putin, and he’s not a good guy. A corrupted government is bad because people get hurt, and there is no progress.”



JESS WADE,
senior

“The biggest issue is poverty because people all over the world suffer from it. It’s the core issue that causes a lot of other issues to arise.”



KYLE DEVINE,
principal

“Overpopulation. It puts a strain on our resources. Obviously with technology we’ve been able to continue to have higher yields from agriculture. But, that means you’re using more fertilizers and creating runoff, which causes more issues.”



Illustration by Emma Tyulyayev

We need diversity in the curriculum

In the past 70 years, society has evolved to invent a vaccine for polio, send active communication satellites into orbit and even disseminate the modern GPS signal. And yet, despite decades of struggles and outcry for change, we have not evolved enough to eradicate bigotry and hatred in our society.

Last Thursday, a racist video was posted to social media by a Eureka High School student that marked two bathroom stall doors as “White toilet” and “Colored toilet.”

The creation of this video is an act of pure ignorance and lack of regard for others, demonstrating a greater need for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) integrated in the curriculum.

DEI integration in schools has reverberating impacts simply because it changes perspective.

Perspective is the lens through which we view the world, often shaped by our parents, life experiences and preconceived notions. Our lives are filled with reinforcers of our perspective, such as social media, friend circles and even parents.

When schools do not expose students to more, we lose the ability to broaden students’ horizons.

Allowing students to hear perspectives and experiences that do not reflect their own is valuable in the learning process. It promotes tolerance and open discussions, negating hatred and unfamiliarity with the marginalized.

DEI in the curriculum makes us better, more understanding individuals and productive members of society.

However, this is easier said than done.

In recent years, teachers and administrators in the district have faced backlash from the community for mere discussions of race relations within the classroom. This cannot happen, especially because small strides toward DEI at MHS

have been made.

Teachers have been requested to begin including diverse perspectives within their teaching just this past month.

DEI in schools doesn’t take away from your rights, infringe on your perspectives or brainwash you into thinking the same way.

No matter what, students are entitled to their own opinion. But, we should let DEI thrive in schools so individuals’ opinions are more informed.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Interested in voicing your opinion in the paper?

Submit a Letter to the Editor through the website linked in the QR code or email mhsnews@gmail.com



AI can never replace humans



parker BRANDT & rue SIDDIQUI

As Forensics classes end, it is customary to discuss news and current events that students find interesting.

One day, a student brought up the topic of robot-generated writing.

He requested that an article from CNET, a prominent news site, be presented on the Smartboard. It was written not by a journalist or reporter, but by artificial intelligence (AI).

The article was riddled with inaccuracies, from simple calculation errors to grammatical ones, showing once again that humans have abilities that can't be replicated by a robot.

Now more than ever, the emergence of AI in the media threatens the foundation of ethical, trustworthy journalism. This spike in computer-generated news leads to misinformation.

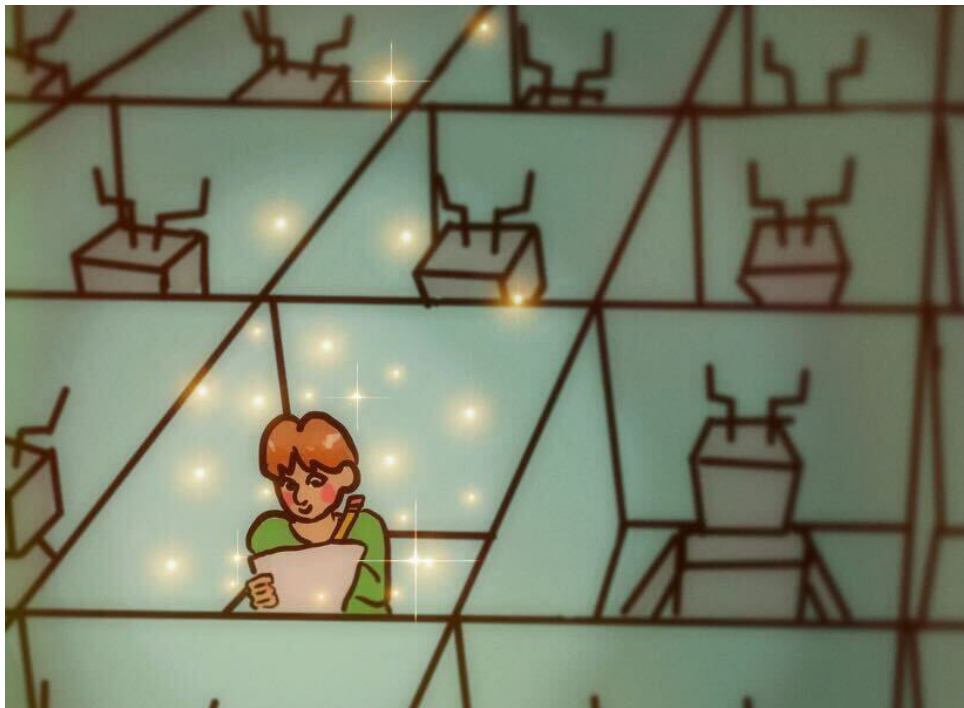
Automated journalism, or algorithmic journalism, describes the infiltration of news media by AI computer programs, such as ChatGPT.

Users can simply type a word or prompt into the AI and receive a computer-generated story on the subject. This product is nothing like traditional forms of reporting where the writer conducts interviews, completes research and undergoes edits.

Sure, a computer program can do the work of multiple people in less time and with less cost.

But, free doesn't always mean better.

Computer programs lack the ability



In recent years, the introduction of AI into workplaces and schools has sparked debate. But, while technology can help get things done in a more efficient way, it lacks human touch and sensitivity. *Illustration by Emma Tyulyayev*

to be passionate about current events and can't connect with readers.

An automated plane lacks a pilot's instinct; an AI lacks a writer's touch.

This misinformation and lack of empathy is detrimental to the public, as we rely on the media to inform us. When the information is inaccurate, what we once relied on loses credibility.

This loss of credibility proliferates a culture of ignorance and puts democracy at risk.

Now more than ever, we need accurate information to navigate the turbu-

lent shores of politics, government and global issues we face daily.

How can anyone expect to trust what's supposed to be fact when the reporter doesn't have a face, name or education?

Perhaps, as reporters, we're leaning into our biases when we argue that AI makes a mockery of journalism.

With the current state of the world, just reporting is needed more than ever, and we can't trust AI to do that for us.

Should public and private schools be separated in sports?



jacob ROBINSON

Private schools are powerhouses that can pull players from all over. MHS, on the other hand, is limited to playing athletes who live in their school zone. Although recruiting solely for sports is an illegal tactic, what's to stop private schools from doing it? I've heard of fellow classmates being asked to play for other schools, being told they will be a guaranteed starter or will be made a star. To truly level the playing field throughout Missouri, MSHSAA should separate private and public schools into different divisions and make a division championship game for both. Then, the winners of those games could face off for the winner of State. This structure would prevent any schools from getting an easy ride to the State championship, while also causing private schools to battle for the top spot.

Valentine's Day is a commercial scam



brooke ECK

It's no secret that when you think February, you probably think Valentine's Day.

What could be better than a whole holiday designated to appreciating the people you love?

Unfortunately, Valentine's Day seems to do more harm than good. This toxic, over-hyped holiday is filled with unnecessary pressure, hurt feelings and unrealistic expectations.

First off, let's talk about how expensive Valentine's Day is. Between gifts, dinner reservations, flowers, candy, cards and any other useless formalities, the amount of money spent on this one day is ridiculous.

Flowers die, candy is eaten, cards are thrown away and all evidence of precious money spent is gone.

There are plenty of excessive expectations surrounding Valentine's Day for couples. From perfect gifts, to fancy dinners, to the unspoken promise that

you'll be with the same person at this time next year, the holiday opens up a wide avenue of panic and stress for everyone involved.

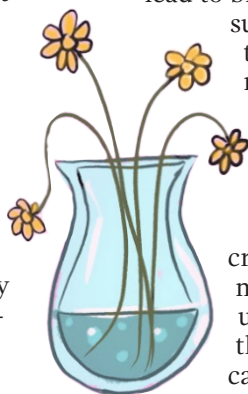
All this stress can often fall directly on relationships, adding unwanted pressure and tension, which can even lead to breakups. High expectations surrounding the day are bound to set us up for disappointment.

Extravagant Valentine's Day plans overshadow any instances of love or appreciation for one's significant other on normal days.

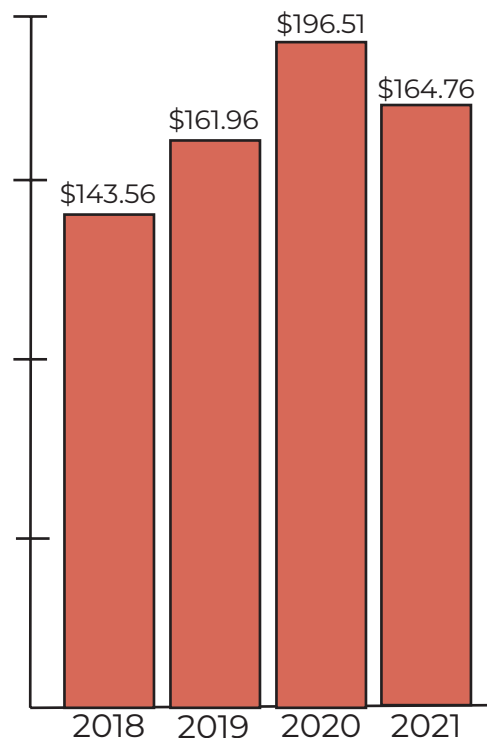
And, it's wasteful. The increase in jewelry sales produces more mine waste, chemicals used on cut flowers pollute the environment and all those cards and candy in plastic packaging eventually end up in the trash.

According to estimates from EARTHWORKS and Oxfam America, Valentine's sales of gold jewelry will produce more than 34 million metric tons of waste.

All things considered, this supposedly happy holiday would be better off becoming just another day in February.



Average Valentine's Spending per Person



Information from National Retail Federation



pranav SRIRAMAN

Although it is a valid point that private schools tend to have inherent advantages in athletics compared to public schools, there is truly no basis to prove rumors about illegal recruitments to be true. It is the choice of the athlete to determine which school they attend. Separating public schools from private schools during the regular season and having a different playoff bracket until the inevitable championship matchup will only increase the disparity. Separating the two schooling types will prevent the public schools from getting the opportunity to face the teams they will ultimately be contending for a championship against early on in the season. This will prevent the coaches and players from understanding the personnel, scheme and game plan of the other team.



Bruno Bergoudian, senior, skis at La Rosiere in France in December. Photograph by Cristiano Pinchetti

Skiers crave adrenaline rush

kate JESPERSON

Reminiscing about snow-covered mountains and freshly groomed ski slopes, Carly Stremlau, sophomore, is eager to get back out to Colorado and into her skis.

Stremlau was first introduced to the sport of skiing in March 2019 when she and her family went on a ski trip to Beaver Creek Resort in Colorado.

A little hesitant at first, Stremlau said it wasn't what she expected at all, but that skiing turned out to be better than she would have ever thought.

"It's literally my favorite sport now," Stremlau said. "It's just downright fun."

Stremlau said she instantly fell in love with skiing and with the environment of being in the mountains surrounded by the stunning scenery and the sheer excitement that comes with gliding down the green, blue and black slope runs.

"Some parts I like to do more relaxed skiing, then other times I have an adrenaline rush when I'm going down a harder level slope," Stremlau said. "I love the fresh feeling, especially when it's snowing while I'm skiing. It looks super cool."

Stremlau said she also values the accessibility of skiing for different skill levels as it is an activity her whole family can participate in.

She has since then traveled with her family to Colorado during spring break in 2021 and is planning to head with her family out to Colorado again to ski at Steamboat Resort this upcoming spring break.

Along with Stremlau, many other families in Missouri head out of state to ski and snowboard during the seasonal winter breaks.

Dylan Schoonover, sophomore,

originally started out skiing, however, a year later, he went on a trip to Colorado during spring break and decided to try snowboarding.

After his first experience with snowboarding, now two years later, Schoonover still loves to snowboard whenever possible at Missouri's Hidden Valley Ski Resort or in Colorado.

"Snowboarding keeps me active and it is fun to do with friends," Schoonover said. "There's definitely an adrenaline rush during jumps and rails and it's really fun getting to try new things."

Over the Martin Luther King Day weekend, Kevin Schultz, language arts teacher, went to Cascade Mountain, Wisconsin, to take his three kids skiing for the first time.

Schultz said he was shocked at how fast his kids fell in love with skiing as they picked up the sport quickly and were flying down the blue runs by the end of the day.

"Once they started to get the hang of it, they were not afraid to move onto the next level," Schultz said. "To watch them overcome that fear as quickly as they overcame it and take risks throughout the day was so fun to watch."

As Schultz has talked with his wife, Laurie Schultz, language arts teacher, their family hopes to go on a ski trip at least once every year to continue their love of the sport as a family.

"If I could, I would go twice a year. I love it, I absolutely love it," Laurie said. "My daughter is in seventh grade so in five years she will be out of the house. We are trying to do as many things together as we can right now while we have everybody together because it's short lived, no doubt about it."

Snowboarders shred slopes

jacob ROBINSON

From Hidden Valley to Colorado and all the way to Bulgaria, students speed down the slopes on snowboards.

Nia Ovcharova, senior, has shredded the slopes in Bulgaria since she was a kid. Starting by going to the resorts, her parents would ski, and she would snowboard down the mountains.

"It's a really fun activity to share with a parent," Ovcharova said, "Especially whenever you can experiment and try what you want."

Ovcharova said snowboarding is something fun to do rather than sit around, but there are challenges with snowboarding besides the cold frigid temperatures.

"One of the biggest challenges, in my opinion, is finding the right equipment, because it took me a while to find the right size board and the right pants," Ovcharova said, "You also grow out of them, and that gets annoying."

Snowboarding is also quite similar to other sports said Jordan Stinehagen, senior, such as wakeboarding. But Stinehagen said that snowboarding and skiing is not similar at all.

"Skiing didn't help me transition into snowboarding, but the best thing that did was wakeboarding," Stinehagen said. "In both you have to keep the edges of the board down because you need that back and front edge to be down. This is to make sure you don't fall, and it's the same in both sports."

Newport Brandt, sophomore, has been snowboarding since he was a kid at his family's house in Colorado. Brandt



Jordan Stinehagen, senior, finished snowboarding down a slope at Hidden Valley in Feb 4. Stinehagen started snowboarding this year after skiing since he was a young kid. Photograph by Liza Cooper

said the biggest challenges for snowboarding is it's expensive and there aren't many places near here that fit the conditions.

"I like when it's sunny out after it snows, because when it's snowing it's pretty cold," Brandt said.

Brandt said he prefers these conditions

because they make it most enjoyable to him, and it's a great way for him to enjoy the outdoors.

"Everyone should try it, it's a fun hobby," Brandt said.

"Everyone should try it. It's a fun hobby,"

Newport Brandt, sophomore

Hockey continues tradition, success

pranav SRIRAMAN

Every season, around Christmas time when hockey season is in full gear, senior varsity players cut the hair of freshmen and newly inducted varsity players following a tradition created by a former coach that dates back over 10 years ago.

This is a tradition that has become a way for the team to grow their chemistry with one another.

Alex Kaber, freshman, received a haircut that left his hair patterned like a checkerboard, with squares of hair separated by squares of bald patches.

Kaber said the haircut is basically a free for all, and that seniors who are cutting get to decide how they style the hair rather than following a strict procedure.

Regular season stats

- Went 10-9-1 in regular season
- Scored 58 goals
- Gave up 37 goals
- Had a 21-point goal differential
- Won the Silver Skate

“It’s basically just for fun and a team bonding experience,” Kaber said.

In order to receive the benefits that come with getting the haircut, Nathan Suftko-Odman, freshman, said there is one specific rule that the players must follow.

“You have to keep it for at least one day with no hat,” Suftko-Odman said. “Then you could shave it all off.”

The incentive behind receiving the haircut is that freshmen get exempt from doing team chores such as picking up pucks and those who receive a haircut as an underclassmen are rewarded with the privilege of giving out haircuts when they are seniors to the next group of underclassmen.

Chase Stultz, sophomore, received his haircut from Jake Johnson, senior, upon joining varsity.

“I don’t regret anything,” Stultz said. “I kind of wanted to see what it looked like anyway so it was fun. People who do it, do it. People who don’t, don’t.”

Jake Johnson, senior, said that compared to the time he received the haircut as an underclassman, he had a lot more fun giving the haircut and had a greater sense of its significance.

“It’s just a sign of brotherhood,” Johnson said. “You’re playing the sport that brings us closer together. You realize you’re one of the boys now so once you get to that point in time where you cut the hair, it’s a lot of fun.”

Additional reporting by Key Woods.



Trent Lewis, junior, watches the puck skip across the ice against Kirkwood. MHS lost to Kirkwood in all three games they played against each other this year. Bradley Odman, junior, looks for an open teammate as he’s ready to pass the puck. Odman has had two goals and one assist as of Wednesday, Feb. 8. Every season, senior varsity hockey players who had received an unorthodox haircut when they were underclassmen get to give haircuts to volunteering underclassmen in order to pass down the team tradition.

Photographs by Jacob Robinson and Deanna Kaber



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Rec teams ramp up

Seniors start rivalry

Jacob ROBINSON · emma TYULYAYEV

Aadit Keswani, senior, has been playing basketball his whole life and decided to start a team through the J League hosted by the Jewish Community Center (JCC).

"We saw that a lot of other Marquette people were doing it last year, and it was successful for them," Keswani said.

Their games will be played out of the JCC against other teams in the league and it cost them \$83 per person for eight games and an hour of practice time every Wednesday.

Keswani said he was confident his team will win this year's championship, but CEO lost back-to-back games against their rival, the Lazy Lakers, another J League basketball team.

The Lazy Lakers is led by John Winka, senior. Many of the players on the Lakers were worried the team wouldn't be ready in time with the loss of some of their players, but they quickly filled up the open spots.

Winka said he was a little concerned about going into back-to-back games against such a strong competitor as CEO, but beating their rival was a great accomplishment.

"I think we will go and remain undefeated," Winka said. "There's only one real competitive game left. Then we will go to the championship game and win."

Winka said the team has come together as a collective. "We lost a few players early in the season to other teams," Winka said, "But now we feel great."

Ryan Giordanella, senior, who joined Lazy Lakers this year, said they've done amazingly so far in their undefeated season. And they've had to find replacements for those players lost, but he says they've been more than sufficient enough.

"We've worked as a team and everyone went to practices," Giordanella said. "Everyone gave a big effort and kept trying their hardest."

Giordanella said the team struggled with defense and not passing the basketball enough, but as the season has progressed they've improved. Their main challenge will be the other undefeated team, the Ballwin Bobcats.



Sushant Marella, senior, blocks Connor Owens, senior, as he goes up for a layup. CEO went on to lose both games to the Lazy Lakers. "Even though we lost, I'm so happy we played," Marella said. Yoonjae Chang, junior, attempts to take the soccer ball from the defender in order to push the ball forward to score a goal. Chang played as a midfielder throughout the game. NaiduFC lost 1-11 to MemsFC on Feb. 3. Photographs by Jacob Robinson and Shyam Punnachalil

Soccer scores popularity

shyam PUNNACHALIL

Walking onto the green pitch in a black-themed outfit, Keshu Seelam, junior, is ready to lead his self-created soccer team, NaiduFC, with no prior soccer experience.

Back in November of 2022, Seelam and Nikhil Guduri, sophomore, started NaiduFC because they wanted to have fun playing a sport with each other during the next semester.

"It's our first time doing something like this," Seelam said. "We were just bored one day. We wanted to do something fun and get our friends involved in something active."

Seelam thought joining a league by himself wouldn't be fun because he would be playing with people he didn't know.

"It's less on soccer, but more on socialization and interacting with my friends," Seelam said.

The team plays at Vetta Sports in Manchester.

As the coach of NaiduFC, Guduri enjoys embracing his role as the lead playcaller by adjusting the player line-

up and strategizing how they should score goals.

Despite not having much soccer experience, Guduri oversees their practices by running passing drills and scrimmages. He also notes the players' strengths and weaknesses.

"I discipline the players when I need to, and I like devising plays in order to win games," Guduri said.

The team enjoys playing the game and having fun eating food with each other before their games and hanging out at each other's houses after the games.

"After our matches, we always go out to have fun for a bit. When we play and practice, we enjoy having our banter amongst each other," Guduri said.

Midfielder Devaang Nair, sophomore, likes how he can interact with new people.

"I think people spend most of their time at school, so they get a lot closer with them, but they might get distant with people outside of school, so when we made NaiduFC, it just felt like we were able to strengthen our friendship," Nair said.



Coach Meyer helps Matthew Andrews, Class of 2022, work on his throw during the 2022 season. John Meyer, baseball coach, was inducted into the MSHSBCA Hall of Fame at the State Coaches convention. Photograph by Anvi Talyan

Coach earns Hall of Fame status

jack CASON · willem HUMMEL

John Meyer, baseball coach, was inducted into the MSHSBCA Hall of Fame last month at the State Coaches convention in Jefferson City.

Meyer said the recognition is not just a display of his own success as a coach.

"The coach gets the recognition for this, but ultimately I didn't play. It's been years and years of players and teams doing this," Meyer said.

Meyer said to be considered for the hall of fame, a coach must be a member of the association and have coached for 20-25 years. But beyond that, on field success and other factors play into whether a coach is accepted.

Meyer has been coaching since 1998 and his present and past athletes were excited to hear he'd been inducted.

"Some former players were texting me once they found out because it came out on Twitter on that same day," Meyer said. "I think there are a handful of people pretty excited knowing that they were a part of some successful teams."

Senior Sam Shackleford, varsity baseball player, acknowledged his leadership qualities.

"Well, he's for sure been a leader for me as well as the team," Shackleford said.

Shackleford said Meyer has brought the team together in many ways, whether it's his tough, loving style of coaching or knowing when it is a good time to goof off.

Senior Principal Dr. Rick Regina coached with Meyer during his first year of coaching in 2003 to 2013 when he then became an administrator.

"The years I coached with Coach Meyer I learned so much," Dr. Regina said. "Meyer does an excellent job of having high expectations for his athletes, but more importantly it allows them to get more out of themselves than they thought they could."

Instead of trying to win a game or a season, Meyer tries to win every pitch.

"If you were batting, win the pitch, if you were catching, win the pitch," Dr. Regina said.

Dr. Regina said Meyer was inducted into the hall of fame because he is experienced, well respected, successful and dedicated to his athletes.