

STRUGGLE for Success

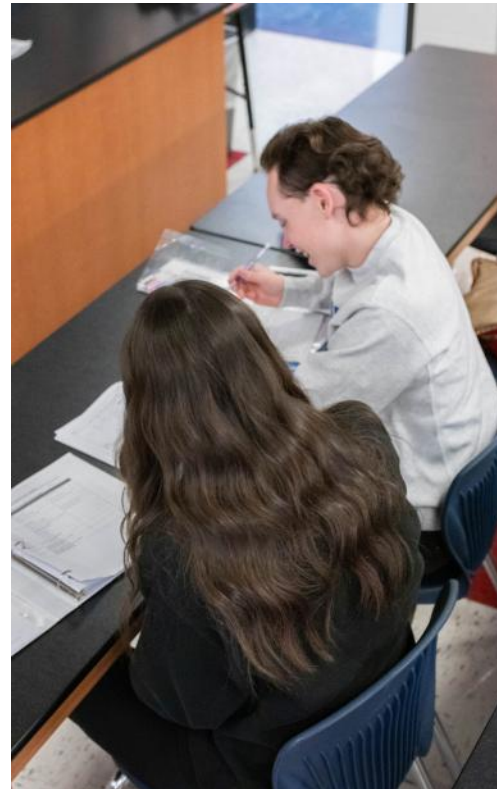
By Meghan Lynch, Editor in Chief and Loukya Vaka, Copy Editor

What Should I Do?

"If you don't know what you want to be, you might be pushed into a hole. You might struggle to get out of that hole," Kate Broussard (11) said. During a time when teenagers are trying to figure out their interests and their sense of self, it's easy to become daunted or overwhelmed by such a seemingly massive decision.

Decisions and Consequences

"It depends on how important a priority is, and it depends on knowing your limits," Rathi Thiagarajan (11) said. In high school, students are able to explore so many possibilities, whether that be in classes or extracurriculars. However, as students and friends begin to choose their own paths, it's easy to become distant or isolated from those they were close with. Students have to ask themselves, "Is the trade off worth it?"



Let-Downs and Disappointments

"In freshman year, when I was first envisioning what my schedule would look like, I was really optimistic," Emily Nguyen (11) said. "After the first semester, my view of this 'dream class' went away." And it's the same for a staggering number of students. Very few have their expectations of high school met, and many are often let down.

Tests, Tests, Tests!

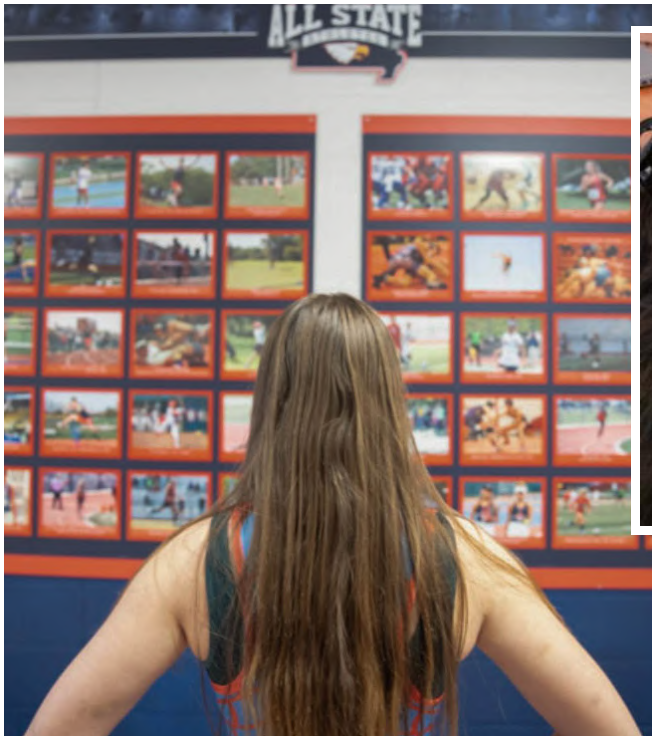
Charles Giraud (11) said, "I'm not a good test taker, and I now have to study way harder just to try to get a couple extra points on a quiz or test because my grade will change so drastically if I do badly on one exam—which I find to be extremely unfair." Assignments and exams directly affect students' academic success, and is a huge source of stress for many high schoolers, which makes sense because it's such a substantial part of students' grades.

Extracurriculars = Extra Stress

"I think students put a lot of value into college and their future, so a lot of the time people join clubs and activities just to have those extracurriculars, when a lot of the time they are not active members in those clubs," Aiden Franco (10) said. Different clubs and organizations can be a great way for students to find enjoyment, but they can also end up turning into a chore if a student is only participating as a resume-booster.

I'll Sleep When I Graduate

"In this day and age, students are very pressured to prioritize academic endeavors. So, I feel that there is a lot of stress on what you should do," Navya Manchala (9) said. When school takes up so much time and effort, opportunities to truly relax can be few and far between. While it's good to work hard, ignoring your physical and mental health can be detrimental.



Driven, or Driven Insane?

Haley Jett (11)—a student athlete on the JV volleyball and basketball teams—said, "If a student athlete doesn't see a future in anything else, they can be really stressed out. My friend has no idea if she wants to do anything besides sports, so she's been really stressed about getting into a good school for their sports." Sports is an area of school life where competition and never-ending effort thrives, but that competition can lead to excessive worry and stress.

Under Pressure

Raksha Thiagarajan (12) said, "Students are being pushed towards being more competitive, and it is stressful. But, I think this is a good kind of pressure. If we fall behind, we're not really ready for whatever career we want to do in the future." There is a lot of pressure on students to be ready for life after high school, and if it's not managed or dealt with correctly, many students can feel lost or hopeless. In reality, it is completely normal to be unsure of where your life is headed.