

Time is TIK-ING

TikTok, a social media platform previously known as “Musical.ly,” was designed for creating, editing, and sharing short videos with the public. However, political calls for a TikTok ban in the United States culminated on Jan. 19, 2025.

TikTok was first released in Sept. 2016 after being created by its parent company, ByteDance, by Chinese entrepreneur Zhang Yiming. It was then marketed as a video-sharing social networking service similar to Facebook and Instagram.

Given its wide variety of entertainment, many teens have spent large amounts of time on TikTok while others have varying opinions about the app.

“I feel like (the ban) was a good thing because of how much ‘brain rot’ teens these days get from it,” visual junior **Joyce Yuan** said.

With the fact that it's getting banned, teens have to resort to something else or find more productive things to do.

Although its main purpose was to facilitate new trends to the general public, other individuals use TikTok for their hard news. Digital media junior **Violet Dewey** felt that this ban would have an impact on younger user.

“I think younger people will be less involved (in) certain social matters because (many) people get their news from TikTok and find out about current events there,”

Dewey said. “I think there are negative and positive effects because some people spend a lot of time on their phone, and that might make them (go) on their phone less.”

Shou Zi Chew joined ByteDance and was declared the first person to fill the role of chief financial officer at the media giant. He was then named the CEO of TikTok two months after and has been working on making the app more applicable for users around the globe. Some students even used TikTok as a tool to find products that may interest them, such as visual freshman **Musa Rahman**.

“I think I’ve had TikTok since 7th grade, but I didn’t start using it until 8th grade. I was disappointed because it’s a good form of entertainment and I enjoyed watching it, but I wanted to see how it would be without TikTok too,” Rahman said. “I use it to find (different) items I want to get. I play soccer, so sometimes I look at soccer videos to find what cleats I should get.”

Many individuals used TikTok as a resource for learning or side jobs, posting their content, and gaining large amounts of followers through their videos. Having over 200k followers on the app, visual junior **Melanie Schmidt**’s side job was threatened by the temporary ban.

“It definitely will be hard because I’ve been on (my) account for almost three years, so all the hard work I put in is going to disappear. I do still have other platforms like YouTube and Instagram. I think the people who are watching my TikToks will go to those platforms and it’ll be alright. I’ll have time to grow, and other creators will have time to grow too. I’ve been able to turn (my platform) into a job and inspire others. I’m trying to turn (it) into something where, later in life, I could have a business.”

Overall, TikTok has played a monumental role in the lives of teens and other individuals in different age groups



RETROGRADE

TikTok approaches its end after a history of uncertainty

OCT. 2021

U.S. Lawmakers question TikTok about data and security privacy.

DEC. 2022

The US government bans the app on any device that is owned by the federal government.

APRIL 2024

Biden signed a bipartisan TikTok bill introducing a TikTok ban.

DEC. 2024

A federal appeal’s court upholds the ban on TikTok in the US.

JAN. 2025

President Trump files a request to delay the ban on Tiktok for a 75 day period.

JAN. 19 2025

Tiktok gets banned in the United States. Roughly 12 hours later, the app is reinstated.



Q: What is a con of having TikTok?

“I think a con of having TikTok is that sometimes I get distracted. I don’t realize that I’m scrolling for that long, and then I need to stop it.” - dance sophomore **Lexi Ehrlich**



Q: What is a pro of having TikTok?

“You can get lots of information that you would most likely not get anywhere else like cooking things, tips for the gym, or (any) tips in life that you would get, and it’s really helpful.” - visual sophomore **Brooke Port**