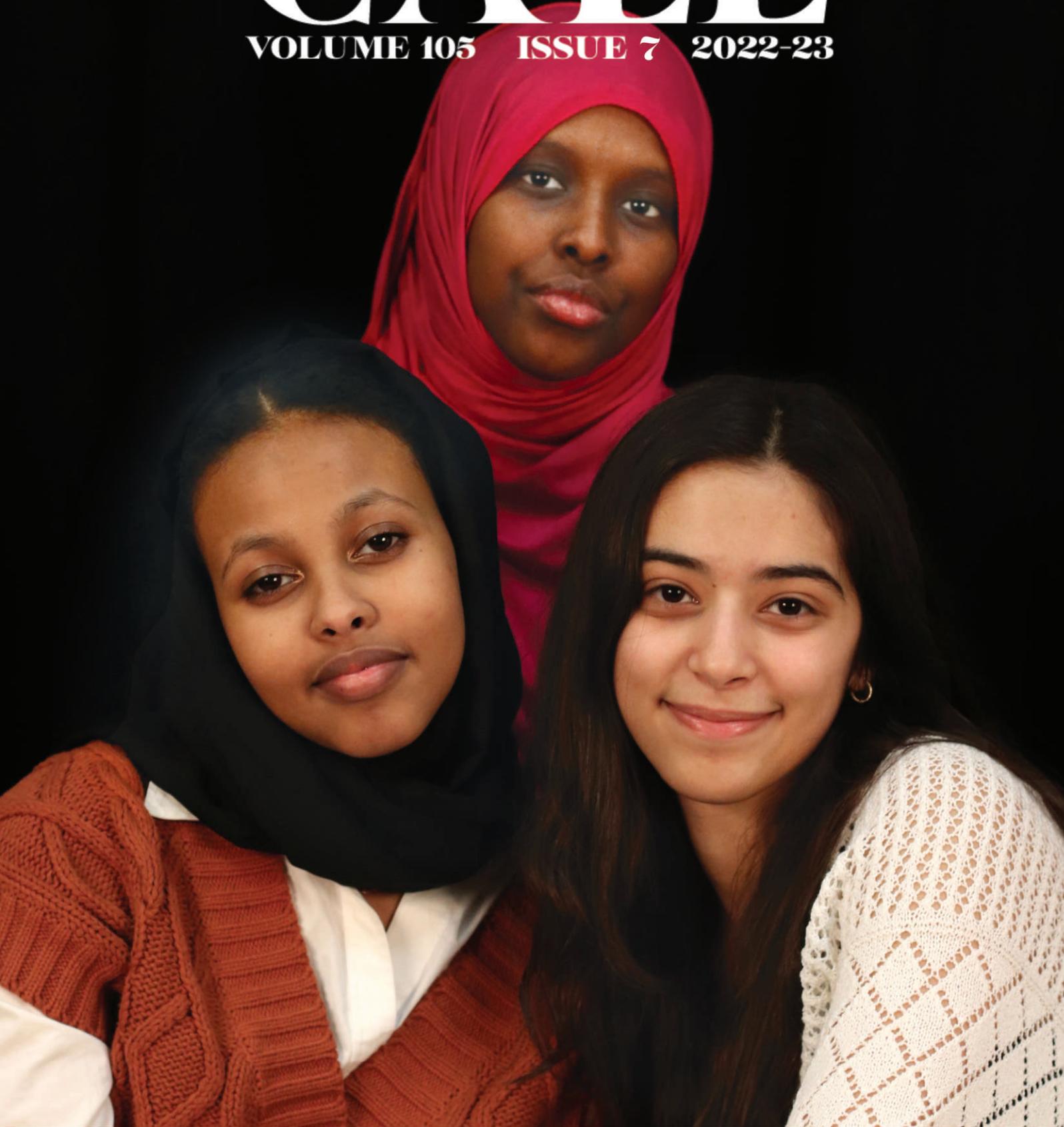


# THE KIRKWOOD CALL

VOLUME 105 ISSUE 7 2022-23



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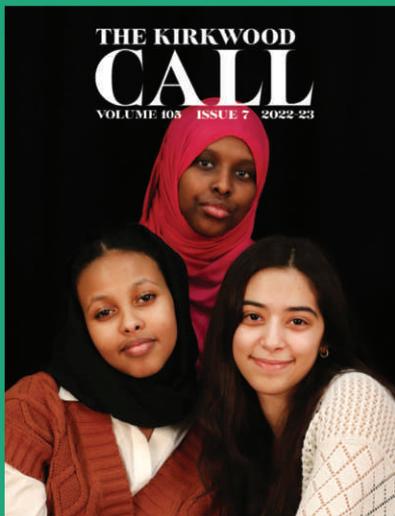
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## ABOUT THE COVER



### Photo by Tess Hubbard

For this cover, we wanted to feature Reidwan Iman, junior, Iqra Abdullahi, junior, and Jenna Tarroum, freshman, in an elegant and simple, yet meaningful fashion as they give readers insight into what their lives are like as muslim girls. To find out more, go to Khadija Khan's story, "A walk in her shoes," on page 8.  
- Tess Hubbard

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THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S SUPPORTERS

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# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This is the final regular issue of our 105th year as a publication, and it truly amazes me how fast my two years on TKC have gone by. It seems like just yesterday I was an inexperienced sophomore, unaware of how important this publication would soon become to me. What I love about TKC is that it gives every staffer a platform. Whether you are a writer, artist or photographer, TKC is the medium through which all staffers are able to convey their voice, cover topics that matter and make an impact on their community.

This cycle, I chose to write about Muslim students at KHS. I talked to multiple Muslim students about their experiences at school, especially regarding wearing a hijab and fasting during the month of Ramadan. I felt it was important to represent the perspectives of Muslim students, especially because there are many misconceptions surrounding these topics.

Around this time of year, many seniors are trying (and failing) to combat their senioritis.

To keep yourself focused and motivated, check out Elizabeth Niedringhaus' story on the best study spots around Kirkwood. As for you annoying hallway walkers, don't worry, we've got you covered. Consider reading some of Mia Intagliata's suggestions on how to improve your hallway etiquette. Trust me, some of you really need it.

Many schools around the nation are transitioning to four-day school weeks. To learn about whether or not KHS will be partaking in this trend, make sure to check out "Call Ed: Keep it old school" on whether they are too good to be true. To learn more about those murals we encounter in the KHS bathrooms, read Caroline Steidley's story on the bathroom mural project and the vandalism that followed.

As this is our last regular issue of the school year, I want to extend a thank you to the Kirkwood community, Dr. Havener, Mr. Eden, our dedicated staff members and, most of all, to our readers. Thank you for all of your ongoing support.

**KHADIJA KHAN**  
Copy Editor

ART BY JANINE GASSEL



# what's on web?

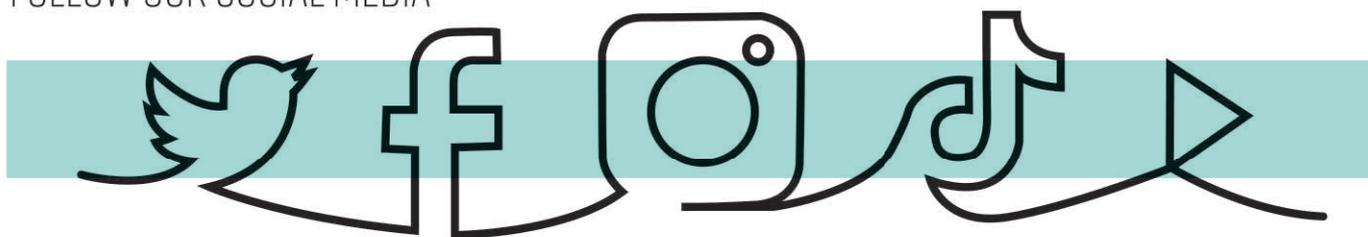
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COMIC BY DAVID GAITHER

**WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BE KHS PRINCIPAL?**

“The academic success, the school traditions, the student-centered culture, the support from the community, came up throughout the [interview] process. And that’s what encouraged me to pursue this position. Going through the interview process validated my belief that the faculty, staff and community of Kirkwood are fully invested and engaged in the education of students. A lot of the philosophies and goals in the district’s strategic plan align with my beliefs and philosophies. And so I see this as a very good fit.”

**HOW DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY?**

“Trust. It’s extremely important to build a relationship centered around trust, and it’s going to have to come [with] humility. I have a different background and experience than those that work at KSD. I hope to take what I have learned over my past several years and apply that to Kirkwood. [I’ll] work with a great group of assistant principals and staff to identify areas that we would like to give a little bit more attention to. At the end of the day, everything’s going to be centered around student learning.”

**HOW WILL YOU SUPPORT KHS STAFF?**

“[Principals] have to be visible and available. [Principals should] be visible in the hallways between passing periods, making sure that if a staff member has a concern, or needs extra assistance that you’re jumping right in and helping with the situation. I pride myself on being able to do that. That human relationship, [between principal and staff] is really powerful, and that’s how you establish trust.”

**HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE OPEN TO ALL SIDES AND OPINIONS WHEN RUNNING THE SCHOOL?**

“Listening and being a school leader fully invested in understanding other people’s perspectives is important to me. That’s where the open mindedness comes from. Knowing people

have different thoughts, beliefs and perspectives on things and using that information to help guide some of our decisions and collaborative work. It’s working together as a team and understanding that I don’t have all the information.”

**HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE SURE STUDENTS RECEIVE MENTAL HEALTH HELP AND THAT STUDENTS ARE IN A GOOD LEARNING ENVIRONMENT?**

“Establishing a culture and climate of belonging. I need to become more familiar with KHS and the day to day process of what it’s like as a student, [so I can] understand what issues may be impacting student wellness and mental health and then working with our team to identify ways to address [those issues.] But student voices are extremely important. Listening to students, ensuring they have a seat at the table, is very important. We’ve had [mental health] on our radar at JHS, and we have tried to do what we can. [JHS] is one of the few high schools in our area that has a therapy dog, and I think it’s a small step in the right direction, that has been a positive for our students and staff. I’m going to be open minded in this process, and understand what our students need.”

**SOMETIMES YOU’LL HAVE TO MAKE AN UNPOPULAR DECISION BUT ONE YOU BELIEVE IN. HOW WILL YOU HANDLE THAT PRESSURE?**

“You lead with dignity, and there’s going to be times where you have to make a tough decision. I feel that I’m the best candidate for this position, because I don’t have

any problem doing that. There’s a process in doing so. It’s not just shooting from the hip, but at the end of the day, a decision is going to have to be made. I know that decisions impact people on both sides, and not everyone is going to be in support of my decisions. And that’s okay. The decisions are going to be made based on what is best for students and aligned to the district’s strategic plan. I think if we can keep our decision making centered around those areas, people will buy in and realize that we’re making the best decisions. So you stick with that decision, and [don’t] be afraid to admit when you’re wrong at times.”

**DO YOU ALREADY HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO DIFFERENTLY AT KHS?**

“No, I need to become more familiar with [KHS] before I start talking about changes. Kirkwood does great things, and it’s important for me to work with assistant principals and staff to identify things that need to be modified or enhanced in a different way. I know that there’s a

focus on closing the achievement gap, so I think that’s going to be a top priority of mine.”

**IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO KHS AND THE KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY?**

“[I’m] extremely impressed with the Kirkwood community, district and high school. Being able to interact with them in the interview process, it was such a fun group [and] they were very positive. It seemed like they were always smiling and laughing. [The interviews] solidified my belief that this is the best high school position for me, and I’m looking forward to working with those individuals.”

**MEET SETH HARRELL NEW KHS PRINCIPAL**

**IAN RENO**  
STORY + DESIGN  
News Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL  
PUBLICATIONS

# LAUNCH

## LIFTOFF

Success or failure, it's up to the student to manage their outcome in Launch or PeLa classes. "All students deserve access to quality virtual learning," according to Launch Virtual Learning Center (LVLC). But for a student who struggles in class and tends to procrastinate their assignments, online classes have the potential to make or break their high school career. Jaheim Harris, senior, said that taking an online class has helped his grades because he is able to take his time on assignments.

Jenn Escher, launch coordinator at KHS, said there are over 200 students at KHS taking Launch classes and about 20 more students taking Pioneer eLearning (PeLa). There are over 80 launch courses and around 25 PeLa offered throughout the school year. Escher predicts that the student enrollment rates will continue to increase.

**“ONLINE CLASSES TEACH YOU TO BE VERY AUTONOMOUS AND PROACTIVE.”**

“[Online classes] teach you to be very autonomous and proactive,” Escher said. “I feel like it prepares you for college because [it] is more reflective of a university type class. Not having a classroom setting where you have a teacher in front of you means that you have to be [on top of it].”

If a student needs help, Escher can be found in the library testing center. She said certain students may not succeed in online classes because it depends on the student's motivation. If they're taking the class for the wrong

reasons, that may impact their overall class experience, she said. In that case, Escher said if the student is not driven to get their work done, it is a recipe for disaster.

“Child Development is really good, Personal Finance is straightforward [and] Health online is manageable,” Escher said. “It's a [better] starting place than classes that are math or writing based.”

Harris said he decided to take online English because of the heavy course load that the in-person class had. He said he would take an online course again depending on what the curriculum is.

“Even though there's no due dates for [assignments], it can get stressful with work piling up and seeing the grades,” Harris said. “If you really want to take an online

class just make sure you make time for it.”

Harris said although Launch can be confusing at times, the benefits outweigh the costs. He said the online work is easier than in-person classes and he is able to turn in assignments as he finishes them. There are no late penalties for online courses through Launch, but like in-person classes, grades go on your transcript and impact your GPA.

“Make sure you actually want to take the online class and not slack off,” Harris said.

“If [the class is] more like math, I prefer in-person but for English or Science I'd do it online.”

With no late penalty, she can work throughout the day as she needs to and turn in her assignments.

“For all of my [online] classes, when you fall behind, you really fall behind,” Toman said. “You have to prioritize [the class] and try to stay as motivated as you can.”

Toman said there are positives with taking an online course and recommends students consider it as an option. She said she has learned things about herself, one of them being that she flourishes with more academic independence.

“I feel like I've had a lot of benefits from taking English online,” Toman said. “If you are thinking about taking an online class that's not super complex, then I would go for it.”

**ANNA KAISER**  
**STORY + DESIGN**  
*Entertainment Writer*

**NORA HAMILTON**  
**ART**  
*Artist*

Jessica Toman, junior, comes to KHS during her off-campus hours to stay on top of her online courses. Toman is taking Spanish I, Web-Design and English through Launch.



# A WALK IN HER SHOES



**S**troking the soft fabric in her hands, Iqra Abdullahi, junior, delicately places the silk scarf over her head, pinning the fabric securely in place. Putting on her pink headphones, she takes a moment to glance at her reflection one last time, and smiles to herself, admiring the way her hijab drapes around her face. She has never felt more complete.

"I'm just not me without [my hijab]," Abdullahi said. "I was in first grade when I started wearing it. My mom started putting it on me, which I never had a problem with. I thought it was kind of cool. My mom always [wears] her hijab, and I wear it because I look up to her."

Abdullahi, who is Muslim, has been wearing the hijab, or headscarf, for as long as she can remember. She said that while she isn't insecure about the clothes she wears, she sometimes gets weird stares or questions about her hijab.

"When I was in elementary and middle school, I got questions all the time," Abdullahi said. "People would ask me if I showered or slept in it. I understood questions like 'Can you show [your hair] to your brother, or your dad?' Those were valid questions, I would answer

them. [For] dumb questions, I thought they deserved dumb answers, so I would be like 'Yeah, I do shower in it actually.'"

Jenna Tarroum, freshman, is also Muslim and said her friends ask many questions about her religion, especially regarding her fasting during the month of Ramadan. During this month, Muslims are required to fast each day from sunrise to sunset.

"It's nice when my friends are curious about my religion and beliefs," Tarroum said. "Sometimes, my [non-Muslim] friends will come over [for dinner], [break my fast] with me and celebrate Eid with me."

Eid, which marks the end of Ramadan, is a holiday Muslims around the world celebrate each year. Since it follows the lunar calendar, it moves back eleven days each year. This year, Ramadan will take place March 22 to April 21, with Eid April 22.

"[Ramadan] is such a holy month for us, and it's exciting because Eid is at the end," Abdullahi said. "[During Ramadan], you get to spend a lot of time with your family, eat good food [and] get closer to your religion."

The purpose of fasting is to build gratitude for basic necessities, such as food and water, and become more compassionate and empathetic toward people in need. Riedwan Iman, junior, said that fasting instills a sense of humanity and morals within her.

"I think people should fast [regularly]," Iman said. "Sometimes, we forget how much we have, and when you fast, you know how it feels to be hungry, and [you can empathize] with others."

However, fasting during Ramadan is not without its struggles, Abdullahi said. She said fasting during school hours is particularly difficult, especially when lunchtime comes around.

"It is extremely difficult to fast in school, because people are eating next to you, you smell the food and your stomach is always growling, which is really embarrassing," Abdullahi said. "[That's why I] usually go to the office or library [during] lunchtime."

According to Tarroum, fasting is hard in the beginning, but it becomes easier once you get used to it. Fasting is not the only obligation for Muslims, as they are required to pray five times a day, at specific times. One of the prayers happens during school hours, and Tarroum, Abdullahi and Iman said they wish there was a place where they could pray comfortably in school.

"When it is [prayer time] during class, I can't just raise my hand, say that I need to go pray, [and leave]," Tarroum said. "Since KHS is remodeling and moving the FAC's [hallway], I feel like that area would be a great place to set up a prayer room or a place where [fasting students] can spend their lunchtime."

Abdullahi agreed, and said giving Muslim students a room where they can pray during school would make them feel more comfortable and accepted. Additionally, she said, she would be able to pray on time rather than make her prayer late every day.

"Being one of the only Muslims at KHS, there isn't really anyone else I can relate to [regarding] my beliefs or how I feel sometimes," Tarroum said. "But at the same time, I think KHS is a welcoming place for Muslims, and [it's nice that] people are curious and willing to learn [about my religion]." ✈

From left, Riedwan Iman, Iqra Abdullahi and Jenna Tarroum



**KHADIJA KHAN**  
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Copy Editor

**TESS HUBBARD**  
PHOTO  
Photo Editor

**THAO-VI DO**  
ART  
Artist



# the RISE of antisemitism

**I**t's a quiet morning in downtown St. Louis at the FBI office on Nov. 5, 2021. The static of the morning is quickly dispersed as a dial tone loudly rings. The dispatcher cautiously picks up the handset while the man on the other line is silent. After a sharp inhale, he delivers his message. "I'm going to blow up a synagogue, I just feel like killing Jews."

Cody Rush, the St. Louis man who was recorded that day, was sentenced to 30 months in prison nearly a year later, according to the Department of Justice. Rush was reported to be standing outside a synagogue when he made the call to the FBI office. He was charged with one count of using a telephone to make a threat, to which he later pleaded guilty.

According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), an institution that tracks anti-semitic hate, the number of threats against Jewish institutions rose 61% from 2020 to 2021. According to their annual report on anti-semitism, hate crimes against Jewish people are at an all-time high.

Regional Director of the ADL, Jordan Kadosh, said the increase of antisemitism is a consequence of popularizing anti-semitic stereotypes in the media. Kadosh also said extremists began populating spaces where young

people gather, like video games and online forums, to promote anti-semitism.

"[Social media] has been an awful tool for extremists," Kadosh said. "Someone can reach millions of people with a push of a button, and [the ADL] has been able to correlate real-world consequences to online behavior."

Mehmet Wilson, sophomore, said part of the rise in anti-semitism was a consequence of hip-hop artist Ye (formerly known as Kanye) West's public anti-semitic attacks. Psychologist Dr. Kevin Cokley wrote in *Psychology Today* that Ye's bipolar disorder likely contributed to his actions, but stressed that Ye's decisions still carried weight regardless of his mental health status.

"[Because] everybody loves his music, people are always following what he's doing," Wilson said. "He's got the platform to say terrible things about Jewish people."

Kadosh said anti-semitism has become more of a physical threat, as more people are willing to act on their anti-semitic beliefs. In New Jersey, the ADL worked with law enforcement to arrest a 26-year-old man who firebombed a synagogue in late January. However, Kadosh said he hasn't lost hope for young people fighting harmful online speech.

"When someone who you admire or want to emulate comes out and says [anti-semitism is] okay, [it] creates a permission structure," Kadosh said. "Especially for people to not look over their shoulders and keep their voice down when [they hear something anti-semitic]."

Kadosh was critical of the mainstream media's response to anti-semitic incidents. Specifically, Kadosh said the media doesn't push back enough on anti-semitic incidents, and just covers them as news.

In a recent report published by the ADL, the organization identified several hate groups like White Lives Matter and the Goyim Defense League that had used Ye's remarks and the widespread coverage to justify their extremist beliefs.

Wilson, who goes back and forth between his apartment in Istanbul, Turkey and St. Louis said the anti-semitism he sees in the U.S. is a cultural issue. He said the issue itself is not helped by the rise of influencers and their perpetuation of harmful stereotypes.

"These influencers don't have a backbone," Wilson said. "They act like there's all these big issues to pretend they're not guilty. It sets the precedent that it's okay to do what you want if you can get away with it."

Ethan Fisher, sophomore and Jewish student, said it is important to separate Ye's music from his actions. Fisher said he was initially drawn in by Ye's individualism.

"In my [day-to-day] life, I don't see much anti-semitism," Fisher said. "[But] I think it's important to hold your friends accountable if they say something anti-semitic. You hold a lot of power to stop people from saying [hurtful] stuff."

Fisher also said it was important to surround yourself with people who would challenge your ideas, especially if they were harmful. The reality, Fisher said, is that anti-semitism is populated in circles where hateful behavior isn't called out.

"We can't let [extremists] use Ye's actions for [hatred]," Fisher said. "Maybe they're in your family, maybe they say [hurtful] things about Jewish people, it's your responsibility to call them out." ✂

**MASON HELLER**  
*STORY + DESIGN*  
Breaking News Editor

**AUDREY TURLEY**  
*ART*  
Art Editor



Flushing  
Away the

HATE!

**D**uring January of last school year, all restrooms, except for the commons, were shut down by Dr. Mike Havener at one point due to vandalism. For many students, this simply meant they had to take a longer route to get to the restroom. But for Cameron Hankinson, senior at the time, this meant he no longer had anywhere to go to escape the overwhelming stress of school.

“Before they shut everything down, I was drawing [in the gender neutral restroom] on the walls already with pencil,” Hankinson said. “I had spent a lot of time there [when I was in] a darker mental place. I would make giant murals in the bathroom during lunch because it was a good way to pass the time.”

The second the restrooms shut down last school year due to vandalization, Hankinson said he wanted to find a solution so other students could still enjoy the bathrooms like him. He decided to create bathroom murals as an alternative to keep students from drawing inappropriate words and pictures on the stalls. However, since the murals have been painted, the vandalization has not stopped.

The Art Club has had to shut down the art hallway restrooms due to the continued vandalism.

“Once they shut everything down, I was like, ‘If we just put cool [things] on there, then maybe [people] would be less inclined to write over it, or at least harmful [stuff],’” Hankinson said. “People would be less inclined to draw cuss words and stuff.”

**“IT BROKE MY HEART, HONESTLY. WE WERE TRYING TO CELEBRATE PEOPLE’S DIFFERENCES.”**

Hankinson joined the Art Club shortly after his idea, and proposed his plan to club sponsor Leslie Benben and other club members. The club quickly jumped on board and pitched the idea to Dr. Josh Flores, senior grade level principal at the time. However, Hankinson said he owes the existence of the project to principal Dr. Mike Havener.

“We had a meeting with Dr. Flores and asked him what we would need



to do and what we could do, and there were some boundaries. It was a fairly long process,” Hankinson said. “At first, they wanted to give us a cork board that we could post pictures on and put that in the bathroom. But that was [dumb]. So we went to talk to Havener, and [he] was the real reason we got to do it.”

After the Art Club got approval from Havener, the project was in full swing. They started with the art hallway restrooms and the gender neutral restroom by South Journalism. Molly Hoyer, senior at the time, said it was a way to create relaxing visuals for students to use as an escape. The theme of the gender neutral bathroom is Dr. Seuss,

while the art hallway bathrooms reflect, uplifting and positive paintings. The girls’ art hallway restroom is full of music notes and motivational quotes and the boys’ bathroom is painted with fun, entertaining art pieces. However, the murals have not stopped students from graffitiing on the walls. Since the murals have been in place, students have decided to draw over the artwork, causing the art hallway bathrooms to be shut down again. Hoyer said she is disappointed that students would graffiti over other students’ hard work.

“We began this idea to counteract the vandalism, and the graffiti started happening immediately after [we started the murals],” Hoyer said. “It broke my

heart, honestly. We were trying to celebrate differences, and all of sudden, the entire idea was passed over for other people’s enjoyment.”

Ray Cano, head custodian, said he doesn’t understand why people vandalize bathrooms, and that it makes his job more difficult. While he thinks the bathroom murals were a great idea, he believes the art work almost made the original graffiti problem worse.

“It’s sad,” Cano said. “I understand where they were trying to go with [the art murals], but I think it just added to [the issue]. I just wish kids would show a little more respect to their own school.”

Some students believe the graffitiied words can be hurtful and offensive. Grey Krause, Art Club member, said they have had to spend their time cleaning slurs off the bathroom walls.

“Some of [the graffiti] is really vulgar and disgusting words,” Krause said. “It’s really upsetting to see because I know a lot of people have put so much time into working on this project and it’s [hard] to see other students come in and diminish what they have been trying to do.”

“IT’S REALLY UPSETTING TO SEE BECAUSE I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE PUT IN SO MUCH TIME INTO WORKING ON THIS PROJECT.”

Leslie Benben said she wishes students would think about others before drawing such meaningless words and pictures. She said the words students write can offend others and counteract the main goal of the bathroom murals project.

“People don’t realize how hurtful it can be,” Benben said. “[By drawing graffiti] you really are hurting people, and little things [like that] do make a difference in [the Art Club’s] overall mission. A lot of people need [to have] awareness of what they draw [and] how [it] can impact somebody else.”

The Art Club aims to have the murals done by the 2023-2024 school year and open the art bathrooms. Benben said once they are finished, she wants to put up a sign that lets students know their overall goal with the murals. Then, she plans on trying to get the art hallway restrooms reopened.

“It upsets me more because of the effort and time the kids have put [into the murals] and how [the graffiti] impacts them,” Benben said. “It makes me think of how many kids the [graffiti is hurting] that aren’t saying anything. I just think it doesn’t have a purpose.”



**CAROLINE STEIDLEY**  
 STORY + DESIGN  
 Editor-in-Chief

**MELLY SANDS**  
 ART  
 Artist

Standing in a secluded part of American Eagle, she frantically crumples up the t-shirt in her hands, feeling for any security tags or sensors she may have missed. Maintaining a neutral expression, her eyes dart around the store, scanning for any unsuspecting customers or workers. When she's certain the coast is clear, she quickly shoves the shirt deep into her bag. She passes the registers and approaches the sensors guarding the exit of the store. Her heart races and her breath quickens. She's riddled with anxiety. Once she successfully crosses the barrier without triggering the alarm, a wave of satisfaction and relief washes over her.

"Kids make dumb mistakes," Lytle said. "Some kids just don't know [SammySoap] is a small business and put their pocketed items back on the shelf once we talk to them. When people steal items after their first warning, though, we call the police."

The junior girl said she started shoplifting because she didn't have the money to buy the things she wanted and wasn't old enough to get a job. She said she often felt proud after stealing, and that she enjoyed the adrenaline rush.

"Soon, all of my friends were [shoplifting]," the junior girl said. "We used to go to the mall with big, empty department store bags, and leave the mall with those bags filled up. We were stealing hundreds of dollars worth of [clothes] almost every single weekend. It felt really cool."

of all shoplifters can be described as addictive-compulsive. The junior girl said she felt her addiction to shoplifting start to spiral out of control and impair her life.

"Every time I stole something it made me feel dirty," the junior girl said. "I felt [compelled] to steal no matter where I was, and I would feel super anxious and guilty every single time."

She said she attempted to confide in her friends for help, but that they all brushed her off as being overly paranoid. She said she seriously wanted to stop, but knew she lacked the self control to change her habits by herself.

"The only option I had left was to tell my parents," the junior girl said. "Deep down I knew they would find out anyway. I decided I'd rather tell them [myself] than have them find out because I got caught."

owners often have to increase the prices they sell their goods for, or decrease the pay wage of their employees.

**“ WE WERE STEALING HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF CLOTHES ALMOST EVERY WEEKEND.”**

"We provide good wages, and when people shoplift [at SammySoap], they are directly impacting the work environment and wages of the disabled people we employ here," Lytle said. "When people steal, they aren't thinking about the people [they are] hurting. I see these people every shift, these people are my friends."

The junior girl said that she was glad she told her parents about her addiction,

# STICKY FINGERS

Kleptomania is the irresistible and repeated urge to steal, usually items one generally doesn't need. This addiction to shoplifting is very common, especially in teens. According to the Shulman Research Center, roughly 80% of Americans under 18 years old have shoplifted at least once, with 10% of these Americans shoplifting on a regular basis.

"I started shoplifting in seventh grade," a junior girl said. "First, I stole small [items] from easy places, like Target or Dollar Tree. Eventually I started stealing more expensive clothing and makeup from shops in the mall. Anything without a sensor was fair game."

Lee Lytle, KHS junior and retail worker at SammySoap, said that he witnesses shoplifters almost every shift. Lytle said these shoplifters are mainly middle and grade schoolers.

According to Very Well Mind, adrenaline rush is often a key motivator in kleptomania. However, people shoplift for different reasons. A senior girl said she started shoplifting for practical reasons.

"[Shoplifting] is just convenient," the senior girl said. "Why would I pay for something if I could just steal it? I find it crazy that people even think about paying for small things like makeup, gum, or jewelry."

Whether people shoplift for the adrenaline rush or for convenience, many said they have become addicted. According to 3rd Millennium, approximately 50%

The junior girl said that while her parents were happy she asked for help, they were still very upset and confused with her actions. She said her parents believe shoplifting is morally wrong and unacceptable. Hussein Abdullahi, sophomore, agrees with this opinion.

"People should work for everything they get," Abdullahi said. "I think shoplifting is selfish because you are hurting a business to benefit yourself."

Lytle said the cost to replace stolen goods forces business owners to make up for the lost profit in unfavorable ways. Business

even though it came with consequences. She spent eight months volunteering at a thrift store, and said this experience made her more continuous and empathetic.

"I haven't shoplifted since I worked at [the thrift store]," The junior girl said. "I'm not anti-shoplifting, but if someone were struggling with the same guilt and paranoia I was, they should consider [reaching out for help]. I feel so much better about myself now." ↗

**ANNA DALZIEL**  
STORY + DESIGN  
Features Writer

**EMERY BOWMAN**  
ART  
Artist

# LOVE ME OR PICK ME

*\*Opinion*

The internet is a whirlpool full of photos and videos, along with different opinions and interests. With that, however, comes a platform for people to voice hateful comments that belittle each other. One example is the repulsive term “pick-me girl.” This name is often used to describe a young woman who constantly tries to prove that she’s “not like other girls” in order to put her female peers down and gain the attention of guys. When girls are criticized for being a pick-me, those who label them are slowly fitting themselves into that category of judgmental people on the internet. It sucks becoming your worst enemy, doesn’t it?

Posts about pick-me girls were first seen on Twitter in 2016, with some pretending to act like one. They were “one of the boys” and mocking their need for a man’s approval. The pick-me girls of TikTok emerged in 2021 with people clutching their Starbucks cups and speaking in a high pitched voice to reenact encounters with passive-aggressive girls they see

at the mall, school and work. As of February 2023, the pick-me girl hashtag has 2.5 billion views on the app. According to a TKC poll, 68% of KHS students think criticizing pick-me girls is justified. However, there’s more to them than what people see while scrolling through their “For You” page.

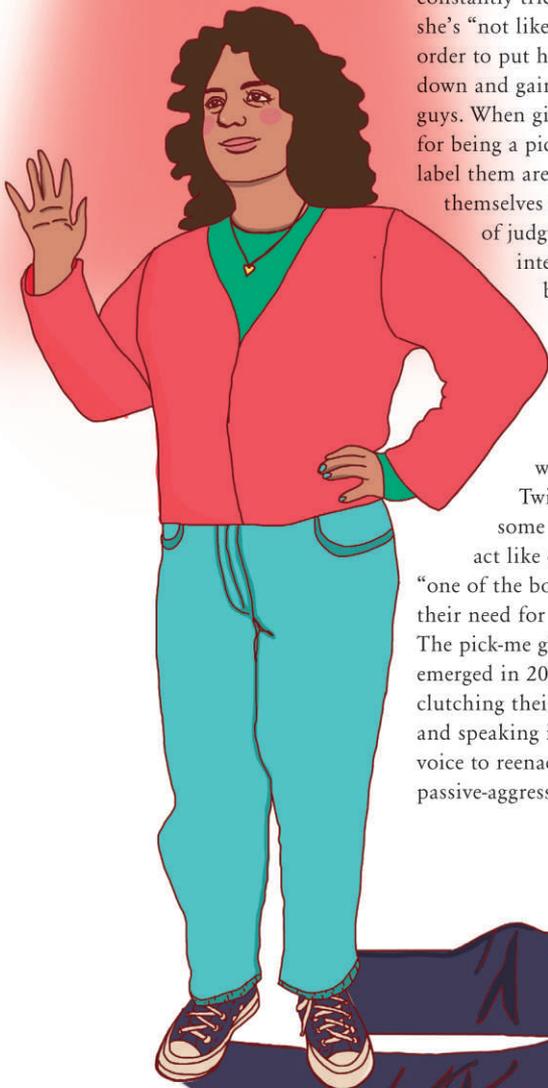
Even though they may seem annoying, the reason pick-me girls act the way they do is because of internalized misogyny and sexism projected toward themselves and others. Girls from ages 11 to 14 are most likely to experience this. Pick-me girls tend to stick to the old stereotype that they need a man’s attention to survive. They might not want to fit in with the rest of the girls around them. They have their own ideals of how they want to be different, be it wearing less makeup and different clothing brands, because of their hunger for being

“real.” By mocking them, you are only making their hunger for approval grow.

Along with that, being a teenager means shaping yourself into the person you want to be in the future. Girls may find that they want to be their own person and not try to fit in with others, one of the best life lessons someone can ever learn. By putting someone into the pick-me girl category, you crush their budding sense of individualism. Even though taunting pick-me girls seems fun, it only makes them more insecure. Admit it, you were once as vulnerable as them. ✈

**ALLIE CAFFEY**  
STORY + DESIGN  
Entertainment Writer

**LIV TIMP**  
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**S**eventy-two hours of relaxation, 4,320 minutes of spending time with your friends and family, 259,200 seconds of catching up on some much-needed sleep — a three-day weekend would provide this luxury for students every school week. This four-day school week model is becoming a reality for over 1,600 schools nationwide, according to a 2021 MIT Press Direct study, with numbers increasing each year. In regards to KSD, superintendent Dr. David Ulrich said that there is no intention of KSD moving to four-day school weeks. But while other schools nationwide are implementing this seemingly “beneficial” model, 83% (54/65) of TKC staffers believe that in reality, four-day school weeks are too good to be true and should not be established.

In order to attract and retain teachers, in addition to cutting costs, districts around the U.S. are moving toward the four-day school week model. More than a quarter

of school districts established this at the start of the 2022-2023 school year in Missouri, according to USA Today, and most schools that turn to four-day weeks are small and in rural areas. To Kellie Brown, a Poplar Bluff, Missouri resident, the four-day school model wouldn't work long term, and instead would severely affect the learning of children.

“I live in a very rural area,” Brown said. “I am a mother of five, three of which are younger, so they're in elementary [school]. We don't have good childcare here. I've been a single mom for a very long time, [and] I don't believe that [schools] should go to four days because it's hard enough for parents to work and pay their bills. It makes it even harder when you can't find good childcare. And when you do find good childcare, you might as well just spend your whole check on it.”

While some four-day districts offer childcare on their day off, the cost for school-operated child care varies. The Independence School

District has decided to implement the four-day model for the 2023-2024 school year, and will be the largest Missouri district to do so with 14,200 students. According to superintendent Dr. Dale Herl, the main reason for moving the district to four days is staff recruitment and retention, and the district will actually be spending more money by establishing this model. In offering childcare, Herl said the district is lowering their childcare cost to \$30 a day. This is extra money parents have to pay weekly, and this significantly puts lower-income, working parents at a disadvantage.

Low-income families also depend on public schools to provide meals for their kids, but with one day less of school a week, families now have to find a way to provide breakfast and lunch for their child that day. With the change, students from affluent families most likely wouldn't have an issue with four days, but by installing this, schools are treating poorer families in the district unfairly.

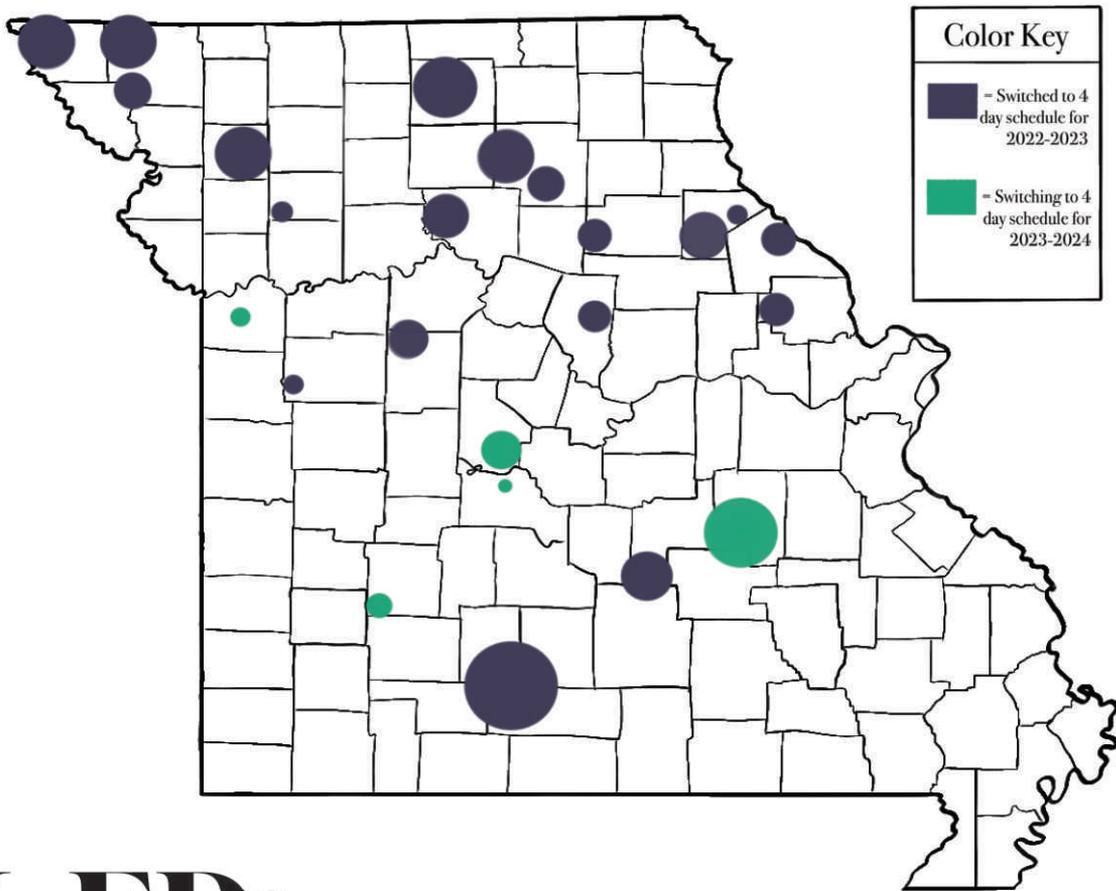
The issue with affording childcare doesn't affect older, teenage students, so the question arises as to what this age group would do on their one day off. According to a RAND Corporation study, most students in four-day districts (80% of high school students) spent their day off at home. Brown, psych counselor for a behavioral mental health center, said this might cause an increase in substance use, violence and criminal activity because students would have extra time on their hands.

To Jess Piper, executive director of Blue Missouri and former teacher, the extra day in the four-week model would ultimately not help kids get ahead in school, like many would believe. Piper has noticed students working jobs instead of focusing on their schoolwork on their day off in districts with 4-day school weeks. Piper lives in rural Northwest Missouri, and called the area a childcare desert. Since schools in her location don't offer additional childcare, she



found high schoolers who aren't working jobs on their day off are instead babysitting younger kids since parents can't find childcare. Districts need to realize that giving kids a day off of school every week would do more harm than good. A day of learning school material is much more productive and beneficial for students compared to working jobs, getting into trouble or simply lounging around at home.

Almost every KHS student has experienced sitting in a classroom, seven hours into the school day, with only a break for lunch. You keep staring at the clock, anxiously watching the minute hand tick by, dreaming of the bell finally ringing. Whether it be going to your after-school activity, work or simply relaxing at home, all you want to do is get out of school. But if your school were to implement the four-day model, you would



# CALLED: KEEP IT OLD SCHOOL

have to endure around 40 extra minutes each day. Each state has a required number of minutes every school has to be in session, Missouri's being 1,080, and with eliminating one day of school a week, all those lost minutes have to be made up somehow. Along with adding minutes, after-school activities would have to start and end later, leading to longer days. At that point, students would barely see the sunlight; they would leave and return home from school in the dark.

Many would guess that the four-day model would aid in battling student burn-out, but in actuality, adding more time to the school day, as well as having activities later, would have the opposite effect. Dan Langford, Nipher teacher, said the last block of the school day is already hectic

and he can't imagine adding more time. To him, students and teachers are already tapped out and adding minutes would be asking too much.

The whole point of school is to have a quality education and prepare students for the future. But by eliminating a day of school every week, the quality of learning could be damaged. A 2022 ScienceDirect study that looked at four-day school schedules in 12 states found that student test scores in math and language arts fell slightly at schools operating an average of 29.95 hours per week. The role of schools is to equip their students with the necessary skills to succeed, so with declining test scores, the nation needs to rethink the four-day model. No "long weekend" is worth the success of our future generation. In order to help retain teachers and

save money without implementing four-day school weeks, TKC believes that the only substantial solution would be for government officials to better fund schools. A 2020 The Century Foundation study revealed that the U.S. is underfunding its K-12 public schools by nearly \$150 billion annually. This is unacceptable. In order for students to be successful, lawmakers need to prioritize allocating money towards public schools. With properly funded schools comes qualified teachers and high student achievement.

The sensationalization of the "four-day school week" is merely a band-aid for the root issue at hand. Instead, we should be focusing on providing adequate funding for public schools, which, if solved, would ensure no school would be forced to move to four-day weeks.

In reality, the four-day model is a prime example of non student-centered decision making. Districts may say that students are at the core of all decisions, but the trend of moving to four-day school weeks would negatively affect them, exhibiting that students are not in the forefront of administrators' mind' at all. So yes, a seventy-two hour weekend may seem ideal, but not everything is as advantageous as it may appear. ✈️

**TKC STAFF**  
STORY + DESIGN

**TESS HUBBARD**  
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Photo Editor

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ART  
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**T**his just in: I hate passing periods. I have a bone to pick with a majority of the students here, specifically those who choose to be bothersome in the hallways. Through my entire high school experience, the six minutes of passing period have always been my least favorite part of the day. This is mainly because I'm forced to walk amongst some of the most entitled walkers. Just glancing at the social studies hallway, it's pretty obvious that most students clearly don't know the rules of the hall. Your timing is sloppy, you're just plain slow and 90% of the time you poorly judge whether it's okay to cross in front of someone (it rarely is). If any of this applies to you, here are five simple ways you can improve your hallway etiquette.

**I** Get rid of all accessories you're lugging around. If it doesn't fit in your backpack, it doesn't belong in the hall. These accessories include, but are not limited to: lunchboxes, wheels on your backpack, instruments and all additional baggage. You may be thinking, "My instrument?" Yes, your instrument. I can't count how many times I've been struck by one of those violins that are constantly being dragged around. It's not as if this is unavoidable. The only thing that annoys me more than unpredictable instruments are roller backpacks. I understand how for some people they are completely necessary, and in that case, I love it, roll away. But for those who simply own a roller backpack just to own one, I have to ask, *why?* It doesn't look good; some of y'all look like you're boarding a Southwest Flight, not your fourth hour. And they regularly cause traffic jams in the hallways. Not to mention how dangerous they are — smashing feet, or smacking ankles. You don't know pain until a rolling backpack has rammed into your toe.

**2** Walk quickly; anything faster than my MeeMaw. This is the easiest thing you can fix about your hallway etiquette. I understand that some people naturally walk slowly, but I also know some people are born with naturally bad teeth. Which is why they need braces. Can't the slow walkers of KHS fix their sore spots? Do you, slow walkers, enjoy making people late, clogging the hallway and causing awkward passing situations? I mean, you can't live like this forever. Imagine walking your way through life, never feeling the rush of adrenaline that comes alongside becoming the Usain Bolt of the hallways. Just know that if your calves aren't burning by the time you get to class, then you're not walking fast enough.

**3** Let me pitch a scenario: you're walking through the hallway and all of a sudden see a friend. Should you stop and talk to them in the middle of the hallway? No. Never, ever do this. Instead of disrupting the peace of the hallway, simply wave or smile. I don't care if they have something to say, there are phones for that. Take a break from being a good friend, instead be a better walker. The same goes for the couples who for some reason think the hallway is the perfect place for PDA, when in reality there is probably no place less suitable for affection. Refrain from holding hands, kissing or hugging in the hallways. Trust me, it'll benefit everyone.

**4** The most dangerous obstacles are the doors opening at all the wrong times. Unpredictable doors make any hallway a nightmare, but specifically the English hallways. This is because of the toxic presence of people constantly chucking doors open. This is not only a safety concern, but extremely annoying for any innocent walker. Instead of rushing out of the classroom, try gently opening the door, making sure there's no one in the way (hence the purpose of the windows) then entering the hallway. It's pretty easy once you give it a try. I can guarantee you that you'll never go back to your aggressive ways.

**5** The last, but not least, annoying thing one could do in the hallway is talking too loudly. This step goes hand-in-hand with those walking in a giant mob of people. You are creating an unavoidable wall while simultaneously screaming at a person five inches from you. There is nothing I hate more than the noise of giggly, boisterous people at 7 a.m. babbling about something completely irrelevant. Not only that, but having to listen to you aggravating people every day in the hallway has caused me to start taking different routes to classes. Your flock of friends are really just that annoying. In the future, please consider being less distracting, and keep your conversations quiet. ✈

**MIA INTAGLIATA**  
STORY + DESIGN  
*Opinions Writer*

**NATALIE HOSTO**  
ART  
*Artist*

# HALLWAY ETIQUETTE 101

**PANERA**  
Wi-Fi speed - 6/10  
Snacks - 8/10  
Atmosphere - 7/10  
Hours: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Panera is always a reliable go-to study spot. They never disappoint, and always have free Wi-Fi, although the Webster location's Wi-Fi seems to work better than Panera on Manchester Road. Either way, there are always a lot of choices on the menu to choose from, my favorite item being the mac & cheese. Beware: when Panera is experiencing its rush hour, it can be challenging to find a quiet spot to focus over the noise. Overall, Panera is a solid study spot, but the wow factor is lacking because it is such a basic place.

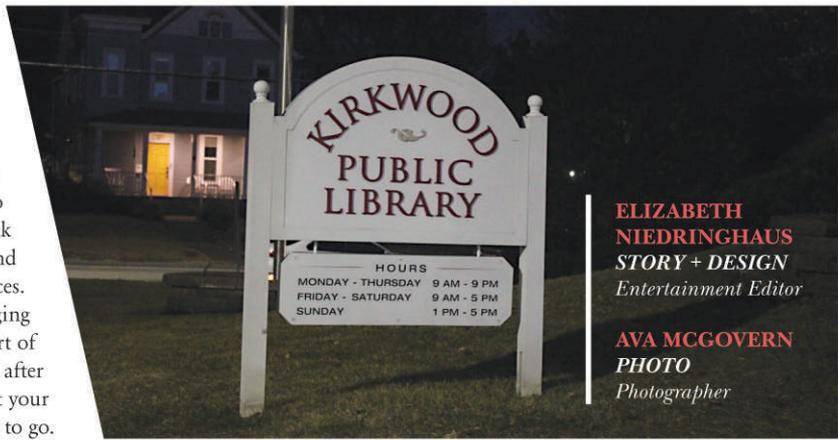


**DIERBERGS - DES PERES**  
Wi-Fi speed - 8/10  
Snacks - 10/10  
Atmosphere - 7/10  
Hours: 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Dierbergs is quite possibly my new favorite study spot. At first, I was unsure about doing homework at a grocery store. However, many people I know study here, so I thought I'd try it out. There is just something about that view of the store from the mezzanine above. There is almost any snack you can dream of here, as you can get anything from sushi to a rotisserie chicken to gummy bears. You can even make getting a snack a fun study break. The Wi-Fi has never disappointed, and I can always focus because there is rarely noisy commotion. The only downside is that Dierbergs is a study hotspot, so you may want to give SnapMap a quick peek to see who is there before you go.

**KIRKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Wi-Fi Speed - 7/10  
Snacks - not allowed  
Focus Ability - 10/10  
Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m Friday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

The Kirkwood Public Library (KPL) is hands down the best place to go if you need to focus. There is no distracting noise and you can tuck yourself away in a corner, put your AirPods in and grind. I recommend going here before big tests because of the focus-ability this place embraces. The one downside of studying here is that there are no snacks, and bringing your own could get you kicked out. Thankfully, the KPL is in the heart of Downtown Kirkwood, so there are plenty of places nearby to get food after you finish up your homework. Overall, if you need to sit down and get your work done, this is the best place to go.



**ELIZABETH NIEDRINGHAUS**  
STORY + DESIGN  
Entertainment Editor

**AVA MCGOVERN**  
PHOTO  
Photographer



**PIONEER BAKERY**  
Wi-Fi Speed - 9/10  
Snacks - 6/10  
Focus Ability - 8/10  
Hours: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Pioneer Bakery is right in the middle of Downtown Kirkwood and perfect for when you don't have an overwhelming amount of homework. The early closing time of this study spot is its one negative aspect, so don't plan on starting a large project here. The snack scene is pretty good, but they provide mostly baked goods and brunch foods, my favorite being their avocado toast. But, if you were hoping for a big dinner, you may need to stop somewhere else on your way home. The quiet and secluded scenery make it easy to grind out all my work. Pioneer Bakery does have Wi-Fi, but be prepared to ask for the password; it was a little awkward but worth it once I got my homework done. ✈

# BEST HOMEWORK SPOTS

**D**ressed in a tight hoodie and sweatpants, Alan Hunter could be anybody in the local Kaldi's Coffee. Nobody seems to know that 40 years ago he was one of the biggest TV personalities in the U.S.

Hunter was one of the five original MTV Video Jockeys (VJs) when the station launched in 1981. The VJs hosted the channel, giving commentary on innovative music videos and interviewing some of the biggest names in music. Being a face of the most radical channel on cable, Hunter was an integral celebrity for teens of the 80s.

Hunter moved from his home in Birmingham, Alabama to follow acting in New York. He worked various odd jobs and ensemble roles on Broadway before his time at MTV. In 1981, three weeks before MTV's first airing, he was hired to work for the channel. Hunter was a VJ until his departure in 1987. He then joined Sirius XM in San Francisco, and started his own film festival in Birmingham. The former VJ moved to Webster Groves with his family in 2021, when his wife started teaching drama at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Most people know you as one of the original MTV VJs. For the sake of today's high schoolers, can you describe what MTV was, and what the VJs did?**

"MTV was the first 24-hour-a-day music channel that showed up on your cable system at the turn of the decade, 1981. Someone thought having a music channel play videos 24/7 was a cool thing, but nobody knew. When they were starting the channel, there was no job for anyone known as a "VJ" or "Video Jockey." I was one of five people selected. [As the hosts,] we were the glue between the MTV videos, the commercials and the cool graphics."

**Before you were hired, what was your understanding of MTV?**

"There was no understanding whatsoever about what MTV was, nor what it was going to be because there had never been anything like it. [In the] summer of 1981, the only [24-hour] channels were CNN [and] ESPN. Cable was still new when MTV came along. [Before MTV], when you went to bed at midnight, your local television station would shut off. Now, you could stay up until 4 a.m. watching music videos, and I was a face of the channel. People grew up watching me in the basements of their friends' homes. It's kind of scary."

**What was your favorite interview?**

"My best interview was with Billy Joel in Russia. In 1987, he played two historic concerts in Leningrad and Moscow. Western artists at that time had never been to Russia, [so] MTV went with them and [filmed] documentaries. I went to Russia

during a pivotal part in world history with [the Cold War ending soon]. It was amazing to be there just from a social standpoint. To be interviewing Billy Joel on [this] groundbreaking tour was just a small piece of it."

**Many criticized MTV, as they thought videos would become more appreciated than the music they accompanied. Do you see a similar phenomenon with TikTok or YouTube?**

"It seems to me the YouTube and TikTok generation has gone back to a more raw, basic, in-your-phone editing, selfie, kind of thing - which means it's not about production [or budget] anymore. When kids get a Mac and Pro-tools, [like] how Billie Eilish records with Finneas in a bedroom with a little recorder, it levels the playing field. It means there's a lot more stuff out there that nobody should ever have to listen to, but it means that nobody needed a million dollars to make it happen."

**Do you still keep up with MTV?**

"No, because it doesn't speak to my demographic. In the late 80s, the video jukebox started to be less novel so the MTV folks decided lifestyle programming was going to be the way of the future, and they were right. I was working on [street interviews], which later turned into the reality type of shows. In the early 90s, it was all about people shining the camera on themselves. That was the precursor to what is social media today. For me, MTV was the first social media."

Hunter continues his support for amateur content creators through his movie theater and August film festival, "Sidewalk," in Birmingham. After seven years at MTV, he now enjoys his days doing Zoom interviews in his pajamas for Sirius XM and spending time with his family. ✈️



**WYATT BYERS**  
STORY + DESIGN  
Entertainment Writer

**HOLLAND HILGENDORF**  
ART  
Artist

*\*Opinion*

**W**hile we were all celebrating the new year, Miley Cyrus was busy rewriting herself for 2023. She revealed that the new year meant a new Miley. She set the tone with the announcement of her single “Flowers” Dec. 31, 2022, via Instagram with a note that read, “New Year. New Miley. New Single.” Cyrus is releasing her complete album, “Endless Summer Vacation” March 10.

Considering the song was released on her ex-husband, Liam Hemsworth’s, birthday, the vibe of the song is mellow and chill, reflecting Cyrus’ newfound sense of closure and healing. The song starts with her singing about a relationship burning down alongside their home. She sings about her fear of losing this huge connection with someone she once loved but prioritizing her personal happiness over a man’s.

Once the chorus drops and the instrumental gains more pep, Cyrus seems to gain more

confidence as she sings, “I can buy myself flowers / Write my name in the sand / Talk to myself for hours / Say things you don’t understand.” The chorus is the exact embodiment of independence and self-love as Cyrus finishes by singing, “Yeah, I can love me better than you can.”

The second verse represents Cyrus gaining more power and control over her voice, determined to not let her past get in the way of her present and future happiness. She sings about closure and moving on, calmly revealing that she is done mourning. Her lyrics said, “No remorse, no regret / I forgive every word you said.”

Cyrus continues and ultimately completes the song preaching the same message: she’s moved on and is done letting her past control her life. Although this single is more chill and less aggressive than some of her past music, Cyrus has never sounded so powerful and sure of herself. The accompanying music video for “Flowers” gives an even more stunning representation of

how Cyrus is putting herself first along with some potential Easter eggs regarding her most infamous relationship.

The video starts with Cyrus wandering through the streets of a city, grievously singing the first verse in a gorgeous golden dress. When the chorus begins, she starts putting her hair up as she struts up the driveway to a house. By the time the second verse unfolds, she has stripped down to a black bikini and has begun to work out.

This is where one of the first rumors about the music video emerged, which is that Cyrus was mocking her ex-husband’s workout routine. Whether this is true or not, which she has not addressed, Cyrus is the embodiment of self-love as she dances, swims and exercises throughout the second chorus. Once the chorus ends, she goes to shower and dances as the post-chorus repeats, “Can love me better, I can love me better, baby.”

When the song slows down and Cyrus sings, “I didn’t want to leave you, I didn’t want to fight /

Started to cry but then remembered I.” This is where Cyrus sparked another rumor that she was wearing a suit that mimicked her ex-husband’s that he wore to a red carpet where he told her to behave. As the chorus sets off for the final time, Cyrus begins wildly dancing throughout the home which is where, according to *Glamour*, her ex-husband cheated on her with 14 women. She finishes the video on an extremely energetic note as she continues dancing throughout the house and on the roof, where she’s allegedly making fun of the dance Hemsworth released a video of himself doing after the divorce.

Whether or not the rumors surrounding the song are true, Cyrus has made the statement that she is done letting herself and others use her past against her. There’s no doubt she’s enjoying the song’s immense success as she continues to top multiple Billboard charts around the world. Her complete album will have 13 tracks, and as of right now, she has yet to announce a tour in 2023. To listen to “Flowers”, use the QR code below. ↗

# SHE CAN BUY HERSELF FLOWERS

**SOPHIA WEBB**  
STORY + DESIGN  
Entertainment Writer

**AUBREE BINGHAM**  
ART  
Artist



Stream “Flowers”  
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# SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

*As the snow on the KHS baseball and lacrosse fields melt, athletes and coaches share their excitement for their upcoming seasons.*

## **BOYS VOLLEYBALL:**

Last year's record: 13-11

First three home games:

March 28 vs. Webster High School

March 30 vs. Marquette High School

April 3 vs. Lindbergh High School

"I think we'll be better than we were last year [and I'm] going to try to motivate the guys and push them a lot harder. I'm [also] going to try to go out with a bang this year and get every record I can."

**Luke Kraft, senior**

"I'm most excited for the seniors. We've had a great group of seniors. They're finishing up their four years at KHS and hopefully we send them out with a bang."

**Keith Touzinsky, varsity head coach**

## **BOYS LACROSSE:**

Last year's record: 12-6

First three home games:

March 10 vs. SLUH

March 14 vs. O'Fallon High School

April 1 vs. Lindbergh High School

"I want to build bonds with guys I haven't been around as much. My goal for this season is to be an all-state goalie and communicate with my teammates to build everyone up."

**Jed Holliday, junior**

"We have an opportunity to get back to where we were last year. We lost a lot of key pieces but we retooled in a lot of key places."

**Chris Lockett, varsity head coach**



**ROLEN MACLIN, junior**  
**ALEC GATES, freshman**



**GRADEN JANSEN, senior**



## GIRLS LACROSSE:

Last year's record: 1-12

First three home games:

March 27 vs. Westminster Christian Academy

April 13 vs. Visitation Academy

April 17 vs. Lindbergh High School

"It's senior year. I'm most excited to beat some teams and play [on] Senior Night. I want to focus more on just having fun playing the game and not worry about stats, those will play out on their own."

**Emme Bailey, senior**

"I hope that as a team, we can do better than we did last year. I also hope that we will learn how to work better as a team. I'm just excited to get to play the sport I love with all my teammates."

**Allison Schmidt, junior**

## BASEBALL:

Last year's record: 7-20

First three home games:

March 29 vs. St. Louis Priory High School

April 3 vs. Parkway North High School

April 5 vs. Lafayette

"I'm really excited. Our seniors have stepped up and shown great leadership. The sky's the limit."

**Scott Weissman, varsity head coach**

"It's the last year [for the seniors] and we're gonna be a good team. I'm excited to play again and [I hope] we win a lot of games and have fun doing it."

**Myles Kruger, senior**

## BOYS GOLF:

Last year's record: 2-8

First three matches:

March 28 vs SLUH at Missouri Bluffs Golf Course

March 29 vs Lafayette High School at St. Alban's Golf Club

March 31 vs multiple opponents at Oak Valley Golf Course

"I'm excited because it's going to be my first season as the varsity head coach for the boys. We have some good young players coming back and players that I've coached on JV. It'll be interesting to see how they've progressed."

**Shawn Owens, varsity head coach**

"We have a lot of the same guys that have been playing for the last three years so we will definitely keep growing [as a team]. We've gotten a lot better since last year and will have a couple guys go to state this year." 🏏

**Joey Axelrod, senior**

**BRENNAN REA**  
*STORY + DESIGN*  
Sports Writer

**NICHOLAS COPELAND**  
*STORY + DESIGN*  
Sports Writer

**MAYA RUBIN**  
*ART*  
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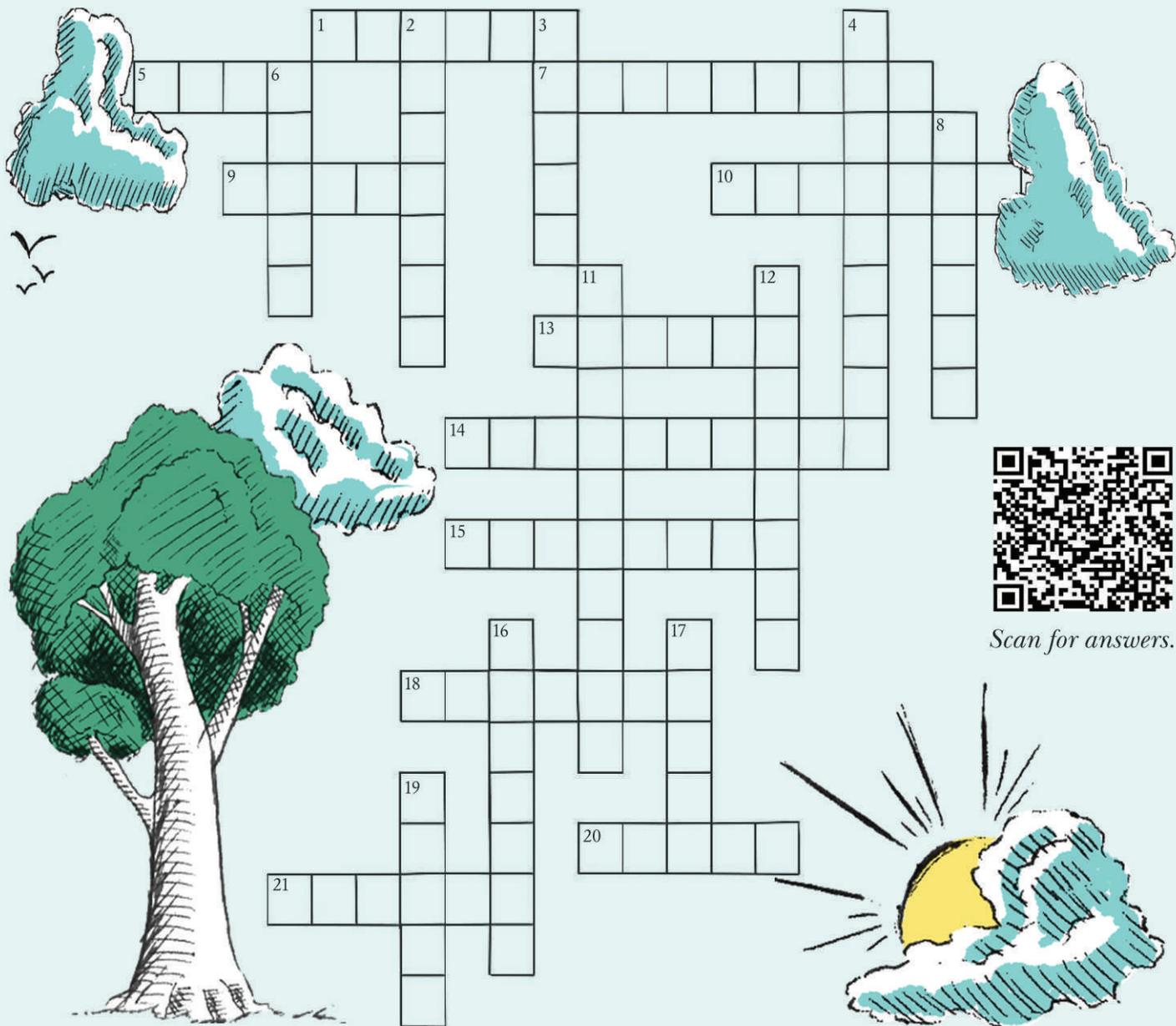
**MYLES KRUGER, senior**



# SPRING CROSSWORD

LYDIA DRAKE  
STORY + DESIGN  
Web Editor

DAVID GAITHER  
ART  
Artist



Scan for answers.

## Across

1. The best website to find your spring break rental house.
5. The school dance exclusive to upperclassmen.
7. Make sure to post your spring break pictures on this app.
9. Wear this color on St. Patrick's Day unless you want to get pinched.
10. Wear these to show off your fresh pedicure.
13. The spring break destination strictly for seniors.
14. Don't trust anyone on this day.
15. Use this to protect yourself from April showers.
18. This spring break spot is so popular it'll feel like you never left Kirkwood.
20. Flowers are starting to do this outside.
21. A fun alternative to eating in your car.

## Down

2. If you follow this to the end, you'll find a pot of gold.
3. These government-planted animals sit on power lines.
4. This team's home opener is on March 30.
6. College basketball fans go "mad" during this month.
8. If you find one with four leaves, you're lucky.
11. The class of 2023 is starting to get symptoms of this.
12. Where people go on spring break if they'd rather hit the slopes than the shore.
16. The name of everyone's favorite leprechaun (and starfish).
17. The best app to use when you need to repay your friends.
19. This animal is known to leave eggs lying around on Easter.



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# SEEING KIRKWOOD THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS



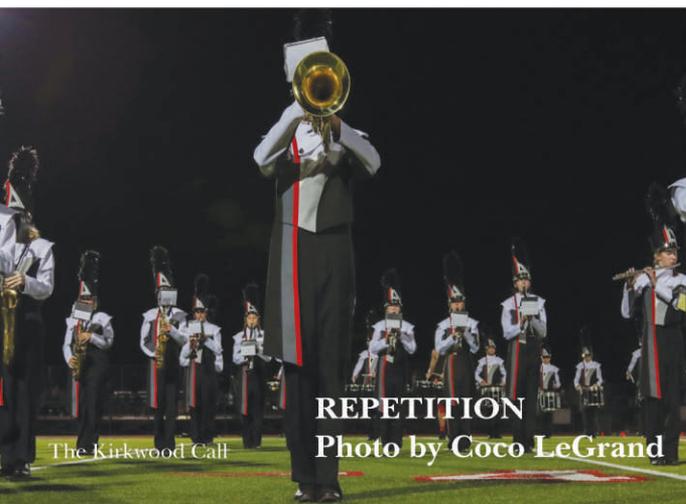
**SELECTIVE FOCUS**  
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The Kirkwood Call



FISHEYE  
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Photo by Mitchell Fales



MACRO  
Photo by Ella Sottile



days in  
march

TO LOOK  
FORWARD TO...

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*Art Editor*

**MAYA RUBIN**  
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