

Lights Under Louisville is an underground holiday light display in the Louisville MegaCavern. This year there is a new light display in Louisville's Cherokee Park called the Winter Woods Spectacular. submitted photos

Being an early graduate takes premeditated efforts

by Tanner Page

Early graduation is a big decision for a student to make. Whether it's a junior graduating a year early or a senior graduating a semester early, it's never easy.

"The hardest part was getting my on-line classes done in time," senior Jasmine Borden said.

For those who want to graduate early, credits are the most important part. A major requirement, and one of the few, is the necessity of having enough class credits for the diploma you seek to receive. There are three different diplomas to choose from: Core 40, Core 40 with Technical Honors and/or Core 40 with Academic Honors. To graduate with the general Core 40, a minimum of 40 credits is required. For the other diplomas, there are many more special requirements including certain amounts of a language or a couple of AP classes. To gather these credits early, they have to be taken on an online site called Plato. Here, students retake or take the required classes needed for early graduation. Some of these classes include online Economics, Government, and a few others. For multiple early graduates, this was their most challenging part. There were due dates and multiple essay assignments. All of which had to be done before the end of the first semester. With classes

completed, the seniors allowed themselves to finally be enthusiastic about graduating early.

"I can't wait, so I don't have to wake up early," senior Charlie Masingo said.

Though early graduation is an exciting time for seniors, there are still factors of high school that early graduates will miss. For some, it will be friends and for others it's the classes they can take for fun, not for study reasons as you would in college. There are some low expectations for the electives, but most of the

seniors are upset they won't get to experience the full year of the class.

"I'm going to miss weightlifting the most," said senior Sean Cocke.

Graduation is the first step to beginning a new adult life. With early graduation, there is the choice of attending a college or joining the workforce for the rest of the year. Then, at the beginning of the following year, students can onset into college. Although,

some don't even attend college and jump start into their careers. All options are respectable and the decision comes down to the graduate. Seniors are given a whole year to decide which they prefer. Meanwhile, those who graduate early don't have near as much time so decision making has to begin much sooner. They only have a few months to decide, that is if they start deciding at the beginning of the twelfth grade. There is no procrastinating for early graduates, whatsoever.

"Timing was important when I made decisions," said senior Marcos Sandoval.

The early graduates will walk out of Clarksville Senior High School on December 20th, at the end of semester two. They will stop

at the counselors office, pick up their diploma, and be on their way. There is no early ceremony or party for these graduates, although, they have the option to return for Graduation Day in June. Early graduates include Daniel Bartley, Jasmine Borden, Sean Cocke, Nikki Hatfield, Marcos Sandoval, Antoninya Brown, and Charlie Masingo.



"I want to go to college, I'm not sure which one, for zoology and eventually open an animal shelter."

— senior Charlie Masingo



CHS student works toward better connections between students and teachers
pages 4-5



CHS and RA lunch debate goes on
page 6

Editorial

Pets are not holiday gifts but lifetime committments, shop wisely

With the holidays right around the corner, you may be thinking of ideas for gifts for your friends and family. Giving gifts can show you are thankful for someone and that you appreciate them. But, while some gifts may seem like a good idea in the beginning, they may turn badly for the receiver, like a pet.

While pets can be seen as a perfect present on Christmas for a child, the parents will most likely suffer in the long run. In addition to the cost of the pet, there are lots of expenses over the long term. The cost of a pet is way past the initial adoption fees. The average cost of owning a pet in the first year is over \$1,000. Veterinarian trips, food, toys and treats, medications, training and bedding add up over the years.

Pets are also a huge time commitment, which may be hard for some families. Having puppies and kittens can almost be the equiv-

alent to having a child for 10-20 years. The first year of their lives is very important for their growth, and they need a lot of time spent playing, exercising and training. They also cannot be left alone for long periods of time as they can easily destroy things. For families with already busy schedules, these time commitments often can not be made. Puppies also must be trained to use the bathroom outside in their first few months, which may be hard in the cold, short days of winter, waiting for the spring could be better.

While pets are fun in the beginning, the amount of time and money spent is not. Yes, they are cute and cuddly and your niece or nephew “needs a pet”, but the parents might not agree. It might not be your place to make that big of a change for the family. So, reconsider your options before surprising them with a new friend on Christmas Day.



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2019-2020

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December Birthdays	
1	Mira Nelson Kane Shelton
2	Alysaa Leezer
4	Ryan Waxler
5	Marisa Stevenson
7	Kelsey Pease
11	William Groves Lauren Sandlin
14	Dylan Haycraft Sayka King
15	Asher Nielsem
16	Karlyn Frazier Madilyn Hamilton
17	Hannah Bryant
18	Gabrielle Ray
20	Sean Cocke Brendan Hicks Kennedy Martin Zachary Trader
21	Gabriel Petri
22	Myla Jackson
23	Skyler Shepherd
24	Zowie Ferguson
25	McKenzie Murdoch
26	Kensy Aguilar-Murillo Amir Elghailany Elizabeth Kritzer
28	Hermione Bean-Mills
29	Nickolas Brand Maria Mancera Meet Patel
January Birthdays	
3	Neftali Chavez Eva Geary
4	Avrey Bogan
5	Zachary Ledford Hailee White
8	Malorie Mattingly
9	Kylie Bruce Blake Mudd Tyler Newsome
12	Annastasia Cole Ronald Jarnagin
13	William Wiggins
14	Elliot Helwig Alexander Titus
15	James Fettingner
17	Shelby Howell Jade Hurley
18	Ke’Vonne Murrell
19	April Jackson
21	Jayden Conover
23	Ianna Grafil Eric Rupprecht
24	Abigail Hissam Tanner Page Jalen Reyer Brandon Wood
25	Adair Moran Munoz
28	Anthony Brown Marcos Sandoval

Six tips for stress relief during finals week of studying

by Kelsey Pease



Different types of junk food and soda that teens may divulge in during finals week. photo by Kelsey Pease

The semester is coming to an end, which means two things. One, a magnificent two weeks of no stress and celebration. Two, the approach of the most dreaded week in history, finals week. When finals come, pounds of stress and pressure come right along with it. In case one might be looking for a helping hand, here are some tips to get through finals week:

1. Plan and Prioritize

Making a plan will help you manage your time more wisely. You will know how much time you have to study, what you need to get done, and when you need to get it done. Writing down which finals are on which days can be a major help. Then, you will know which classes you need to study for at first and the most. This can be in the form of a checklist, with as many sections as you want. Like what time you're going to do something/want to do something, another section for what that something is, and the last section for what day it is due. This will give you some satisfaction as the list gets smaller and more things are getting done. Also, you can plan out study groups with friends. Study groups can add some relief and also help you study better because now you're not just studying

for yourself, it's become a group effort.

2. Take Breaks

Studying non-stop is hard and it gets really frustrating. So, take breaks. You can set a certain amount of time for studying and then, a small break in between. For example, you can study for 50 minutes and have yourself a 10 minute break. During these breaks, do something fun that takes your mind off of all the stress you have. You can go for a walk, play a game on your phone, scroll through social media, play with a pet, or anything else that might make you less stressed.

3. Keep Up with Healthy Habits

During finals week, it can be easy to divulge in sugary drinks and snacks, but this will not be beneficial, whatsoever. Too much of these things can cause a major sugar crash, which can lead to a long nap and not enough time to get done what you need to get done. Eating a balanced diet will stimulate your mind, sharpen your focus, and give you a healthier type of energy. You don't have to go vegan or turn into a health-enthusiast, just eating three meals a day and a snack when you need it, will help your mind body and spirit. Also, keep yourself hydrated. It can be hard getting in eight cups of water a day, aim for three or four. Water will help your digestion, state of mind, and your overall feeling. Lastly, get your steps in.

for yourself, it's become a group effort.

4. Maintain a Healthy Mindset

Finals weeks causes a bunch of negative energies to roam in the air. You're stressed out, mad, frustrated. You didn't get enough sleep. You don't have enough time. You start to believe that you're going to fail. You began wondering why you didn't start studying a month in advance. People can really start to get down on themselves. It's important to take a moment and breath, just take a really deep breath and remind yourself that everything is going to be fine. Taking time to just breath and build yourself back up is important. You can try affirmations to do this.

Without good time management, cramming can become your middle name. Which can lead to you staying up until three in the morning, but do not be this person. Make sure you still get a good amount of sleep. Try not walking into your first period final on two hours of sleep and then falling asleep during your sixth period final due to a complete crash of mind and body. That's not good for you. Also, when planning out your day of studying, make sure you leave an hour of nothing before going to sleep. Give yourself time to really relax, get ready for bed, and get your ducks in line for school tomorrow. This will lead to a more peaceful attempt at a slumber.

5. Do Not Take Sleep for Granted

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6. Reward Yourself

Before, during, and after studying you should reward yourself. A pre-study treat can give you a little jump start. A little reward in between study breaks can give you the motivation to keep going, as it gives something to look forward to. After, tops all that studying off with a good and rewarding something that you get to look forward to tomorrow as well. Little rewards can make studying a rewarding process that you won't dread doing. Finals week does not have to be as horrible as it is made out to be. Using good studying strategies and practicing good time management can make all the difference mentally and academically.

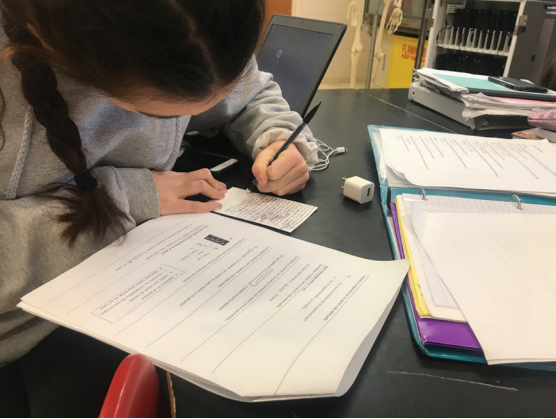
Going on a walk or jog can clear your mind and help de-stress, as well as little exercises like squats or jumping jacks. It gives you a much needed break and allows your body to stretch and loosen up.

6. Reward Yourself

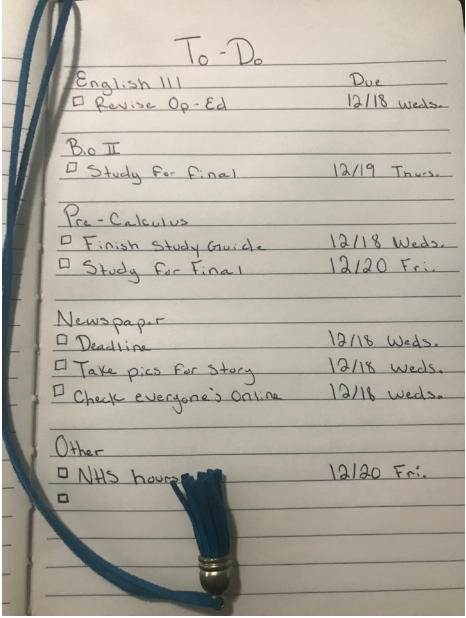
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Junior Jessica Sloan study for her Spanish final. photo by Kelsey Pease



Example of a student's To-Do list. photo by Kelsey Pease

Due to the holidays and final exams, all sports coverage will be online at <https://gdonline.org>



Boys C Team Holiday Tournament
12/21 at Clarksville at 10:30

Girls Varsity Holiday Tournament
12/27 at Charlestown at 12:00

Boys Varsity Holiday Tournament
1/3 and 1/4 at Silver Creek at 7:30

Boys JV Holiday Tournament 1/4
at Providence at 10:30

McClellan strives to foster stronger relationships

Hoping to form a club where students and teachers can get together to talk through communication issues, McClellan wants to break down stereotypes and create an environment where students and teachers can both thrive

by McKenzie Murdoch and Seth Wright

No school is perfect including Clarksville High School. Stereotypes exist. Teenagers are bad and don't care. Teachers go into teaching to get the summers off. Even the Clarksville community itself gets stereotyped. However, most of the people who live in Clarksville and who attend Clarksville Community School Corporation understood about the environment with its positive and negative aspects. Even though teachers and students may not live here in the town of Clarksville, they still choose to call Clarksville High School their own.

Given the current state of Indiana education, teachers come and go frequently in order to qualify for pay raises based on years of experience. While teachers try to do their best, some students are disheartened at the turnover. This turnover can lead to strained relationships between students and teachers. Student-teacher bonds take time to form. Stressful situations can arise in class that may lead to disciplinary action, which could have been avoided if relations between students and teachers were stronger. There is no denying the gap that forms between students and teachers. While this can, and is, causing problems on both sides of the spectrum, junior Chey'mon McClellan is looking to address the issue head on. He wants to familiarize himself with a variety of thoughts and opinions on the situation. This includes students and staff working to erase these very gaps.

"Its difficult because a lot of kids don't respect that they need an education," French teacher, Amy Clere said. As the school year progresses, the school day may often feel overbearing, maybe because there is simply a lot of work, or students feel disconnected with certain teachers and/or show disinterest in the subject matter. McClellan believes that a way this can be fixed is by building a stronger connection between students and teachers. As a result, teachers will hopefully be more responsive in classes, effectively causing them to teach more enthusiastically, and make students excited to actually learn. While there will still be students that feel school is not for them, it may make it more bearable. Better connections between staff and students can lead to a better work and learning environment. Closing the communication gap between students and teachers, could alleviate some of the minor disruptions in class where students often interrupt the lesson and the teacher cannot finish covering all the material planned for that day. Also, better communication might cut down noticeable disrespect towards the teacher or other school personnel.

Good vs. Bad

Students do perceive that there are so-called "good" and "bad" classes, with the "bad" classes being those where the classroom is chaotic and not a calm learning environment. While on the other end of the scale, "good" classes are often when there are no disruptions, all the material gets covered and the students and the teacher engage in mutual respect. This affects all parties involved. When there are "bad" classes this usually means teachers experience more stress, and have more concerns. Teachers have lives outside of school and disruptions in class may interrupt that, as well.

This classroom dynamic is another reason teachers move on to other schools. "Bad" classes also affect students. There are students who want to learn and persevere, and when they cannot get all of the learning material they miss out on knowledge that will academically benefit them, and it puts the whole class behind schedule as well.

"A lot of these kids, everything they're doing right, I did. I had my issues so I understand, I identify with their issues," said ISS supervisor Jamall Glover.

In School Suspension (ISS) or Out School Suspension (OSS) may have become an escape for students to get a break from these strained relationships. Often students feel more emotionally connected to Glover than their everyday academic teachers. Students tend to look up to him and feel comfortable talking to him; they know when going to him, that they can confide in him, and trust him to be straightforward and forthright. For the students who come to him to talk, he often goes to the root of the problem.

"You have no choice but to appeal to them and see where they are coming from. That's the balance you have to try and find. How to deal with their past. Do better in their present so they can succeed in their

future," said Glover.

Students may lack effective communication skills because they might feel like teachers don't care and it has become apparent that students have reached "the point where they don't know if they want to finish high school. They really hate school," said McClellan, who originally came up with the idea of strengthening the relationship between students and teachers and to try and change the perception of CHS in general.

While teachers and students have classes together everyday, it does not always guarantee that students know a lot about the teacher beyond the brief overview they get presented in the beginning of the year. Students, also, may not realize how many resources they have among the staff. Many often think of the guidance counselor, Christine Allred, when they need someone to talk to, but don't always think about going to their CCR teachers. According to Allred, "That teacher is supposed to know that small group, and that group is supposed to stay with them as much as possible for all four years. That's supposed to be kinda the liaison, if students are having issues they go to that person." A better connection between CCR teacher and CCR student could greatly benefit students. There should be some get to know you activities built into the CCR class time instead of just solely focusing on college readiness.

"Sometimes I feel like kids even learn from my life stories. I went through this. I have been through it," Clere said.

Clere agrees that there are boundaries, but also thinks along with other teachers, by bringing in personal facts, stories and sometimes issues they are going through in life into school, and that it will help the student body to gain insight into the lives of others, causing people making connections with each other and relating with each other.

Warren Pendleton, a first year history teacher at CHS, often feels that he relates and connects well with his students because he has the advantage of being younger, with many of his students agreeing. While some teachers may not agree with all of

his teaching styles, he makes it clear that he does not resort to yelling. He believes that he should treat his students like they are young adults, not children, and feels they should enjoy high school. "Be open and honest with kids and in return they are more likely to be honest with you."

"In order to be respected, you must give respect, students and teachers and teachers alike. You have to get that under control in order to move to the next level," Allred said.

At one time or another, everyone struggles on connectivity issues. Where- as no one person is at fault, developing strategies on forming and maintaining a good and healthy relationships with others can only help in the end. McClellan would like to see programs set up to help both students and teachers work on these strategies.

Some students believe that respect is a one sided topic, and they feel obligated to receive respect without giving it back. But once that is established between the pair and in a larger retrospect with the class, then they can begin forming and maintaining a trustworthy bond.

"Forming this bridge between the two will make Clarksville even more successful," McClellan said.

McClellan's Mission

McClellan is trying to help people understand that education is more than

just learning now. He has talked to a few students about their feelings with teachers, and he has gotten mixed responses. He feels as if the student body needs something to connect the teachers with the students. So, he, Clere and Glover formed the idea of a club. They all feel as if connections should be stronger between teachers and students. During multiple CCR periods, McClellan has talked with both Clere and Glover about the idea of forming a club. Their plans are to start a conference-like club after school where teachers and students can talk, whether it be about school or events about their own lives.

With high school being the first step of independence in students lives, it becomes the years that affect all the others. For teachers struggling with connectivity with their students, "Always remain calm, don't lash out, never do that in sudden anger. Kids don't react well to that way, and on day one you present yourself, your room, and your subject, exactly as it is. No extra, and nothing fake," Clere said, who's connection with her students is very important to her. To maintain a connection with her students, she likes to begin with respecting them, and being honest with them.

Clarksville High School benefits from how small it is and how close knit it is. The size makes it easier for students to find wise people to get advice from and good role models, but there can be initial communications obstacles. McClellan would like to help alleviate these obstacles so that the connections between students and teachers grow together to make the school a productive and positive place to learn.



English teacher Stephanie Pedro and junior Chey'mon McClellan communicating over school work. photo by McKenzie Murdoch.



In School Suspension Supervisor Jamall Glover and McClellan discuss college and future plans. photo by McKenzie Murdoch.



CHS and RA lunch dispute settled, for once and for all

by Jessie Stevens



Sophmores Eden baird, Olivia Baird, Chelsea Ross, and others laugh and eat at RA's Thanksgiving lunch. Photo by Erin Lewis

When the 2019-2020 school year began, a huge debate began between the students of Clarksville High School and Renaissance Academy. Tension between these schools has been present since RA became an official high school in 2013. There have been arguments over opportunity, discipline and especially, who has the better lunch.

"I think it's stupid because they cook the same meals as we do. We might have different things, but basically we have the same things. I don't understand why students say that our lunch is better. It's not any better... they're cooking the same thing, but at different times, maybe more often than what we cook. Maybe it's just the kids don't like the food. Dr. Allred is going to send out a survey for the kids here to find out what kind of dressing you like, what kind of entrees you like or what you would like to see incorporated every once in awhile; long as it comes in our requirements. Give us feedback, if it's something good or bad let us know. It makes us feel bad when we can't please everybody," head of food services at RA Willie Estes said.

At RA, there is a small population, counting at 150 students enrolled. Due to the small amount of learners, it is easier on the

tastes it to make sure it's delicious for her and the learners. Estes said she wishes she had the power to change the regulations and change it so they can make whatever meal they please.

"I have mixed feelings. Reason being we serve the same food, I'm not sure what is fueling the debate. I did send out a survey so we can get a handle on what is happening that we

lunch staff to plan and prepare the lunch and breakfast every-day. Estes plans her meals by figuring out what the students like and enjoy. Also, she tries not to have the same type of food for grains and proteins. In the morning, around 8:30 a.m., the staff starts to set up the cafeteria for the meals to be served; which can take up to 30 minutes. Around 9:00 a.m., they start making the hot fresh meals for the students. Estes' favorite meal to prepare would be meatloaf, due to the fact that she can perfect it the way she wants and also she can make it from scratch. By adding the perfect amount of salt and ketchup along with the meat. She, then,

it, feel free to do so either it's criticism or its praise, communicate that to us," head lunch director at both schools Melissa Pixley said.

CHS has a larger population, holding at approximately 250 students, making it more difficult on food services head Ashley Stephens to plan, prepare, and make her meals. At the end of every month, she starts planning, thinking about which meals should get served each day. For preparing lunch, she assigns everybody from her team a task to complete. Stephens makes it clear that it takes a strong team to make and prepare lunch. After breakfast is over, they instantly start to make lunch for the students at 8:00 a.m. Around the time of 10:00 a.m., fruits, veggies, and other similar foods are brought out. Then, the hot food is brought out at 10:30. From cutting the beef, and making gravy and mashed potatoes; Roast beef is Stephens' favorite meal to prepare because she can be hands on with

it and she considers it a homemade meal. Stephens would like to change how much chicken is served, but the kids complain when there's too much or too little of chicken.

"The lunch at CHS is typically the same sort of bland and reheated food, every time. It's never really fresh. The ones at RA do, comparatively, sometimes have some fresh food. At

RA, they have more options to pick from than CHS. The thing that's good about both lunches is that they're free," junior Elliot Hellwig said.

Equally, both schools have meals that are hit and miss, but most students agree that RA has the preferred type of food and would rather eat there than CHS. However the food services staffs at both schools love serving lunch to the students of Clarksville and care tremendously about what the students and learners want for their meals. Both of the teams put in a lot of work to make the staff and students pleased with what they're putting in their mouths.

In November, a survey was sent out to students to see what types of food students want. The results are not in at this time, but the information will be used by food services to plan meals.



Renaissance Academy lunch staff getting ready to serve Thanksgiving lunch for RA students. Photo by Erin Lewis



Junior Sara Vaughn and Senior Madison Morris enjoying their Thanksgiving lunch with English teacher Alicia Ridings-Young at CHS. Photo by McKenzie Murdoch

don't know about or we're not aware of, so that's a good place to start. It asks what's your favorite meal and give us some thoughtful ideas, to help us improve the experience. Maybe we could do a follow up on our survey and look at the results and see what were the top responses and go on about fixing things. I think we have good nutritious lunches and I feel like if

more people give it a try, they might think that as well. I think communicating with the staff, we'll listen to what you have to say. If you have an opinion and you want to express



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'HSMTMTS' is way better than it was originally believed to be

by Summer Neal

High School Musical played an important part in many Millennials and Gen-Zers' childhoods. As of 2018, the movie had an estimated total of over 225 million viewers across different platforms and at one point the soundtrack topped the billboard charts. From the classic songs like "We're All In This Together" and "Get'cha Head In The Game" to the cheesy nerd falls in love with the jock despite their differences plot line, the movie captivated teenagers all across the world. But now, there's a spinoff to the three movie franchise, High School Musical: The Musical: The Series. The series is only available on Disney+.

The series starts with a good old cheesy love triangle. Nini Salazar-Roberts and Ricky Bowen had broken up over the summer while she was away at a theater summer camp. The series follows

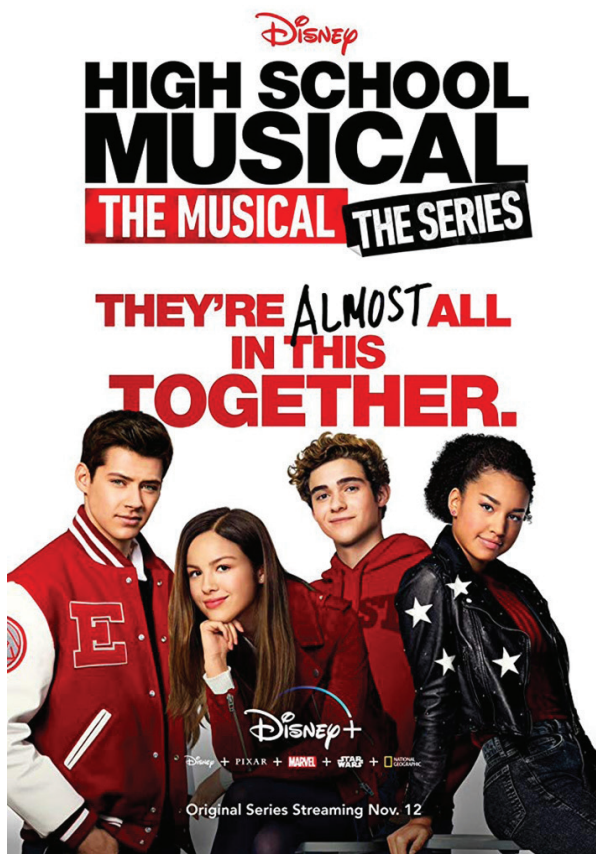
them through their school's (East High where HSM was filmed) production of High School Musical: The Musical: The Series. The Musical because of the musically talented new student Gina Porter and Ricky's struggles to get Nini back now that she has found a new heartthrob boyfriend, EJ Caswell.

The actors in the series are actually teenagers with real teenage problems, not a 28 year old trying to play an 18 year old like Monique Coleman (Taylor McKessie) in the third movie. Olivia Rodrigo (NiNi) is 16 years old and Joshua Bassett (Ricky) is 18 years old. The oldest "student" is Matt Cornett (EJ) who is 21 years old. This creates a more realistic and relatable environment for the audience. The show also portrays more relatable issues, like

divorce and breakups rather than Sharpay trying to ruin Gabriella and Troy's chance at doing the play. The audience is more likely to relate to someone's parents getting divorced or regular high school relationships than everyone breaking into song in the middle of lunch about sticking to the status quo. While their acting may not be the best yet, it doesn't feel out of place because they are just playing their own age.

The songs may have won over all the teenage girls that doubted the series. The series features songs that the audience can relate to and sing in the shower with like "A Thousand Sorries" and "All I Want" but also features some from the original movie like "Start of Something New". While the song lyrics themselves are amazing, their voices are what steals the show. They may not be ready to sing on Broadway (excluding Rodrigo and Julia Rester) but all of the "students" voices sound genuinely young, but are very impressive for being as young as they are.

Although most teenagers started watching the series to see how terrible it was going to be compared to the movies, many have actually enjoyed it. The series currently has four episodes, but will have a total of twelve with a new episode coming out every Friday morning.



'Mandalorian' with the help of Baby Yoda take over the hearts of viewers on Disney+

by Tanner Page

The Mandalorian is a new featured show on Disney's new streaming service, Disney+. The cast includes Pedro Pascal, well-known actor Carl Weathers, and many other featured stars. The Mandalorian takes place in the Star Wars saga after the fall of the Empire in Episode VI: Return of the Jedi and twenty five years before the rise of the fallen order where Episode VII: The Force Awakens begins. The show is not confirmed to be connected anyway to the Skywalker Universe.

After the fall of the empire, bounty hunters known as Mandalorians, are beginning to come out of hiding one at a time. Each take a turn to bring in money that keeps them going underground. Their best mandalorian, who remains nameless, grows tired of small paying jobs and requests for an assignment that is worth much more than a few imperial credits (Star Wars currency). His employer, Carl Weathers, sends him off to speak with those in the head of the operation, members of the fallen empire. At arrival, he is greeted by multiple stormtroopers, indicating that the fallen empire is involved with this transaction. The mystery man he meets gives him only a tracking FOB and the date of birth of the target, 50 years old. His target leads him to new friends and new planets where

he ultimately ends up discovering that the 50 year old he seeked, was actually a baby.

Due to the internet, most people are familiar with the child. His appearance swept over the world, eventually nicknaming him Baby Yoda. Though he is not actually Yoda, but just the same species as him, his nickname, nonetheless, makes him even more appealing. The Mandalorian becomes fond of the child and swears to protect him. With Mando protecting Baby Yoda, we are introduced to a whole new side of him. The Mandalorian becomes affectionate and this is what makes the show emotional. Star Wars' The Mandalorian is the whole package, with action, sci-fi, and many sensitive moments. The best part of this adventurous Disney+ original is how they present tenderness into action. This, obviously, revolves around the introduction of the child. Baby Yoda has now become a fan favorite to many. Come for the show, but stay for baby yoda is an important motto

to many. The Mandalorian has become one of my favorite shows and one of the best pieces to the overall Star Wars puzzle. The show is currently streaming and I advise everyone to look into the show and make opinions of their own.



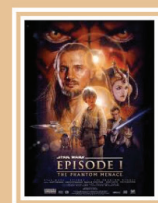
5 MUST WATCH MOVIES ON DISNEY+

1 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL



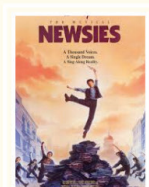
2 FREE SOLO

3 LADY AND THE TRAMP



4 STAR WARS

5 NEWSIES



Enjoy some traditional holiday activities this season

by Sam Boston



Christmas crafts and cookie decorations during a Santa Breakfast. Photo by Kelsey Pease

The end of the year is around the corner and with it, Christmas. Christmas is an annual holiday that is celebrated around the world where families and friends exchange gifts and love with each other to bring joy. For this reason, it is one of the most celebrated and favorited holidays among people in the World.

The holiday of Christmas has been present since the year 336(1683 years), and this has allowed for many traditions to form. Many activities for Christmas are partaken by families, and all are unique to the Christmas holiday and spirit.

“My favorite activities during Christmas would be hanging up lights and baking

cookies,” sophomore Isaiah Wilkerson said.

One of the most popular traditions is the hanging of bright lights. In fact, it is considered an essential part of celebrating the holiday. What these lights do is “brighten” the mood around the area, and help set the tone for Christmas. Also, another popular activity of Christmas is cookie baking. Christmas cookies can be baked into shapes that represent Christmas beliefs. Some common shapes are Christmas Trees, Santa Hats, Gingerbread Man, and more.

Since Christmas takes place in the peak of Winter, many people partake in outdoor activities that involve snow. One of those activities is sledding. Sledding involves the use of a sled(or board) to sit on and be pushed down a hill or steep incline. The snow allows the board to travel farther and faster than it would in regular grass. Also, there is the making of Snowmen. An activity that little kids beg to do.

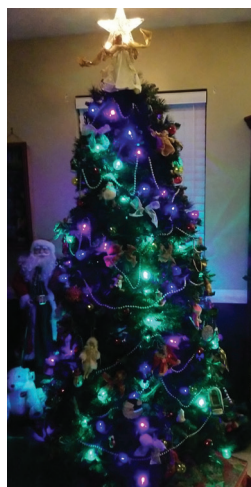
“Sledding and fishing are my favorite activities to do around Christmas time,” junior Chase Reikert said.

In winter, the temperatures usually reaches freezing, which freezes the water over on most lakes and rivers, and fish migrate down to the lower parts of the water to stay warm. To most people, this may seem like a big inconvenience for fishermen and fisher-women. However, this is just a minor setback for them. Fishers must resort to ice fishing. Ice fishing involves the regular action

of fishing, except fishermen must make a hole in the ice to fish through. It is important for the fishermen to know how thick the ice is, so they know whether or not they can walk on it. This formation of ice also allows for another activity, ice skating, although that is uncommon around the southern Indiana area. So, ice skating rinks are made artificially. With this, people and families have taken to the ice to skate around at varying speeds. This has also spawned the sport of hockey, which involves skating with a stick and rubber puck. Hockey is now one of America’s most popular sports.

“My favorite thing to do during Christmas is hanging out with friends over Winter Break,” sophomore Bryan Ramirez said.

There is a variety of activities Whether or not you do all of these activities, Christmas is mainly a time to celebrate the year and season with your family. To be thankful for all of the gifts that are given to you everyday and every year. So gather around your tables and Christmas trees, and enjoy Christmas with your families.



A Christmas after being decorated by a family. Photo by Sam Boston

Decorating can be a way to bond with family

by Monica Franklin

As the christmas season is approaching so are the bright, colorful, big and small holiday decorations. As soon as Thanksgiving is over people rush to deck the halls sometimes even before, Turkey day ends. Not only do households decorate for the holidays, but so do communities.

“My experience at the Charlestown lights was very good it was cold but I had a great experience for it being my first time there and what I liked about the lights was the different types of designs they had with the lights and the tons of colors,” senior Mataya Watts said.

There’s Lights Under Louisville and Christmas in Charlestown. These events both have a ceremony were they light up the city the Friday after Thanksgiving. When these events happen people know it is Christmas season and it’s time to decorate their households. You can visit Christmas in Charlestown Monday through Thursday at 6pm to 9pm Friday through Saturday 6pm-10pm.



A house decorated for the holiday season. Photo by Sam Boston

“As people are decorating the house their thinking about the family being together and the warmth and joy that will be arriving shortly,” family member Sara Grubbs said.

There are many people who go all out for Christmas and others keep it simple. When people decorate for christmas they tend to decorate the outside and inside of their house, but this does not apply to everyone. Decorating serves as a great bonding experience with loved ones, as people work together putting up and decorating the tree, accenting all parts of the house, and fighting over who puts the star on top.

“Decorating for the holidays is a lot of work, but it’s a great bonding experience for the family,” freshman Ethan Neal said.

Decorating for the holidays has been a very long tradition to many families and communities. Decorating for the holidays is a way to let everyone know the holidays are coming soon.

Lights Under Louisville offers an unforgettable ride in MegaCavern

by Jessie Stevens



Display at ‘Lights Under Louisville’ event. Taken from www.lightsunderlouisville.com.

Lights under Louisville is a yearly event available only during the holiday season. Families and friends can come together to drive underground to see these legendary Christmas decorations. There are over three million LED lights in this cavern, riding every shadow and illuminating every corner. Starting November 15th through January 4th, the cavern will be opened to show off the lights. For a standard vehicle to pass underground it is a \$27 fee.

While in the car, you can look at lights from all sides of the vehicle. The Louisville Mega Cavern is 17 miles of underground passageways, which is a 30 minute ride through the Cavern. Despite the car ride, it’s still worth it because you get to see all kinds of Christmas art that will be exciting for the whole family. Some of the lights are dangling from the ceiling while others are on the ground. The lights can create holiday figures like Santa Claus and his reindeer or even make pretty Christmas trees.

Besides wrapping presents, making snowmen, and decorating the tree, Lights under Louisville is a great place to have some family time. Going every year with loved ones is a great tradition one can start. This place can be a high demand, but the priceless memories made will make the wait seem almost meaningless.

Climate change is causing droughts on Christmas tree farms

by Julien Caffee



A couple of rows of the many rows of Christmas trees for sale at Martin's Christmas Trees. Photo by Summer Neal

Christmas trees are, if not the most iconic symbol of the Christmas holiday. Unfortunately, lately there has been a dramatic decrease in the production of real Christmas trees and farmers are blaming it on the climatic changes the world is facing at the moment.

"I used to have a real Christmas tree, but we got rid of it because of its unstableness and because they're very hard to find," said Freshman, Monica Franklin.

The pricing of real Christmas trees have skyrocketed in the past few years. The prices have nearly doubled since 2008, with the cost now being around \$78 for just one Christmas tree. Many who buy the real deal are now switching to the fake trees because of the huge price increase. The cause of it has to do with a drought, in fact the worst drought of real trees since 2012 when finding real trees was the rarest occurrence besides good deals on Black Friday. This is a huge problem for

some farmers because these people live off of the money that they receive from selling the trees. This is making many farmers distressed and angry, they want their money, and they'll do whatever it takes to get the green paper in their wallets.

"I have a fake Christmas Tree because it's easier for my

family and it's better

than to just have to cut down a real one every year," said Sophomore Summer Neal.

According to NBC, the number of Christmas tree farms in Oregon have dropped from 614 in 2012, to 382 in 2018. The reason for this is unknown, but because of the warm climate that the pine tree needs to live in for growth and development, farmers blame climate change and global warming for the drought. Climate change is a big factor for many things affecting the world on a global scale and could be the biggest factor for these shortages across the nation. Farmers have no idea on how they can stop this, but few have suggested growing the pine trees during the spring since the temperatures are appropriate

for the pine tree's needs.

"I had planted about 600 trees, but I lost half of them due to the drought," according to the Courier Journal, Elizabeth Werkmister, a local Christmas Tree seller in Louisville, said.

This impact however, doesn't plan to affect Elizabeth as she plans to at least have 315-320 trees ready and sold within a few weeks after she opens her supply up for sale. Many say that because of this incident, Elizabeth isn't the only farmer affected in Southern Indiana and Kentucky that are being affected by this drought. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, there are around

5,000 tree farms in the region and around 20 million to 30 million pine trees grown around the area.

"Personally, I haven't put up a Christmas Tree in a long time, because of my cat always trying to climb up on the tree and make it her territory. So now I just stick with the decorative Christmas Tree I have in my car," freshman seminar teacher Serina Dierfeldt said.

Everywhere across the nation, pine tree farmers are being affected by this drought that is killing the trees. Many are blaming climate change with no way to solve it. Some think about planting the sprouts earlier, many plan to do

so. Until a solution is found, many might turn to using a fake tree in their homes. The fate of real trees are unknown, only time will tell.



Pine Trees at dusk for sale at Martin's Christmas Trees. Photo by Summer Neal

Reflecting upon some important events during past year

by Taylor Crain

Advancing to a new decade, 2019 is soon to come to an end. To celebrate the end of another year, it is important to recognize the major impacts that us - as humans face around the world.

The Christchurch Mosque Terror Attacks: On March 15th, in Christchurch, New Zealand suffered two consecutive terrorist attacks. Inspired by white supremacy, the perpetrator started firing at the Al Noor Mosque, where he killed 42 people. The suspect continued to the Linwood Islamic Center, where he killed 7, while two later died at Christchurch hospital.

The First Picture of a Black Hole: On April 10th, the Event Horizon Telescope captured the first ever image of a black hole. This was a breakthrough for scientists, as we have never had the ability to do so.

The Notre Dame Cathedral Fire: At around 6pm, on April 15, 2019, a structure fire ignited beneath the roof of Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, France. No one was killed, however hundreds of years of historical artifacts were lost in the fire.

Sri Lanka Church Bombing: On Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019, 259 people were killed after three Sri Lankan luxury hotels and three Sri Lankan churches in Colombo suffered a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings. Then, smaller explosions

occurred at a housing complex and a guest house in different cities.

Avengers: Endgame: Being the conclusion to 2018's Infinity War, Avengers: Endgame became the first film to reach over 1 billion dollars in the box office during its opening weekend on April 26, 2019.

Amazon Rainforest Fires: In the summer of 2019, Brazil's Amazon Rainforest, home to around three million species, saw an incredible surge in forest fires. The forest fires peaked around August, with nearly 73,000 fires.

US Women's Soccer Team Wins The World Cup: Mid summer 2019, the United States Women's Soccer Team won their fourth title.

The Area 51 Raid: A Facebook event made late June of 2019, rallied the call to action to "Storm Area 51 on September 20th." After going viral, 2 million people said that they were going, however about 150 actually showed up.

Hurricane Dorian: During the first weekend of September, category 5 storm Hurricane Dorian hit the northern Bahamas, continuing to Florida and through the East Coast before settling in Canada. 70,000 people were left

without shelter and 45 people died.

The Joker Movie: Starring Joaquin Phoenix, The Joker became the first R-rated film to pass 1 billion dollars in the box office. The psychological thriller, released on October 4th, became the 6th highest grossing movie of 2019.

Death of Juice Wrld: On December 8th, 2019, 21 year old rapper Juice Wrld, known personally as Jarad Higgins, died of a seizure after landing his private jet in Chicago, Illinois. He was known for his songs 'Lucid Dreams', and 'All Girls are the Same'.

Lil Nas X: After releasing his already popular single 'Old Town Road', a remixed version of Lil Nas X's song featuring Billy Ray Cyrus won MTV video music awards Song of the Year. Not only that, but also many nominations and it went Diamond.

2019 brought many tragedies, victories, and successes. Defining 2019 is essential to learning from our progress. A new year upon us invites the possibilities of brighter futures and more accomplishments. As the decade ends, it's valid to remember the importance of what can impact our generation.

