

# THE ROCK LIMITLESS

The Student-Run Magazine of Trinity Christian Academy



Vol. 16, No.1 Spring 2018  
Illustration by Lindsay Bartol



Cover design by Lindsay Bartol

The ROCK magazine is published once a year (in April or May) by Trinity Christian Academy, 17001 Addison Road, Addison, Texas 75001, for distribution to TCA students and friends of the school. Volume 16, number 1, the spring 2018 issue of *The ROCK* was designed and produced by the 2017-18 ROCK staff.

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*The ROCK* magazine staff is comprised of TCA Upper School students. Students join *The ROCK* at the beginning of the school year, usually in September, and meet regularly throughout the school year during off periods and outside of school to discuss, decide and execute the magazine's theme, article topics, writing, editing, photography, design and layout. Staffers submit articles for inclusion in each year's issue and also judge/select when there is a call for Middle School and Lower School art and writing submissions for a particular story.

If you have feedback, ideas or suggestions for *The ROCK* or would be interested in being a writer, photographer, or designer for the next school year, please contact Kendall Ellis, TCA publications coordinator and *The ROCK* sponsor, at [kellis@trinitychristian.org](mailto:kellis@trinitychristian.org).

Einstein. Rosa Parks. Ghandi. C.S. Lewis. Hitchcock.

All of these heroes had at least one thing in common: *ambition*.

Whether it was writing great novels, fighting for civil rights, testing

inventions, or creating movies, these icons all pushed the *limits* in

their fields, making them some of the most revered names in history.

But, every Ghandi has to start somewhere. It could be on the streets

of India, in a small German town, in an overcrowded bus, or, maybe,

it's in the halls of TCA. For this edition of *The ROCK*, the staff sought

out not only modern-day game changers from all over the world,

but also the potential world shakers of our own community—our

fellow students. So, keep your eye out—the next president, Nobel

Prize winner, Oscar nominee, or Rhodes scholar could be right next

to you. Maybe it's your lab partner, your class president, your best

friend, your teammate, or, maybe, it's you.

—Georgia Ballou

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# Student Entrepreneurs

by Emily Floyd

Business Owner. Not many people would use this title to describe a high-school student.

Most are marked by their athletics, academics, and fine arts, not having room in their schedules to put their focus and time into something else. Despite this, we found and interviewed a small group of TCA students that have made the time to start their own businesses, making jewelry, selling custom-made products, and doing handy-work jobs. Here is their rookie advice on how to conquer the difficult task of running a business.



Photography by Brielle Stein

# CURBS & CASTONE

Noah Miller



Noah Miller, TCA junior, is the owner of a company called Curbs and Castone, where he repaints address numbers on curbs and redoing castone and mailboxes. He was inspired to start his business by Jack Chapel, a Canadian entrepreneur on social media. Wanting to find a good way to invest some of his money, Noah watched a video by Chapel, where he talked about stocks and investing. "He led me to reason that . . . if you have a couple hundred bucks or a thousand dollars left over, you want to put that in yourself more than investments." At the time, Noah was working for another entrepreneur, doing jobs that didn't satisfy him and not making the money that he was hoping to make. He soon realized that, in work, "you're either making someone else's dream come true, or you're making your own dream come true." Desiring to do his own thing in any way possible, he learned about business ownership and entrepreneurship. He grew to like the idea of owning a business because he knew that he would be able to control his outcome, unlike working for another person. In mid-July 2017, Noah became the owner of Curbs and Castone.

So far, his business has been very successful, as he has managed to make a lot of money and control his revenue and expenses very well. "I would say that it's very successful from what I wanted to accomplish from it," he explains. "I didn't plan on making this 'the business' that I work on for ten years. Thankfully, this company was just one that actually got me to understand how businesses work. You need to learn how to build a business before you follow your passion."

As far as managing his time, Noah believes that "you have three hours in a day to do whatever you want, . . . and you could start a company. Most of the time, people won't use this." He points out that many people easily spend 15 minutes on Facebook or Instagram multiple times a day. He thinks that if someone wanted to start a business, that time would be better spent using social media to grow that business and not for the sake of scrolling through other users' feeds. "You've got at least three hours, and it's up to you how you want to use it." He believes that if you want to create a company, then go for it, but you've got to have a reason and be committed. "You [also] can't just be committed based on short motivation. . . It has to be for a deeper reason. It can't just be for your own gain. It has to be more than that." He also recommends that future entrepreneurs be "honest with yourself of what you want to accomplish."

*You're either making someone else's dream come true, or you're making your own dream come true . . .*



Not so good at handy-work? Don't worry, we found a group of students who use their athletic talents to benefit the community through their non-profit organization. Junior Robert Rowland launched his West Dallas tennis camp on October 14, 2017, with the help of his TCA varsity tennis teammates, Abby Muschalek and Grant De Paoli. Their non-profit youth tennis camp, which meets on the first Saturday of each month, teaches kids in West Dallas between the ages of six and ten the basic rules, skills, and techniques of playing tennis. Robert came up with the idea in June as a way to use tennis to help others. "Basically, I don't have very many skills in regard to certain things . . . but I do know how to play tennis," he says. "I've had many years of coaching, so I know the procedure of how to teach someone." To help start his camp, Robert contacted a community service center called Brother Bill's Helping Hands. Brother Bill's handed out camp flyers to kids "that have never touched a ball or racket before, giving them an opportunity that they never would've had." With used tennis rackets and balls from donations, they have been teaching kids with no tennis experience, using drills from their very own practices.

As far as balancing their tennis camp with school, they have found it fairly easy to do so: "Since we only do it once a month, it's not a super difficult task; I have a lot of time between each [lesson] to get things organized and figured out," says Robert. They encourage other TCA students to use their sport as a business or a way to benefit the community. "If you have a good idea that you think would work, then go ahead and try it," suggests Robert. Abby agrees that "it's such a fun way to use the gifts we've been given, but, at the same time, it's also fun because we're doing it with each other." Grant also implores students to create their own business because "if you are focused and really want to do it, and it's not just to make yourself look good, then why not do it?"

## WEST DALLAS TENNIS CAMP

*Robert Rowland, Grant DePaoli, Abby Muschalek*

# BELLALA

*Bella Correa*

Ever thought of starting a custom design company? Bella Correa, junior and owner of "Bellala," decided to do so herself. In her business, formerly called "Euphoria Designs," Bella uses her artistic abilities to make ornaments, phone cases, shoes, and other trinkets. For several years, Bella had wanted to start her own business—she was just unsure of the type of business to create. The inspiration for Bellala finally came in December of 2015 when she went to see *Finding Neverland* on Broadway in New York. Once she got home, she "really wanted to draw show logos on ornaments." So, she found a couple of spares and began to doodle on them with sharpies—something she found to be "super easy and fun." She soon began to sell her trinkets at shows in which she performed at her local theater. Soon, parents, who wanted keepsakes from their children's performances, fell in love with her artistry and purchased her products.

What really helped evolve her company, though, was Mrs. Jackson's HIT class's business project during freshman year. Here, she was taught how to run and manage her business. In the summer of 2017, she decided to start her own website in order to reach a larger variety of clientele. Her new website, *bellala.net*, includes all of the products she sells, as well as her new logo. Besides selling ornaments and mugs, Bella also now sells canvases, shoes, and phone cases—all with handmade designs. The pricing for her custom-made products varies based on the item and the time it takes to design: "I have a base price, and usually if it takes more than a certain number of hours, I will add on."

So far, her business has been a success, although she admits that it is sometimes hard to manage while keeping up with school at the same time. "I just have learned that school comes first, and business comes second," she says. "During breaks is usually when I like to stock up on designs." Bella urges other students at TCA to start their own business, mostly for the experience that can be gained and the pleasure of doing what you love. "If there's something that you love to do, and you could make money doing it, it's kind of a win-win. But, if it's something that you think of like a chore, then there's no fun in it. The most important thing is doing something that you enjoy."





Most girls have experienced the stress of styling their hair just right and having the perfect amount of makeup for school dances. Luckily, TCA seniors Cassidy Ellison and Ramie Rice founded a traveling hair and makeup company, CHARM Co., to take away all of the worry surrounding the treacherous task of getting ready for special occasions, ranging from prom to senior pictures. "This way, people aren't stressed about going to a salon, getting pricy, overdone makeup, and having to redo it; we know what girls our age want to see, making it easier to customize looks," says Cassidy. They had always been skilled at makeovers; this business just "gave us a fun way to make money while doing something that we're good at," says Caroline Pino, who joined CHARM Co. in August.

Previous to opening the business, Ramie had two and a half years of experience working at Sweet & Sassy, a company that does complete makeovers for little girls. Cassidy and Caroline were also experts in all things hair and makeup because girls in their grade would always call on them whenever there was a special occasion. Soon, they chose the name "CHARM," an acronym for "Cassidy's Hair And Ramie's Makeup," and in early 2017, Cassidy and Ramie officially launched their website and Instagram, opening doors to more than just TCA girls. By homecoming, appointments were already being booked by girls at neighboring high schools, like Pearce, Shelton, and Plano West. On dance days, Ramie and Cassidy usually work as a team, splitting about twelve appointments, while Caroline does both hair and makeup for about five to seven people. Though beautifying friends is fun, Ramie adds that one of her favorite aspects of CHARM is "Instagram advertising and photoshoots, which we do all ourselves." One goal of CHARM Co., explains Caroline, is to "enhance the beauty that you already have; most hair and makeup places want to make artwork out of you—we just want to enhance."

Due to the success of their company, Cassidy, Ramie, and Caroline have learned essential lessons. Ramie advises future student entrepreneurs, "Don't push yourself too far. Do what you are comfortable with at first, and then you can always add more. That's what we're doing." To end, Cassidy reminds student entrepreneurs "not to be scared to start something because, in the end, you're not doing it for them, you're doing it for yourself and to help others."

## CHARM CO.

Cassidy Ellison, Ramie Rice, Caroline Pino

# HELLO BELLA

Kjirsta Olson

Kjirsta Olsen, ninth-grader at TCA, started a jewelry making business in 2016. Her company, known as "Hello Bella," involves making and selling cute, affordable chokers and necklaces for girls. Kjirsta began by selling her elastic, beaded jewelry to friends at school. As more and more people bought her products, she began to think of ways in which she could grow her business. She "started to go to jewelry stores and buy higher-end supplies" to find inspiration for her pieces and feed her creative side.

Recently, her main flow of customers has come from friends who want jewelry for about \$12-\$25, but she has also gained some business from clients in other cities through her Etsy account, which she started this summer. In creating this account, she opened her store to more than just her community, meaning she now had to learn how to manage packaging and shipping. Although she says that her new necklaces take more time to make due to their higher quality, Kjirsta does not find it too difficult to handle her school work along with the success of her business. "It's not too hard to keep up with during the year," she explains. "I put school first, I'd say." Kjirsta strongly advises finding "something that you enjoy so that you don't get tired of it, and be creative in your own way even if people don't buy your [merchandise] at first." She also tells prospective student business owners not to worry about what people think of your business as long as "you're doing what you enjoy."



## INSPIRED?

Inspired to create your own business, now? Well, you have to start somewhere, so we compiled the three most important and helpful pieces of advice given by TCA's young entrepreneurs:

1. Doing something that you are passionate about is crucial, and, fortunately, there are endless ways to turn a talent or passion into a business.
2. Don't be afraid of failure, either. One of the biggest factors that keeps potential entrepreneurs from creating a company is the fear that their idea will crash and burn. If you are going to dive in and form a business, then you should be all-in!
3. Lastly, don't be afraid to ask for help from others, whether it is from current business owners or just reliable friends. Trustworthy advice can help take the pressure and stress away, as well as provide insight.

# SUMMER JOB INTERVIEWS

While most TCA students were vacationing on the beach, lounging on the couch, or getting a head-start on their summer reading, this group of high-schoolers was selling clothes, rescuing children, or toiling long hours at the golf course. We asked several of these dedicated students to tell us about their summer jobs. Here's what we found out.

by Courtney Fish and Grace Lee

## Catherine Josephs

Kidswap Store Employee

### *How did you apply for the job?*

I walked around Snider Plaza in Highland Park and found a store with a "work wanted" sign. I walked in, filled out an application, and got the job right there basically.

### *What was the worst part about the job?*

Little kids would come in and start playing with things without buying them (and they would keep pressing the buttons on toys).

### *What did you learn from this job?*

Since I had to actually try to sell merchandise and interact with customers, I got better at talking to people and approaching strangers.



## Emily Floyd

Lifeguard at Gleneagle Country Club

### *What did you learn from this job?*

I think the job got me ready for the future by making me deal with coworkers and managers, so I got to know how a real job worked.

### *What was your favorite memory from the job?*

Jumping off the slides after Thursday drill, or competing in the fun swim meet against the other lifeguards.

### *How did you apply for the job?*

I got certified for lifeguarding and called to have an interview. I was interviewed twice before I got the job!



## Avery Gann

Top Golf Associate

### *Were there any really fun days?*

There was one day when it started pouring rain, and people were probably sleeping at home. So, for four or five hours we played ring toss with a golf bag and a hula hoop on the stairs.

### *What did you learn from this job?*

We learned how to communicate and take care of people through cooperation. There is also no hierarchy at Top Golf; the first priority is the guests.

### *What was the most difficult part about the job?*

I expected five hour shifts, but on Saturdays I sometimes got hours from 7 AM to 6 PM which was not fun.



Photography by Kennedy Mason



# FASHION FLASHBACKS

by Erin Clay

To wear, or not to wear? That is the question. Fashion designers throughout the ages have used their creations to express their individuality and the spirit of the times. Although all fashion is well-intentioned, some trends should have been left in the designer's sketchbook. Let's take a moment to remember the questionable successes of some of these very trends.

The disco decade—the 70s—brought the infamous bell bottoms. These extreme bootcut pants—worn by both men and women—were an extension of the 60s' hippy attire. This fashion begs the question: What's wrong with ankles? Was the disco decade also a time of ankle-haters? Is there something that we should know? Sorry, folks, but those ultra-wide bell bottoms were a mistake.

The 1980s was the big-hair, colorful-makeup, and punk-music decade. Fashion designers focused on extremes. Big hair? Why not big shoulders? Every jacket, blazer, and cardigan had

"hidden" pads in the shoulders that made the wearer look like a gladiator wannabe. Was the 80s a decade of shoulder haters? First the ankles, now the shoulders!

Let's be honest, the 90s was the decade of *Friends*. Whatever they wore, everyone else wore. That means an era of denim: denim jackets, denim jeans, denim shirts, and—straight from the farm—denim overalls. Denim head-to-toe was somehow socially acceptable. Was there an accidental overproduction of denim, and the world had to find ways to use up all the product?

Wedges sneakers, Bieber hair, rhinestone jeans—we are all experiencing the current fashion trends! Calling out modern fashion fails could evoke a reader's wrath, so we'll leave that for someone else. As for future fashionistas, designers are developing massive innovations in the fashion world, and we anticipate the crazy future trends to come. Just keep in mind, today's fashion trends could be tomorrow's amusing regrets.

Illustration by Lindsay Bartol

**MR. HARMON AS THE KING**



**MRS. PARR AS ALICE**



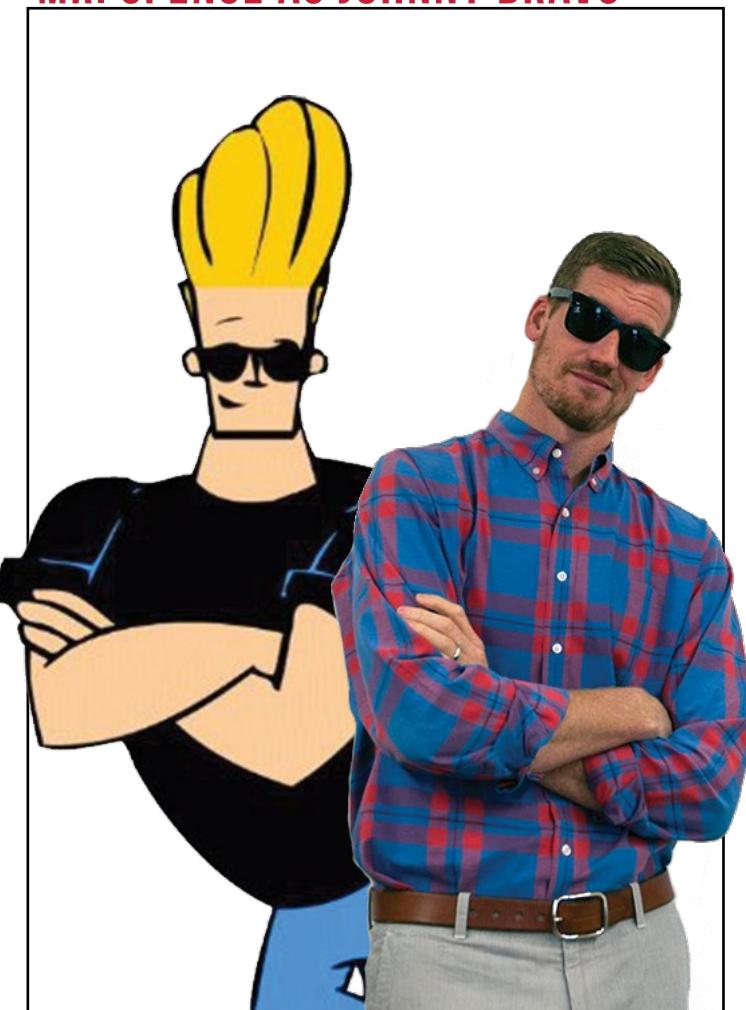
**MRS. HALL AS EDNA MODE**



**MR. DYER AS THE LORAX**



**MR. SPENCE AS JOHNNY BRAVO**



**MRS. KILPATRICK AS JANE**



Photography by Savannah Sims

**IF OUR TEACHERS  
WERE CARTOONS...**

# HIGH TECH CITIES

by Michelle Lee

*Star Wars. Tomorrowland. The Avengers. Even Zootopia.* All of these mainstream movies take place in futuristic cities that have extremely advanced technology, like holograms, space crafts, talking animals, and opulent buildings. What if we told you that these ultramodern entities were already out there? In the cities of Seoul and Dubai, architecture and machinery are progressing at such a rapid rate that within the next several years, talking animals might be the only thing not yet developed.



## Seoul, South Korea

Seoul—the music, fashion, and economic capital of South Korea—is situated on the Han River, mixing a fusion of pop culture and modern skyscrapers with historical monuments and street-side markets. Traditionally marked by its Gyeongbukgung Palace and Namsan Tower, the city's recent architectural developments have become some of Seoul's greatest attractions.

### The Dongdaemun Design Plaza

As the growth in population of Asian countries continues, the popularity of multi-use buildings and skyscrapers has risen in order to save space and prevent unnecessary transportation. Likewise, the Dongdaemun Design Plaza serves not only as Seoul's fashion landmark but also as an architectural tourist attraction with its walkable rooftop park.

### Seoullo 7017 Skygarden

The Seoullo 7017 Skygarden is a repurposed highway overpass, home to about 24,000 plants and 230 species. This pro-green walkway is the perfect example of an innovative and recreational spot with its lined path of fun stops, like a trampoline playground, mini-stage, mini-theater, rose garden, and cafes. As a relaxing and nature-filled detour in the center of an urban city, it is the ideal destination for anyone seeking rest or a little entertainment.



# Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Dubai—envisioned by many as the future capital of the world's business and commerce—rests on the tip of the Arabian Peninsula. The Burj Khalifa, the tallest skyscraper in the world, resides next to the Dubai Fountain and Dubai Mall. It rises from the center of the city and towers significantly above the rest of the Dubai skyline. Below the enormous skyscraper sits the Dubai Fountain, attracting pedestrians with its various graceful formations. Shooting water up to 500 feet in the air, and dancing alongside many world-famous tracks, the fountain showcases the beauty of choreographed water systems.



## Palm Jumeirah Island

Another of the city's luxuries is the Burj Al Arab, an extravagant hotel designed after a sailboat. Suiting the high-end nature of Dubai, this hotel is expanding to the Persian Gulf with the construction of Dubai's manmade Palm and World Islands—opulent ocean-front residences for wealthy guests. One of the three palm islands built for leisure, the Palm Jumeirah also accommodates fun tourist sites and villas. Using its recent financial boom to build elaborate structures, Dubai is filled with places that display its financial prosperity.

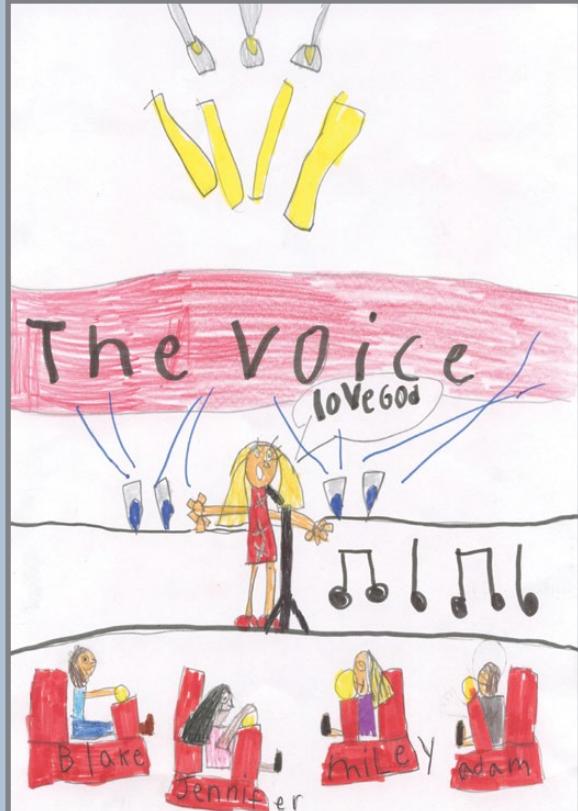


# **LOWER SCHOOL ART CONTEST**

*The ROCK* held an art contest for Lower School students, asking them to draw a picture of their future dream job using whatever media they wanted. Winners were chosen based upon the following categories: most creative, most artistic, overall best, and writer's choice. *The ROCK* staff was thoroughly impressed by the talent and ambition of these young students. Thank you to all of the little future teachers, pop stars, and veterinarians who participated!

*by Landry Hayes and Haleigh Brown*

**MOST CREATIVE**  
by Preslee Eastep, Kindergarten  
"Rainbow Tree"



**WRITER'S CHOICE**  
by Kinslee Hayes, Kindergarten  
"Share the Gospel on 'The Voice'"

# What do *you* want to be when you GROW UP?

## BEST OVERALL

by Hannah Applewhite, 3rd Grade  
"Kindergarten Teacher"



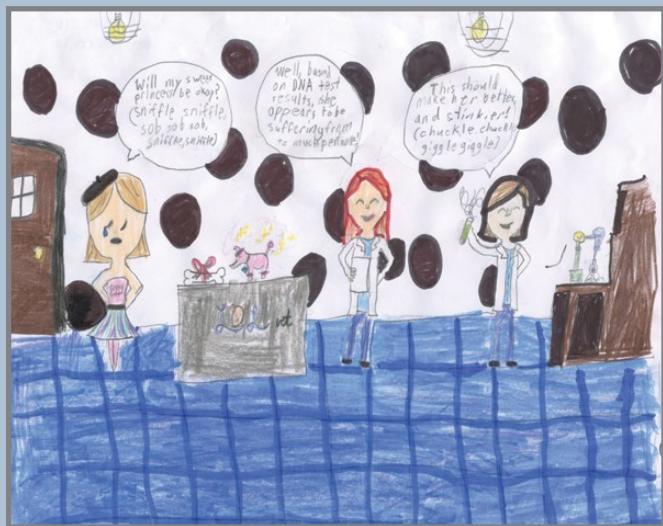
## MOST ARTISTIC

by Caydia Estrada, 2nd Grade  
"Artist"



## 2nd BEST

by Greysen McCauley, 2nd Grade  
"Navy or AirForce Officer"



## 3rd BEST

by Olivia Lay, 4th Grade  
"Veterinarian"

# MOODS

By Lauren Lee

## Through the Day

We have all experienced it: the first day back to school after weeks of sleeping in during our relaxing winter break. The midday naps, homework-less nights, and spontaneous hangouts do not last forever, and, before long, we are back, roaming the halls of TCA, cheering at basketball games, and shoveling down our favorite Big Blue snacks. The average student's mood is bound to change dramatically throughout this bittersweet first day back, and we have documented it all right here in seven distinct phases.



Charles Cash, Daniel Jones, Lauren Head, Laney Segert, Rachel O'Brien, and Lindsay Bartol

My dazed, sleep-deprived body wanders into the buzzing halls of Trinity Christian Academy. Walking through the hallways, my eyes scan across a bleary-eyed, sleepy student body. Thirty seconds before class starts, about eighty percent of students are in a rush to avoid tardiness. Around halfway through first period, I'm taking notes or finishing homework while cracking the occasional joke to anyone willing to listen.

FADING DAZE

8:00AM

I suddenly become a vibrant and joyful, high-on-life ball of energy for a solid two hours. The world becomes a happy place filled with unicorns and giggles for everyone. Congratulations to whichever class I have around this time! You get to experience this bubbly side of me. I skip through the hallways and hum somewhat upbeat songs before my pre-lunch angst kicks in. This is the calm before the storm.

DEFINITELY AWAKE

11:00AM

Connor Williams

In the fourth class of the day, my mind drifts off into a lecture-less utopia version of school as I wander through the endless caverns within my imagination. However, my euphoric state is shattered when the thought of food flashes across my mind in bold, red lettering. It is from this point on that my semi-aware, pleasant state of mind dies and is replaced by the monstrosity that most refer to as *hangriness*.

PRE-LUNCH ANGST

(HUNGRINESS, PART 1)

11:40AM

# 12:45PM

## LUNCH: FEAST OR FAMINE?

I feel the giddiness of a small child on Christmas morning. The time where I can eat has finally arrived. Whether it's an actual meal in the lunchroom or a snack from Big Blue, food is always a necessity at this time of day. As said in the ultimate childhood TV show, *Yo Gabba-Gabba*, "There's a party in my tummy!"

Alayna Weyandt



# 2:00PM

## FOOD COMA

I always fall into a post-lunch food coma no matter how much or how little I ate that day. I float back into the absentminded pre-lunch state of mind. Side-effects include, but are not limited to, drooping eyelids and spilling water all over my desk. This occasionally attracts the unwanted attention of fellow students in the nearby cluster.

Laney Segert



Kennedy Hatton, Bryn Barringer, and Parker Blackburn

# 3:15PM

## HUNGRINESS, PART 2

The final installment of my mood at school comes right before the day ends, and my returning appetite becomes obvious as I mention how hungry I am to everyone around. While excitedly running through potential dinner options in my head, I hear my name called by my wonderful teacher, and I rack my brain for any answers related to the topic at hand.

School has finally come to an end, and I am overjoyed to go home and sleep. The first day back after break is always a long one. Exhaustion slaps me in the face as I drag myself into my house. Immediately, the lists of homework and tests to study for flash before my eyes. One question runs through my mind: to do homework, or to procrastinate for hours? Much to my chagrin, homework defeats the procrastination. I blast some upbeat music to motivate me for the hours to come.

## HOME AT LAST 5:00PM

Photography by Georgia Ballew and Avery Gann

# DAD JOKES

- "Orion's belt is a huge waist of space."  
"Sorry, that wasn't a great joke. I'd give it three stars."
- Me: "Man, could I eat a quesadilla right now!"  
Dad: "A whole case? Why don't you just start with one dilla and see how you feel from there?"
- "How do locomotives know where to go?"  
"They go through lots of training."
- "So, why do scuba divers fall backwards out of boats?"  
"Because if they fell forwards they'd still be in the boat."
- "You know, I've always hated elevators. That's why I've recently started taking steps to avoid them."
- "You know, I don't like Russian dolls. They are so full of themselves."
- Dad: "Hey, how's the temperature out there?"  
Me: "It's pretty nice. You only need a jean jacket."  
Dad: "Oh, so it's in the 80s?"
- "My friend just found out that he was dating a communist. He really should have noticed. There were so many red flags."
- "I like to wear leather shoes when I'm sneaking around at night because they are literally made of hide."
- "What time is your dentist appointment?"  
"Tooth hurty."
- "To the man who stole my thesaurus . . . I have no words for how angry I am."
- \*Dad looks intensely at the snow\*  
Me: "What are you doing?"  
Dad: "I'm looking for Will Smith. He always leaves fresh prints."

# IF YOU LIKED H ★ M I L T O N

BY BELLA CORREA

IN 2015 the new Broadway musical, *Hamilton*, took the world by storm. This rap-infused retelling of the ten dollar founding father's life and works has set records, winning countless awards and already warranting productions in Chicago and London, as well as a national tour. The main reason it's so popular is its position as a true game-changer among musicals. Lin-Manuel Miranda knew it was ambitious to write an entire musical—a hip-hop musical, no less—based on the founding fathers as he read Ron Chernow's *Alexander Hamilton* biography on vacation in 2008. However, because of his work, *Hamilton* has revolutionized musical theater, drawing in audiences previously unfamiliar with Broadway shows.

## HAMILTON BY THE NUMBERS

16 Tony Award nominations

11 Tony Award wins

46 songs on the Original Broadway Cast Recording

\$280 average price per ticket

Grosses about \$3 million weekly

1,321 seats at the Richard Rogers Theater (where *Hamilton* plays)

8 Drama Desk Award wins

11 *Broadway.com* Audience Awards

Way too many covers of "The Schuyler Sisters"

## IF YOU LIKED HAMILTON . . .

*Hamilton* has inspired many new shows to similarly take risks—whether with music choice, subject matter, or casting. If you enjoyed *Hamilton*, here are some other musicals you should definitely check out. (Parents of Lower School students: Please check out some more detailed reviews of these musicals to decide if you think the content, themes and language are appropriate for your son or daughter.)

# DEAR EVAN HANSEN

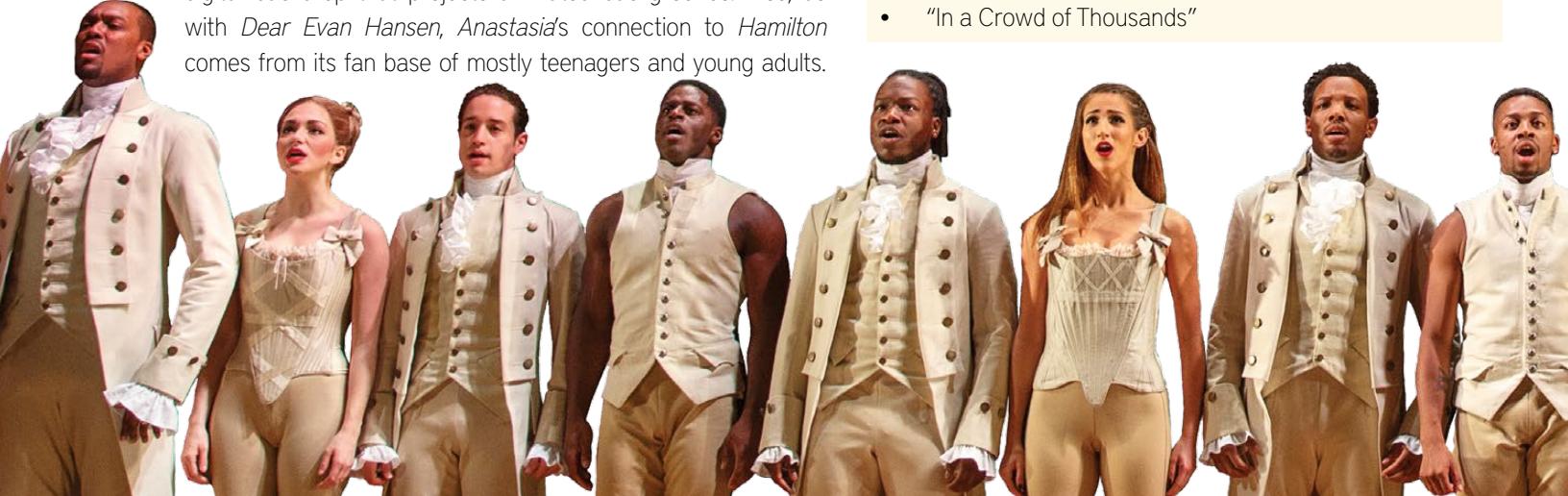
Premiering on Broadway in the fall of 2016, this show centers around Evan Hansen, a teen with severe social anxiety who struggles to get by. When classmate Connor Murphy passes away, Evan pretends to have been Connor's friend to comfort the grieving parents. Establishing "The Connor Project" to support all students and give them a voice, Evan soon finds himself drifting away from his old friends and toward Connor's sister Zoe—with whom he's been infatuated for years. As the lies begin to pile on, Evan grows trapped, wondering if he'll "ever make a sound."

*Dear Evan Hansen* features a simplistically beautiful acoustic score composed by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, famous for writing the music of *La La Land*. Both *Hamilton* and *Dear Evan Hansen* are well known for resonating particularly well with teenagers—*Hamilton* for its rap music, *Hansen* for its relatable characters and themes—and sweeping the Tony Awards in their respective seasons—although *Hansen*'s 6 wins pale in comparison to *Hamilton*'s 11. Most importantly, both shows have important overarching themes that are so well-driven thanks to complex characters and thoughtful lyrics: *Hansen* focuses on no one being alone, and *Hamilton* focuses on the importance of one's legacy.

# ANASTASIA

Based on the animated film, *Anastasia* centers on a legend about the Grand Duchess Anastasia Romanov. Anya is an amnesiac orphan living in 1927 St. Petersburg, Russia. Dashing conman Dmitry and his friend Vlad Popov—eager to find the missing princess Anastasia and collect the massive reward for doing so—find Anya to be the perfect fake. After teaching her how to impersonate Anastasia, they take her to Paris to meet the Dowager Empress and earn their prize. However, the ruthless young Bolshevik general Gleb Vagonov pursues them all the while, torn between his feelings for Anya and his desire to follow in his father's footsteps and silence the last trace of the Romanov line. Through her journey, Anya slowly remembers her past and is eventually found to actually be the long-lost Anastasia.

Opening on Broadway early 2017, *Anastasia* is one of Broadway's hottest new shows. Although its score isn't much like *Hamilton*'s, the shows have several similarities artistically: both feature intricate period costumes and uniquely minimalist sets—*Hamilton* has its balcony and iconic rotating stage, and *Anastasia* has no set, relying on an entirely digital backdrop that projects animated backgrounds. Also, as with *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Anastasia*'s connection to *Hamilton* comes from its fan base of mostly teenagers and young adults.



## Stars:

**Ben Platt**, already well known for playing Benji in the *Pitch Perfect* movies, originated the role of the titular character. He earned practically unceasing acclaim for his performance, earning a Tony for Best Actor in a Leading Role and receiving the honor of meeting Beyoncé after one of the shows which is the ultimate sign of success.

## Bops:

You can't go wrong with this show's soundtrack, but some personal favorites are:

- "Waving Through a Window"
- "For Forever"
- "Requiem"
- "If I Could Tell Her"
- "You Will Be Found"
- "Good For You"

## Stars:

The stars of *Anastasia* are best known for impressive resumes on the stage. **Christy Altomare**—Wendla in the 1st National Tour of *Spring Awakening* and Sophie in *Mamma Mia* on Broadway—originated the role of Anya, **Derek Klena**—Fiyero in the 10th anniversary cast of *Wicked* on Broadway—originated the role of Dmitry, and **Ramin Karimloo**—Enjolras in the 25th Anniversary concert of *Les Misérables* and Jean Valjean in its 2014 Broadway revival, the title role in *The Phantom of the Opera*'s 25th Anniversary Production—originated the role of Gleb.

## Bops:

The show's soundtrack features several memorable songs from the film, as well as 16 new songs:

- "Learn to Do It"
- "My Petersburg"
- "Once Upon a December"
- "Still"
- "Journey to the Past"
- "In a Crowd of Thousands"

# FINDING NEVERLAND

Inspired by the 2004 film of the same name, *Finding Neverland* tells the story of how the beloved classic, *Peter Pan*, was written. Playwright J.M. Barrie, lost in a writer's block, finds inspiration unexpectedly in young widow Sylvia Llewelyn Davies and her four sons. All are instantly enchanted by Barrie's whimsical ideas and creativity—except for the isolated Peter. As Barrie begins to write again, creating a play with flying children and boys who never grow up, he is rejected by his embarrassed wife Mary, his skeptical producer Charles Frohman, and Sylvia's overbearing mother Mrs. du Maurier. However, with the encouragement of his newly created character, Captain Hook, Barrie completes his play, falling in love with Sylvia and connecting with Peter along the way.

*Finding Neverland* opened in March 2015—only a few months before *Hamilton*. Like *Hamilton*, *Finding Neverland* is a period piece with modern music—in this case, pop; both shows also have accompanying albums featuring popular artists singing songs from the show: *Hamilton* has *The Hamilton Mixtape*, and *Finding Neverland* has *Finding Neverland the Album*, featuring Zendaya, Nick Jonas, Christina Aguilera, Pentatonix, and more.

## IN THE \*\*\* HEIGHTS

The O.G. Lin-Manuel Miranda show, *In the Heights*, centers around neighbors living in the barrio of Washington Heights, New York City. *Bodega* (store) owner, Usnavi, leads this ensemble cast as they face success—one character wins a \$96,000 lottery, and the lead characters all end up with their respective love interests—and loss—Nina drops out of Stanford after being overwhelmed, so her father sells his business to pay full tuition for her. In the end, the message shines through that home is not about where you were born, but where your loved ones are.

The blatantly obvious similarity between this show and *Hamilton* is the fact that both were written by the same person. Lin-Manuel Miranda wrote the music and lyrics for *In the Heights*, also originating the role of Usnavi. Like in *Hamilton*, there's plenty of rap and hip-hop, but Miranda also uses a lot of incredible Latin music. There are plenty of Spanish lyrics too; several song titles are in Spanish, like "No Me Diga" ("You Don't Say"), "Paciencia y Fe" ("Patience and Faith"), and "Intúíl" ("Useless"). Even though Miranda will probably always be regarded as the creator of *Hamilton*, *In the Heights* is another fantastic show of his that deserves just as much praise.

### Stars:

Glee star **Matthew Morrison** (Mr. Schue) played J.M. Barrie, film and TV star **Kelsey Grammer** originated the role of Charles Frohman, and **Carolee Carmello**—Broadway star of *Falsettos*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Addams Family*, and more—played the role of Mrs. du Maurier.

### Bops:

- "Believe"
- "All That Matters"
- "Stronger"
- "What You Mean to Me"
- "We're All Made of Stars"
- "When Your Feet Don't Touch the Ground"  
(Get out the tissues.)

### Stars:

Besides the man **Lin-Manuel Miranda** himself, other *Hamilton* stars include **Christopher Jackson**—a.k.a. the original George Washington and riff king—originating the role of Benny, **Mandy Gonzalez**—who currently plays Angelica Schuyler on Broadway—originating the role of Nina, and **Karen Olivo** (pictured seven from the right)—who played Angelica Schuyler in the Chicago production of *Hamilton*—originating the role of Vanessa. Notable cast replacements include **Corbin Bleu** as Usnavi and **Jordin Sparks** as Nina.

### Bops:

The lyrics—particularly the rap verses—in this show are just as thoughtful as those of *Hamilton*, but the true star of the show is the music.

- "In The Heights"
- "It Won't Be Long Now"
- "96,000"
- "Blackout"
- "Champagne"



by molly grace beddingfield and gracy watts . . .

JAN 27

## gucci

Stylish, expensive.

*My outfit was the essence of Gucci glamor.*

by **Mrs. Azzi (US)** November 3, 2017

Something expensive.

*When they dress, it's all Gucci. (although my daughter says 'nah fam, we Gucci,' so I really have no clue.)*

by **Mr. Dyer (US)** October 28, 2017

 3930

 1900

JAN 28

## woke

The same as fire: when a student says something in class that he/she thinks is pretty inspired—only to realize that he has just answered the question from 5 minutes ago, and no one is tracking with him.

*Man, I just woked that seminar!*

by **Mr. Saffold (MS)** November 20, 2017

What I did this morning at 5:15 AM and then again after my first cup of coffee.

*I woke this morning feeling refreshed.*

by **Mrs. Legband (US)** September 14, 2017

 158

 100

JAN 30

## basic

Utilitarian necessities.

*A sandwich is my basic lunch on weekdays.*

by **Mrs. Azzi (US)** November 29, 2017

A 'Basic girl'. So, if you're 'basic,' or you do something that's 'basic,' it is something a stereotypical girl would do/like. Most popular examples would be: wearing leggings, oversized tee-shirts, or drinking a pumpkin spice latte.

*She was so very basic wearing her leggings, baggy T, and sipping on a latte.*

by **Mrs. Pownell (LS)** December 11, 2017

In the halls and classrooms of TCA, teachers always hear students using modern, hip words. We interviewed several teachers to see if they could decipher the vocabulary of us teenagers and figure out what we're actually saying . . .

**TCA**  
**DICTIONARY**  
**IS**  
**MADE BY**  
**YOU**



Define a Word

 TWITTER

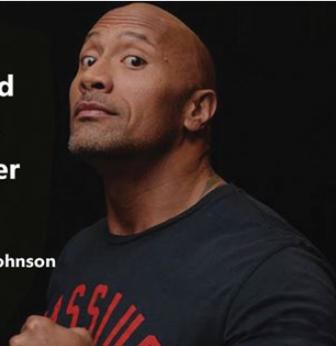
 FACEBOOK

 HELP

 SUBSCRIBE

"Be humble,  
 be hungry and  
 always be the  
 hardest worker  
 in the room."

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson





Cart ▾



JAN 31

## boujee

Boyfriend.

*That's my Boujee. How do you even pronounce this? Is it booyah!!! Bam!!!!*

by Mr. Merrifield (US) January 30, 2018

Similar to stuck up, rich and stereotypical.

*Wow you're drinking your latte and wearing all LuLu Lemon, how boujee can you be?*

by Mrs. Pownell (LS) January 13, 2018

French for boogie.

*I boujee in my dance class.*

by Mrs. Legband (US) December 20, 2017

Money or currency.

*I'm going to need some boujee for the movies.*

by Mrs. Cunningham (LS) October 16, 2017

312

382

JAN 29

## skrt

The sound of burning rubber when you peel out in an automobile.

*Molly was trying to skrt chapel today.*

by Mr. Morrill (US) November 4, 2017

To fail.

*How did I do on that math test? . . . Skrt.*

by Mr. Merrifield (US) October 5, 2017

Norwegian yogurt.

*I ate some skrt with berries this morning.*

by Mr. Saffold (MS) December 2, 2017

When my kids are making fun of my driving.

*Wow dad you skrted out of the parking lot.*

by Mr. Mercer (US) January 18, 2018

331

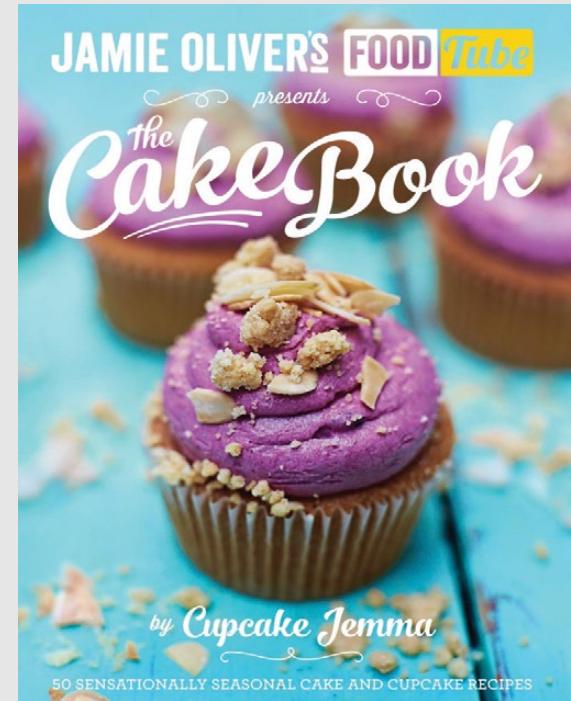
164

**MATTHEW WEST**



ALL IN

NEW ALBUM OUT SOON



# WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A MEME?

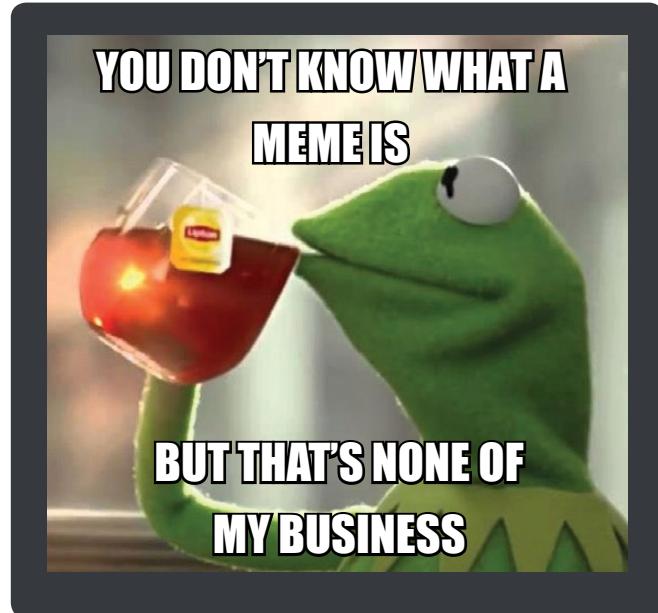
By Ashley McWhorter

What in the world is a meme? Well, we're so glad that you asked. The term "meme" was first coined by British biologist Richard Dawkins in his 1976 book *The Selfish Gene* in which he describes a meme as "a unit of human cultural transmission analogous to the gene," basically meaning a meme replicates itself specifically in terms of its environment, much in the same way a gene does. *Dictionary.com* defines a meme as "a cultural item in the form of an image, video, phrase, etc., that is spread via the Internet and often altered in a creative or humorous way." Okay, now that's accurate but kind of simple. Let's work with these two definitions, as well as our own personal ones to create the true meaning of a meme.

In order to determine what the general population of students and teachers thought in regard to memes, we interviewed some of TCA's finest, asking what, in their definition, a meme was.

Although some have no clue what a meme is, the sample determined that the majority of people think of a meme as a humorous, mysterious, and relatable image or video on the internet.

Think of a meme that you know; Pepe, "but that's none of my business," Doge, and Condescending Wonka were the first that came to mind. Now, try to describe what precise qualities make it a meme. It's tough! So, let's break it down. Take Kermit the Frog's "but that's none of my business" meme, for example. [Here's a version I created specifically for us to analyze:](#)



The fact that I was able to make my own, personal meme out of the popular image demonstrates its memetic properties (yes, *memetic* is a word). So, let's add that to the list of qualities: customizable; evolving over time. Here, Kermit passive-aggressively shuns you for not knowing what a meme is while casually sipping his tea, as if to say "your ignorance is none of my business." This shows the meme's purpose, which is another important quality: intentional; with a point. And finally, this meme, though not this particular derivation, is well-known—its virality is the final factor which makes it, indeed, a meme. So, to recap, a true meme must: evolve over time, contain a message or point, and go viral.

# To quote a few:

## [ - ] Harrison Gossett

"A meme is a dank gif—it's just lit, hype, cool, dank, really."

## [ - ] Mr. List

"I have no idea . . . it is . . . a double me?"

## [ - ] Lauren Head

"There's no definition. It transcends human conceptualization! It's a way that all cultures and humans can connect that exceeds normal communication."

## [ - ] Mrs. Kilpatrick

"A meme is a funny picture that has a funny caption that's clever and timely with the pop culture."

## [ - ] Claire Floyd & Georgia Leeds

"A meme is a picture with a caption that's funny . . . it doesn't make any sense, but it's funny."

## [ - ] Anonymous

"I don't know . . . it's like a joke off of Instagram? I honestly don't know."

## [ - ] Catherine Josephs & Jordan McFarlane

"A meme is a hilarious thing that everyone laughs at, and no one really understands."

Now that you know what a meme is, don't you wonder how they first got started? Aren't you just dying to know what the very first meme was? In all reality, memes—as a form of communicable culture—have been around pretty much forever (think of Kilroy Was Here or the Super S Stussy that everyone used to draw), so I'll just inform you of the first internet memes. What is most agreed upon as the "first meme" is "Baby Cha-Cha-Cha," more commonly called "Dancing Baby." It was created by Michael Girard in 1996 to demonstrate the ability of a computer to program and project movement. The video features a baby dancing around to the song "Oogachaka" for twenty-five seconds. And that, accidentally, became the first internet meme. One of the next popular early memes is "All Your Base Are Belong To Us," created in around the year 2000 after a rather poor English translation of a line from the Japanese video game Zero Wing.



But these were clearly only the beginning. If you'd like to discover more about the wonderful world of memes, I recommend visiting [knowyourmeme.com](http://knowyourmeme.com) or even Twitter to learn more.



Please . . . go forth and prosper in your new knowledge!

# Middle School Meme Contest

Recently, *The ROCK* had the opportunity to hold a meme contest with the finest middle-schoolers in the nation—our very own TCA Trojans. The contest's only rule: create an original meme using the preselected images. With a multitude of entries, our staff chose five winners based on originality and humor. Thank you to all of the participants, and please continue your journey through memehood.

We now invite you to bask in the glory of a few of the youngest and brightest meme creators.

Photography by Cade Holliday and KJ Olson

Grant\_Canter

•••

A rock is a stone.

False: The rock is a  
magazine!

Maddox\_Vines

•••

When you just went to your locker  
to get a book

and you get trapped in the hall



Shea\_Hinckley

• • •

**When someone takes a bite****of your mac 'n cheese**

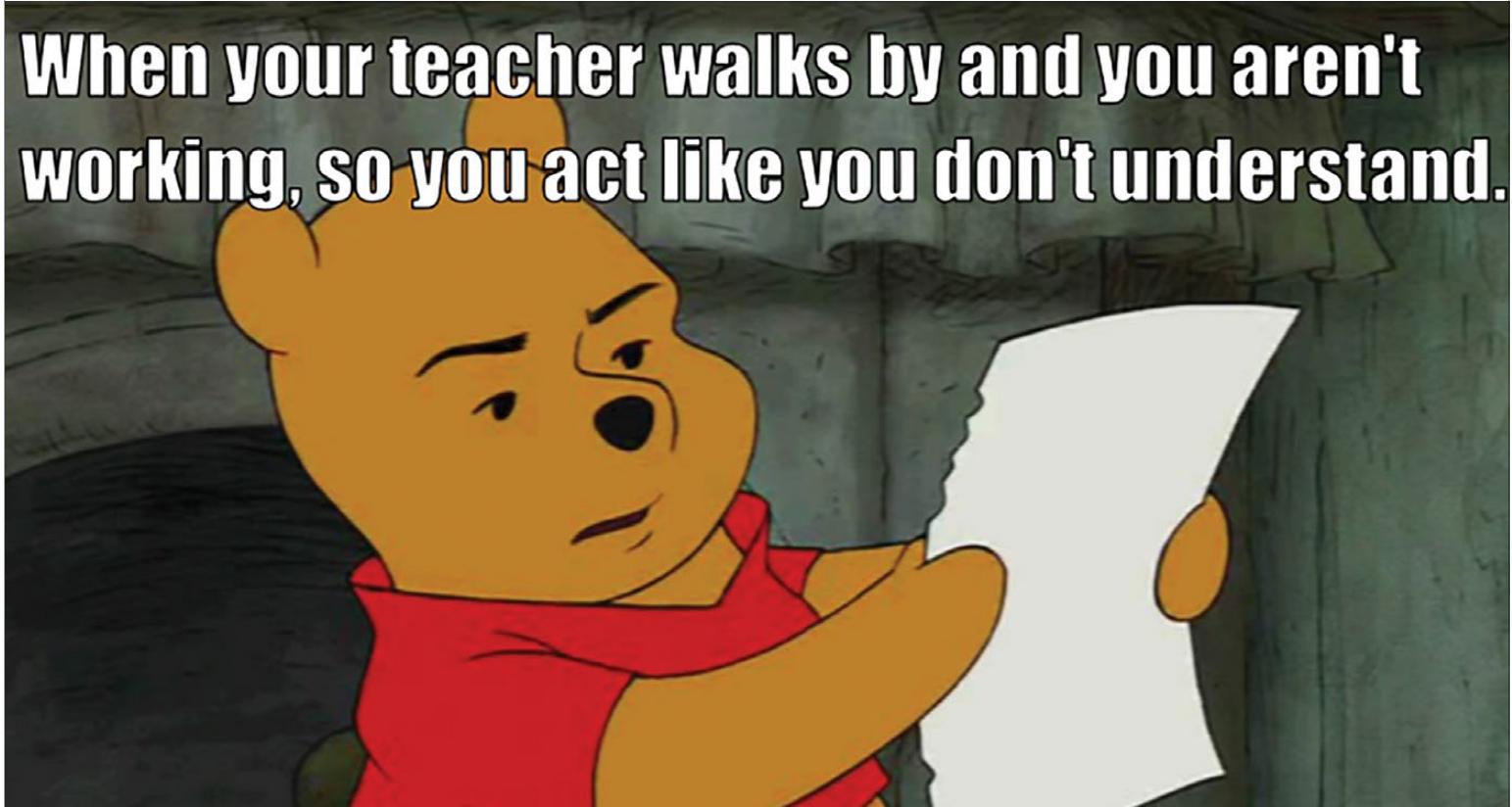
Mac\_Hays

• • •

**Was that a Monday morning alarm?****Nah.**

Brennan\_McNaught

• • •

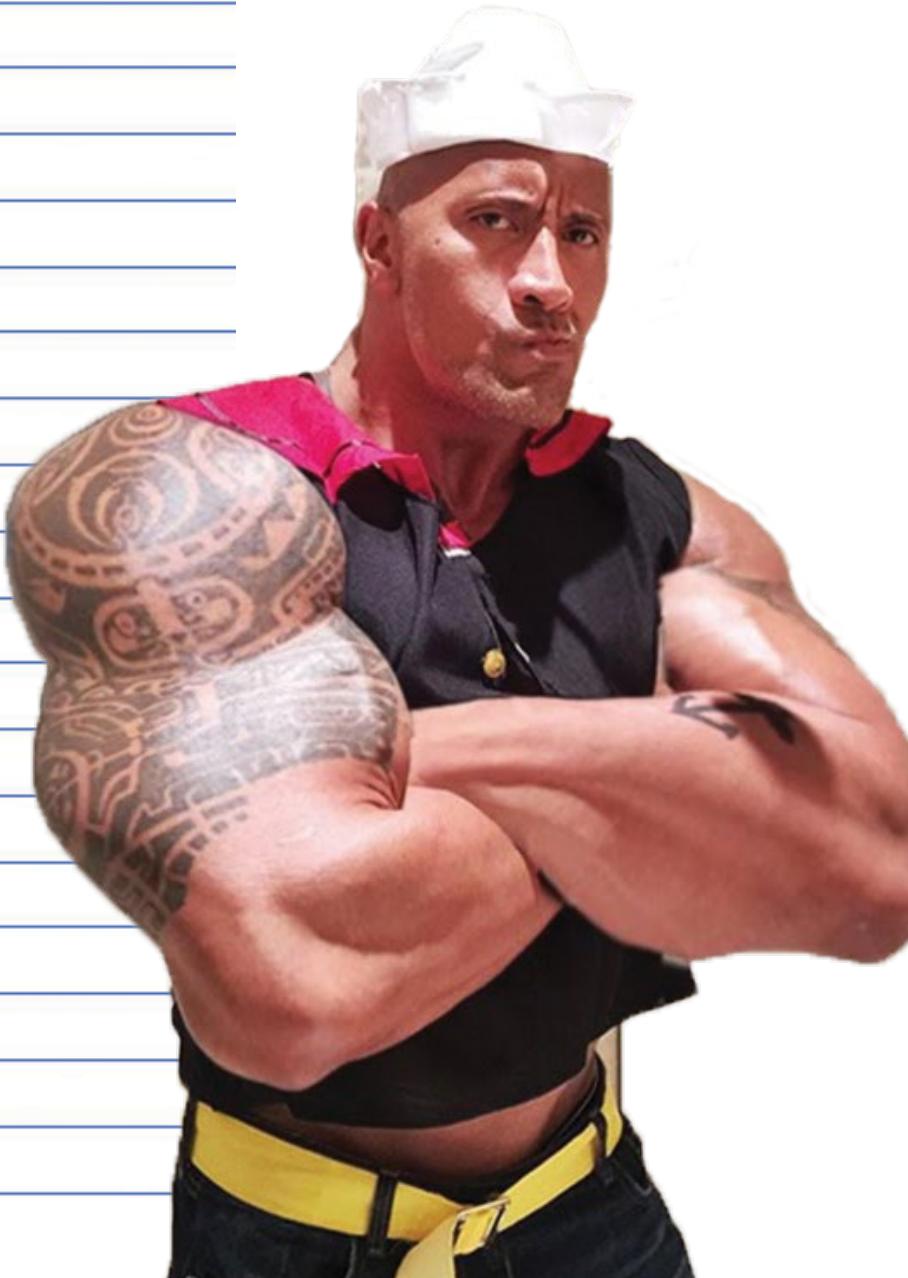
**When your teacher walks by and you aren't working, so you act like you don't understand.**

How to get RIPPED like the original ROCK ...

# DWAYNE'S DIET

## DWAYNE'S GROCERY LIST

MEAL 1	-10 OZ. COD -2 WHOLE EGGS -2 CUPS OATMEAL
MEAL 2	-8 OZ. COD -12 OZ. SWEET POTATO -1 CUP VEGGIES
MEAL 3	-8 OZ. CHICKEN -2 CUPS WHITE RICE -1 CUP VEGGIES
MEAL 4	-8 OZ. COD -2 CUPS RICE -1 CUP VEGGIES -1 TBSP FISH OIL
MEAL 5	-8 OZ. COD -12 OZ BAKED POTATO -SPINACH SALAD
MEAL 6	-30 GRAMS CASEIN PROTEIN -10 EGG-WHITE OMELET -1 CUP VEGGIES -1 TBSP OMEGA-3 FISH OIL
MEAL 7	-10 OZ. COD -2 CUPS RICE -SALAD



My name is Avery Schuster. Sometimes, I reflect on my reflection, and I ask myself the question: Scooby-Doo, where are you? We've got some work to do now. But I'm just a girl, standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her. Cool beans? Cool beans. Cooooool beeeeeans. COOL BEANS. cOoL bEaNS. Look at me. I will never pass for the perfect bride or the perfect daughter. And I wonder: Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him. How's your thirst for adventure, Tintin? Unquenchable. (*The Muppet Movie, Scooby-Doo, Notting Hill, Hot Rod, Mulan, Sojourner Truth, The Adventures of Tintin*)



Avery Schuster



Brijit Crosby

Hey there, I am Brijit Crosby, an editor on *The ROCK* staff. I am a captain on the TCA girls varsity golf team and soon to be an editor on the yearbook staff. My favorite food is pancakes, but honestly I prefer dessert over everything! I love to hunt with my grandfather and spend time with my family. I am pretty loud, and my car looks like it could eat your car—so I would be surprised if you don't know who I am.

# STAFF

Hey guys, my name's Georgia Ballew, and my after-school activities include: dehairing my school uniform (I have too many cats), churning butter, singing too loudly in the car, and eating maple syrup. I answer to "Churness," "Cat Lady," or, most commonly, "George." Ever wondered who the super extra person is that drives the bright blue Jeep Wrangler with a cat tire cover? Hi, that would be me. You may have also seen me performing as an Italian teenager named Gina, a twelve year-old boy named Kyle, or a fourty year-old woman named Louella, as I am currently in Advanced Drama. In all seriousness, being Executive Editor of this magazine has been one of the highlights of my year!



Georgia Ballew



Avery Gann

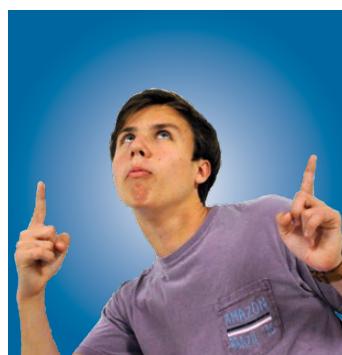
Hello humans. I'm Avery Gann, and I don't like long walks on the beach. Sand is gross and messy. I apologize. As for after-school activities . . . there are none. You can usually catch me working on this magazine, but now that you are reading it, I'm probably at home watching *The Office* or sleeping. Also, if you see my mom in the hallways at any point, please apologize to her on my behalf because I used half of my family data streaming 2010 pop songs in my car. Also, I'm obsessed with *Harry Potter* . . . just in case you wanted to know. Please donate to the Avery Gann Fund. At AGF we pride ourselves in providing Avery with countless Whataburger taquitos each year. Cash only. Just think about it.

# BIOS

Hi, I'm Kennedy, and I am HYPED to be on this year's *ROCK* staff! This is an awesome magazine, and I feel so lucky to be part of such a great team! At TCA, I'm on the yearbook staff (Upper School section), am a Middle School Bible study leader, and am a Sky Ranch counselor. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, watching movies, eating sushi, and quoting Vine. Thanks to the *ROCK* staff for making this such a fun experience! And a special thanks to Georgia, our head editor, this wouldn't have been possible without your leadership and constant motivation!



Kennedy Mason



Daniel Jones

Hey, I'm Dan Jones! One might chance upon me playing soccer and video games, but I also dabble in photography and fabricating things with computing devices. I am well-versed in anime, memes, and geography. I can sustain myself solely on Papa John's Pizza and smiles. My math skills and enjoyment of puns are known across the land, and many come to me for my expertise in both. I profoundly hope that you find this magazine sublime! (the memes are my favorite)

