

SOUTH TEXAS VIRTUAL ACADEMY

PHOENIX NEWS

Love issue no. 5 2023

VIRTUAL ACADEMY YEAR BOOK

**CALL FOR
SELFIES!**



Scan me



**WE'RE LOOKING FOR SELFIES FOR VIRTUAL
ACADEMY'S FIRST YEARBOOK!**

Valentines Consumerism

By Joseph Martinez



When and how was Valentine's created

Valentine's day is a holiday in which people demonstrate to others their love for them through love notes, love locks, flowers and through many other ways. Just like every other holiday Valentines Day had an emergence but it is very difficult to pinpoint its origin due to the age of the holiday.



Valentine's day date

Love Lock



Love Letter

One of the theories is how Saint Valentine, a supposed priest during the third century, invented Valentines through his death. The story goes that St. Valentine organized secret marriages of men and women that couldn't get married publicly due to certain laws. Unfortunately, once emperor Claudius the 2nd found out about these unlawful marriages, he threw St. Valentine in jail and ordered his execution during February the 14th. During his time in prison, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and on the same day as his execution he sent a letter to her to confess his love for her signed from your valentine.



Valentine's day common gifts



What is Consumerism

Well consumerism is the concept that by infinitely increasing the consumption of goods such as services, products, and needs in an economy would result in greatly increasing the country's economy and well-being of the people. This is due to the individuals pouring more money into the economy and increasing dopamine which causes a temporary increase in happiness.



Has the meaning of Valentine's Day been corrupted by consumerism?



Many people believe that the meaning of valentine's day has been corrupted to the point where once you have simply purchased something for your loved one the holiday is over. And this is simply unacceptable due to the fact that this holiday was meant to celebrate love and its true meaning.



True meaning of valentine's day

What is the true meaning of valentine's day? After researching I came to the conclusion that valentine's day is the celebration of love. Meaning that Valentine's Day shouldn't just be about buying your loved one a gift but instead actually proving to them that you love them. Apart from this you shouldn't just leave true love to be celebrated on a valentine's day, but you should instead celebrate true love every day. A way you could do this is by saying I love you to your loved one and showing them that you appreciate them every day.



Virtual Academy Staff that's on "fire"

Journalism students take the time to get to know some of the VA teachers

Mrs. Sonia Aguilar Tech & Communications Interview by Krishna Chengankal

Mrs. Aguilar is the Technology Applications teacher of virtual academy. Mrs. Aguilar entered college for the very first time when she was 34. Before that she was working in banking. She would train employees. When she was in college, she got a degree in Business Administration. She went to college because she wanted to earn more money to get a better life for her and her kids. "That's also how I ended up teaching after college."



Mrs. Aguilar tries to understand where her students are and adjusts to their pace so they don't feel left behind. When she entered college, her professors and instructors were very patient with her. "I try to be the same way, even though sometimes students... have their challenges, but other than that I try to understand where they are or what challenges they're facing. Mrs. Aguilar's favorite topic to teach is digital footprints. She likes it because you can go back and look at someone's online activity and find out much information about them. "You'd be surprised how much you can learn about the individual just by the postings they have on social media." Mrs. Aguilar loves to cook. She does traditional Mexican cooking like flour tortillas and actual other Mexican recipes. However, she does not get the chance to cook lately because she is not in her own house and does not have her own kitchen. But when she does she loves cooking.

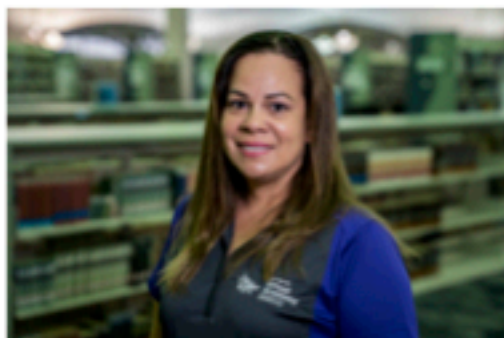
Mrs. Criselda Siragusa Special Education Interview by Joseph Martinez



Mrs. Siragusa is virtual academy's very own Special Education teacher who not only enjoys what she does but also finds inspiration from teaching. Not only is this rare but it's incredible how Mrs. Siragusa helps students who need extra support academically and emotionally. Mrs. Siragusa states that the first and most important step to begin helping a student is to build a connection with the student. And her methods have paid off stating that she still has students who she taught 16 years ago tell her how her teaching methods helped them through life.

Additionally, one of Mrs. Siragusa's favorite hobbies is to discover interesting places in New York. This is due to the fact that Mrs. Siragusa's visits New York regularly because of her daughter who is currently attending NYU and works for a magazine publisher. Another hobby that Mrs. Siragusa enjoys is running 5Ks with her husband. Unfortunately, she hasn't been able to run any 5K race due to a few medical complications. Furthermore Mrs. Siragusa expressed how she deeply believes that her husband is her true inspiration due to his view on life and how he has taken care of her before, during, and after her medical complications.

Mr. Miranda Viecksa Special Education Interviewed by: Bianca Olivares



Ms. Miranda Viecksa is a new special ed teacher at STISD virtual academy; she was welcomed to the Special Education team in December of 2022 she is very grateful for the opportunity with the special ed team to be a part and have joined such an engaged, positive and outgoing district. She goes on saying that she is very thoughtful, caring, humble and always being kind to everyone.

She likes to add that her spark or passion for working with special education students is that she has family and friends with children with learning disabilities, learning disorders and other types of disabilities the second reason is she finds it rewarding to being able to provide them with different learning styles, support, resources and tools that meet their needs this helps them to learn a specific subject.

Lastly she states that at the end of the day she finds it rewarding to engage and facilitate the help each student needs. This is what makes her so passionate about teaching special ed students she takes joy in it everyday. When she isn't teaching she likes to spend her time going to the beach early in the morning and watching the sun rise and jog barefoot on the beach to keeps good health and unwind she especially loves to cook for family and friends she also enjoys hosting special events she family and friends she has a set up for music and dancing she enjoys spending quality time with her loved ones.

Top 5 songs for being in your feelings

Let's take make Valentines as a time to listen to some enchanting romantic tunes

By: Bianca Olivares

As it was by Harry styles This song puts a warm feeling into your heart like you are actually invited into Harry's house. Harry Styles provides contradicting effects on "As It Was." He contrasts upbeat '80s synths with a sorrowful voice and nostalgic lyrics. And, yet, it works. In an interview Harry says "The song is about metamorphosis, embracing change and former self, perspective shift and all that kind of stuff."



This song definitely gives off that "nothing is going to be the same" that change is impossible to run away from and in this song it really feels like Harry is helping you understand this helping you accept change to be ok with it.

Flowers by Miley Cyrus This song is a must hear if your going through a rough heartbreak it really is encouraging "Flowers" is a song about recognizing a frustrating situation, but choosing to let go and focus on being good to yourself this really show a lot of self love and appreciation that you don't need to rely on a man this song really gives you that boost of self love energy.



Middle of the night by Elley Duhe

"Middle Of The Night" is a sensual rock ballad where your begging for intimacy with your loved one. The song is about missing someone and craving their presence in life this song truly makes you crave someone's touch it can be your crush or just someone you have in your life this song really gives your emotions a good run it really makes you feel like you can't live without that special person.



Enemy by Imagine Dragons & JID

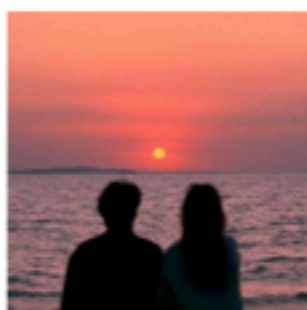
The song writer Dan Reynolds based this track is actually centered on the concept of internal conflict but the lyrics don't really come off as one "enemy" in the second verse there is apparently one individual in particular who really wants to see you fail. This song really gives you a feeling of revenge not letting your haters win one lyric that stands out "will never be a saint"



Perhaps what he is saying is that his enemies should look out this song is perfect for your comeback of the new year don't let anyone walk over you or take advantage work smarter not harder type of deal this really give you a certain type of confidence you never knew you had Perfect bold confidence for the new year .

Coming in at number one.....

Here With Me by D4vd Most sentimental song made "Here With Me" is about wanting to spend your life with someone you love whilst doing everything you can to keep them around I'm sure a lot of people relate to this song if your a hopeless romantic or in general have a partner you can share this song with. This song brings you to tears as you think of being with your partner.





Roast or Rave Reviews

Staff of the journalism class either roast or rave about trending pop culture



Blue Lock Review by Krishna Chengankal

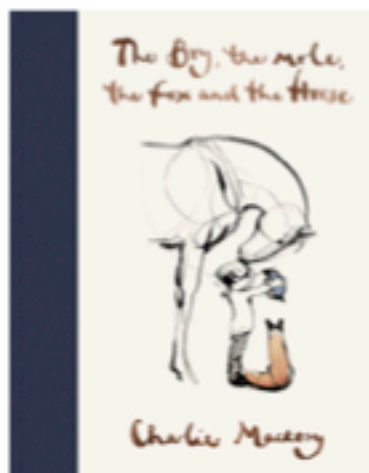
Blue Lock is a new soccer anime that is currently airing. The story takes place after Japan loses the world cup to Belgium in 2018. The main character is Isagi Yoichi, a promising striker who participates in the blue lock program devised by Jinpachi Ego and is Japan's solution to try to win the world cup. The goal of Blue Lock is to create the ultimate number-one striker, one capable of leading Japan to victory. Blue Lock took a very different way to approach anime because usually, characters are winning because of the power of friendship! Blue Lock takes all of that and completely throws it out. It is a new take on the sports genre because it tells you to be the ultimate egoist to win. It's an interesting watch, but after you catch up it just leaves you wanting more. Since the episodes are released weekly. Overall, I would recommend this anime even if you're not a soccer or sports anime fan. This is because it is unique. It also has great animation.

Rating: Rave A new fun type of anime



The Boy the Mole the Fox and the Horse Book review by Camila Rojas

The Boy the Mole the Fox and the Horse is a book written by Charlie Mackesy. It is about uncommon friends learning life lessons and what it means to love, what it means to be friends, and what a home is. The book gives a warm feeling in your heart despite it being set in winter and is just what we need in today's society. It begs for kindness, bravery, hope, friendship, and asking for help. The boy meets a mole who is always hungry for cake, a fox who has been hurt by life, and a horse who, though is the largest among them all, is the gentlest. Maybe you see yourself in a character, or maybe in them all. But one of the greatest liberties, is how we react to things.



“Nothing beats kindness,” said the horse. “It sits quietly beyond all things.”

Rating: Rave A must read for our day and age.

BG's Enchilados

Supporting small businesses!

By: Bianca Olivares

Brandon Galindo is a 15 year old student at STISD virtual academy he is an entrepreneur with a dream. His business

started small with only 50 customers within six months he had over 300 new customers. He said the hardest part of running his business was due to Covid-19 with people being cautious of the virus and sanitary/ health purposes money flow was short and getting the supplies he needed was troubling for him to grow his business.



Brandon's business started from a passion. Mexican candies were very popular so he got the idea to experiment soon he started to sell to close related families. He says that he got recognized in his community so he upholds that reputation showing good business ownership. He wants to be his own boss and run his own store. He also wants to shape his own future to create a legacy to eventually pass down to his own family.

To him, the mindset of a business owner is having great customer service and a good connection with everyone who orders from him, meaning people can rely on him to have fresh and ready orders. He takes pride in a job well done. It gives him a sense of accomplishment that makes it worth the struggle. One of the aspects as to why his business blew up was through prayer Brandon is a believer of Christ so he incorporated his belief's into his production of being a business owner he says that really helped him not just for his business but for his everyday life.

ABOUT US

BG'S ENCHILADOS IS A SMALL BUSINESS CREATED BACK IN 2021, AFTER COVID-19. WE ARE BASED IN ELSA, TX WITH MOUTH WATERING MEXICAN CANDY WITH HINTS OF SWEET, SOUR, AND SPICY FLAVORS. OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICE AND FRESH PRODUCTS. AS A SMALL BUSINESS WE ARE AIMING TO BE FEATURED AND GROW INTO A WORLDWIDE STORE. WE HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY YOUR ORDER!



BG'S ENCHILADOS
956-393-1967

TODO CHAMOY



GUMMERS
TROLLI SOUR CRAWLERS
JOLLY RANCHER GUMMERS
SOUR PUNCH BITES
LIFE SAVERS GUMMERS
AIR HEADS EXTREME
-STROPS
-BITES
PEACH RINGS
ORANGE GUMMERS
GUMMY BEARS
GUMMY WORMS

SOUR PATCH
-STRAWBERRY
-WATERMELON
-JERRIES

STARBURST
-AIR GUMMERS
-MINI

SKITTLES
-GUMMERS
-ORIGINAL

PRICE
\$3 BAG
2x\$5



BG SNACKS
(@bg_snacks_)



Latte's Cafe

Jump into the world of culinary fantasy where Latte recreates recipes from books, tv, movies, and more



Amortentia, the most powerful love potion in the world, its rumored to smell differently to each person, according to what attracts them. Now, Amortentia doesn't create actual love. That would be impossible. But it does cause powerful infatuation or obsession. And for that reason, it is probably the most dangerous potion we will concoct today.

Time: 20 minutes

Yield: 2 serving

Difficulty: 1 extremely easy

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of your favorite strawberry ice cream
- 1-2 cups of whole milk
- 2 tablespoons of strawberry jam
- whipped cream

Steps:

1. Freeze the serving potion bottle (or for you muggles, "glass") so the concoction stays cold.
2. Allow the ice cream to soften a little, then place in a blender with jam and 1 cup of milk
3. Blend until smooth, adding more milk as necessary to reach the desired texture.
4. Pour into frozen glass, top with whipped cream.
5. Sneak the potion into someone's daily brunch and see the effect!



Meet the Phoenix Journalism Team!

Meet Joseph Martinez

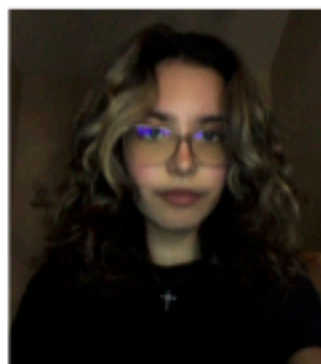


Joseph is a 10th grader with the Virtual Academy. He likes to play video games to pass the time. Joseph's favorite game is called Hearts of Iron 4 also known as HIO4.

Another pass time of his is watching movies. One of his favorite movies is Wall-E.

Meet Bianca Olivares

Bianca is a sophomore at the Virtual Academy. She likes to listen to music and watch anime. Bianca also enjoys going on walks and watching Netflix with her sibling.



In her free time, she likes to dye her hair any color from the rainbow.

Meet Camila Rojas



Camila Rojas who prefers to go by the name "Latte", is a freshman from Virtual Academy. She enjoys everything fantasy and has a passion for creating art and playing violin. As a Multi-Hobbyist she enjoys many activities, some include cooking, writing, video games, board games, collecting art books, sword fighting, watching shows, and learning about different crafts.

Meet Krishna Chengankal



Krishna is in his freshmen year with the Virtual Academy. He enjoys reading, gaming, watching anime, and riding his bike. Although he watches a lot of anime his favorite is One Piece.

Meet Raziell Garcia

Raziell is a sophomore at Virtual Academy. He enjoys video games and walking/playing with his dogs. His favorite food is lasagna and his favorite class is History. One of his favorite topics to study are the Egyptian Gods.



If you are interested in contributing to the Phoenix Newspaper please contact roberta.zamilpa@stisd.net