



THE STINGER



Issue #1 2021-2022 A Student Publication of Irmo High School

WE'RE ALL BACK IN SCHOOL! (BUT HOW DOES EVERYONE FEEL ABOUT THAT?)

By: Jaden Hayes, Stinger Reporter

What grade were you in when the "Pandemic" first hit? I remember like it was yesterday. On Friday March 13th, 2020 all schools had to be shut down because of Covid-19. I was in the 10th grade when our school got shut down. At first, I was happy because there was no more school for the rest of the year but who wouldn't be happy...there was no more school for the rest of the year!

Then my junior year came along which was very depressing, tiring, and not motivational at all because of virtual. At some point it was okay, but who really wants to sit at a computer all day to learn? Yeah, not too much fun...

This affected a lot of people. We have sophomores who didn't get a chance to experience their 9th grade year of high school. This sucks for them because 9th grade is the year you meet new people,

experience new things, and learn from mistakes. Then there are seniors who were once sophomores when the pandemic hit us. We had to spend our junior year behind a computer.

A lot of seniors and sophomores had a few things to say about how they feel about coming back to school. One of the sophomores said something that I think a lot of other students can relate to. "Coming back to school as a sophomore and missing my chance to experience my freshman year has been kinda hard, but I'm getting used to it. Because of covid-19 I didn't get a chance to learn the school or meet anyone, so as a sophomore I still feel like a freshman confused about some things."

*"so as a sophomore, I
still feel like a
freshman confused
about some things."*

"It was terrible, I felt unmotivated to join class and do the work. Going back to school into my senior year I felt unprepared and paranoid, but it's getting better".

Not only did the seniors and sophomores go through a hard time but also some other grade levels also had a hard time with the virtual learning. From one of the students, "For some people it's not much of a coming back from COVID because some of us were here last year. It is a lot different than last year because it's like 10 times as many people as it was last year. From all of the fights, to the crowded cafeteria and courtyard it's just a lot going on. The administration is getting a lot stricter than last year. There is a different one on every corner. Most teachers are cool but some are more difficult. I feel like it's going to be a long year. It's already so much for the fourth week of school. I guess you can say we are our own television show." So with that being a question who can tell how the year will turn out...

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-SPOTLIGHTS-

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

By: A'Jiyhan Robinson

In Irmo High School we have over 100 graduating seniors and I had a chance to talk to only one of them. She informed me on life in and outside of high school. **Siaijha Battle** is known around this school by most people not because she is a senior but because she is a genuinely kind person. Me and Siaijha Battle sat down and had a great conversation. A series of questions were asked on her behalf and these were the answers.

Looking back through your entire high school career, which year would you say is the most important?

"I think your junior year would be your most important year. Mostly because it's the year that counts the most. If you goofed off the first two years of high school then you need to take your junior year as a wake up call. The more things you do and the better your grades are, the more you will be taken seriously. The more you focus and keep it together the better it will be for you."

What is the biggest challenge you have to face this year so far?

"My biggest challenge right now would be time management and keeping up with my grades. I'm not actively involved with the school but I do partake in activities after school. Most of the stuff I do takes up a lot of my time so it's easier to not do stuff at school except for schoolwork."



What advice do you have for the upcoming Seniors?

"Pay Attention. Time flies by really fast when you are not paying attention to it. So when it's gone and it's over you won't have time for regrets. Life will keep moving while you're still thinking about what you could've done in high school."

Do you have any regrets when it comes to school?

"I don't have any regrets. Everything that I had planned for my high school career has happened. I did have my minor setbacks along the way but no one said it would be easy."

Who or what would be your biggest influence?

"My grandmother would be my biggest influence. They really make me feel like even when it gets hard that if they can get through it I can too. I keep pushing through just like they do."

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

by: La'kayla Grant

Mrs. Coleman is one of our freshmen teachers. She's been



teaching for 4 and a half years, and teaching at Irmo for a year. Mrs. Coleman decided to become a teacher because she loves kids of all ages and young adults. She wants to be able to bring each of her students a relevant learning experience and be a positive impact in their lives. Mrs. Coleman likes teaching at Irmo as well as being able to build positive

relationships with her students and challenging them to see their true potential. She prefers face to face because she gets to interact more with her students. While she does miss some aspects of virtual teaching, she enjoys seeing them every day. Help us recognize Mrs. Coleman for her hard work and dedication!

-ENTERTAINMENT-

ON THE MARQUEE : THE TWELFTH NIGHT

By: Ashley Bruccoli

Live theatre is back at Irmo! After our sad delay of shows from the Covid-19 outbreak, Irmo Theatre Company is proud to announce *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare as our fall play and *High School Musical* as our musical. Our outstanding director, Amy Mew, has worked extremely hard to set a wonderful atmosphere for the actors and the audience.

This year's version of *Twelfth Night* will be in modern English with a 90s theme, so prepare for corny jokes and very questionable fashion choices. Showtimes will



be November 12-14 at 7 pm and a matinee performance on the 13th and 14th at 3 pm. If you are interested in auditioning for *High School Musical* lookout for an announcement in October with the audition dates. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Amy Mew, Mark Blankenship-Brown (President of the Thespian Society), or Ashley Bruccoli (Vice-President of the Thespian Society.)

Our talented cast and crew are looking forward to seeing you there!

FRESH ALBUMS DROPPED: DONDA & CLB

By: Steven Willis

Two of the biggest album drops of 2021 have been released by two of the biggest rap artists of our generation. Though both of these projects have been teased and leaked a lot over the past several months, both of them have made very well-produced albums. Starting off with ``Donda'' by Kanye West, this album was very deep and meaningful, to celebrate the life of his late mother Donda West. To me, this album was very attention-grabbing and heart wrenching. But also has a lot of songs you can bump on a good day and be happy.

Certified Lover Boy by Drake is another amazing album by one of the biggest artists, if not the biggest artist, of our generation. It was a really feel-good album with all types of emotions and a song to go with every single one. I was so thrilled for this album and it definitely did not disappoint.

I really enjoyed each of these albums a lot and can't wait for so many more new releases. If you want me to review any new albums let me know!

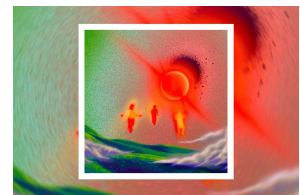


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<https://www.breakinglatest.news/entertainment/about-kanye-west-new-album-donda-you-may-want-to-know-this-hypebeast/>

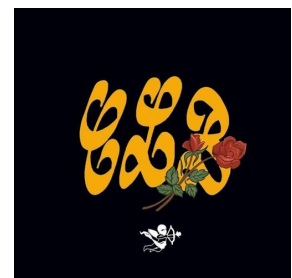


Image credit:
<https://soundcloud.com/joeywes/sets/drake-certified-lover-boy>

-EDITORIAL & OPINION-

IT'S A NOSTALGIC SEASON

By: MacKenna Starling, Contributing Writer

It's that time of year again when the leaves begin to turn to vibrant shades of orange, yellow, and even red and when all the coffee shops put out their seasonal pumpkin-flavored drinks. For me, nothing can compare to the happiness felt when sipping a warm coffee, flipping through a book, or just walking around in the cool Autumn air. Though many people don't love Autumn as much as I do, everyone can agree that there is a little bit of happiness that goes through them the moment they see pumpkin stands set up around town. Nostalgia is a familiar feeling during the fall, and some people feel this for different reasons, and in different ways.

One reason that I think Autumn makes people feel so nostalgic is because of all the happy memories that they made as children. Everyone remembers the excitement that they felt when they were younger during the fall, the nature walks through the falling leaves, the joy of picking out a Halloween costume, and many other things. This leads to Fall reminding many of happy childhood memories, which leads to the feeling of happy nostalgia.



Image credit:
<https://www.eatingwell.com/article/2053620/everything-you-need-to-know-about-pumpkins/>

Autumn also reminds us of change, because nature goes through its yearly change during this season. The changing leaves remind people of the change from Autumn as a kid to Autumn when you are older. As a kid Autumn was simple, reading Halloween books in school, collecting the prettiest of the fallen leaves, and going trick or treating. While Autumn when you are older is still filled with the little joys, it's different than the simple fun Autumn that you had as a kid. This leads to many people reminiscing over "the good old days", and feeling extremely nostalgic.

For me, Autumn brings feelings of nostalgia and happiness, but for many people, it brings feelings of sadness and even grief.

Everyone has most likely

heard of seasonal depression, which is the feeling of sadness that comes at the same time each year, and for many that time of year is in the fall. The feeling of change can be scary or even sad for some people. So when nature begins to change it can bring out a lot of negative feelings in people who don't like change. Another thing that causes negative feelings in people during the fall is the feeling of longing for days that have passed. This leads to people grieving over easier days and happier times. This negative feeling of nostalgia can lead to feeling like you lost something that loved, and can lead to seasonal depression in some people.

Even though Autumn can be the happiest time of the year for many people and the saddest for others, Autumn nostalgia is a real thing. It is usually caused by the longing for the happiness that you felt during the fall as a child and can have a big impact on how you feel about the season of fall. The changing of the leaves and the change of how you spend your Autumns can either allow you to reminisce on happy times or grieve the happy times you no longer have, but either way Autumn is the season of nostalgia.

-EDITORIAL & OPINION-

CONT.

DRESS CODE WOES

By: Anaria Turner

I'm not opposed to dress code and most of the district rules and policies, but I will say some of them are pretty dumb. To start off, **DRESS CODE**. I like how this school is kinda saying the boys have the same dress code as girls but the thing is this world has evolved a lot over the years. They're many what ifs and billions of questions I have. A few dress code procedures I don't understand are no bonnets/durags, no hats, no fluffy shoes. Bonnets/durags are basically a protective hat for black people. It feels kinda racially motivated to not allow something that shouldn't be

bother anyone. If people can wear pajamas to school then, count bonnets or durags as pajamas. Unless someone gives me a legitimate reason for this I'm against this rule completely. The same thing goes for hats and hoodies. They help cover a bad hair day, hats really don't bother people, and they have become a part of lots of everyday outfits. I do understand sometimes people with hoodies do dumb things like stretching out the strings etc but not everyone is like that and I feel the school should think more on these types of rules.



Image credit:
<https://www.thepowerscope.com/blackgirlblog/2019/7/29/4-black-owned-silk-bonnet-brands-to-shop-from-that-wont-charge-you-98>

IS DIGITAL ART FOR YOU?

By: Lydia Good

Do you have an interest in digital art, animation or design? If so, the Digital Art and Design class at the CATE center might be for you! The digital art and design course includes photography, photo editing, animation and more! This class has all kinds of tools and devices you will use for assignments, this class has apple desktop computers, a laminating machine, a cricut printer, drawing tablets and a t-shirt presser. In the workshop area of the room there is a closet filled with traditional art supplies. This course prepares you for a real job in the digital art field. You can take this course for 2 years, some things you do in

year 1 are; logo design, greeting cards, business cards, animation, photography, screen printing and you get an OSHA certification. The second year is a bit more advanced, some things you do in year 2 are 3-D design, website and app mockups, you get your adobe certification and your adobe illustrator certification, in year 2 you also do competitions. I asked the teacher (Jeanette Mangels) some questions about this course and this is what she had to say;
Q: "What kind of people should take this class?"
A: "Anybody who wants to explore different careers."
Q: "What should people know before taking this class?"

A: "This school works a little differently, we work like you have a job and you have more freedom."

Q: "What is your favorite thing about this class?"

A: "I get to teach students to design and use technical skills."

Q: "What is the best part of taking this class?"

A: "You get to learn what a career in this field is actually like, you get to meet like minded people and you get to make an art portfolio."

After talking to Jeanette Mangels, It is clear that this class isn't just good for people who like to create art, it's good for anyone who is curious about any other career paths.

-IRMO AT SCHOOL-

FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

By: Nicholas Matthews and Mr. Standridge



So far, the Irmo High School varsity football team is 5-2 and 4-0 in the Region on the year with wins over Richland Northeast at Homecoming, a road win at Dreher, and a HUGE come from behind win over A.C. Flora 28-27.. The two losses on the year were against South Florence and an overtime loss (due to some poor officiating) at Lexington in the Battle of the Dam.

Moving forward, the team has region games on the road at Westwood and Lugoff-Elgin to close out the year. Hopefully, we'll make the playoffs so you can have one more chance to support the team at W.C. Hawking stadium. Both the coaches and players have talked at length about the support from the students and community.

This year, the team is led by quarterback #8 Izayah Whiteside whose spectacular run Friday night brought the fans to their feet. Also, the team is anchored on offense by Junior running back, #5 Erick Tucker. The defense had several returning starters from last year's team led by our Region Coach of the Year, Aaron Brand.



RETURNING TO CLASS

Jaden Hayes

"Coming back to school feels good and weird at the same time if you can understand where I'm coming from. I was just a sophomore and now I'm a senior, kinda insane. I have a lot of regrets..I should've joined the track team when I had a chance , should've stayed in JROTC. Coming back to school feels good because it's better to learn in person than on the computer. I just really hope that senior year is really good and something to remember forever."

Lydia Good

"The amount of people here is absolutely insane, it takes longer to get to classes because there's people everywhere. I have to get to lunch early because if I don't there's no food left for me, I dont think its the best idea for everyone to be this close together especially with the corona virus getting worse. I also just feel uncomfortable because I'm not used to this many people being so close to me, I haven't been for awhile. It's also incredibly

annoying when there's a huge group of people just standing in the middle of the hallway. That has always been a thing but I feel like it's worse now because there's so many people."

DaNicko Sheehan

"As a senior I have a lot of chill physically. But mentally there's a lot of stress, fear and anxiety in my head. I have a lot to think about in such little time. "What will I do when I graduate?" "Will I graduate?" "Do I want to go to college?" A lot of questions to think about within the span of a few months. "

-TEEN LIFE-

FOREVER 21, BUT STILL JUST A TEEN

By: Kurt Layman

Once you get your first job you will change as a person, most of the time for the better. This is what my experience of working in retail was like. My first job was at Forever 21 at the Columbiana Center Mall. It wasn't a bad place to work. I mean I made more money than my friends and everyone I worked with there was very cool. However, this doesn't mean that there were times when we were extremely busy and low on staff that I felt like quitting. You will very quickly learn how needy, rude, and entitled people truly are. I could go on about the weird and rude people that refused to leave once we were closed or the oblivious customer that blocked your walking path while throwing your back out carrying heavy boxes. Sometimes it's not even the customers that enrage you; half of the times it's the coworkers and managers. One

guy was a summer hire and called off so much to the point of where he only worked 2 hours out of two weeks paycheck. As for the needy and entitled customers, if you accidentally leave a clothing sensor on their clothes and the alarm goes off they will have no problem screaming at you. Trust me on that because on my first or second week I did this and she said every single cuss word she knew at me because of one sensor. Or if you have a package delivered to the store for pickup and you're rude right off the bat to us, your package will magically not be there.

PLEASE do not ask a 17 year old man for fashion advice or what will look good with that hat. I honestly don't know or care so I will just give very vague answers and slowly inch away from you. Then, there are the awkward encounters with student customers. Like if I saw someone I had a class with we would just look over at each other and look away as if we don't know

each other. Or the Father that stands near his teenage daughter and stares at me down to ensure that I'm not checking out his daughter?! I should actually state that I no longer work at Forever 21, I was fired. There were some weird moments working in the mall like when someone broke in at night and tried to burn an ATM open, or the 3 times I found a lizard in our stockroom, in some jeans, and behind the cash register. To this day I am convinced that there was and is a bunch of lizards that live in the Columbiana Center Mall Forever 21 store.

All in all, having an after school job can be good. Having money is always nice. That being said, try to find a place to work that isn't filled with so many rude people and you'll be a lot better off.

RETURNING TO CLASS cont.

Amaris Holmes

"Coming back to school meant everyone was going to back to school and it made me nervous. Virtual was already hard and now I'm going back to school. Covid is still around and I haven't really gone out much so I'm scared I'm going to get covid. Another fear I had was not being able to find anything because I'm a sophomore and was virtual for my freshman year."

Angel Combs

"I'm at a whole new school and city. Well for me it's all something I'm new to, but I'm trying my best to get through everything as smoothly as I can. It's a lot harder than I thought it would be to get around the school, to get my classes that are in the 2000 or the 3000, and then going from the 3000 to 244. One thing I'm glad about the school is how amazing the

teachers are. They are really helpful when the students are lost or confused about something or where their classrooms are. The teachers are really nice and hard workers, they also try their best to help us with anything. If you ask me, I think the teachers are magnificent people. They are doing their best to help and understand us."



Image credit:
<https://cbs2iowa.com/news/local/sit-in-favoring-mask-mandate-in-schools-planned-at-iowa-statehouse>

-JUST ONE MORE THING-

ADVICE FROM ZACH

By: Zach Jones

Some people give advice when they have no business giving advice. As if they've experienced so much more and we should follow every word they say like it's from some religious text. That being said, here's a quick word of advice: Whenever you get that rage going, and you feel like doing something that this school (sadly) doesn't condone, just take a minute. Breathe. Think about what you're going to do and the person you're going to do it to. Is hurling an insult the best way to resolve the malice you have towards them? If you take a

minute and think before you act, you'll realize the truth of your situation: That person, who has angered you to a point of violent intent, is insignificant. Over 7.5 billion people on the planet, and you're prepared to put yourself at academic, social, and physical risk because one idiot was acting in a way you took exception to. Does this person really mean anything in your life? Of course not. So why would you risk anything, no matter how you feel, for that person? They don't matter, at all. Also, know that you acted as the more sensible person, and if

your adversary relishes in the fact that you didn't do anything to them, you relish in the fact that, most likely, your life will be classified as successful and theirs won't be. Now, if you don't follow the advice already listed in this thing I'm writing for a grade, try to remember this piece of advice: Take action against that idiot, so long as there are no broken bones, bruises (depending on how hard you punch), damaged organs, head damage, or any major trauma. Just do it...off campus.

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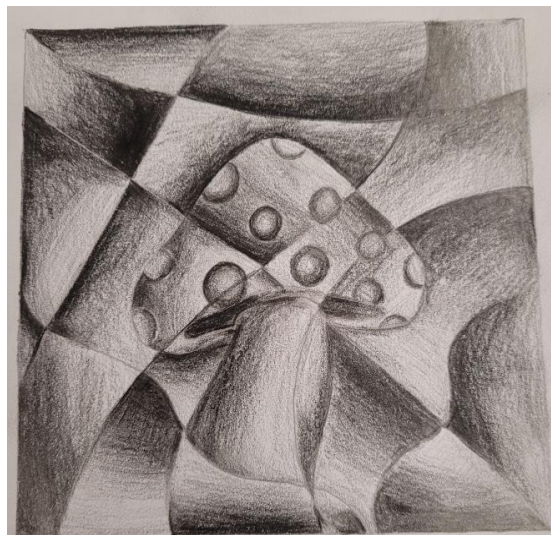
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