



The Tusker Tribune

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SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Winter 2023



Recess Equipment Deserves Better Care!



By Angie Perez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Is it just me or does recess equipment break incredibly fast? I remember in the beginning of the year, we had all sorts of new equipment! Basketballs, soccer balls, we even had a volleyball net up! All of that hardly lasted though.



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Everything I see now is just deflated. The other day, I saw an orange box ball defeated on the ground. It kind of makes me sad to see how much wasted equipment there is.

Also, in the beginning of the year, we definitely did not have one volleyball, and even if we did, it was a strong volleyball, not a deflated one. During recess, my friends and I always have to play with a half broken volleyball. It's very annoying and interferes with the experience.

I also noticed that when it is time to clean up, when the whistle blows, nobody ever puts back the balls and the equipment where they are supposed to go. They all just leave everything on the ground and run to the line.

I say that our school should work together to clean up when it is time to clean up and also all raise money together to help bring stronger equipment to our school! Let's make that a New Year Resolution!

Plenty to Do in the New Year!



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Don't know what to do as the new year gets underway? Here are 25 things to do for those times when you're just a bit bored . . .

- Make Party Poppers
- Have a Bonfire (but be careful!)
- Make Floating Lanterns (Release at Midnight)
- Host a Drive By Parade
- Create Goals For The New Year
- Do a Random Act of Kindness
- Make a Mini Photo Booth
- Host a Disco/70's Party
- Go Ice Skating
- Do Karaoke
- Watch a Movie Marathon
- Watch videos on how other countries celebrated New Years
- Create/Participate in a Scavenger Hunt
- Host/Go to a Sleepover
- Host/Go to a Murder Mystery Party
- Play Board Games with Friends and Family
- Bake/Cook New Foods with Friends
- Go to Bingo
- Play Video Games
- Play Minute to Win it Games
- Create a Vision Board
- Make Noise Makers
- Find/Make a Time Capsule
- Make Crafts



NaNoWriMo Leads

We'll publish different NaNoWriMo "leads" from this year's 8th graders over the next couple of months. Here's the first two!

"Taking in everything around me, from the fans in the stands, to our defense doing warmups, and the glaring yellow sun that was beating down on everybody, but most importantly, the Cubs team, hoping to rally back, all I had to do was stop them."

Pressure On Me

-Sam Dwyer



A New Year and Thoughts Turn To . . . High School!



**By Angie Perez
Tusker Tribune
Staff**

High School is coming up for the 8th graders. I am one of those people who have a lot of mixed feelings about entering high school.

Some of my friends are just plain excited to be heading out of the middle school and getting to choose advanced classes and experiencing another building.

Other people are the complete opposite—they love being at the top of the school right now and they are nervous and scared to enter into high school, also known as the “big” world.

freshman, sophomore,
junior, senior



People know that in high school, you need to start taking school seriously, which is why some people are terrified. Colleges will look at all your high school grades and determine if you belong on their campuses—or not.

I for one am excited and nervous to enter Somers High School. I am excited that I am able to get more class choices and more of a chance to be in my friends' classes.

On the other hand, I am terrified of having to navigate through the humongous building.

Any 8th graders out there agree with me? What do you think? Are you excited for the high school?"

Have a Sweet Tooth? Try These Popular Candies!



**By Josie Wilkinson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If you are looking for the best candies in America for 2023, here are the top 10 from 2022.

In 2022, multiple websites said that Reese's Peanut Butter Cups was the number one candy. But there are lots of candies, so if you are nut-free, there are lots of choices.

The second most popular candy in America was Hershey's chocolate bars. The third and fourth favorite candies in the U.S. were Snickers and Twix.

With chocolate, creamy caramel, and smooth nougat the fun sized Milky Way was close behind in fifth. The sixth favorite candy in 2022 was M&M's. M&M's website showed that there are at least fourteen flavors, like milk chocolate, fudge brownie, pretzel. In addition, there are also mini M&M's.

The seventh and eighth favorite candies were Rainbow Skittles and Swedish Fish. According to “The Candy Blog”, Swedish Fish's original flavor was lingonberry—a European berry.

In 2022, the ninth-place



candy in the US was Dots, and finally, in tenth, there were Starbursts.

Here are some fun facts about candy. The candy Snickers bar was named after the Mars family's pet horse. Did you know that Tootsie Roll was introduced by Leo Hirshfield, who named them after his daughter's nickname, “Tootsie”? Also, the Dum Dum lollipop's “mystery” flavor is always a mix of two flavors. It is made when the machine switches to producing a new flavor.

The next time you go shopping for candy I hope this helps you decide which candy to get.

My sources:

<https://www.tropicalfoods.com/fun-facts-candy/>

<https://www.google.com/search?q=what+are+the+top+20+candies+in+america%3F&rlz=1C1GCEAenUS1022US1022&oq=&aqs=chrome.7.69i59i450l8.6362221j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

<https://thekrazycouponlady.com/tips/family/best-halloween-candy>

<https://www.mms.com/en-us/experience-mms/flavors>



Congress' Drama: The Speaker Vote



**By Xavi Dosil
Tusker Tribune Staff**

After the midterms, the Republicans controlled the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Democrats controlled the U.S. Senate.

The big Republican is Kevin McCarthy. A man who promises, if elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, will read the U.S. Constitution word by word, and he will do stuff he says for the American people.

For example, he will try to stop the IRS from being funded, remove certain Democrats from committees, investigate Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for leaving the border open, create a House Committee on China for being involved with COVID, end proxy voting, which still allows members of Congress to get paid without ever needing to show up for work, and pass the Parents Bill of Rights act. Those are all the things he will do as speaker.

For the Democrats, their fighter is Hakim Jefferies, someone who they say will unify the country. Since they don't have a majority, Hakim won't be elected Speaker of the House.



However, back to Kevin McCarthy. There is an anti-McCarthy campaign being led by Byron Donalds. In his political advertisement, he states that he is a Trump-supporting, gun-owning, liberty-loving, pro-life, politically incorrect Black man.

He also states that he was arrested as a young man for drug possession and deciding to get his life together "through the grace of God".

Donalds was raised in Brooklyn, New York, by a "single mom with three kids, two jobs and not much else," he said. "Thanks to my mom and her influence, what could have been the end of my road was just the beginning".

Those are the 3 nominees in the House of Representatives which, at the time of this writing, is in its 9th vote*.

The voting will continue until the majority votes on whoever will be leading the house for two to four years.

**Editor's Note: The inability to elect a Speaker of the House has not occurred in Congress since 1923, so we are living in a historical time period. As of this printing, 11 votes have been taken on the House floor, with no Speaker chosen.*

How to Study for a Test: Part 2



**By Anna Huber
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Editor's Note: Part 1 of this story appeared in the 12/22/22 Issue of the Tusker Tribune.

Now that the winter break we've all longed for has come to an end, school starts up again. Hence, exams, assessments, and will be thrown at us. So, to help you study for these essential exams, here are a few study methods, tips, and tricks.

Reteach the material

To help comprehend the topic, verbalizing might be in your favor. You can reteach the material to yourself or to someone else. Make sure you remember what you say, so you can go back later and review your notes, looking to see if you missed a key detail while teaching your topic. Reteaching the material will also help you with repetition, which is key to understanding and memorizing an important topic.

Know what you don't understand

Sure, it is helpful to go over all the material for review. However, you should study in chunks. By identifying what you don't understand, you can focus on that material. You may use repetition to understand that topic. Remember, not everything

can be done at once! So, narrow down you're studying to things you don't know.

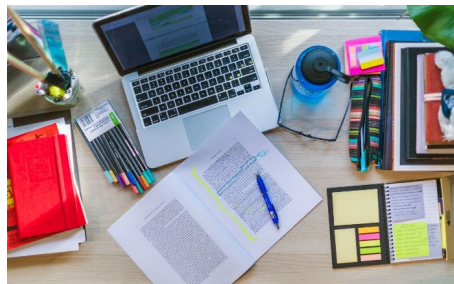
Review assignments that involve topics on your assessment

For you to be successful, you might need to take some extra steps that don't involve using a study guide. Reviewing assignments that involve topics on our assessment might be one of them. It's more than likely questions on an assignment might be like the ones on your test. So don't just use that study guide but use those assignments as well!

Set up small tasks and goals throughout your study time

Yes, you want to get your studying done. However, you need to do this in an efficient amount of time. One of the ways you can complete your studying is by setting up small goals for yourself and tasks.

For example, when studying, review specific parts of the material first, which can be your first task. An example of a second task to complete while studying is narrowing in on what you don't know (as seen in tip number 2). Your final task could be having a review of all the material on the quiz, that way you understand every topic on it.



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A Vibrant Community Starts with YOU



**By Josie Wilkinson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Your community is more than just where you live. It is where you make new memories every day. That is why you should take care of it as much as you can.

You have most likely heard a lot of people say this before—every little thing helps, but it is true. Planting trees, recycling, even picking up litter. They all help make your community a better place.

A town, school, or neighborhood, these are some of the places that can be a community. In any community, you should be respectful of your surroundings and courteous. Try to be an active participant in your community. Some examples would be to join a club, a sports team or volunteer.

Donating clothes that do not fit you any more is a wonderful way to support some of your neighbors who are in need. Goodwill, Once Upon A Child, and local food drives are great charities to which you can donate in Somers.

If you want to have a bigger impact on your school community, think about running for student council or government next year. You can also support your local businesses by buying things from them that you would usually get online or from a national chain.

To support Somers, you can consider going to the Veteran's Day and Memorial Day parades to honor your local service men and women. Also, remember to wear your Tuskers swag around town! There can never be too much spirit in any community!



SMS's STAR Students Who Go Above and Beyond

Grade 6:



Keziah Ferry



Matthew Raimondi



Aiyana Smith

Grade 7:



Brett Solimine



Jackson Frey



Raymond Asllani

Grade 7 (Contd.)



Maria Berwa



Anna McArdle



Jayden Simpson



Mia Cruz



RJ Traina



Enrico Diana

Grade 8:

Grade 8 (Contd.)



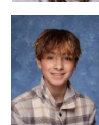
James McLeod



Emme Quinn



Chloe Lee



Cian Gibson

A STAR award stands for Students who are Role Models. The students pictured here were caught doing something that deserves the STAR recognition for the month—from common courtesy, to helping another student or staff member, to standing up for someone or cheering them up! Great job to all of our Stars – keep up the positive behavior – it makes our school a better place!

Below, I have shown the answers for my “Crossword Plus” Puzzle. The answer letter(s) for each corner is/are shown in blue:

A crossword puzzle appeared in the March 27/28 issue of The New York Times.

C	R	E	A	M			
H				O			
A				I			
L				S			
L	O	C	K	T	W	I	G,N
E							E
A							A
F	U	S	S	S,B	L	U	R
			L				
			E				
			E				
P,T	O	R	C	H			

NEWSPAPER CLUB



TUSKER TRIBUNE

Planners Can Help Organize Your for 2023



**By Reagan Ciccone
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You know at the beginning of the year when you get handed a brand-new planner?

I know most of this school thinks planners are useless and usually leave them sitting in their lockers, but planners can be useful in many ways. In this article, I will be talking about how planners can improve your overall school experience and why they are necessary to use.

Planners help organization



Having a planner can really help you with organizing your thoughts and plans. For example, let us say you have one piece of homework for each subject, and you want to do the homework in a specific order. That way, you get done quicker. Having a planner can help you remember the order and will help you spend less time on your homework.

You can also section out your work; if you have math homework, you can put it in a separate section from your social studies homework.

Planners help you hand in work on time

Forgetting to do your homework is one of the most common things that middle school students do. I know I have, and you probably have, too. Using a planner can help slim the chances of you forgetting to do your homework. I know you might think it's useless because you will just



“remember” to do it, but in reality, we all forget sometimes and writing your homework down won't harm you in any way.

Planners help reduce stress

A lot of students stress out when they don't have everything they have to do right in front of them. Some students stress over the fact that they forgot to do something, or they don't know where to start with their homework and there's just too much to do.

Having a planner can prevent some of this stress from happening. Planners help students to have a checklist right in front of them with everything they have to do. This helps kids calm down and causes them to focus and become motivated.



Planners can teach life skills

Believe it or not, in the future, you will not be able to just “memorize” the things you have to do. Having a planner now allows kids to practice planning out all their work and develops a life skill that will be useful in the future.

If kids use their planners now it is more likely that they will be more prepared in life and they will have a plan to complete the work that is required for jobs, business, or even maintaining a house.

These are only some of the benefits of using a planner! I know a planner benefits me in a lot of different ways I didn't even know was possible! So, what do you think? Are you ready to give your planner another try?

Drama Club Just Might Be For You!



**By Amber Sinagra
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever considered Drama Club? Well, I'm here to tell you all about it. This year, the Drama Club is putting on The Lion King Jr. Everyone gets a role and gets to audition!

When you audition, you must sing a part of a song and read lines with someone! The auditions are super scary, but really so fun! Auditions are normally in November and the show is normally in March.

It may seem like a small amount of time



but it's just right!!! After the holidays is when rehearsals really start. We practice songs, talk lines and so much more. Last year (2022) was my first year of drama. My friends were doing it with me, and I was so happy. Last year the show was Peter Pan Jr. When March came around, I was so ready, and the cast did amazing!

If you like to dance, sing, and perform, Drama club is just for you (:P). There's no previous dance or singing experience. You can join however you are! I hope you will join!