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Fall 2021

A History of Segregation in Schools

Editor's Note: This story was written as part of our commemoration of Inclusive Schools Week.



By James Gallivan
Tusker Tribune Staff

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It is a well-known fact that schools were segregated in the US, but we should take some time to reflect and learn more about what segregation in schools meant, given it is Inclusive Schools Week.



For some background information, segregation is the separation of people, based on things such as race, religion, or sexual orientation. In the US, schools were separated by race, mainly between African-American and white students. Segregated schools were, as the name implied, segregated. White children and black children would go to different schools, with schools for whites usually offering a better education, often having more qualified teachers, newer and better school supplies, and more funding from the government. Schools for African-American children often did not have qualified teachers, enough materials, and not enough funding.



It was common in rural towns that did not have enough money to build one school for whites, and then not build one for blacks, essentially denying them the right to an education. In towns and cities that had schools, it was still problematic, as many black children would only be in school for two to three months, as they were often needed to harvest crops and farm at home.

Back to the history of segregation, most forms of segregation after slavery began after the Civil War, when a series of laws, known as "Jim Crow laws," were passed, creating racial barriers in many aspects of life for groups like African-Americans, including schools, stores, public transport, parks, and other facilities. This caused many problems, as the segregation of everything meant that ethnic groups like African-Americans could not have the same opportunity as whites in aspects of life, like education, causing things like generational poverty, as many people did not have the opportunity to succeed.

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Why I Like Tech Class This Year



By Col Shala
Tusker Tribune Staff

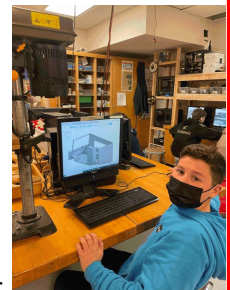
In 6th grade, I hated technology class because they said we would get to make stuff and create and design stuff. However, it was more like we had to learn all the resources that we would be using, so it was actually really boring because we had to sit in really annoying chairs that were very uncomfortable.

But this year, in 7th grade, while we still have uncomfortable chairs, we actually get to do what we were told at the very beginning. We're actually getting to make things.

Something I personally like is that Mr. Lugo treats us as if we are adults. We're able to use automated saws and all of the other tools in the classroom. We just have to follow some safety rules.

One thing I don't really find fun is that we have to do research for some of the projects. I don't really like research. To be honest, I'd rather just get into the project head-on.

But beyond that, I think tech is right up there with my favorite classes. Of course my favorite class is gym for obvious reasons.





SMS PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

HOLIDAY CAROLS

A MINI CONCERT

BEFORE SCHOOL 7:40 AM | December 16th, 2021
Main Entrance Auditorium

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

7:40 AM - 7:50 AM	7 th & 8 th Grade Chorus
7:50 AM - 8:00 AM	Chamber Orchestra
8:00 AM - 8:10 AM	Bell Choir

Reporters/Contributors

Col Shala
James Gallivan
Jeremy Jawahir
Lucas Ziegler

Segregation

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In 1896, this was challenged in the Supreme Court, in the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, but the Court ruled 7-1 against the case of Homer Plessy, who was arguing that segregation was unconstitutional. The decision ruled that facilities, public and private, including schools, could still be segregated, so long as they provided, in the case of schools, an equal education.

This did not affect much though, as the equality of segregated places was rarely ever enforced, essentially segregation in schools and life to continue as normal.

Segregation in schools went unchanged for the next few decades, until 1954, when the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of Oliver Brown, a father of a girl who was forced to be bused to a segregated school farther away from the closet school, which was whites-only.



The verdict of the case (called *Brown v. Board of Education*), said that segregation in schools was unconstitutional, partially overturning the "Jim Crow" laws and *Plessy v. Ferguson*. This led to a then at the time controversial

movement to integrate schools, allowing whites and blacks and all other ethnicities to attend the same schools, that today is applied in every school in the US and, in my opinion, a basic necessity for a good education.

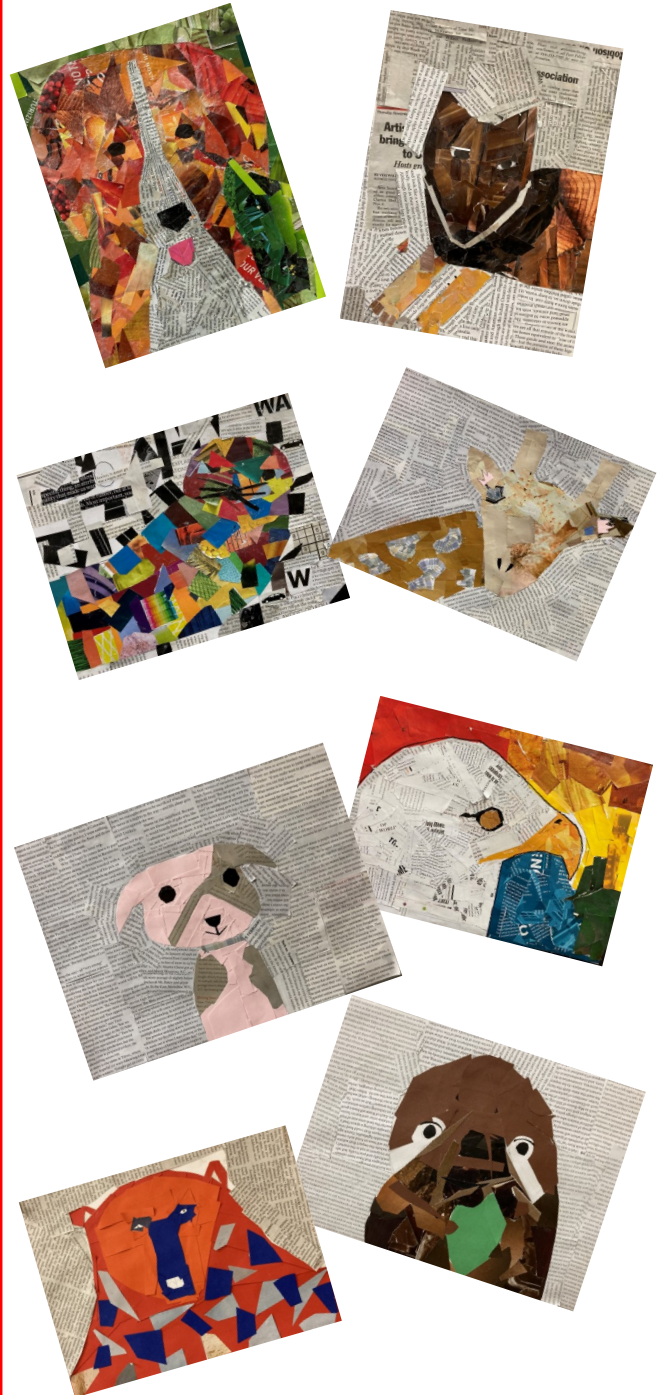
While *Brown v. Board of Education* outlawed segregation, and allowed for African-Americans to receive a better education, causing higher test scores, graduation rates, and other things, there is still a problem among schools today. While schools legally cannot segregate anymore, due to the fact that there were previous Jim Crow laws in the 19th and 20th centuries preventing whites and blacks from living in the same area, neighborhoods to this day, still have forms of segregation and racism in them, with one ethnicity usually being predominant.

This has led to many schools in the US having a large majority of the student body being one ethnicity. Also, studies have found that many schools in the US still provide less opportunity, intentional or not, to African-American and other students of minorities, with white students in some school districts being 5 times as likely compared to African-American students, to be placed in an advanced class, such as an AP class, according to ProPublica.

As we celebrate Inclusive Schools week, we must remember the segregation that went on in America as recently as 65 years ago, and that we must prevent racism and segregation from happening in any form, while promoting equality and inclusiveness. I wish everyone a happy Inclusive Schools Week!

Cool Collages

Students in Mr. Wnderlingh's art class completed their final project of the trimester—color theory animal portrait collages. Students create the background on contrasting or opposite colors based on the dominant one used in the animal's "face". The collages are posted in the hallway across from Dr. Blanch's office.



Laser Tag Champions Again!



Congratulations to Jeremy Jawahir, Roan Lyons, Caelan Frye and Judah Portnoy on October 28th for getting first place in the First Person Sports, Tactical Laser Tag Championships for the second season in a row!

Lots of Reasons to Play Sports



By Col Shala
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hey, it is me, Col, again. Today, I would like to talk about my opinion on sports.

Lots of people think you need to be on a high-end team to play sports and you need to pay \$500 to get into a league. But you don't.



You can play at parks, you can play quick games during recess at school, or in your backyard.

The point of sports isn't always to just be good. It

can also be to have fun.

Some people really try hard in sports and that's because they love those sports but that doesn't mean you have to try that hard to have fun. So the main reason people play sports is to have fun.

When I used to play in town sports, the coaches only let the good players play. I never understood why they did that.

A reason you should play sports is it is a great hobby. You can really engage in sports and really like it and it is also a new way to make friends, and meet new people and get in shape.

I personally play baseball and soccer, and I am thinking of playing basketball. I usually play 2nd base in baseball and I play offence in soccer.

Tips to Max Out Your PC Performance (for Dummies)



By Lucas Ziegler
Tusker Tribune Staff

Here are some common sense tips to max out the performance of your PC!

- Add an SSD or solid-state drive. SSD storage is much faster than mechanical hard drive storage and will increase the speed and performance of your pc.
- Upgrade the RAM (memory) Having less than 12 gigs is detrimental to your performance.
- If you're using integrated graphics, get a graphics card. A GTX 1050 TI or above can play the newest games with acceptable graphics.
- Get a better CPU cooler. Your CPU over heating will cause massive frame drops and lag.
- Overclock your pc. Look up how to get into your bios and change the clock speed of your CPU and GPU, and make sure you have an adequate cooler, so your PC doesn't crash.
- Remove bloatware. Go to the search bar, and type "apps", go into apps, and remove duplicates or anything you don't use.

Give your sluggish desktop new life with these tips.



The Tusker Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from:

**Somers Middle School, 250 Route 202,
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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at

DPappas@somersschools.org.
Website:

<https://www.somersschools.org>