



The Tusker Tribune

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Thoughts on Graduation



By Eli Clavines
Tusker Tribune Staff

The seasons are getting warmer and for eighth graders, our graduation is getting closer! COVID has changed many things, including graduation, for the past three years. Hopefully this year, graduation will be a day to remember for everyone.

But what are the eighth graders' thoughts on graduation? I interviewed a few students, and this is what I got.

Akousua Adobea-Wiredu says, "I'm excited but at the same time I'm not because eighth grade graduation looks so far from now, but I'm also excited because it's crazy how I'm finally graduating."

Michael Lopez says "It's cool I mean I didn't really see it coming. I really liked this year, but I feel like high schools going to be a lot better. I feel like middle school is a big stepping stone towards high school because it trains you properly for high school. Even though COVID happened, all the teachers and the principal did a great job. Sometimes middle school might suck but otherwise the year helped me make friends."

Emely Cordero says, "I'm excited because I'll be able to get a job in high school and I could have my own money. I'm scared about going to high school though because it is a whole new place with new teachers, and everything is different."

Lastly, Isabella Butrico states, "I want us to have the D.C trip. I'm kind of excited for high school but it's stressful because it's a lot of information and I am not ready."

Everyone seems to have mixed feelings about everything.



DaVinci Science Center Comes to SMS!

<https://youtu.be/K4Ldh08oj3U>

A Day in the Life of an SHS Freshman



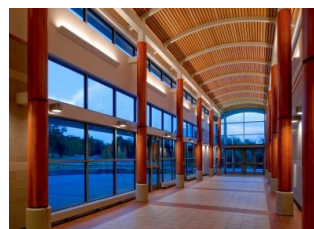
By Reagan Ciccone
Tusker Tribune Staff

For any eighth graders who are scared to enter high school, this article is for you.

Recently, I interviewed my sister (who is a freshmen) with some questions you may be wondering about regarding Somers High School.

"Is it hard to get around the school?" I asked my sister.

"For me it was hard to find your way around on the first day of school," she answered. "I was nervous because the bell rang, and I still wasn't in class. Luckily, there are people to help you, like the monitor who was



there to help me when I was lost. She helped me find my way to my first class. You can also ask your teachers for directions. After a few days of going to my classes, I eventually got the hang of where

to go and did not need to ask my teachers for help anymore."

"How much time do you get in school to get your homework done?" I question.

"You either are assigned or have academic support or learning center, where you can get your homework done," she answered. "Either one lasts about an hour. You also have study hall, which is another period you can use to get work done."

"How much homework do you get daily?" I added to my last question.

"Usually, it depends on what class you have and what teachers you have. For me, in math, I get a packet or a page to do. In global history, we get worksheets on Schoology and for English, you read at home and answer questions about the book you read," she answered.

There you go 8th graders! Hopefully, this helps you feel calmer about entering high school, good luck next year!

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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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Dancing to Escape



**By Jessica Borell
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Zoey is a dancer; she likes to do hip hop the most, but she doesn't do it smoothly. She likes to hit the beat hard and listen to rap. She's not really a street dancer, either.

No one knows how to describe her. She has brown scrappy hair and a mix of blue and brown eyes. She's tall, but not too tall. So average, I guess. She doesn't have too many friends. She lives in New York.

One of her friends lives in LA and she knows so much about her and wishes she could meet her. She isn't popular either. At school she's friends with two girls who are in none of her classes. She only sees them at lunch and recess but dance, you see, is her outlet. Her only outlet. She goes to dance every day to get away from her fighting parents.

Monday is three hours, Tuesday is also three hours, Wednesday, it's team dance and she takes a class, so four hours total. Thursday is two hours and Friday is two hours. All of them have hip hop in them. All hard hitting and she's the best at it. At dance is where she makes more friends. She's friendly but, I guess people at school just don't see it as much as she does.

It's Wednesday today, her favorite day. First, she has ballet, then hip-hop, then team and for the last hour of it, it's team hip-hop. Her group

of friends at dance include Sienna, Maya, Lily and Taylor. She lives for dance.

During ballet, she saw Maya talking to Sienna a lot and she wanted to say something, but it seemed like they didn't want her in the conversation. Maya is always trying to make Zoey a better dancer but sometimes she tries too hard and makes Zoey feel bad about herself. She's like best friends with her though.

"Okay, put your left leg on the bar and go up to releve with your right leg and then come down and plea," the dance teacher instructs. When it comes to ballet, Zoey isn't the best with balance. She's been told this by Maya, and her dance teacher.

As she came down from releve, her foot lost balance and she came down on two of her

toes instead of all five like she's supposed to, and heard a snap. There was more to the bar warm up, but she told the teacher she had to sit out, so she did.

The next day, she went to the doctor and found out she snapped her right Achille's tendon, which didn't make her happy at all. She would have to sit out!

She didn't want that, and she knew the comments she would hear, but she had to stay home the first day, only to find out her parents were fighting about them moving to LA. They weren't arguing for different reasons. They were arguing about how great she would be.



Check Out These Books!



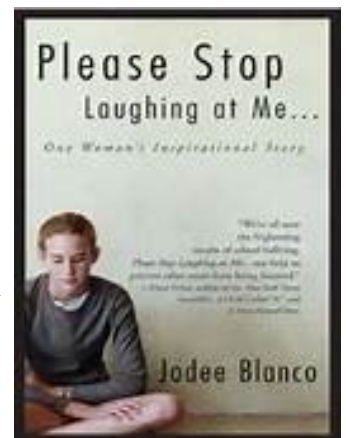
**By Akosua Adobea-Wiredu
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Hey, guys! I'm back with the book recommendations. However, before I start, I hope everyone's break was great. Mine was relaxing, I guess (lol).



Okay, so for the first book, Everything. Everything by Nicola Yoon—this is such a good book. It literally had me sobbing in bed and everything. And it comes from the perspective where the main character has never been outside before so that's a cool POV to look from.

Not gonna lie, I thought the book Please Stop Laughing at Me by Jodee Blanco was going to be a cringy book but when I tell you I literally cried, (I'M NOT EVEN LYING), I bawled my eyes out at like 2 am. Because the treatment Jodee (main character/author) went through in her middle and high school years is something a child should never experience. This is all based on a true story, too. It's such a nice book though, so you should definitely read it!



Continued on Page 3

How 'STAR' Will You Go?



STAR: Patrick Morett, 7th Grade

WHY? Patrick looked out for a fellow student's well-being.



STAR: Ryan Hunter, 7th Grade

WHY? Ryan helped a fellow student with a technology need.



From Page 2



3. Verity by Colleen Hoover is probably one of my favorites. I was literally shaking in my bed, thinking whether I should step away from my book (lol), because the descriptions made it so real. It's both thriller and romance, which are my favorite genres so *chef's

kiss*.

4. One of Us is Next by Karen McManus. In my other newspaper story, I mentioned One of Us is Lying, so I really suggest you read that first. I love how this book incorporates characters from the other book (and yes, I really sound confusing right now, but once you read the books, you'll understand. This

is more so like a truth or dare type of mystery and it's so cool!

And lastly, 5. The Girls I've Been by Tess Sharpe. Talk about following your mom's footsteps. Imagine I had to change my identity every few years? This is such a thrilling book, and a lot is going on! Anyway, I've given y'all five books and I hope that you guys take the time to research the books before reading them to

see if you're interested and yea!



Let's Meet Grace



**By Jessica Borell
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Grace is messy but beautiful in her messiness. She knows how to make someone laugh and make someone upset at her.

Grace is a graceful name, and she loves to dance but when her messy side comes out, she likes to play lacrosse, listen to rock n' roll and skip school.

"I'm an imperfect person. Everyone is. You can't try and make me a perfect person, mom," Grace says leaving to go to lacrosse.

Grace decides to walk there. A ten-minute walk is no problem for her. She decided to make it in five. She ran and ran, trying to leave her problems behind her. When she got to the field, the other players were nowhere to be found. Her problems disappeared just like that when her messiness came out. They only said hi back when she came home. That's when she knew.

"Mom. You and I have a toxic relationship. It scares me. ... I know you always say your problems always follow you but half of them are going to stay home and I won't have to be reminded of them in Maryland. You hate moving and sure I know that but, do you want what's best for your daughter? Your only daughter?" Grace asks. She wasn't being messy or kind. She was being correct. She was right. She wanted something and she wants it badly. Horribly. She needs it.

"You don't have any problems, Grace," her mom says, trying to sound nice.

"Mom! You can never understand me, can you? We just can't get a happy ending. If dad was here."

"If, but he isn't Grace. Please go," her mother said.

Grace let down her hair but only to put it back up again in a messy bun. She grabbed sweatpants and a strange tie dye shirt that she seemed to love. She took off her socks and ran into her room with a smile on her face. She started blasting rock music and she heard her favorite tune come on: "I was made for Lovin' You" by KISS. She started rocking out and jumping everywhere. She somehow knew messy Grace would stay for a while.

