



The Tusker Tribune



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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If I Could Make Changes, I Would . . .

Editor's Note: for this issue of the Tusker Tribune, we asked our writers what they would do if they could make changes, either with a magic wand, or if they were in charge, or if things were back to normal. . . .

Read on to find out!



By Alex DiPasquale
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I had a magic wand, I would change things at school.

Number 1: I would make more time to eat lunch because by the time everyone gets lunch, there's only five minutes left to eat.

Number 2: I would have footballs at recess because recesses is boring right now.

Number 3: I would allow phones during class because it would be fun to make calls and play on them.

Number 4: there would be no detention so if you forget to do homework, you can't get in trouble

Number 5: I would have more fun in recess because work is boring.



By Lia Babon
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I had a magic wand in Somers, I would do a lot of things at school. First, I would give less homework and get rid of state tests.

Second, I would change the lunches to different foods to have a lot more variety and options. I would also make the classes 25 minutes shorter. Another thing I would do is make the hallways less crowded.



By Sam Seagrish
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I had a magic wand, I would make school start at 9:30 each day.

If I had a magic wand, I would make the periods 30 seconds maximum.

If I had a magic wand, I would make recess last for two hours.

If I had a magic wand, I would make the school give out no homework.

If I had a magic wand, I would order the school lunches from different restaurants every day.

If I had a magic wand, I would get rid of state tests.

If I had a magic wand, I would make the

STAR test go away.

If I had a magic wand, I would make it so you're allowed to walk to DeCicco and Sons whenever you want.

And finally, I would use my wand to close school because **SCHOOL NEEDS TO BE CANCELED!**

NEWSPAPER CLUB



TUSKER TRIBUNE

By Sam Able
Tusker Tribune Staff

Dear Mr. Getman,

If I had a wand and I could switch 5 things in Somers, the first thing would be to switch some lunch meals. We have very basic stuff like grilled cheese, pasta, etc. I think we should add more meals with more culture like meals from Mexico, India, France and Italy, etc. Then we can express ourselves to more flavors and more countries.

The second thing I would do is allow us to use our phones for indoor recess. Yes, I know school is for learning, but at recess, we don't learn anything so that's okay and we really have nothing to do. The school provides some games but some of the pieces are missing so you can't fully play the game. Another reason why the games aren't enough because since we have a pandemic, it would be very unsafe for our safety. We have nothing else to do, so why not use our phones?

The third thing is no homework. The reason for no homework is because we have so much stress on us already. We get more stress by doing homework because maybe we're trying to finish missing homework or homework so it's not missing. Homework is just like a test but not as hard or as many points as one.

The fourth thing is that only 8th graders can walk to some place near our school during recess. Yes, I know this may not be a safe idea, but some people are mature enough to go on a two-minute walk off campus. Now we can't go too far because that's a little unsafe so maybe the maximum would be 10 minutes away.

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Change

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The last and final thing would be that we could see our pictures ON picture day. Now when we do picture day, we can't see our photos which I know is annoying for others as well. We want to see how our pictures came out so we can re-take them again immediately and not a month later. It's also annoying because this year whatever our first take on our photo will become our ID for high school which annoys a lot of people because they took a re-take for a reason. So, I think we should see our photos the first take. That's what I would do if I got the magic wand and could change 5 things.



By Simon Szabo
Tusker Tribune Staff

If things were back to normal, the first five things that I would do is have free lunch and have cookies for 10 cents and ice cream for 20 cents and chips for 15 cents.

I would have this because some kids cannot buy lunch and the ice cream and chips are too much for 50 cents, and the ice cream is almost melted when you get it so that is why I would have those prices.

The second thing I would do is that since there are one hour long classes, then what I would do is for each class, there would be a bell and for every time the bell rang, the kids could get a snack during class.

The third thing I would do is that if it's anybody's birthday, then they would write it down on a piece of paper and when that day comes, then for lunch, there would also be ice cream cake for everyone and every table would have one cake and everyone who sits at the table splits the cake in slices.

The fourth thing I would do is that I would also have a skate park for the kids who like either BMX biking, scootering, or skate boarding.

The last thing I would do is that at the end of each month, I would do a celebration for each grade and we would go just on a full day of going to anywhere the kids want to go.

Who Would I Hire to Be My Teacher if I Had My Choice?



By Andrew Underkoffler
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I could have had anyone be my teacher, it would be my ski coach Dylan. He really helps me improve on my skiing. He also helps me with my tricks and I really hope he does it again because I have so much fun skiing with him and we do all sorts of crazy things, like jump off cliffs and do rails and big jumps.

He is always there for me when I fall, and he always believes in me when I am doing a jump or something new.

And his two main rules are, always have fun and be safe because many things can happen when you are skiing.



By Christopher Gonzalez-Ceja
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I had the choice to hire anyone real or fictional to be my teacher, I would choose to hire Kobe Bryant.

Kobe was one of my favorite basketball players. He always set a good example, and now he is deceased, which makes me want to hire him even more.



By George Sullivan
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I was going to hire a coach for football, or someone to teach, I would pick Andy Reid because he won a Super Bowl with a young team and he is a very good coach and makes young rookies great. He also helps veterans stay good and keep their careers going.

He is also an incredibly good play caller and could call trick plays, deep plays, short plays, and creative run plays to get a touchdown.

He is also a very good leader. If someone gets in trouble outside the game and in the locker room and they think they're a hot shot, he would bench them and show them that they're not the hot shot and they could get benched. All the other players would know not to mess around with academics or fights and act up like they're the best and they would not do it again. That is why I would hire Andy Reid a head coach for my football team, or as a teacher.



By Giuliana Baldo
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I could hire anyone in the world to be my teacher, I would probably hire Tom Holland (Spider-Man) to be my teacher because he can do all these cool tricks and flips, and I don't know how to flip.

He is just a great actor, and I want to be an actor when I am in my 20's.

I would want him to teach gym class for me, and I'm also a Spider-Man fan.



By Justin Thomas
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I had to hire anyone in the world to be my teacher, I would pick Russell Wilson, the NFL football player and Seattle Seahawks Quarterback.

I would pick Russell Wilson because he could teach me and my class many things, and he's a quarterback, so he is very smart.

Another reason why I would pick him to be my teacher is because he is very nice. Russell always visits sick kids in the hospital to make them feel better and he would let us do many things and would just

A COVID Thanksgiving . . .



**By Jack LaRocca
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Although it's been a while, covid-19 still plagues our everyday lives. Events like Hallow-

een have been stripped of all their normality, so the question is, with thanksgiving coming up, who can come and who must stay behind?

I believe that Thanksgiving will **still** be celebrated, obviously, but we must be careful of how many people are invited.

Under 10 seems to be the golden number, or even safer: under 7.

When making the guest list on Thanksgiving Day, you should only invite the essential members of the immediate family, your sons, daughters, parents and maybe a few friends. Picking and choosing might be tough, but it is essential for Coronavirus safety.

Another worry of Thanksgiving is food. What if the person who makes it has a sickness? What if you get germs? To prevent worries like this, be sure the person making the food has been washing their hands and has been checked their

temperature. For the person making the food, when coughing or sneezing, please try to go to another room. Additionally, easy access to hand sanitizer is key.



Lastly, a big scare for people is how are they supposed to greet and respect each other? Obviously, staying six feet apart is ideal, but try to keep people contained in one floor of the house.

Don't let people into bedrooms either. Do you want to sleep in a room full of germs? I'd say guest rooms are also very case by case.

In conclusion Thanksgiving will be very different this year. Cutting the guest list, safely preparing food, discussing everyone's boundaries all

need to be considered on the big day.

So, when all the precautions have been taken, and you are as safe as possible, try to have a lot of fun.

Editor's Note: Here's a resource from the Centers for Disease Control on safely celebrating holidays during this pandemic: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#:~:text=Avoid%20close%20contact%20by%20staying,with%20anyone%20who%20is%20sick.>

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Also, since he is a football player, he would probably let us go outside a lot to play football or whatever sports we would want to play. He is very athletic and knows a lot about football. Since I play football and some of my friends in my class play it, he would probably tell us a lot of tips and tricks.

Lastly, since he is very athletic, he will hopefully workout with me and my class and we will have fun outside.



**By Justin Williams-Conroy
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I had the power to hire anyone to be my teacher, I would choose Spider-Man because he would be able to teach me how to become a great person in the world and showing me the right thing to do.



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Somers Middle School, 250 Route 202, Somers, NY, USA.

Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org



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