



# The Tusker Tribune



## SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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*Editor's Note: The next several issues of The Tusker Tribune will feature articles based on broad overarching topics. This week, students write about role models, whether technology is addictive, whether girls or boys face more pressure, and middle school advice. So enjoy reading the various viewpoints featured here.*



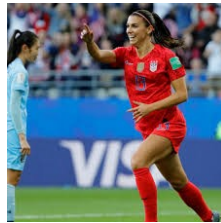
### Alex Morgan is an Inspiration



**By Kate Seeger  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

A role model who I look up to is Alex Morgan.  
Alex

Morgan is a professional soccer player. She is 31 years old. Alex Morgan became the youngest member of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team in 2009.



Alex Morgan is known as the best soccer player in the world. I think that Alex is a good role model because Alex may be a star on the US women's national team, but she is aware that without the combined efforts of her teammates, they would not be the reigning world champs.

She values what everyone brings on the field, and as a result she acts a uniting force.

### Technology Keeps Drawing Kids In



**By Jonathan Rivera  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Technology is addicting to teens because they don't want to start school or just want to be in front of a screen all day.

The thing about tech is that there are gamesto play and messages to text your friends.

Kids also see the latest gadgets and apps that tech companies want you to play or try.

On an iPhone, there is an app called "Tik Tok". It's a highly addictive app where there are dance memes and other trends.



A computer is another addictive item that allows you to play games, watch movies or videos, and create memes.

Consoles are also another addictive thing—they're online systems where you can play with friends or other new people and they are very popular.

### Tech Can Keep You From Other Activities



**By Caitlin Mayfield  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think technology is addictive for kids. In my family, we have a deal—you can't get a phone until you're 11 and I used to think that was annoying.

But I am happy it's 11 because I used to get addicted. I think if you're addicted, you should find something else to do, like go outside and play or volunteer or even invite friends over.



But I also think if you really like tech for school or engineering, then I think it's ok because you're working on something and you can change what you want to do when you grow up.

So if I were a parent who had a teenager who was addicted, I would put a screen time on the phone so they have to do something other than stay on technology.



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, Somers, NY, USA.**

Any SMS student is eligible to write stories.

If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at **DPappas@somersschools.org**

## Apps Can Be Very Addictive



By Jazlyn DeJesus  
Tusker Tribune Staff

I think teens are addicted to the internet, but that statement also relates to me because in all honesty, I can't go one day without my phone.

The internet provides us with things we find interesting. For example, if you like 10 pictures related to food on Instagram, the next day, all you're going to see is food on your "explore" page or feed.

Now you're going to be on Instagram way more because you're looking at something that interests you—for example, an estimated 69% of American teens ages 13-17 use Snapchat more than any other social media platform. This is because Snapchat gives us a way to talk to our friends or view their story's or what they're doing.



Another addictive app is Tik Tok. An estimated 41% of Tik Tok's uses are teens ages 13-16. This app is also very addictive because it gives you what you want to watch on your "for you" page or feed.

Let's say someone likes robots. If they like a certain amount of Tik Toks of robots, their Feed is going to be of robots, which makes the user want to stay on the app a little bit more because they're watching something that interests them. Therefore, they are going to stay in the app and spend a lot of time there. This is why tech is addictive to teens .

## Girls Face More Pressure



By Sofia Calandrucci  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Being a girl isn't as easy as you think. People tell us not to wear makeup and when we don't, they call us ugly.

What happened to natural beauty? Girls look in the mirror and we look and feel ugly. Our eyes are filled with tears and we feel numb. We know it was not what we needed to look like.

We scroll through social media and see an image and we see an expectation for something we need to measure up to. But when we see what we look like, we know we are not that.



Then people just tell us to have self-confidence—but then when I do, I'm "self-obsessed". There's never a balance; it's always an image, it's always the same girl with the slim waist who's skinny. She is the "pick me" girl. The one everyone wants, and she knows, she can pull anyone and still mess up all the good ones. So when it's time, there are no more good ones.

And that is why girls have it harder.

## Everyone is Addicted to Technology



By Giuliana Baldo  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Are teenagers really addicted to technology?

Well yes, everyone is addicted to technology, even babies.

My baby sister loves to play with my phone and she even has her own phone. It works, but it's overcharged. She still loves to use technology, like how she yells at us and says, "No no, Frosty!" As in Frosty the Snowman. She loves that movie; we have it on DVD, and she looks for the disk, picks it up and gives it to us to put it in the DVD player.



Kids are addicted to apps, whether it's watching YouTube, or even playing games.

You would see a kid with an electronic device in their hands. I see kids making their own YouTube channels and posting daily! Yes, little kids, like 7-9-year olds have their own channels.

Teens of course are addicted to devices, too. By teens, I mean like 13-19-year olds.

They text their friends, call each other, and they play games.

Adults are addicted to technology, whether they're texting, calling, or playing those matching games, like Gardenscapes. At least I think that's what it's called. They email, too. My mom always tells me I can't use my phone all the time, even if I'm texting my friends, or playing games, but she does the same.

Even cats are addicted to electronics. Have you ever see a cat lying on a computer keyboard?





## Russell Wilson Inspires Me



By Justin Thomas  
Tusker Tribune Staff

The one role model I would pick in the world that I look up to and really like is Russell Wilson.

There are many reasons why I like this person and look up to him. One reason is because he is a very athletic football player and is great at football.



Also, I like him because he plays for the Seattle Seahawks and the Seattle Seahawks are my favorite football team.

Another reason is because he is a very nice and humble person. I say this because he goes to hospitals all over the world or just in Seattle and says hi to sick kids and comforts them. I said that he was a very humble person, because every time he or his teammates score a touchdown or makes a nice play, he is very humble about it and does not show off.

Lastly, one more reason why I like Russell Wilson and look up to him is because he is a very smart person. By this I mean in football, during a game, he makes very smart decisions, makes the right throw and knows his football.

Lastly, he is a quarterback and I want to be a quarterback when I grow up.

## Middle School Advice



By Emily Mladenovic  
Tusker Tribune Staff

My first piece of advice would be to not be scared of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They act the same ways that 6<sup>th</sup> graders do. They just think they are so cool because they are in a grade level higher than you. So don't be scared.

My second piece of advice would be, DON'T WALK SLOWLY. Walking slowly gets you nowhere. Literally, you only have four minutes to get to your class, so if you walk slowly, you won't get there in time. Besides, if you do walk slowly, people will scream and yell at you, telling you to go faster and you don't want that.

My third piece of advice would be, don't try and act cool.

For example, don't get bad grades and say to people, "I got a bad grade but I don't care" or don't say that you didn't study and failed, because it's not cool and it gets you nowhere. Besides, if you'd like to fail the class, then go right ahead.

My fourth piece of advice would be to try to impress the teachers because if you're so good in that class, they will tell your 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.

My fifth and last piece of advice would be to try to do everything on time, and not be late, because when you go to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, you get a bunch of homework and some teachers won't take homework late, so try to make it a habit of finishing homework on time.



## Role Models, A Big Surprise, E-Learn vs In-School, and the Best and Worst Aspects of Middle School



By Matt Giudice  
Tusker Tribune Staff

### Role Models

Two role models of mine that I look up to are my parents. I look up to them because I know that I can trust them, and they will be there for me.

### Biggest Surprise

The biggest surprise in my life was when the Knicks drafted Frank Ntilikina. You might not know who he is, but he is in the NBA and the Knicks took him. He was a very bad player going into the draft, but he finished being a top ten pick in the draft because of the Knicks and their record.

### E-Learn vs In-School

I think it is easier to learn in school because there are fewer distractions.

### Best and Worst of Middle School

I think the worst thing about middle school, in my opinion, is that my bus comes at 7:30 so I must wake up at 6:50 to go to school when it's not E-learning. The best thing about middle school is that it ends at 2:20 so after you do your homework you are probably finished by 3:00.



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