



The Tusker Tribune



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Winter 2021

Should Students Come Back to School Full Time?



By Thomas Mauro
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: The Somers School District is developing reentry plans for after spring break, where a majority of students will be full time in-person learners, as opposed to following a hybrid schedule. Reporter Thomas Mauro reports on the debate of hybrid vs in-person learning.

This is one of the world's biggest questions. All over the earth, there is a highly contagious virus that has caused a global pandemic. Lots of things have been taken away. One of those things is being going to school every day. There are pros and cons of going back to school. A pro of going to school every day is that you finally get out of the house after a year of quarantine. A con of going to school every day is that you have a higher chance of a Covid-19 exposure.



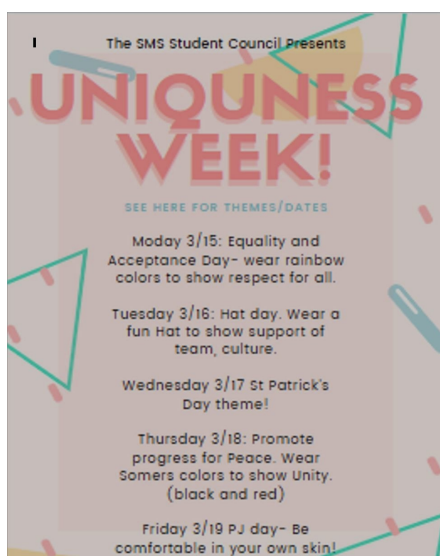
Another pro is that you get better and stronger relationships with your teachers. A con is that many kids will have trouble adjusting and getting back into coming every day.

A pro for hybrid learning is that you are still going to school and leaving the house. Additionally, you have a lesser chance of getting exposed to Covid-19. A con is that you are spending almost 50% of your school week just sitting at your computer.

A pro of hybrid is that you get to experience school both ways and see what way you like more. A con is that when you are at home, you are not getting your average amount of steps.

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), part of the United States National Library of Medicine, the average amount of steps a 7th grader gets in a day is 12,500. Most hybrid learners do not get 10% of that.

All in all which type of school day suits you?



**Change
Clocks this
weekend!**

Highs and Lows of the 2021 NBA All-Star Weekend



By Benji Cutler
Tusker Tribune Staff

Last Sunday, on March 7, the 2021 All-Star events took place, which were the Skills Challenge, 3 Point Contest, Dunk Contest and of course, the All-Star Game.

Although it didn't live up to everyone's expectations for a perfect All-Star weekend, there were several memorable moments that got fans out of their seats. However, we can't look past the horrible, boring and just basic moments that weren't exciting or good enough for people to enjoy watching.



Two out of the four events were mostly a success, but the two others were boring, underwhelming and just not as exciting as the event should be.

We will be going over three of these events today and explaining why they were good or bad, and what actually happened.

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NBA All Star

From Page 1

2021 Kia All-Star Game

To begin, we will review the successful events, starting with the 2021 NBA All-Star Game, between Team LeBron and Team Durant. In the 4 quarters of the game the first three were timed and were 12 minutes and the final quarter was untimed until either team reached the target score of 170, which was 24 points more than Team LeBron's third quarter score, in honor of Kobe Bryant's jersey number.

There were many exciting moments, including Stephen Curry and Damian Lillard literally playing H.O.R.S.E. from half court and about 30 feet deep, Giannis Antetokounmpo knocking down two surprising three-pointers, and 6'3" Steph along with 6'0" Chris Paul both flushing down an alley-oop from each other! These moments and all of the players participating got fans out of their seats, enjoying the night and enjoying watching their favorite players and idols going at it on the big stage in Atlanta.

Although the game wasn't close, ending in a 170-150 blowout win for Team LeBron, the surprising, exciting and entertaining moments made up for it.

Another crazy and historic moment didn't come from one exact possession, but rather from the box score. Milwaukee Bucks superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo became the first ever player to make every single field goal he attempted while scoring over 30 points with it. That's right, every single one! Along with beating the record, he doubled the record of 8 for 8 from Hal Greer. He dropped 35 points on 16 for 16 shooting splits, which included two threes! From Giannis! He went home with a smile on his face, his first ever All-Star Game win and his first ever Kobe Bryant All-Star Game MVP. What a historic game this was!



MTN DEW 3-Point Contest

Our second and final successful event was the 3-Point Contest, which included 6 All-Star participants. Those players were Jaylen Brown,

Jayson Tatum, Donovan Mitchell, Zach Lavine, Mike Conley, and oh, I almost forgot, Steph Curry. In the final round, Curry, Tatum and Conley made it and were ready to battle for the crown. Tatum went up first, and tallied up a below average score of 17 points, which is nothing compared to what Conley and Curry were about to do. Conley was up next, and he dropped a fantastic 27 points, which included 1 MTN Dew ball (3 pts) and 7 money balls (2 pts each). By this point, many people thought it was all over and Conley's amazing performance wrapped it up. By the way, Steph dropped a record-breaking 31 points in the first round, so people thought he

couldn't do as good as he did in the first round. However, they learned to never underestimate the greatest shooter of all time.

Even though Steph couldn't reach 31 points a second time, he brought back his old Splash Bro self. He splashed down 6 money balls, including the game-winning three, both of the MTN Dew shots, and a total of 28 points to barely slide past Mike Conley for the trophy. With the contest being down to the wire and a tight game between 6 competitors, that made this contest an entertainment and a show that the fans all enjoyed.



AT&T Dunk Contest

Finally, we will be reviewing, in my opinion, the worst event of the All-Star Weekend, the Dunk Contest. Instead of 4 participants, which is what it is normally, the NBA squeezed it down to 3 for COVID-19 safety reasons. Those 3 participants were Obi Toppin, Cassius Stanley and Anfernee Simons. To basically everyone, these players aren't exciting, big names or entertaining, and to most people, that's what this dunk contest turned into. Not exciting or entertaining... at all.

None of the dunks that were performed even got the other players at the arena or the commentators excited. The common responses were just some claps from the players or words like "Ok" or "Alright" from the commentators. I know the environment was so much different without the entire crowd filled and it was at Halftime instead of the night before the game, but these types of reactions have never been heard before in recent dunk contest history! The winner, on a 3 to 2 vote from the judges, ended up being Anfernee Simons, who won the NBA Dunk Contest on a failed attempt to kiss the rim while dunking.



What I'm trying to explain is that he won the biggest dunk contest in the world off a pretty much normal dunk. To put things into perspective, Aaron Gordon lost last year after jumping over the tallest man in the league, Tacko Fall, at 7'5". Simons won this year's contest on a basic dunk. That is all I have to say, so I will see you soon for my next article.

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**

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Editor's Note: Many of the stories in this issue are based on prompts that our writers were given. Some of the prompts include:

- *I should have been in school that day.*
- *We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be.*
- *They're asking me to remember.*
- *It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking 13.*
- *It began on the night we died on the Kamikaze roller coaster.*
- *The days of the week meant nothing to him.*
- *I am not a category.*
- *Of all the things that I have ever been afraid of, my computer terrified me the most.*
- *All my life, I've been an outcast and a freak.*
- *Imagine you are alone when a smiley, happy clown appears.*
- *It was a nice day for a funeral.*
- *I only went there once.*
- *I wish I could tell you why.*
- *I keep the things that scare me secret.*
- *I'm filled with hope.*



Would You Take Candy from a Clown?



By Dean Palazzolo
Tusker Tribune Staff

Imagine you are alone when a smiley, happy clown comes and hands you a piece of candy.

Would you eat it?

I do not think I would eat it because you never know what could be in it. Or if he put something in it. But also, I think I would eat it because I would not think about him putting something in it.



Also, if a clown walked up to me on the street and gave it to me, I would not even take it. I would just walk away. But if he were at a carnival and everyone else was eating it, I would eat the candy, too.

However, I probably wouldn't eat it if I didn't like the candy. Then, if he tried to force it, I would definitely not eat it.

Now, if I was alone and that happened, I would be so scared, I would just run because I wouldn't know what he would do.

Some Fears are Best Kept Secret



By Jazlyn DeJesus
Tusker Tribune Staff

Personally, I like to keep things that scare me a secret because some people can use that against me and some people can use it as a prank or to make fun of me. I would tell my fears to someone I can really trust, like a best friend or a family member.

Also, some fears I have may be someone else's triggers and I don't want anyone to feel anxious about it or I don't want someone to spread my fear. But I also don't want people to think I'm not afraid of anything.



When someone tells me their fears, it makes me feel like it's my job to help them with it, but usually, I just keep my fear a secret to make myself feel safe and secure. My biggest fear will always remain secret, but I have some fears I don't mind telling. For example, I'm scared of rats, but that is a fear I don't mind telling.

Is There a Soul Mate?

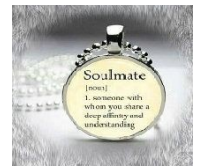


By Kayla Tompkins
Tusker Tribune Staff

If only I could tell him why I liked him. Throughout the past four years, I have liked the same person.

Well, that's a lie, but I always go back to him. That one boy who turns my life into a reality. The one true one who could make me happy. You would think, *Oh, why don't you just ask him out?* Or, *why don't you tell him you like him?*

To answer your question, I have. Well, not exactly, but, on numerous occasions, I have told him I liked him, and, sadly, he didn't and doesn't like me back. No matter who I like or date, I still have feelings for him, and I seriously I don't know why.



I just wish that he could at least like me back. The amount of rejection that has come, from him is unbelievable. But for some reason, I still like him. I don't think I will ever not. We are best friends and it's amazing but he is just the kind of boy you fall for and never stop.

You may think I'm too young, this and that. But he is the type of person you imagine dating and never stop. A perfect definition of a soulmate is what I would call him.



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Did You 'Ear' What He Caught?



**By Hudson Ruby
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My phone lit and began to buzz. One day, I was at home playing Xbox when it was time for lunch. I was in the middle of my online game, so I couldn't pause it.

I went upstairs to make a grilled chicken sandwich. I started eating my sandwich and then my phone was buzzing. I didn't check because it was probably just some lame Snapchats from my friends. But then the phone started to blow up like crazy, so I checked to see who it was. It was my mom and the most terrifying news I heard all day.



My brother was out fishing with a couple of his friends. As I read the message my mom sent me, I felt so scared, I felt as if my heart had pounded out of my chest.

"Hudson, I need you tell dad that your brother and I are on our way to the emergency room because when one of his friends cast his rod, your brother got in the way and the hook of the rod caught him in the ear!"

I ran upstairs and told my dad. He was much more calm than me. My mom sent a picture of what it looked liked.

"EWWWWW!" I said loudly. I showed my dad the picture.

"Hahaha," he said. "He looks like a punk rock lead singer with an earring!" When my mom and my brother got to the Emergency room, my brother had to get a special numbing substance. It took them so long to get them home. This whole thing started at 4:00 pm and they were coming home at 12:00 am.

I will tell you that this was a very crazy day.

The Super Relaxed School Day that I Missed



**By Matthew Giudice
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I should have been in school that day. I couldn't come to school that day because I had a cold. I might have missed the greatest school day every.

My friends told me that for two of their classes, they played Kahoot and watched a movie in another one of their classes! I had a 100% attendance and the one day I miss was the best day of school ever.

Then the test they had was canceled because there was a substitute teacher. My friends were so lucky. While I'm miserable and sick, my friends get an extra day to study for the test.

I told my mom about this and she didn't even know we had a test. What my mom ended up doing was just emailing my teacher that I was sick, and that I wouldn't be in school again. I still had to study, though, because the next time I went to school, I took the test. Fortunately, I ended up getting a score of 92%.

I just wish I was in school for that one fun day.



Thoughts to Ponder During Uniqueness Awareness



**By Chloe Lee
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I keep the things that scare me secret. I do this because I am afraid people are going to make fun of me and cannot truly be myself.

I even wonder sometimes if people want me in their life. People misjudge me the way I am but only if they knew I was different and not what they think I am.

I cannot even express myself with my family. Life is hard; it will always be ups and downs, but when people do not know you, it makes it way harder.

U r
Unique



They are probably thinking that I will stay the same and always be the "different kid."

It is always "people think" and it's sad how you see other people take advantage of you and quickly judge you on who you are.

Some people do not think this way and want to truly know you! I can tell secrets to the person who I trust in the most. Remember there are always going to be ups and downs in life but always, you're going to meet someone who you can truly trust and love.

Editor's Note: Uniqueness Awareness Week at SMS takes place next week.

Soccer Camp Instead of School Didn't Turn Out As Expected



By Randy Contreras-Valencia
Tusker Tribune Staff

I should have been in school that day.

Welcome to another day of school! Yeah, I know, you're angry, aren't you. Well, today, we are going to learn that going to school is a nightmare!

Come on. Admit it! While going to school is a nightmare, it's when you don't go to school that you wish you had been there.

So that's why I'm here to tell you this story. It all started in 5th grade, five days until summer break. I signed up for a soccer camp because it said it was a week-long camp, and it was on the same week as the last week of school. Yea, it's pretty harsh that it's going on during the last week of school, but remember, back then, I hated school so much, so I signed up.



During soccer camp, it was time to have snack. When I went to my bag, my friend started calling me. I wondered why he was calling me when he was in school, but then I thought he decided not to go to school. So I answered. Since it was a Facetime call, I saw that he had his air pods on. He said, "Hi", and showed me the classroom. Everyone was on their phone! He took me to our teacher, and he explained to me everything. For the last three days of school, we were able to do anything in the classroom.

When my friend ended the call, I stood still. I was raging in my head, *why didn't I go to school?* I never thought I would be able to say that in my life.

Not the Kind of Clown Who Makes You Laugh



By Simon Szabo
Tusker Tribune Staff

Imagine you are alone when a smiley, happy clown is at your house and your phone lit and began to buzz.

Well that is what happened to me. I was looking outside to see if anything was outside because the happy clown texted me saying, "Look outside."

I looked outside and he was holding a sign. I could barely see it, but I saw it and as soon as I saw it, I froze. The sign said, "If you turn away then I will get into your house and kill you."

I told my siblings by yelling and they came into the room and saw the clown. We worried that he might be able to get into the house, but when we looked again, he was gone. We turned around, and he was right behind us.



Italian Trip Full of Great Memories



Jordan Millar
Tusker Tribune Staff

I only went there once. I only went to Italy once.

I went there over the summer in 2016. It was very nice and there pizza, pasta and other Italian food that was probably the best I have ever had.

Pizza and pasta are Italian foods, so I would also expect it to be really good. I only stayed in Italy for one week for vacation and I wish I could have stayed there longer because the food was super good and the vacation was so fun.

I went to Italy to see my family and for vacation. It was so fun seeing my family because I have not seen them in a while. When I was about to take off to go back home, it started raining heavily and our flight had to be delayed. It was not that bad. It was only 1 hour.

After it stopped raining, we went back on the plane and came back home.



Buzzing Phone Almost Takes the Leg



By Troy Rossi
Tusker Tribune Staff

One time, my phone was in my pocket at the sledding hill. I was going down the hill, and BZZZZZZ!

Went my phone. It burned my side. It hurt so badly that I was on the ground for an hour and almost passed out.

And then, I woke up and couldn't move my leg or feel it! AHHHHHHHHHHH! I screamed as I was in a lot of pain. Then I was rushed to the hospital.

When I got there, they put me in a bed and checked out my leg. It was badly hurt and they almost amputated it. But luckily, they ended up not doing that. I still stayed in the hospital for three days, and, after that, I could finally feel my leg. It just needed time to heal.

In about a month or two, I was back to doing everything I wasn't able to do a month ago and now feel better than I ever felt.

