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How Can Lunch Period Be Improved?



**By Emma Monteleone
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Our lunch is so short. It's just not fair.

Seventh grade lunch is divided into two parts—from 12:37 to 1:01, and from 1:01 to 1:25. That's about 20 minutes a part. So you eat for 20 minutes and then have recess for another 20 minutes.

That's about 45 minutes total. But for the people who are slow eaters, it is not fair. The boys like recess because they get a break from school and get to play with their friends, but a lot of girls don't play; we just socialize. We would love to just stay in the cafeteria



and talk and finish eating. We should be allowed to choose if we want to go to recess or not. My parents were allowed to choose how they want to spend their lunch period when they were in school. How come we aren't?

Recess is very boring. There is nothing to do. The girls just walk around, and the boys tackle each other. We need more stuff to do during recess. If that happens,

maybe it will interest us and we would actually like recess. If recess is going to be boring, then what's the point of it?

Letting us choose what we want to do during our lunch period will be a much better choice.

MLB Cheating Scandal Hurts 'America's Pastime'



**By Ty Colella and
Michael Morrissey
Tusker Tribune Staff**

A recent investigation shows

the Houston Astros baseball team cheating during their 2017 world series run and during part of the 2018 season.

The Astros had a camera positioned in center field. Team personnel positioned in the hallway between the dugout and club house would watch the signs through the camera and signal to the batters what was coming by banging on a trash can.

MLB Commissioner Robert Manfred decided that he would not serve out any discipline to the players involved in the Astros sign-stealing scheme, and instead, he penalized the Astros General Manager Jeff Luhnow and Manager A.J. Hinch.

After the Boston Red Sox were found



Astros Manager A.J. Hinch, left, and General Manager Jeff Luhnow, right, were suspended over allegations of cheating during the 2017 World Series.

guilty of using Apple Watches to sign signs in 2017, Manfred released a memo that warned teams that the general manager and manager would be held responsible for any such sign-stealing allegations, and he has since stuck to that.

The penalties that were given to the team were harsh but well-deserved. General Manager Jeff Luhnow and Manager A.J. Hinch were suspended for the 2020 season, while the team was stripped of four draft picks, including their first and second round draft picks. They were also fined \$5 million.

The team was greatly affected by these punishments and will not have any of their managers for the 2020 season. The team will also have a hard time adding players to their team as they have lost \$5 million and four of their player picks.

We agree with these punishments and feel it's annoying and bad that all these other teams that had chances of winning the world series were denied because of the Astros actions.

The Science of Probability



**Nerd's
Words**



**By Sam Sanz
Tusker Tribune Staff**

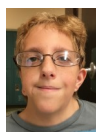
How common or uncommon is a certain thing? I've always wanted to find something that would never happen in the history of Earth. After research I've made a list of probability ranging from just flipping a coin to the most uncommon thing.

Event:	Probability:	Description:
Flipping a coin	$\frac{1}{2}$ chance	Simple. Just flipping a coin
Landing a 1 on a die	$\frac{1}{6}$ Chance	6 sides 1 out of six chance.
Rolling "Snake Eyes"	$\frac{1}{36}$ chance	Rolling 1s on two dice
Picking a 7 of Diamonds	$\frac{1}{52}$ chance	Picking any card out of a shuffled deck. No jokers.
Landing on "The Million Dollar Wedge" in Wheel of Fortune	$\frac{1}{72}$ chance	A slim part of the wheel.
Triple 7s on most slot machines	$\frac{1}{262,000}$ chance	Usually is a $\frac{1}{64}$ chance of getting one 7
Royal Flush in Poker	$\frac{1}{650,000}$ chance	10, Jack, Queen, King and Ace of the same suit in poker
Jackpot in a North Carolina scratch-off card	$\frac{1}{4,070,000}$ chance	10,000,000 dollars!
Jackpot in Powerball	$\frac{1}{292,000,000}$ chance	Largest Jackpot was 1.586 Billion dollars split between 3 people.
Fill out the entire bingo board in 24 moves	$\frac{1}{25,900,000,000,000,000,000,000}$	Who knew that bingo could be so complicated!
Solve a Rubik's cube randomly without seeing it	$\frac{1}{43,200,000,000,000,000,000,000}$	6 colors, 36 faces, endless possibilities



Now, what if you were in a row to do all these things. How much of a probability would that be? This number is so large that it crashes most calculators, but the Desmos scientific calculator worked just fine. This number is 1.4 with 52 zeroes after it. That's a little more than half of the number of atoms in the observable universe. Wow. Thank you.

NBA Awards Predictions



By Mike Abrams
Tusker Tribune Staff

The NBA Awards are a long way off, but it's never too early to place a couple of predictions. Here are mine:



MVP (Most Valuable Player)

Name	Points	Assists	Rebounds	Steals	Blocks
James Harden	37.2	7.5	6.2	1.7	0.9
Luka Doncic	28.8	9.0	9.8	1.1	0.1
Giannis Antetokounmpo	30.0	5.5	12.7	1.2	1.1

Defensive Player of the Year

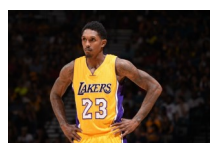
Name	Points	Assists	Rebounds	Steals	Blocks
Rudy Gobert	14.9	1.6	14.5	0.7	1.9
Montrezl Harrell	19.2	1.9	7.3	0.7	1.1
Kawhi Leonard	26.2	5.1	7.4	1.9	0.5

Rookie of the Year

Name	Points	Assists	Rebounds	Steals	Blocks
Ja Morant	18.0	6.9	3.5	1.0	0.3
Kendrick Nunn	15.9	3.6	2.7	0.9	0.2
Sekou Dembouya	8.1	3.1	0.4	0.6	0.3

6th Man of the Year

Name	Points	Assists	Rebounds	Steals	Blocks
Lou Williams	19.9	6.2	2.9	0.6	0.3
Derrick Rose	18.1	5.8	2.4	0.9	0.5
Devon'te Graham	18.7	7.7	3.7	1.0	0.4



Reflections on 7th Grade (So Far . . .)



**By Eliza Wilke-Olsen
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Seventh grade is definitely different from sixth grade in many ways.

In sixth grade all the classes were in the same hallway with an exception of the White Team science teacher, but in seventh grade, all the classes are in different areas so sometimes you will have to go from tech (on the bottom floor) to social studies (with Mr. Mullaney) on literally the opposite side of the school on the top floor.

Seventh grade is also more stressful with tests or quizzes almost every week. There is also definitely more homework, too, in seventh grade.

Even though you feel like you have more freedom as you move up from sixth grade to seventh, you really don't. Yes, in sixth you are not usually forced to present in front of the class, but now, the teachers will "force" you to present or read in front of people in your class or grade and surprisingly, it's not that bad.

Overall yes, 6th and 7th grade have their differences, but both have good aspects.



**By Alyssa Tucci
Tusker Tribune Staff**

One way that seventh grade is different from sixth grade is that one of the groups of lockers is upstairs and one of them is downstairs.

Also, the seventh grade wing is bigger than the sixth grade wing and you are more separated from people. You have a lot more homework, tests and quizzes and seventh grade is more stressful. But in some classes, teachers offer long projects for extra credit.

Another reason that seventh grade is different than sixth grade is that each teacher teaches in a different way so some give lots of tests and others give lots of projects and some give lots

of homework.

And then there's a rare occasion when some teachers rarely give any homework. But most teachers stick to those first three things.

Also in seventh grade you can try out for the sport teams that the school offers and in sixth grade you are not allowed to.

Chiefs Are Set for First Super Bowl in 50 Years



**By Josh Feldman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

What a week it was for Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs!

After defeating the Titans 35-24, the Chiefs advance to the grandest stage of them all, the Super Bowl!

Mahomes had one of the best games ever as he passed for 294 yards, and completed 24/35, throwing 3 touchdown passes. Mahomes also rushed for 53 yards in 8 attempts, with one rushing touchdown that went for 26 yards!



On the other hand, Tennessee really struggled to get things going. Running Back Derrick Henry didn't have a good game as he only rushed for 69 yards in 19 attempts, scoring 1 touchdown. Henry also received 2 times but lost -8 yards.

Titans Quarterback Ryan Tannehill threw for 209 yards, and completed 21/31, throwing for 2 touchdowns. Tannehill rushed for 11 yards in 3 attempts.

What will happen in two weeks as the Chiefs take on the 49ers in Miami for the Lombardi trophy? Tune in to find out!

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:

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