

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Fall 2018

Making the Jump from 5th to 6th Grade

By Natalia Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Adjusting to Middle School is something a lot of former 5th graders worry about. It is a big change from desks to lockers, and from one classroom to 8 or more.

Also, the worry of not being with your friends in any classes and lunch is big. Then, there is also the issue of waking up early or staying after school if you do extracurricular activities or clubs. Luckily there are the fun advantages which include decorating your locker and your friends locker when it's their birthday. Overall, it's a big change.

I personally do chorus and I plan on joining a few clubs that interest me. So far everything has been good. The teachers and school staff are very understanding so adjusting hasn't been so hard. Some of the advantages of Middle School are being able to decorate your locker with a mirror, photos, and even wallpaper to personalize it and make it your own. Moreover, on your friend's birthday, you can stay after school and cover their locker with paper, candy, and write birthday



wishes to them. I have already done a friend's locker and it made that friend's birthday sweeter in multiple ways.

I love having a variation of teachers because your school day is filled with different personalities. All of mine have a little of all the needed character traits to be a teacher but some more than others. For instance, I have a very funny teacher, an extra kind and understanding one, and two who I know I will learn a lot with. In my lunch I have multiple friends and it was good to know I could switch if I really didn't like my lunch period. When I have to wake up early for chorus, I leave enough time to be ready, so I can get

there on time. I am a little sleepy so far but I'm sure I will get used to it.

Middle School is a place where students get a lot of more freedom than they used to. I love having lots of choice and being trusted with all the tasks in 6th grade including the responsibility of having a tablet and charging it at home. I'm sure that everyone will get used to the way things work and all the tips. I feel that my time in middle school will be a great experience.

Modified Cross Country Hits the Trails



By Matthew Hirsch
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Somers Middle School Modified Cross Country team had its first meet on this past Wednesday. The Cross-Country Team A Meet is when a lot of schools meet at a high school or middle school in the area.

This meet was at the North Salem High School and Middle School combined campus. At the meets, runners race through a course that involves trails, hills, sticks, rocks, and downhills. The courses are 1 and a half miles long.



The Somers Cross Country team went to North Salem for a scrimmage, but the Somers Team would have gotten first place if they went for a real meet. The Cross-Country team still has four more meets this year, all of which are going to be real meets.

The next meet is tomorrow in Briarcliff. The following meets are on October 11 in White Plains, October 16 in Rye, and October 25 in Somers. Coach Kelson (The Somers Modified Cross Country Team coach) expects good things to happen at those meets.

Northern White Rhinos Are Extinct!



**By Christian Brooks
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This is the end of the Northern White Rhinos. The last male, Sudan, died in March because of health reasons including infections, and old age. There are no other males to breed with.

There are a couple of females left, but past reproduction age, way past reproduction age. This is the 2nd species of rhino to go extinct, but rhinos might all go extinct thanks to human poaching for ivory, the material of rhino



and elephant tusks. It's too late for the Northern White Rhinos, but maybe other species can be saved, in which they need YOUR help. Save the Rhinos and Elephants and don't let something awful like this happen again.

Editor's Note: If you're interested in donating to an in-vitro fertilization program for the White Rhino, there's a Go Fund Me Account called Make a Rhino: <https://www.gofundme.com/makearhino>

Hurricane! Hurricane!



**By Jesse Manginelli
Tusker Tribune Staff**

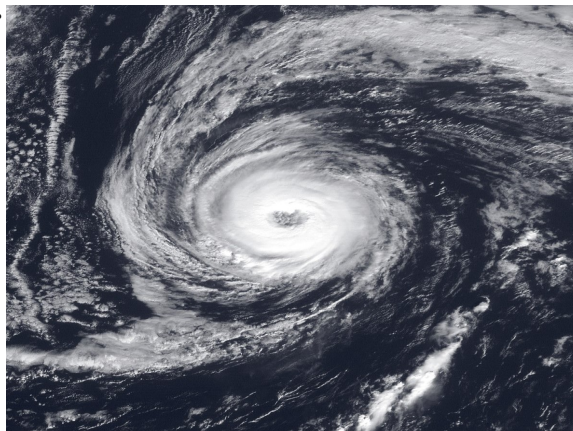
South Carolina might get record-breaking floods because of Hurricane

Florence! 8,000 people were ready to evacuate on the 24th of September because of ten-foot floods.

Now, about a week later, large mosquitoes are swarming North Carolina. Experts say that this might be the second rainiest storm in 70 years.

Sadly, because of the storm there are 48 recorded deaths and 200 recorded deaths of animals. Farmers in the North Carolina are taking a big hit after.

Agriculture losses from Hurricane Florence will top \$1.1 billion just in North Carolina.



Largest losses will be for farmers who grow crops such as corn, soybeans, and tobacco. The value of destroyed row crops is nearly at \$990 million.

Florence came ashore just the fall harvest was starting and stayed several days. In addition to the crop loss the state estimates nearly \$70 million loss in commercial forests. Officials say residents should avoid Florence affected water. Even after two

weeks the floods are still growing. The massive storm water runoff has resulted in elevated levels of harmful bacteria. Hopefully North Carolina will get cleaned up quick and the farmers will get back on their feet.

Don't Support Landfills!



**By Jack Tremblay
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Trash. It's everywhere!

But do you know what might happen to the plastic bag from the grocery store you just threw out? Like how it might end up in a landfill, or in the ocean being eaten by a poor marine species? Well, read on and find out.

According to an article, in 2013, America produced about 254 million pounds of trash in a year! That's about 4.40 pounds of trash per day for ONE person! A lot of that 254 million



pounds is things that could have been composted like food, paper, lawn clippings, and more. 12.8% was plastic and 4.5% was glass. Both things can be recycled and turned into new things instead of being thrown away and forgotten about.

With recycling these items, we would have more recourses and a much cleaner planet. Find the full

article here: <https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/web/html/>

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Fortnite Season 6 Lives Up to Hype



**By Arjun Ojha
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On September 27 of 2018, Fortnite Battle Royale season 6 launched at 4 am Eastern Time and 1 am Pacific Daylight Time. A lot of players woke up to see the Season 6 Battle Pass. In the Battle Pass, there are 7 skins, 4 dances, 2 new toys, and music discs including the O.G Music.

Now on to the map changes for Season 6. The most obvious one is that the middle of Loot Lake is now a floating island. On the mountain in front of Haunted Hills, there is a mansion with 6 or 7 chest spawns at most. In Wailing Woods, there are lodges and in the middle of Wailing Woods, the main part has a bottom and is a Rift Laboratory. The anti-gravity fields now give invisibility stones, up to 3 chests spawns and

finally in Fatal Fields, the corn in the cornfields are now much taller which makes it fun because if you're fighting near there, you can go into them and they may not be able to see you.



Now onto the Version 6.0 update patch notes. They vaulted a lot of items. They vaulted Impulse Grenades, Suppressed Submachine Gun, the Light Machine Gun, Bouncers and Remote Explosives (C4). The good part is that they are all still in Playground Mode. They reduced

the amount of damage that the Double Barrel Shotgun does from 143/150 to 114/120. They also reduced how many grapples the Grapppler holds from 15 to 10 and reduced the floor loot drop chance for the Dual Pistols from 1.49% to 0.88%. Also, PlayStation or Sony announced Cross Platform play.

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Landfills From Page 2

And if you think trash would just go to a landfill, you're wrong. Most trash ends up in the ocean. Which can make for disgusting beaches and wreak havoc on ocean ecosystems.

And if an animal mistakes a plastic bottle or whatever might be floating around for food and eats it, this can harm the animal greatly, or even kill them. Over 1 billion pounds of trash is being dumped into the ocean every year.



Another reason we should try to cut down on the trash is because if it's not in a landfill or the ocean, it's being burned. Burning trash is one of the worst things we can do to our planet. It can cause global warming and poison the air while also destroying the ozone layer, allowing for harmful solar radiation to reach earth.

For these reasons I believe that civilization needs to stop its current ways before we poison and make Earth uninhabitable.

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

Should We Do Mindfulness in School?



**By Alexander Susca
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Mindfulness. We've been hearing a lot about that lately.

Teachers make us do it to calm ourselves before class. In my opinion, I am not a big fan of it.

Studies have shown that it helps people who are having a tough time at school or at home; good for them. It just doesn't help me.

Last year I was in a class where the teacher LOVED mindfulness. We did it every single morning and maybe during the middle of class. I also have a teacher this year who does mindfulness at the beginning of every class.



I think it just takes time out of class and wastes some people's time. I'm not saying everyone should downright stop doing it completely. Good for the people who are helped by it. I just

think we should do it in our own free time. At lunch, recess, home. Or even quietly to yourself during a test.

There are reasons that mindfulness is a good thing. It reduces stress, depression, anxiety, and other things that can affect your life. Mindfulness is a good thing to do, just not a thing to do in school. I think that, because last year, I went three days without learning any ELA. All we talked about was mindfulness. All I'm

saying is, we shouldn't do mindfulness in school, but you can still do it in your free time.

So Long, David Wright!



**By Matt Tavares
Tusker Tribune Staff**

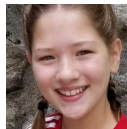
You will be remembered, Captain.

On September 29th, the captain from the New York Mets played his last game. David Wright the Mets legend played his last game in Major League Baseball. He went 0-1 with a walk and got taken out of the game in the 5th inning.

He got the full Citi Field standing ovation, including his teammates lining up outside the dugout to thank him. It was a very emotional game for him and his good friend, Jose Reyes. You will always be remembered, Captain.

RE5PECT

Tusker Two Hand



**By Allison O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Tusker 2 Hand is the after school football club. The football club is fun for boys and girls who want to play football without the risk of the high impact.

The advisor is Mr. Paulmeno. The club is safe, but fun.

The same rules in regular football apply for two-hand touch football except for the tackling part.

So, if you don't want to play tackle football, this is the club for you. The club meets every Thursday after school between 3 and 4 p.m. on the field between SMS and SIS.



A New Student's Guide to SMS

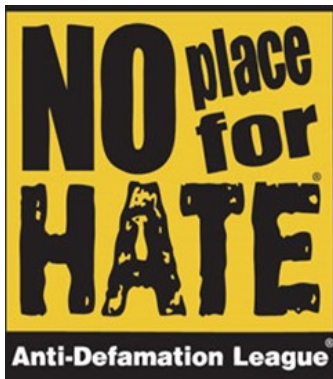


**By Kaeleigh Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever wondered what it is like to walk down a hall of complete strangers? To go to class with people you're meeting for the first time? To leave behind old friends, teachers, and traditions you've known since you were young?

Being a new student at Somers Middle School - or any middle school for that matter - can be tough. If you are a new student to Somers Middle School, just know you are not alone. I am here to give you some tips on how to have an easier, more efficient transition to a new school.

Get Involved! Immersing yourself in the pastimes SMS has to offer is a great way to find great people who share your interests.

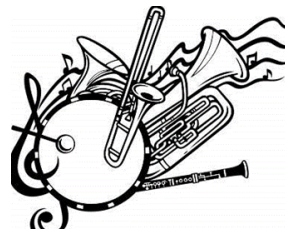


There are plenty of clubs and extra-curricular activities the school has to offer, such as No Place For Hate, The Yearbook Club, The Art Club, The Academic Triathlon, and of course, The Tusker Tribune!

If you are interested in joining a club, the Somers Middle School website provides a list of the rest of the many clubs they have to offer, and



how to sign up. Express Yourself! Do you love music and the arts? Sign up for Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Jazz Band, Bell Choir, Fife and Drum, and



even Drama Club. Expressing yourself through music, dance, and performing is a great way to make new friends and do something you are passionate about.

Play Sports! Between the town of Somers and the school, there are so many sports to choose from year round! For the fall, the school offers Field hockey, Volleyball, Cross Country,

and Track. The town of Somers also has a football and soccer team. Staying active and playing a sport you love is, again, a great way to meet new people, and actually help relieve stress from school.

According to the American Psychological Association, 53% of a group of surveyed teens said they felt good about themselves after exercising, 40% said they were in a good mood after exercising, and 32% said they were less stressed from exercising.

I hope this list was helpful! And if you are a new student to Somers Middle School, don't worry. As long as you try your best, work hard, and reach out, you're going to have an amazing year!

Our Tablets Need Personalized Backgrounds!



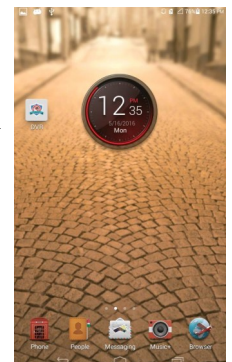
**By Will Underkoffler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I was looking at a friend's tablet the other day and I saw that they had a blank black screen and I asked if they wanted me to put on a background (they are in sixth grade).

Long story short, I couldn't because supposedly, the school had taken out the feature to put a personalized background that reflects people's characters and hobbies.

I was thinking how unfair it was to take out backgrounds, and though I understood where it was probably coming from (people putting inappropriate memes as their background), I still thought it was unfair to take it away from the rest of us because of a couple of non-thinking people.

Now I'm not saying that it's bad to but memes as your background, just make sure they wouldn't be deemed "inappropriate" and to the administration . . . please give us back backgrounds!



'King James' Making a Home in LA

By Michael Abrams
Tusker Tribune Staff

King James to L.A.

The biggest move this offseason was without a doubt LeBron James to the Los Angeles Lakers. He signed a 4-year \$153.3 million contract in free agency.

Achievements

Lebron James is an AMAZING player. Out of his 14 years in the NBA he was in the all-star game 13 times. He averages 27.2 points, 7.2 assists, and 7.4 rebounds. He is a member of the gold medal winning 2008 and 2012 USA team. He is a 4-time NBA champion.

The Future

There are lots of optimistic thoughts for the young team. The King will bring power, talent, passion, a great leader, and (hopefully) the NBA championship.



Shrimp-o-rama!



By Michael Aiello
Tusker Tribune Staff

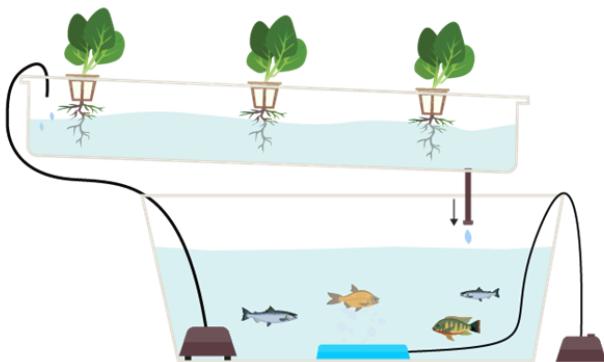
Imagine a club that exist only during lunch, and that is about..... *SHRIMP!* Would you attend?

Personally, I would.

But Michael, why is there a club about SHRIMP and what does the SHRIMP club do?

Well, congrats because, you have found the right article that will explain the MAIN QUESTION: *What is the SHRIMP club?*

What they are doing is building a fish



tank, but, rather than fish, they will add SHRIMP to the tank. (No wonder it's why it is called SHRIMP club!)

The club also goes the extra mile and will do something called **Aquaponics**. Aquaponics is

when you build a tank (that includes a pump connected to a long tube) that connects to a line of plants that will eat the waste of the SHRIMP (More on that later).

Then, after the line of plants, the water goes into a filter, then back into the tank to repeat the cycle. When the SHRIMP creates the waste, the pump takes the water into the tube which feeds the plants.

The club designs the Aquaponics and will get SHRIMP to add into this. If you would like to join the SHRIMP club, just head down to the library and ask the advisor to join.

The advisor is Mr. Behling. Feel free to come on down and build a home for the SHRIMP!





Music Report

Music Report: Week of September 28, 2018



By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

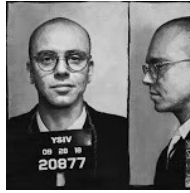
Tha Carter V (Tha Carter 5) – Lil Wayne.

Lil Wayne has pioneered present day rap. Maybe more than any other rapper in history, Lil Wayne's output is defined by franchises. An artist should be so lucky to sustain the kind of longevity that would allow for multi-volume phases the likes of Wayne's *Dedication*, and *Da Drought* mixtapes, let alone the series that made him into a superstar, *Tha Carter*.

Though Wayne was not without projects in between, some seven years could pass between the release of the fourth and fifth installments of the lattermost. Fortunately, Wayne has rewarded his fans' patience with 23 tracks that speak to several his

most storied eras. "Mixtape Weezy" as Jay-Z famously coined, is alive and well on songs like the Swizz Beatz-produced "Uproar", Wayne blacking out over a reinterpretation of G-Dep's 2001 hit "Special Delivery".

The nostalgia doesn't stop (or peak) there, as Wayne and Snoop Dogg share space over a flip of Dr. Dre's "Xxplosive" on "Dope N*****", while Mannie Fresh revisits the Cash Money golden-era bounce of Juveline's "Ghetto Children" for "Start This S*** Off Right." There are nods to experimental Wayne of the *I Am Not a Human Being* projects ("Don't Cry," "Mess") and the rapper's under-heralded pop wizardry ("Famous," which features his daughter Reginae as hook singer), and even a love song built on a gospel sample, "Dope New Gospel." In all, *Tha Carter V* is an album for anyone who's missed Wayne—no matter which Wayne they'd missed. **Genre: Hip-Hop**



YSIV (Young Sinatra 4) – Logic.

Over three mixtapes, Logic's alter ego, Young Sinatra, allowed the Maryland MC to indulge in his deepest boom-bap fantasies, embracing the lyrical grace and raw beats of rap's vaunted late '80s/early-'90s golden era. YSIV, his fourth under the Young Sinatra moniker, continues the theme, flowing over Incredible Bongo Band breaks on "100 Miles and Running" and giving Nas and AZ's "Life's a B****" chorus new life on "YSIV," "ICONIC" and "The Return" find Logic hungrily attacking the tracks, showing off his rapid-fire control. Old-school heads will salute him for assembling entire Wu-Tang Clan (Jackpot Scotty Wotty fills in for the late ODB) on "Wu Tang Forever."

And, this being a Logic project, there's lots of philosophizing, too, especially about self-identity, dreams, and gratefulness ("One Day," "The Glorious Five," "Thank You," and "Legacy"). At various times during YSIV, Logic swears this is his last Young Sinatra album. It'd be easier to believe if he wasn't having so much fun.

Genre: Rap

Taki Taki – DJ Snake featuring Selena Gomez, Ozuna & Cardi B



DJ Snake, native of Paris, France, has worked with some of the biggest names in the music industry; Justin Bieber, Lil Jon, Marshmello, Migos, Travis Scott, DJ Snake, and more. But now he can add Selena Gomez, Ozuna and Cardi B. DJ Snake has mixed three genres of music (pop, latino and hip-hop) and has made a great song. It was made for the radio, made for the road trip, made for those who enjoy music and combining cultures.

Genre: Pop

Songs. How to Write A Hit



By Sam Sanz
Tusker Tribune Staff

Whether if you like Rap, Country, Pop etc. You could write a catchy song. Anyone can.

So, let's start with an important one. Lyrics. Some rhymes would help, but not all songs rhyme.

Also, close rhymes like "work" and "chirp" can work. Next you need words. The most popular words in songs are below.

feel, love, take, time, never, life, die, eye, back, day, world, heart, man, night, girl, mind, away, live, dream, again

Next up is a catchy beat to follow by. If you are interested in beat-making, then go to this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfA5m4WWyL0> to see how Tank God made rockstar by Post Malone. A lot of experts say a combo of 3 instruments are good for a song besides rap.

On an average song it takes about two weeks to make music, writing, singing and all. If you include the music video process. It's about a month in total.

See you in the next one!



Nerd's Words