

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Spring 2019

Nothing Says 'End of Year' Like Splashdown!



**By Claire Sposito
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On June 21st, 7th graders will experience a waterpark adventure at Splashdown Beach.

Less than an hour from Somers, in Fishkill, NY, we will have the opportunity to enjoy many fun water activities. One of the water rides I am looking forward to most is "The Megalodon"--(a prehistoric beast brought to life) which is the largest attraction in the park and new this year!



"River" makes for a fun and enjoyable way to relax in the water. The park has many more amusing rides and ways to have fun.

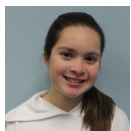
Since we will be in the sun all day, a smart thing would be to apply sunscreen before you leave for school, but also bring it with you. If you plan on going on any of these attractions, you will be wet afterwards so my suggestion would be to bring a change of dry clothes along with a towel.

This trip will be a fun way to take a break from school right before we study hard for final exams coming up just a few days after.

**Editor's Note:
The trip is scheduled
for June 21, with a
rain date of June 19.**



Music in Classrooms: Helpful or Nuisance?



**By Natalia Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

For an extremely long time, there's been an ongoing debate about music in classrooms. Some say it will be really helpful for the students and going to give the teachers a well needed break from all the chatter. Others argue that it will only distract students causing more chaos for teachers. What do you think? Wait before you choose your side; you need to know all the pros and cons.

Allowing students to hear music in classrooms is going to be a great idea and beneficial for everyone! First of all, it has been proven in multiple studies that students have a better time focusing when listening to music. Of course, it has to be put at a low volume and can't exactly be hard rock,



but it definitely helps.

Also, when teachers give out work, students usually start talking to each other instead of getting started on it but if we are all listening to some of our favorite songs, I doubt that will happen. Teachers would get to spend less time telling the kids to stop talking and students would have an increased in the amount of work getting done.

Not only that but listening to music actually helps students retain information easier. Music has been shown to aid in memory enhancement, which helps with all classes and leads to students getting better grades and have a better understanding of the concepts being taught. This is why it is said it is very helpful to put some music on while studying.

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Summer Facts



**By Christian Brooks
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Since summer is coming fast, you should know some interesting facts about it. Summer is associated with leisure, carefree activities.

- The popsicle was invented by accident.
- There are 2 solstices in the year, one on June 21, and the other one on December 21.
- When the Northern Hemisphere has summer, the Southern Hemisphere has winter.
- July is Ice Cream Month
- The "Dog Days of Summer" is in the middle of August.
- August was named after Augustus Cesar and July was named after Julius Cesar.
- The hottest temperature in the USA is 134 degrees Fahrenheit. This happened in Death Valley, California in 1913.
- Canada didn't have summer in 1816.
- In Somers, our summer vacation is approximately 70 days long. So get that relaxation in before it



Should Final Exams Occur The Last Week of School?



**By Mac Sullivan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

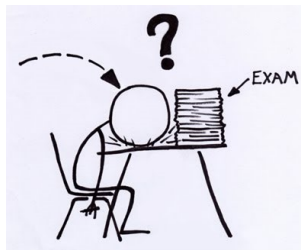
Finals are at the worst time. For the middle school, they schedule them during the last days of school.

It should be more aligned with the high school, where regular classes end June 12, and students return later to take finals.

That makes more sense than taking finals during the final three half days of school.

On HHS media it states "The last week of school is completely devoted to final exams, which means for students, the last week of school is when the frantic, last-minute study sessions commence. Finals create a lot of unwanted stress; the last week of school should be for relaxing after a hard year of work."

This demonstrates that the last week of school should be relaxing, finishing up regular classwork and activities, and then getting ready for summer break.



Music From Page 1

Another reason why music being played in schools is useful, is that it can reduce stress and students certainly have a lot of that. Stressed kids are more worried which causes them to have worse focus and productivity. Background music will help reduce stress and these negative effects will fade and give kids a better learning opportunity. Furthermore, music can assist in holding the kid's attention and give them something fun to look forward too.

Overall, music in classrooms can improve classroom behavior and the quantity and even quality of work.

On the flip side, hearing music could distract students and have a negative effect on them. To start, music could impair student's ability to hear the teacher and any directions. This could lead to them missing important information and get in trouble for something they shouldn't have. Also, music could be played at unfitting times including

when the teacher is explaining something, helping another student, and more. This could cause music to be a disruption to classroom times if used in an improper way. Moreover, music could be hurtful to schools because kids could listen to songs that have inappropriate lyrics, rude content, or curse words in it. This can end up in other students listening to music that parents might not want them to or make kids feel left out if they don't like that type of songs.

In addition, playing music in classrooms could be extremely distracting if it is played too loud or even played at all. It can cause students to lose their thoughts and get the wrong answer because they are listening to the music playing instead. To wrap it all up, students listening to music can be very negative and cause their concentration and learning to become significantly less because of it.

In conclusion, there are certainly many pros and cons that come with music in school classrooms. It can definitely help the students but can also hurt their learning and education. What matters is whether you think the good outweighs the bad or the other way around. I personally think that students being allowed to listen to music while learning would be really beneficial. Music could grow to become a great learning assist to classrooms but what do you think? Should music be played in classrooms?



Random Thoughts About Random Days at SMS



**By Halia Gonzalez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My day at Somers... This has been an eventful year, with many different scenes and different places.

If I came here for one day, I wouldn't be able to describe it. I've been here for a year, and hell, it's been a weird one.

Most times I wonder if I'm still inside of school, or in my house. There's no way to describe Somers in one word, from the time I've been here for a while now, days fly by, and I sit here watching people walk by. Every day is a new adventure; it never repeats itself.

Every day is weird and different. Some times it's abnormal. Every day has me in awe. I always find something new. I get in the bus and go to school, and right when the bell rings, the Night at the Museum might have come to life. There are always crowds in the hallways and there's never a time where I've been scared to turn the corner. My classes are boring sometimes, but other times, we have jokesters who make my day with one joke.

I sit next to people I'm friends with and I almost don't do any homework, but here's the reason why—I'm so caught up in trying to grasp what happened that day that it blanks my mind. And then I go to school and it's not done. But, it doesn't get me mad or frustrated at myself; it just makes me wonder what's going to be the new ad-

venture.

Some days I'm mean, and other days I'm nice. Now that makes me not normal. I will be so nice for two seconds and then turn into the Hulk the next. There's no way I can keep calm in a school like this when I'm so excited for what's next. I just like living in the moment.

Then comes lunch. I see kids run in and out of the 'door' into the woods, and I watch them, I don't call them out, I don't grab them out, I just watch them. Kids are so happy with their friends; they are all lively and awake, and once they get to lunch they sit at their tables, crack some joke, maybe run around, but mostly people get whistled by a monitor. I've been okay in lunch, not too good and not too bad. I've understood where I belong, I love my group of friends, I love the way I fit in, I can get annoying, but can you blame me? I'm having so much to say!

My friends on the bus are just as nice; we always are playing truth or dare, and we always stay smiling, but once we reach school the slimes flip over as if a witch cast a spell. But then again, we think about what the next day will bring and we smile brightly and move along.

I'm very different when I get home, though. I sit down and I'll relax. I don't speak, I just sit and watch. If my friends call me, I get all excited but then half way through, I'll become indecisive. I'll become quiet and they ask why, I'll just lay back and relax, not caring what they have to say, because I'm relaxed. But I know the next day, I'm not going to be.



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This is Why Mike Trout Earns So Much



By Jesse Manginelli
Tusker Tribune Staff

Mike Trout is a center fielder who plays for the Los Angeles Angels. Mike Trout has the world's largest sports contract. He is a real superstar with high stats every season. His contract is \$426,500,000. Trout is a 7x All Star and received the American League MVP in 2014 and 2016.

He is also a 6x winner of the Silver Slugger Award. This year Trout has a .293 batting average and 16 home runs. Trout is only 27 years old and is making more than \$30M a year. That makes him a true superstar.



He was named Minor Leaguer of the Year by Baseball America in 2011. Trout was picked 25th in the first round in 2009. Trout was a star at Millville High School in New Jersey.

As we have already learned, Trout has a lot of awards. Here's another one: J.G. Taylor Spink Award for best player in the minors. Trout has 1,245 career hits and 689 RBIs. Trout also has a very high career batting average of .306. He also has 256 homeruns and counting. We already know how good he is.

Do you think he will do well this season? I think he is going to do above average but not his best. His batting average and homeruns aren't as high as they were in the beginning of previous seasons. That's all for now. Do you think Mike Trout will exceed my expectations for this season?

Some Tips to Avoid End of Year Stress

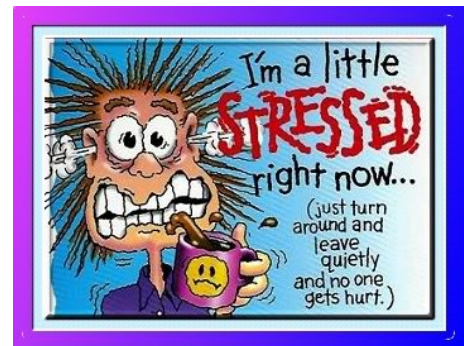


By Isaac Like
Tusker Tribune Staff

The year's coming to an end! Amazing, right?

Yeah, but there are a lot of tests coming up for the conclusion. And these aren't just regular tests. They are finals. Pretty much just big tests on steroids and like any test, these create stress because no one wants a bad grade. I will give you some strategies to avoid stress the best you can.

- Do work in advance; this will help you free up time and instead of doing homework, you can study
- Study daily. Most cases of stress are caused by lack of confidence so get to know your topics
- SLEEP!!; Get to sleep earlier. Studies show that the more you're rested, the better you will perform
- Get a study buddy; getting someone to study with is beneficial for both of you and it helps get information drilled in your head
- Lastly, ASK QUESTIONS; getting help from teachers helps every time so ask away!



End of Year Calendar!

June 13th: 8th Grade Dinner Dance
June 14th: 8th Lake Compounce Trip
June 17th: 6th Grade Field Trip
June 19th: Rain date for Splashdown Trip
June 19th: Algebra Regents
June 20th: Earth Science Regents
June 21st: Geometry Regents
June 21st: 7th Grade Splashdown Trip
June 21st: 8th Grade Graduation Practice
June 24th-26th: 1/2 day of school for students
June 24th: FLACS Exam

June 24th: 6^h & 7th Grades SS and Science Final exams
June 25th: 6th Grade ELA and Math exam
June 25th: 7th Grade Math and World Language exams
June 25th: 8th Grade Graduation @ 2:00pm
June 26th: Last Day of School – ½ day (11:30am dismissal)

Some Quirks that Give Students Angst



By Ellie Walsh
Tusker Tribune Staff

With all this talk about finals and end of year stress, it's also good to talk about some other SMS quirks that can give students just a little bit more anxiety.

Schedules: why does the school think it is a good idea to give you two classes both on the opposite ends of the school so when the bell rings, it's like you're on the Amazing Race and you are sprinting in the hallways to get there. Meanwhile, the teachers are yelling at you to "stop running". And when you get to the stairs, you are flinging yourself down the stairs so you're not late to class. Then the bell rings and five seconds later, you walk into class and you are out of breath and your teacher goes, "You're late" and I just feel like saying, "Don't even start with me!"

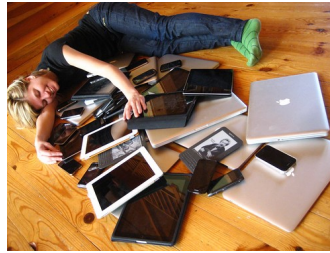
Lockers: 7th grade lockers look



like they are about to fall on top of you. They don't look stable at ALL! Also, I know at least two people who only did their locker combinations once because they realized that their lockers don't work and they adjust the locker so it just opens on its own with a simple tug.



Tablets: the school's tablets are a great representation of the less money you put onto something, the worst product you will get. Also, whenever you have a problem with your tablet and go to the Gear Shack, the second you walk in, the tablet is working perfectly fine and then when the person at the Gear Shack asks, "What is wrong with your tablet?", you say, "Oh it works now." They probably think you just went there to skip class or to get out of doing something, but you actually had a problem.



Helpful Tips for Improving your Handwriting!



By Sofia Mancuso
Tusker Tribune Staff

Here are some common sense tips for making your handwriting shine!

1- Be consistent

Consistency in terms of handwriting means to make sure you stick to one kind of font of uppercase and lowercase letters.

For example: candy cane "a" and regular "a" or a curved "t" or an uncurved "t". (sometimes I have trouble debating which one looks better!) but personally, if you like my writing style/font, regular "a" and uncurved "t" would be the best choice.

2- Never Rush

Sometimes, changing your handwriting requires time to think about the way you shape your letters. I also don't recommend editing your handwriting during the school year, because in school, students tend to rush when taking notes, and you also don't want to completely focus on

handwriting during a lesson in school.

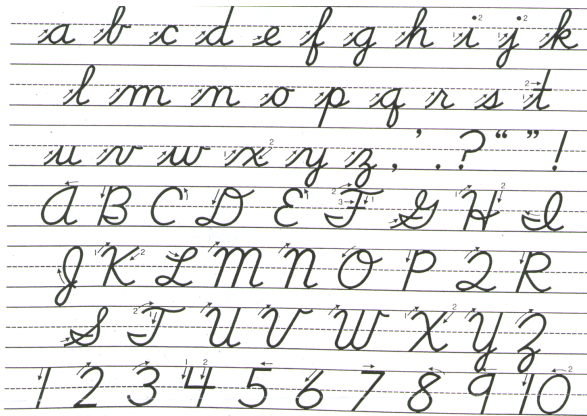
3- Some Things You Should Keep in Mind While Editing Your Writing Style

Lefties tend to have messier handwriting than righties (righties "pull" in and can keep more control over the pencil, as lefties "push" out sentences and have less control over the pencil). So, lefties might take a little longer to edit. But don't let that discourage you! Never stress too much! Do your best and just take your time.

Your handwriting shouldn't be "monitored" by you after the first month of the process, after you payed close attention to the way you shape your letters for the first one or two weeks, you shouldn't have think about writing

as much as much as before. You should focus more about what you are writing about.

I hope this short introduction you control over handwriting/calligraphy. Good luck!



Study Tips for Finals



By **Meghan Coughlin**
Tusker Tribune Staff

Finals are coming up fast! They will be here before you know it, so when are you going to start studying? There are many ways to study for a final exams. For example:

- You can make flash cards. Flash cards help you to study because after writing the word down and seeing it multiple times, your brain remembers the word.
- You can also make a Quizlet or a Kahoot. So now you have a fun way to remember the topics for your finals.



- Another way you can study for finals is to start studying and re-viewing your notes now so that you have a better chance at getting a higher grade than if you start studying a few days before or even the night before.



I can guarantee that you would not do as well if you started studying the night before. There are so many other ways to study for finals, which way will you choose?

“Big Papi” in a Big Accident



By **Jesse Manginelli**
Tusker Tribune Staff

David Ortiz is the Dominican-American former Major League Baseball designated hitter and first baseman who played 20 seasons, primarily with the Boston Red Sox.

He was an amazing player and role model. He is widely known as “Big Papi”.

He played as a designated hitter and first baseman. He has 541 career homeruns which is insane. He also has 2472 career hits.

Sadly, Ortiz was shot in the back on Sunday night. He was shot in a night club in Santo Domingo where he is a native. Television host Jhoel Lopez was also shot.

The bullet went through Ortiz’s stomach. He was taken to Clinica Abel Gonzalez where they treated the bleeding in his

liver and had to take portions of his intestines and gall bladder. His condition was serious, but stable enough so that he could be flown back to Boston. They brought him to Massachusetts General Hospital.

One suspect is Eddy Vladimir Félix García. He



approached another man on a motorcycle before at least one open fired, striking Ortiz and Lopez. They tried to drive away, but the motorcycle fell to the pavement.

One suspect fled on foot and the other, Félix García, was attacked by the crowd and handed over to the police. He was treated for injuries and later taken into custody. Hopefully Ortiz is okay and goes home to see his family soon. Authorities are still trying to find the guy who fled but on the CNN website, it says that some people have been detained in connection to the shooting. Get well soon Big Papi!

David Ortiz Set Standard for Baseball



By **Ian Cohen**
Tusker Tribune Staff

David Ortiz or better known to the baseball community as “Big Papi” was shot on Sunday night at a night club in his home town (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic).

David got shot in the back and has minor spinal cord issues, which means he won’t be able to walk as much, and he won’t be able to go back to his job for a few weeks until his back heals, and he feels better.

David already underwent two successful surgeries and is currently in the Boston hospital recovering from his last surgery on Monday afternoon.

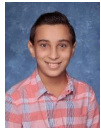
David Ortiz was a super slugger in his prime with stats including: finished his career with 541 home runs, which ranks 17th on the MLB all-time home run list, 1,768 RBIs (22nd all-time) and a .286 batting average. Among designated hitters, he is the all-time leader in MLB history for home runs (485), runs batted in (RBIs)

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

What's Up with Playboi Carti's Baby Voice?



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Hip-hop has always been full of rappers with unusual flows, and Atlanta's Playboi Carti is no stranger to these unique methods, thanks to his signature baby voice.

"Artists that I like don't sound like me. Hell, sounding like me getting you signed **** rate it a 10. But if you wanna be friends with me, show me something new," he said.

Carti's recent features on songs like Tyler, The Creator's "EARFQUAKE" and Solange's "Alemnda," along with a number of leaked tracks are just a few of his latest baby voice highlights. Dr. Sharese King, a post-doctoral scholar at the University of Chicago, was interviewed to find out more about what his voices really means for music, who said there's more to Carti's baby voice than meets the ears.

"If I'm a tough rapper, I'm not using a deep voice anymore to do it. I'm gonna use this voice, this baby voice and totally redefine the landscape for what hip-hop looks like from this vantage point." According to Dr. King, Playboi Carti's baby voice is what's known in linguistics as a semiotic resource. "People put together different kinds of linguistic features in order to portray particular kinds of identities or personas or different kinds of rap personas."

Carti's been using this sound long before 2019. One of his earliest uses was back in 2017, in his verse on the A\$AP Mob cut, "Blowin Minds." In 2018 we heard his trademark sound all over his debut studio album, *Die Lit*, most notably on classics like "Flatbed Freestyle."



"The way he plays around with pitch, the way e does things like what we would call in linguistics such as consonant cluster reduction. So that's when you have words like find, produced as "fine" without the d and you reduce that consonant cluster."

According to Dr. King, Carti switching his voice up on his songs is also another way he changes the messages to his listeners. "Your voice is akin to your clothes. We wear different things in order to signal different aspects of our identity or maybe different personality traits about ourselves, without having to say these things."

Over the course of 2018, Carti pulled out the baby voice on several other tracks, like in July for his feature on Chief Keef's "Uh Uh." And later that year, Carti hopped on Lil Yachty's "Get Dripped" for yet another baby voice verse. Recently leaked tracks like "Pissy Pamper/Kid Cudi" and "Cancun" brought the discussion of Carti's baby voice back onto social media, and as it stands, it's one of his most recognizable traits.

"It's using those kinds of features in order to contribute to the song's performance." And if his features and leaks are any indication, Dr. King says Playboi Carti's singular sound is exactly what makes him stand out in the game.

Listeners of younger generations want to be subversive. They want to be different; they want to be heard differently and they might feel as if this kind of performance maps to that desire." Carti says, "Good music gonna always speak for itself. And it's a lot of people out there like me who's always looking for the next, you know what I'm sayin? Somebody's gonna find it."

ATP Helps Train Future Pilots



**By Matthew Klein
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Interested in flying? ATP is a service that directs your future to fly for an airline.

You would normally start the ATP flight school after college, or you can just go to ATP for college. ATP is really meant for young people who would like a career as a pilot.

ATP likes to work with regional airlines like Republic Airways, PSA Airways or Envoy Air. These in turn coordinate with large American carriers like Delta, American and United. ATP ensures a steady stream of qualified commercial pilots.

The great thing is that after the ATP school, you are already being brought into an air-

line but with a training pilot for a little bit until you pretty much mastered your flying in that specific aircraft.



lines.

After that, you are on your own until you want to upgrade your plane to a bigger one. To sum that up, the airline then has full control of your job in aviation until you retire or even switch airlines. ATP helps you get started on smaller airplanes like an Embraer 145, Embraer 175, or CRJ – 200. These are planes you might see taking off from Westchester County Airport. Later on, when you're more experienced, you're able to work up to the larger carriers and their bigger Airbus or Boeing aircraft, like the A320, A330, or Boeing 737 or 757.