

The Bulldog Bark



Advisor: Ms. Dunham
Principal: Mr. Hauser

Your Middle School News Unleashed!

Summer 2023

Bulldog Retirements 2023:

Congratulations, Mr. Herzog and Mr. Meixsell!

By Madilynn Husack and Andi Szwast
Team 8 Barkers

Mr. Herzog (right) and Mr. Meixsell (left) are both retiring from Northern Lehigh School District. We at the *Bulldog Bark* decided to interview them to hear about their time here in our district. As we do for all editions, let us bid all who is retiring a proper Northern Lehigh farewell!

Unfortunately, this year we are losing two of our eighth-grade teachers this year. Of the two, one of them is Mr. Todd

Herzog. Mr. Herzog has been teaching for 33 years, all of them at Northern Leigh. He thought that 33 years was the right time to move on to his next chapter. He spent the majority of those years teaching first grade, a total of 14 years. He was then moved to 6th grade, followed by 7th grade, and finally, 8th grade. Alongside his teaching career, he also spent approximately 25 years coaching. Mr. Herzog decided to pursue teaching after high school because he knew he

wanted to work with local youth sports and make an impact on students' development, particularly at the elementary level. Coaching was also a passion of his. In his role as the head wrestling coach,



See Retirements, Pages 2-3

BuzzFeed

QUIZ



“Which Colored Sand Beach Are You?”

&

“Which Summer Vacation Are You?”



he takes pride in his players' achievements, including multiple state championships and being honored on the Wall of Fame. With his upcoming retirement, Mr. Herzog plans to indulge in one of his greatest loves: the outdoors. He intends to spend a significant amount of time off-grid, engaging in activities such as whitewater kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, stand-up paddleboarding, fly fishing, and camping. Additionally, he looks forward to devoting more time to his family and children, as well as pursuing personal goals and continuing to work in the outdoor and travel industries.

As a graduate of Northern Lehigh himself, Mr. Herzog hopes that he has left a positive impact on the student body and the athletes he has coached. He cherishes the bonds and relationships he formed during his teaching career with his students, athletes, and colleagues. One particular memory stands out for him: witnessing the growth and success of his own two children while teaching first grade. Mr. Herzog is proud to mention the Sons of Liberty club, which he runs to raise money for veterans struggling with PTSD. Over the years,

he has raised over \$12,000 through this initiative. Furthermore, he has some advice for future students and athletes: "Be the best version of yourself that



you can strive to be. Never settle for less and push yourself beyond all limits. Set your goals so big that you have to grow into a person who can reach them, all the

while pushing yourself to attain them. Be relentless. Hold yourself accountable. Big achievements can happen among small-town students. Never stop learning; it is a lifelong process. Listen more than you speak. Recognize opportunity. Do not be entitled. Be respectful, kind, and generous, be genuine, and mostly, know your self-worth and value. Be humble. The school extends its gratitude for Mr. Herzog's long and prosperous teaching career and wishes him a fulfilling retirement.

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MR. MEIXSELL'S INTERVIEW

This year, Mr. Meixsell, the well-known eighth-grade Earth Science teacher, is retiring. As his final days in education approach, the Bulldog Bark takes the opportunity to celebrate his achievements as an instructor through a farewell interview.

What do you do in the district?

"I teach middle school science. Throughout my career, I have taught grades 7, 8, and 9 at different times. I have also coached baseball and football, and served as the middle school student council advisor for a period."

How long have you been teaching? How long have you been teaching at Northern Lehigh?

"I have been teaching for a total of 33 and a half years, all of them here at Northern Lehigh."

What made you decide to retire this year?

"It simply feels right; this seems like the ideal time to retire."

Do you know anything about who will be taking your job?

"The new person for the position has not been hired yet."

What do you enjoy most about your job here?

"As an NL graduate, I have always loved being a Bulldog. This place is like home to me. I cherish the relationships I have built with my students, players, and colleagues. Being a middle school teacher suits my personality well, as it allows me the freedom to be a bit crazy and perform in the classroom."

What do you dislike most about your job here?

"Teaching entails so much more than just being in the classroom. Unfortunately, most of the non-teaching aspects of the job are not as enjoyable."

What are you proud of doing for the district? What impact do you think you've had on NLMS students?

"I take pride in my career. As a lifelong Bulldog, I believe I have given my all to make this school a better place. I feel that I have made a positive difference in the lives of many students."

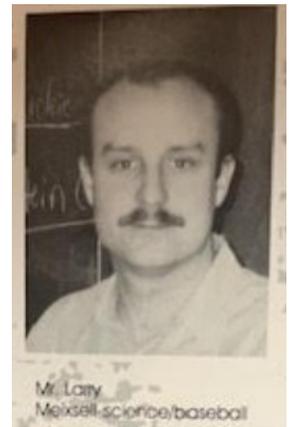
How was your overall experience teaching here?

"I truly believe that being here and teaching at Northern Lehigh was my calling. I wouldn't change it for anything."

What advice would you like to leave behind for students?

"Always give your best effort. Take pride in yourself, your school, your family, and your community. Kindness is important! Enjoy your high school years, as they pass by quickly, and you will likely create some of your most cherished memories during this time. Make them extraordinary!"

Known for his sense of humor and ability to make classes enjoyable, having Mr. Meixsell as a teacher is an experience not to be missed. The Bulldog Bark extends its best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement filled with joy and relaxation. We hope Mr. Meixsell realizes the significant impact he has made on countless generations of students at Northern Lehigh Middle School.



Heading to High School:

A Guide to Honors, Academic, and LCTI Classes for the Upcoming Freshmen

By **Andi Szwast**

Team 8 Barker

Transitioning to high school can be quite challenging. Everything seems different, from the new building to the new teachers and lockers. One of the major changes between middle school and high school is the opportunity to choose the classes you want to take, including their difficulty level. To help incoming freshmen adjust to their new surroundings, we interviewed Honors and Academic student Aricka Creyer and LCTI Criminal Justice student Josh Weaber. Here are their responses, which can serve as a helpful guide for Northern Lehigh High School's newest students.

What's it like to be an Honors and Academic Student?

Being an Honors and Academic student means you get the best of both worlds. It's not too overwhelming, and you can excel in your studies.

And what about being an LCTI Student?

I would describe it as pretty fun. It involves a lot of work, but it's rewarding to pursue something you love outside of regular school.

What do teachers expect from you in Honors classes? In Honors classes, you can expect to have

homework almost every night, but it's manageable and not too burdensome.

How about Academic classes?

Academic classes are more relaxed



and often give you more free time compared to Honors classes.

And what about LCTI? In LCTI, teachers expect you to complete your work on time and behave appropriately. It's similar to being trained as a police officer.



How is an Honors Class Different from an Academic Class?

Honors classes move at a faster pace and usually have more homework. Taking Honors classes can help improve your GPA.

How is LCTI different from regular classes? In LCTI, you engage in more hands-on work

compared to regular classes, which can be a refreshing change.

What's your best advice for future students?

Don't stress too much about specific classes or whether you should take Honors courses. Unless your goal is to become a valedictorian or attend an Ivy League school, you can still get accepted into college and achieve your goals. Colleges value well-rounded individuals. It's important to keep up with your schoolwork but also allow yourself to have fun.

And what advice do you have for Academic students?

Here's something I wish someone had told me when I was starting out as a freshman. With block scheduling, you have the opportunity to earn extra credits by taking two classes of the same subject back to back. This can help you get ahead, and during your senior year, you can even participate in dual enrollment and earn college credit.

Any advice for LCTI Students?

Remember that you always have the option to switch labs if you're unhappy with the one you're in. Although it might be challenging, it's worth it to find a lab that you enjoy and feel passionate about.

Canvas vs. Google Classroom Poll Results

By Andi Szwest
Team 8 Barker

To find out students' preferences between Google Classroom and Canvas, the Bulldog Bark conducted a survey asking a few questions about students' opinions on these digital platforms. We appreciate everyone who participated in the survey.

What do students think of Canvas? In the survey, 74% of students expressed their dislike for Canvas, while only 8% of students reported liking the program. 18% of students said they thought Canvas was "okay."

Why do students dislike Canvas? The most common reason students mentioned for disliking Canvas was its difficulty to navigate. In second place, students mentioned that Canvas glitches, doesn't work properly, and takes a long time to load. The third-most common reason for disliking the program is that it doesn't save progress.

Why do students like Canvas? The only reason students mentioned for liking Canvas was that it's easier to submit work on.

What do students think of Google Classroom? In the survey, 95% of students expressed their liking for Google Class-

room, while only 2% of students disliked the program. 3% of students said they thought Google Classroom was "okay."

Why Do Students Like Google Classroom? The most common reasons students mentioned for liking Google Classroom were that it's easier to use. In second place, students mentioned that they are already familiar with using the program. The third-most common reason for liking Google Classroom is that it

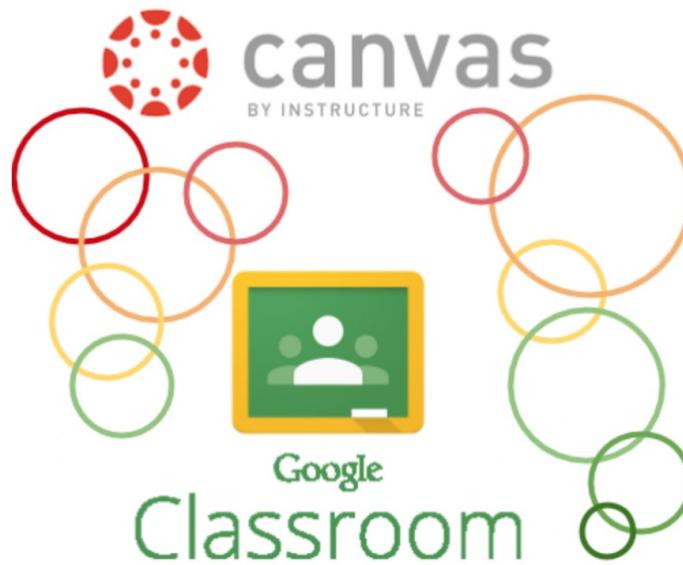
clearly displays assignments and their due dates.

Why do students dislike Google Classroom? The most common reason students mentioned for disliking Google Classroom was that it's slow to load. The only other reason students mentioned for disliking the program is that there are too many places to find assignments within Google Classroom.

Since we are moving to 100% Canvas next year, what do we want to be improved?

The most common suggestion for improving Canvas was to simplify and organize the program. In second place, students suggested not using Canvas altogether. The third-most common recommendation was a tie between creating an easier submission process and enabling the program to save progress.

See the next article for an opinions on how to improve Canvas implementation for next year!





Improving Canvas for the Future

By Madilynn Husack
Team 8 Barker

Canvas has been a major topic of discussion in our school, with many people having mixed feelings about it. While the school is transitioning to Canvas as its new Learning Management System, not everyone is a fan of this change.

Let's explore the reasons behind the preference for Google Classroom.

In my opinion, the reason people like Google Classroom better is the simplicity behind it.

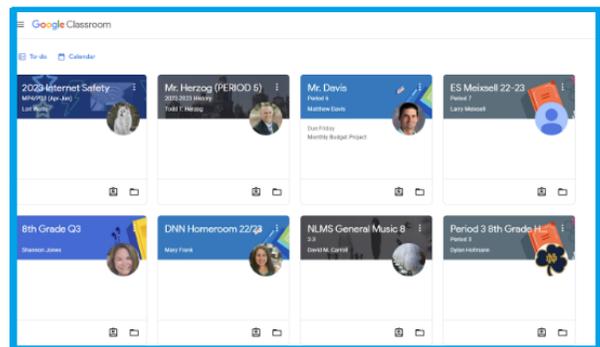
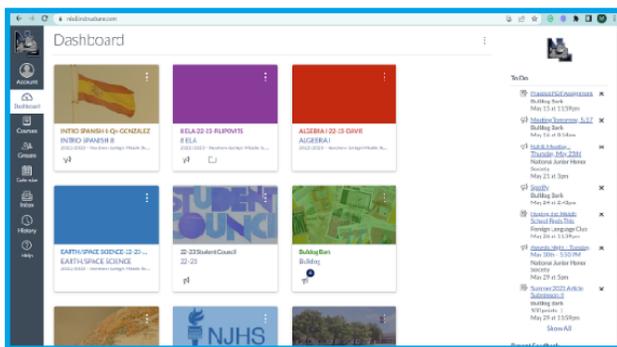
The picture above is only the home pages of the two. You can see how

Google Classroom only really shows the class and what might be due. Canvas, on the other hand, you see any announcement, assignment, and material on the right and on the left are a bunch of icons that we don't use. That is just the main page.

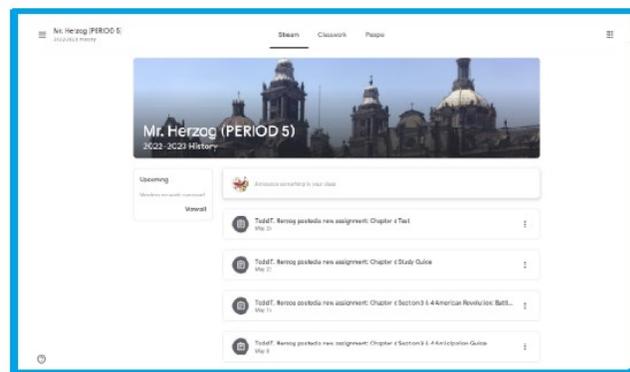
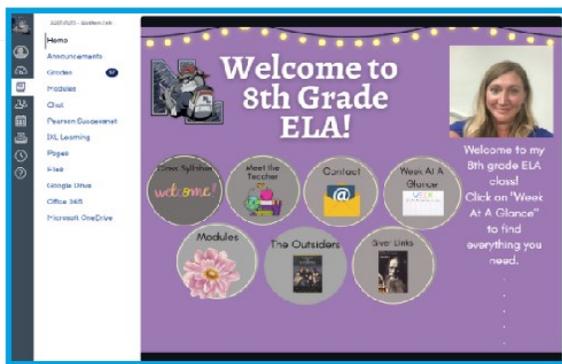
The image below shows what each looks like once you're inside the class itself. Again, Google Classroom looks cleaner. Canvas, I do have to say, shows more like upcoming assignments and grades on the right— both you can't see because it would show my personal grades—, but it still makes

ny thing where you open anything new on the first page, it opens a new tab. For Chromebooks, Canvas takes up a lot of processing power and when it opens more and more tabs it just makes the already slow Chromebook slower.

Canvas on phones does look much nicer and cleaner but be-



Left: Canvas "Dashboard", Right: Google Classroom Homepage



Left: Canvas "Classroom", Right: Google Classroom "Stream"

the program look messier. If Canvas would improve, I think their best options would be to have things be collapsible in some way. The bar on the left is collapsible, but it doesn't really fix the problem because you can still see it. Canvas also does this very fun-

cause we are not allowed to have our phones on us in school this doesn't help, and I doubt that this rule will be lifted. Google Classroom looks good on both computer and phone and doesn't lag the computer. Canvas might be the better program because it allows teachers to



The World's #1 Teaching and Learning Software

do more, but when the teachers don't know how to use the program the students are not getting those benefits. The students just see something that makes them take five extra steps to do something compared to Google Classroom. Personally, I think the school should have waited a year and provided training to teachers so they could become proficient in using Canvas. It should have been mandatory for all teachers to switch, rather than just a few who were interested. Personally, I prefer Google Classroom for its simplicity and effectiveness as a Learning Management tool. However, as a school, we need to learn how to adapt to this new program, whether we like it or not.

Ms. Dunham's Take

As someone with extensive teaching experience in both Google Classroom and Canvas, including beginning the process of training teachers on Canvas this year, I have strong opinions on this matter. Google Classroom, which we relied on during the challenging times of the pandemic, is highly user-friendly

for both teachers and students. It seamlessly integrates with popular third-party websites like Edpuzzle, Quizizz, making student rostering a breeze. The popularity of Google Classroom stems from its simplicity, user-friendliness, and seamless integration with Google Suite. At first glance, it may seem illogical to switch to another platform.

Google Classroom certainly is easier and intuitive at first glance because it is very simple, just as a Chromebook is simpler to a complex computer. All of the Google tools that teachers and students are familiar with, like Google Docs, Google Slides, and so on, are assigned on Google Classroom with a breeze.

But we don't *lose* anything by not using Google Classroom; instead, we *gain* by using Canvas because all that could be done on Google Classroom continues to be done with much more functionality. In time, that will become more apparent as teachers and students learn and familiarize themselves.

Before discussing why Canvas is a superior choice, it's important to address students' concerns about aesthetics and navigation. Both Google Classroom and Canvas feature "Course Cards" upon landing, so there's no notable difference in that regard. The navigation within a course can be just as intuitive, if not more so, with careful design and the use of landing pages with buttons. Course design will improve over time with training and experience, ensuring accessibility for students learning online. Teachers will refine this as they receive professional development over time. Speaking of which, teachers are taking the year the transition because there is a learning curve as Canvas is so much more robust.

Canvas has gained popularity among many schools, not just ours, making it one of the most widely used Learning Management Systems worldwide. Notably, it is utilized not only in K-12 education but also in higher education institutions like LCCC and Penn State.

Now, let's explore why Canvas is considered an upgrade to Google Classroom.

Advanced Features and Functionality: Canvas offers a wide range of tools and features that enable teachers to create engaging and interactive learning experiences. From multimedia integration to discussion boards and quizzes, Canvas provides comprehensive resources to enhance education.

Canvas Mobile Application Capabilities: The Canvas mobile app allows students to conveniently access course materials, communicate with classmates and teachers, submit assignments, and manage their coursework directly from their smartphones. This flexibility and offline access empower students to learn anytime, anywhere. It's important for students to be aware of the app's capabilities, as it provides an intuitive interface, especially on mobile devices. *Note: Most complaints about lag time are often related to internet connectivity with our devices rather than the Canvas platform itself.* While I know cell phones are banned at the middle school for a majority of the time, it is important that students are aware of what the application can do as it is actually its most intuitive with the application versus a computer.

Customization and Flexibility: Canvas allows for greater customization, enabling teachers to tailor their courses to their specific needs. Creating a Canvas course is almost like designing a website—

the options are endless. It offers various options for organizing content, creating assignments, and grading, providing educators with more flexibility in designing and sharing their curriculum.

Collaboration and Communication: Canvas excels in facilitating collaboration among students and teachers. Principals and other administrators are also able to use this to communicate with everyone and gather resources. Integrated communication tools such as announcements, discussions, and messaging foster active engagement and interaction within the virtual classroom. This fosters a sense of community and facilitates teamwork among students while allowing teachers to share resources with one another, and they can even get resources from others teachers around the world.

Streamlined Workflow: Canvas streamlines workflow for both teachers and students by providing a centralized platform for accessing course materials, submitting assignments, and receiving feedback. The user-friendly design (albeit, less apparently and obvious than Google Classroom) and intuitive interface of Canvas make navigation and task management seamless, saving time and enhancing productivity.

Comprehensive Assessment Capabilities: Canvas offers robust assessment features that go beyond simple grading. Teachers can create diverse assessment formats, including quizzes, surveys,

and rubrics, to effectively evaluate student understanding. The platform also provides detailed analytics and progress tracking, allowing teachers to identify areas of improvement and provide targeted support. Additionally, assessments and assignments on Canvas can be automatically and instantly sent to Powerschool, saving teachers considerable grading time.

Integration with External Tools: Canvas supports integration with various external tools and educational applications, expanding its functionality and enriching the learning experience. Teachers can incorporate third-party resources like Edpuzzle, Quizizz, IXL, etc.

Ms. Dunham's Final Thoughts

Canvas has generated mixed opinions in our school as it replaces Google Classroom as the new Learning Management System. While some may prefer Google Classroom for its simplicity, it's important to recognize the many ways in which Canvas is an upgrade. One significant advantage is Canvas's mobile application capabilities. Students can access course materials, submit assignments, and manage their coursework directly from their smartphones, providing flexibility and offline access. Although mobile phone usage is restricted in school, it's worth acknowledging the intuitive features of the Canvas app. Additionally, Canvas offers advanced features and functionality, customization and flexi-

bility, collaboration and communication tools, streamlined workflow, comprehensive assessment capabilities, integration with external tools, and a strong support system. While Google Classroom may seem easier and more familiar initially, Canvas provides a more comprehensive and feature-rich

platform for managing educational content.

Change is hard for everyone; we have to be patient and allow time to adjust and get familiarized with something new. Once all students and faculty are on Canvas using it regularly, they will become more acclimated over time. As students

and teachers become more acquainted with Canvas, its benefits will become increasingly apparent, making the transition worthwhile.

BuzzFeedNEWS

Buzzfeed Created and Written

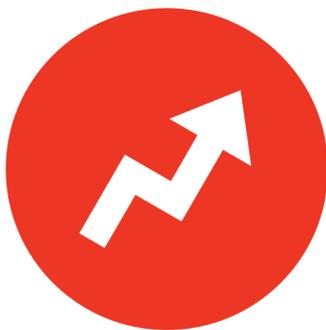
by Andi Szwast and Mackenzie Kuhns

Team 8 Barker and Team 7 Barker



Click on the hyperlink to be take this edition's latest Buzzfeed quizzes!

[Which Colored Beach Are You? Click here to find out!](#)



[Which Summer Vacation Are You? Click to find out!](#)

Summer Poll Results

By Andi Szwast

Team 8 Barker

To explore the reasons why people like and dislike the season of summer, the *Bulldog Bark* sent out a survey that asked a few questions about students' opinions on summer. If you were a participant in the survey, we thank you for your contribution.

How Do Students Feel About Summer?

On the survey, 87% of students responded that they liked summer, while only 5% of students dislike the season and 8% of students said that they thought summer was "okay."

Why Do Students Like Summer?

The most common reason students said they liked summer was because of no school. In second place is being able to spend more time with friends, and the third-most common reason for liking summer is a tie between minimal stress and free time.

Why Do Students Dislike Summer?

The most common reason students said they disliked summer was because of the hot temperatures during the season. In second place is boredom, and the third-most common reason for disliking summer is a tie between bugs and loneliness.

What is Most Students' Favorite Season?

34% of students stated that they like the summer season best, while 24% of students said that they like spring. 24% of students also said they like fall, and 18% of students responded that their favorite season is winter.

Happy Summer, everyone!



THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER!

By Norah Lipsky

Team 7 Barker

Summer Bucket List Recommendations!

Do Some DIY!

- Make Air Dry Clay!
- Tie Dye a Piece of clothing!
- Make a Fun Summer Playlist!
- Paint or make a Work of Art!
- Make your own Candles!
- Make Paper Flowers!
- Bake Something for Yourself!
- Make a Special Drink!
- Redecorate Your Room!
- Make Ice Pops!
- Go to a Fun Waterpark for the Day!
- Gaze at the Stars!
- Take a Legendary Family Photo!
- Take Time to Spend with Your Friends!
- Spend the Day at a Theme Park!
- Have a Barbeque!
- Watch Fireworks!
- Go on a Peaceful Hike
- Have a water balloon fight!
- Make a movie theater in your backyard!
- Have a game of flashlight tag!
- Make a sprinkler to run through

How Can Students Keep Their Brains Going During Summer Break?

By Mackenzie Kuhns

Team 7 Barker

Despite the popular belief that you have to go to a learning camp or summer school to “stay smart” over the summer, I believe that students should only have to do small things to stimulate their minds. I think that kids (especially in grades 6-12) should do these things in order to keep their brains working and getting stronger for each coming year.

STAYING ACTIVE

By doing simple things like going on walks on the boardwalk or swimming at the pool will help to keep you and your mind fit. When you do any sort of physical activity your brain has to monitor what your body is doing. The brain needs to keep track of your heart rate, how much you sweat, what you need at that moment, etc. This way, you will stay alert of yourself which will in return force your mind to stay alert to catch all the little details as well.

MIND GAMES

Both you and your brain would benefit from playing cards or board games. Games like Clue and Sorry! are problem solving games that help keep your mind in a habit of finding a goal and deciding which steps need to be taken in order to achieve that goal. Card games like Uno and Taco VS Burrito help by making you think outside the box to play the cards correctly to outsmart your opponent. Plus, who doesn't love a good game?

INTERACTION

Believe it or not, simply socializing with your best friends, chatting with family, or even getting to know a new neighbor, can help you drastically. If you are left with absolutely no human interaction in approximately three months you are likely to be more awkward or shy than you were three months ago. Your brain will have to get back into the habit of processing others' words, hand gestures, and facial expressions in order to create fluid conversations if you don't continue to process the actions of others. Therefore, you should try to start up a good conversation when the opportunity arises, no matter who it is, it can help you in the long run.

Overall, if you do the three things listed above during your

break, you will be better prepared to begin learning again because you'd have done it all summer long! You should note that this may not help you remember how to do everything you did in math the previous year but it will help you excavate those memories once they are needed again. Enjoy your fun, carefree summer!



Fashion Styles 2023

By **Norah Lipsky**
Team 7 Barker

There are several different types of fashion for everyone. Different vibes, styles, fashion shows, and or different themes. But this year, things have somewhat changed into a fashion statement. This year will be mostly about modern boho, denim on denim, blazers, extra baggage, buttoned up shirts, the list goes on. Not to mention the skirt suit, or just skirts in general. This seems to be a big one because it seems everyone on fashion

runways are either wearing these midway, almost long, luxurious skirts, or wearing cinched blazers.

Last year, there was a lot of oversized everything, low rise jeans, corsets, and some goth. There were crocs, sweatpants, plaid pajama pants, and even a fair share of crop tops. This year, we're going to mix it up with a little bit more pastel colors, several different textures, sparkle, some different jackets, such as denim, leather, and others.

Fashion styles are changing quickly it seems. From short shorts to long denim skirts. Or baggy sweatshirts to button up shirts. It mostly all depends on the "trends." Some people will ask, "So what's in right now?" Trends mostly start from runways of the year, celebrities, or even music. Trends also depend on you. Start a trend of your own interest or make your own fashion statement.



Artificial Intelligence: Pros and Cons

By Mackenzie Kuhns,
Madilynn Husack, and
ChatGPT

Team 7 & 8 Barkers

AI is a big topic in the media world, and with ChatGPT and the AI art circulating on TikTok, it is becoming increasingly prominent in our lives. As it gains significance, concerns are emerging. Some worry that people are becoming too reliant on AI, especially in academics. Others are concerned about AI taking over jobs, its potential to evolve beyond our control, the erosion of privacy, and the loss of qualities that define us as humans. Mackenzie

and Madilynn decided to take different stances on topics and also asked ChatGPT for its own take on itself in the process.



AIs Impact on Students' Academics

Cons	Pros	AI
<p>AI, artificial intelligence, is something that can become very dangerous for our students and therefore, humanity's future. AIs such as Photomath and ChatGPT are things that <i>can</i> be used as an aid but are more likely to give students the opportunity to cheat. At a higher level, this can become extremely dangerous. Think of it this way, would you want a doctor that had an AI write all of his/her papers in college to operate on you? I didn't think so, this is why we shouldn't have made AI available to the public.</p>	<p>AI certainly can be a dangerous thing, and in terms of students' academics, can lead to cheating. However, I think though that AI can take away most of the mundane tasks like using Photomath to check a math problem or using Grammarly or ChatGPT to check grammar or find a better way to word something. I completely agree that AI needs to have its limits and restrictions. Having AI being available to the public is a scary thought and can definitely be used as a bad thing, but AI can still help us in the long run.</p>	<p>Question: "Will AI negatively affect how students think?"</p> <p>"AI can have both positive and negative effects on how students think. It can enhance personalized learning and problem-solving skills but may also lead to overreliance, limited perspectives, and reduced social and emotional development. Striking a balance is important to ensure students benefit from AI while nurturing critical thinking and human interaction."</p>

The Job Crisis

Cons	Pros	AI
<p>Additionally, AI has the ability to completely take over the jobs of many people across the globe. Don't get me wrong; this may be helpful in some situations, but this can prove to be absolutely tragic for many families. AI can potentially take the jobs of many working-class citizens and cause those people to be without funds. Doing this can escalate world hunger and poverty in unexpected places.</p>	<p>AI will take away some jobs, and it already has. However, this will lead to people being able to do the fun jobs that people dream of. The job market will change into something that is directed toward maintaining the AI because like it or not, AI is the future. Especially in the computer and IT department, you will see a shift in careers. In jobs that are seen as repetitive or clerical, they will probably get replaced by AI, again, to have people do things that are not so boring and tiresome. There is already work for machine robots that can be sent into war to save lives. You will see people being let go in replace of AI, but new careers will open up.</p>	<p>Question: Will Ai take away jobs?</p> <p>“The impact of AI on jobs is a complex and debated topic. While AI has the potential to automate certain tasks and roles traditionally performed by humans, it also has the potential to create new job opportunities and transform existing ones.”</p>



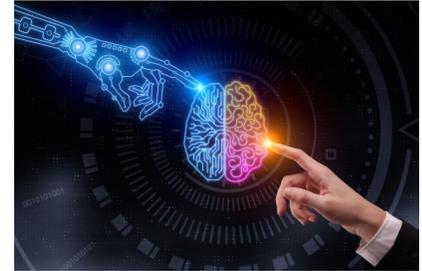
Privacy and Security



Cons	Pros	AI
<p>As we have realized with ChatGPT, AI is entirely capable of scouring sources to create requested documents. This can cause major issues if an AI is taught to “hack” into people’s information. If a program has the ability to get private information, the stealing of identities and other personal material will become overly easy, especially if an AI is developed so much that it virtually cannot make a mistake.</p>	<p>In this context, AI is very scary; however, I don’t think it is any different with the government being able to monitor a lot of our activity. With the development of AI, the government will probably put restrictions on what the AI can do. Not to say that this will stop anything. Going back to the job market, this will lead to more people needing to be in cyber security. The threat of AI being able to hack into accounts is a plausible thought, but with people being aware of AI’s existence, hopefully, we can take the correct steps to prevent this from happening.</p>	<p>Question :Is AI a threat to our privacy and security?</p> <p>“AI poses potential risks to privacy and security. These include concerns about data privacy, security vulnerabilities, biases and discrimination, unauthorized access, and surveillance. Mitigating these risks requires robust security measures, addressing bias in algorithms, and establishing regulations to ensure responsible AI use.”</p>

How does this impact mankind at large?

Cons	Pros	AI
<p>If we let AI go on and become more and more advanced, humankind will continue to plummet downhill. Overall, this technology has the potential to completely ruin future generations by making them lazy, dependent, and quite frankly, stupid. It makes me things that are robotic and automated already, like like microwaves that start for you and robots that do your chores, while they may seem like they make life easier, will just make people forget that they still need to learn and develop on their own. We will become increasingly dependent and lose sight of ourselves.</p>	<p>AI definitely has the possibility to make us "lazy, dependent, and quite frankly stupid," but I think we need to stop looking at AI as a crutch and look at it more as a resource. AI can be helpful in so many way and it already has been. AI will become a common practice; even if you don't like it you are probably using it in some way. Grammarly, Photomath, and the new Chatgpt are all forms that most of us use on a normal bases because it makes our life easier. That what AI does, it helps make our lives easier. It can make us more dependent off of it, but it also can free up time to do things that we want to do other than those chores or other mundande tasks. With AI thinking being a different way to think, it will give us a new</p>	<p>Question: Will AI be the end of the human race?</p> <p>"No, there is no evidence or scientific consensus to suggest that AI will lead to the end of the human race. While AI can present certain challenges and risks, it is ultimately a tool developed and controlled by humans. The future impact of AI will depend on how we develop, deploy, and govern the technology. It is important to prioritize ethical considerations, safety measures, and responsible AI development to ensure that AI benefits humanity and is aligned with our values and goals."</p>
	<p>perspective on things that might save lives. AI certainly doesn't have its faults but I think if we learn how to use it effectively we can make a difference with it.</p>	



As someone who likes AI and finds it interesting, I still understand the risks behind it, but knowing a bit more about it and how it works makes me not as afraid of it. AI works differently to us, that is why it is called AI. AI is created using a process called Machine Learning, which are algorithms that use computational methods to "learn" information directly from data without direct output. It processes things much differently than us humans, which is why when scientists look at things AI has made and can't quite grasp from a human perspective how the AI got to that conclusion. Like any technology, AI has the possibility to change the human race. Look at smartphones and how much that has changed us. I am not trying to discredit my co-writer, but I am encouraging you to be informed of all the information available about AI before you make your decisions on which side you're on.



Hamilton: The Mind Behind the Masterpiece

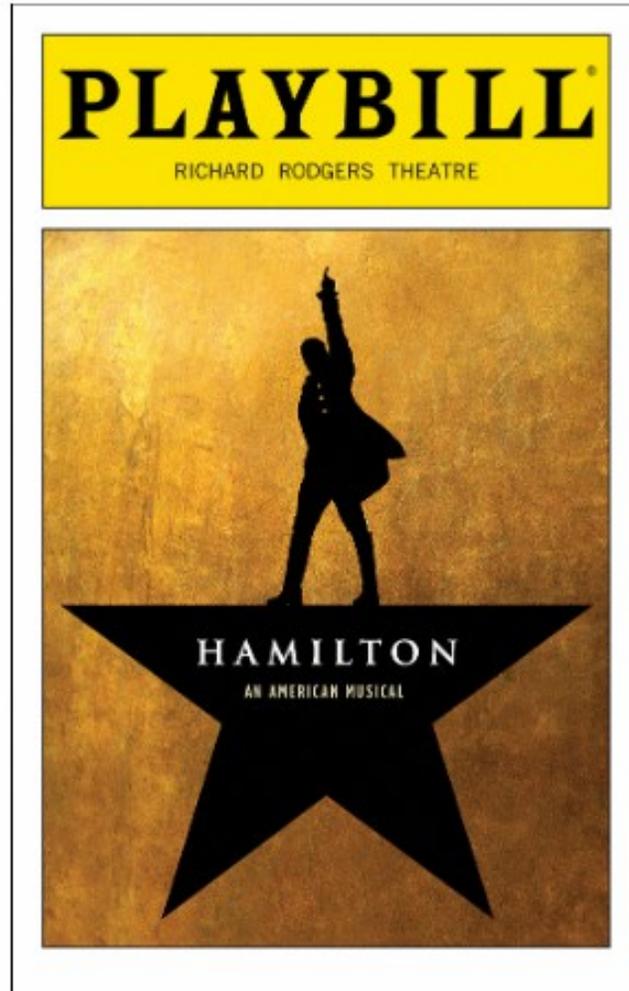
Madilynn Husack
Team 8 Barker

How does *Hamilton*, a musical, a work of great genius, constantly delivered to the great wonders of a nation, come out to be an award-winning sensation?

If you know the man behind *Hamilton*, Lin-Manuel Miranda, you know that he is not known for throwing away his shot. When his musical hit the Broadway stage for the first time a little over 8 years ago, people were not expecting it to get as big as it did. So how did Lin's, masterpiece of a musical, on one of the most controversial founding fathers, become what some say, one of the greatest pieces of historical fiction ever produced?

Hamilton the Musical came out on January 20, 2015, but is still one of the most popular and influential musicals. Looking at the charts, it has made over 800,000 dollars and is the fourth biggest musical, money-wise, coming behind names such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Wicked*, and *The Lion King*. For a musical to run for almost 8 years isn't the most unheard-of thing, but

it being one of the only musicals with a movie adaptation is.



So, how did Hamilton, with all the things he did in his life, become so influential that he had a whole musical composed for him?

If we start from the very beginning, Lin was enthralled by a book back in 2009. The biography was named *Alexander Hamilton* and was written by Ron Chernow. After reading the

book, he had ideas to create a mixtape about Hamilton's life. He never intended for it

to become a musical and especially one of great renown. Then he did something life-changing. Lin got invited to the White House, during President Barack Obama's term, who asked him to perform a song from his first musical, *In the Heights*. Lin however chose to sing one of his songs from the *Hamilton* mixtape. After he finished, he was awarded with a standing ovation. With this confidence booster, he continued to

work on the mixtape. Soon he invited people to come listen to the mixtape which then turned into the original cast of *Hamilton*.

With all that information, we still don't know why *Hamilton* is so popular. In my opinion, I think the reason *Hamilton* became so popular was because of its release onto Disney+. Now, I don't want to take away

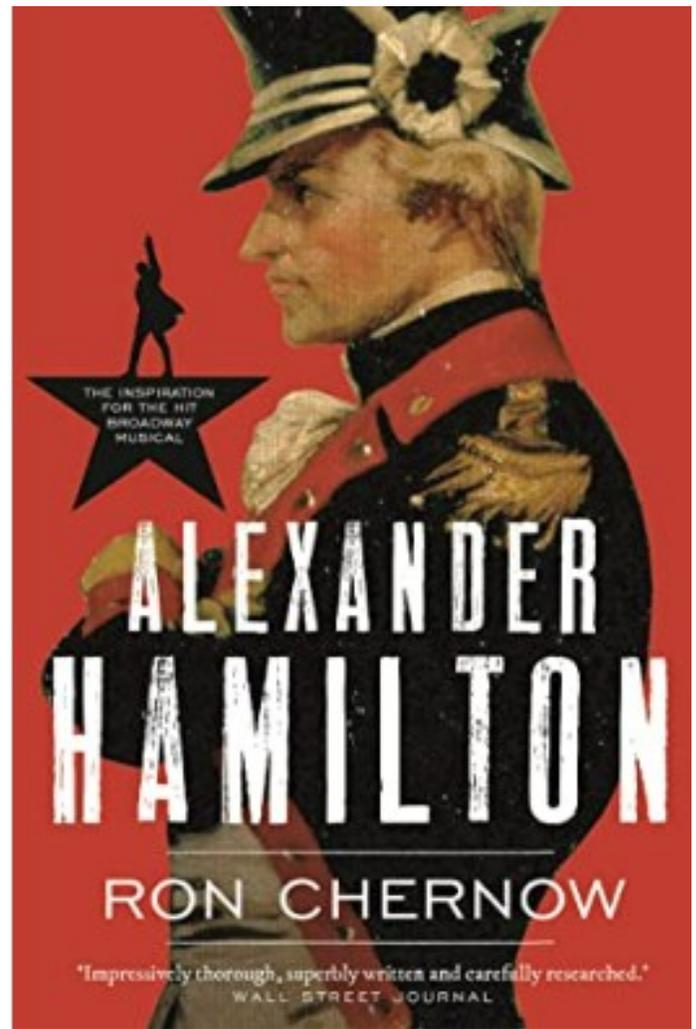
from the amazing cast, music, props, and storyline, but if *Hamilton* was never released onto Disney+, it wouldn't have had such a wide audience.

Hamilton was released onto Disney+ at the peak of the pandemic, July 3, 2020, during this time people were all stuck inside trying to do something with their lives. So what did most people look to during this time? Binging a bunch of shows at home. This allowed *Hamilton* to shine during this time bringing in new fans from all over. *Hamilton* being released to Disney+ didn't just change the Fandom, but it also changed the Broadway world. This was one of the first musicals to have a movie adaptation. Like I said earlier, I don't want to give all the credit to just Disney+. Just looking at the cast alone you have: Lin-Manuel Miranda playing Hamilton and also the creator, Leslie Odom Jr. playing Arron Burr, soon being awarded the Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his role back in 2016, Daveed Diggs for his amazing roles as Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson, and many others. With a great cast as a whole, it made the whole show a more fun experience to watch. Personally, I think the plot made the musical. This created from real events, I think Lin-Manuel Maranda

did a great job at having a story and also following how things went down in real life. Listening to the music, you can get the underlying plot points about what is a legacy and see the slow down fall of *Hamilton* as a person as he descends into using manipulation to get what he wants.

Now with any great thing, there is always a controversy and *Hamilton* is no exception. One of the biggest controversies *Hamilton* has is the radical love and admiration that *Hamilton* shows to George Washington when George Washington owned anywhere from 127-317 slaves, depending on the source. At this time, however, and I am not justifying the owning of slaves, most people did not see owning slaves as a bad thing which makes it somewhat historically ac-

curate. Educate yourself besides watching a musical about the revolutionary war because everything in it might not be true. With everything being said, I hope in the future we get to see people be inspired by *Hamilton* and go on to create bigger and better things because of it.



Book Banning: Past and Present

Madilynn Husack
Team 8 Barker



Book banning is nothing new. In fact, it has been around for centuries. What is considered the first book ban in the United States took place in 1637 in what is now known as Quincy, Massachusetts. The banning of books, in the US, is at an all-time-high. Race/ethnicity, LGBTQ+, American classics/classics, mental health, are all topics that seemingly are the main targets. I will describe a few of the popular books that have been banned as of late.

Race and ethnicity along with LGBTQ+ is targeted more towards authors rather than representation in books. Some of the books that have been targeted are:

And Tango Makes Three by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson illustrated by Henry Cole. Two male penguins in the Central Park Zoo who just want a chick of their own.

This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson. One of the most controversial books about real stories

form people a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

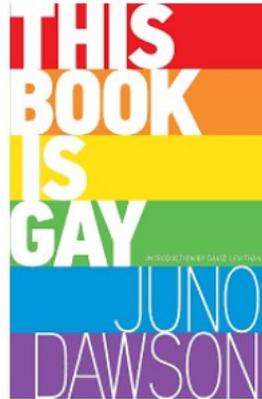
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. A story about a 16 year old black girl who has to

find a way to deal with going between two different worlds.

Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson discusses missing black girls and women a lot of time get looked over by the police.

American classics like *The Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, and *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding have all been either banned or challenged because of themes such as language, sexual content, or going against people beliefs. Personally, I have never read any of these books that I mentioned, but knowing that at least two out of three of these we have in our high school curriculum say something. Each of these books have to teach some lesson that is important.

Lastly, books about mental health are often criticized. Mental health has been a big topic recently with more places having therapy pets, the middle school has Valentino;



it's crazy to me that we are still trying to take away from the importance of mental health. Books about mental health are:

13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher, which is a book about a girl who committed suicide and left tapes for some people.

Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky. The author sharing his life story about mental health, sexuality, and drug and alcohol use.

Looking For Alaska by John Green. A teen story that talks about suicide and drug and alcohol use.

A group that goes by American Booksellers for Free Expression (ABFE) tries to stop the banning of books. Each year, they have a week of challenging banned books. Its mission is to let people read what they want even if it goes against societies views. This year, the theme is "Let Freedom Read!" They want to make it clear that even though people our trying to censor what people read, people are still going to read as long as there are libraries. Banned Book Week is October 1-7th. The censorship of books is a cruel way to stop people from making there own opinion on something just because someone sees it as wrong.

Summer Recommended Reads!

Mackenzie Kuhns

Team 7 Barker

The Summer I Turned Pretty (trilogy)

by Jenny Han

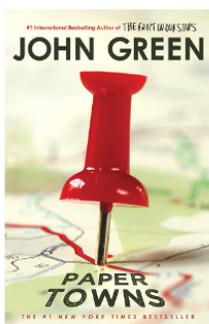
It follows the story of sixteen-year-old Belly Conklin, who spends every summer with her mother and brother at the beach house of her mother's best friend, Susannah. This summer, Belly is excited to reunite with her longtime crush, Conrad, and his brother, Jeremiah. However, as the summer progresses, Belly begins to realize that things have changed between her and the boys, and she must navigate her growing feelings and changing relationships while also coming to terms with her own identity and past.



Paper Towns

by John Green

Paper Towns is a coming-of-age story set in Orlando, Florida. It focuses on Quentin, a young man about to embark on his adult life, and the adventure he and his friends, Ben and Radar, have their senior year that centers on the disappearance of their classmate Margo Roth Spiegelman. Quentin lived next door to Margo his entire life, and has a crush on her. He calls living so close to her a miracle and basks in the glory that is her existence.



Last Summer On State Street

by Toya Wolfe

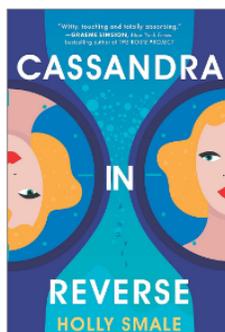
Profound, reverent, and uplifting, *Last Summer on State Street* explores the risk of connection against the backdrop of racist institutions, the restorative power of knowing and claiming one's own past, and those defining relationships which form the heartbeat of our lives. Interweaving moments of reckoning and sustaining grace, debut author Toya Wolfe has crafted an era-defining story of finding a home—both in one's history and in one's self.



Cassandra in Reverse

By Holly Smale

Cassandra Dankworth is a big fan of order and routine. She doesn't like surprises or trying to decipher people's emotions. So, when she's fired from her job and dumped by her boyfriend, she has to face two of her least favorite things in the world on the same day. Then Cassandra learns that she can go back in time and change her past. Can she fix the mistakes she's made and lead a more fulfilling life, or is she doomed to repeat her mistakes over and over again à la Groundhog Day?



National Junior Honor Society: Senior Prom 2023

By Madilynn Husack

Team 8 Barker

National Junior Honor Society is a very special club that we have at our school. In the middle school, a select group of students are chosen to be a part of this special club. Seventh graders need to obtain a certain criteria, such as maintaining a high average, participating in school activities, and demonstrating positive



qualities to be considered for NJHS. NJHS is a worldwide club that emphasizes academic achievement, character, leadership, service, and citizenship.

At the middle school, we hosted the 18th Annual Senior Citizen Prom. Every year, with the help of Mr. Graver and Ms. Dunham, the middle school hosts a prom where all of the senior citizens can have a night of fun. This year's theme was "The Awesome 80s." Our Prom Queen this year was Mrs. Hali Kuntz, grandmother of McKenzie Chruscial and former NLMS math teacher. Our King was Mr. Robert Trescott, grandfather of Madilynn Husack.

To raise the funds for the NJHS, we also baked pumpkin rolls, not as fun, but it was very satisfying knowing that we are raising money for something significant.

As someone who is in the organization, a piece of advice for upcoming seventh graders would be to just try your best in school while still being true to yourself. NJHS is a fun experience that if you are able to participate in, you should definitely join.



doghouse fiction



“WHAT MUSIC MEANS TO ME”

Kayla Hale
Team 7 Barker

Music makes me happy because of just the beat, the rhythm, the artist. Music is home. Music saves me when I felt like falling. Music is not just music; it saves people. Music was there when I lost myself. Music was there when no one

was. Music is my best friend that I know I'll never lose. I think that's why I listen to it all the time. Music makes me dance and smile. Even if I'm not in the mood, the beat and the lyrics makes all that pain and hurt go away. Music brings the good, nice version of me out. Music brings a real smile out of me. Music

heals Music brings real smiles, Music gets me dancing,, music makes me happy: Music is everything...



We at the *Bulldog Bark* made a Collaborative Spotify playlist for you to listen to this summer where we will all put songs we love. While our tastes are at times a bit diverse, we think you'll enjoy this “feel-good” list!

[Click here to check it out and add it to your library!](#)



FAREWELL DANCE

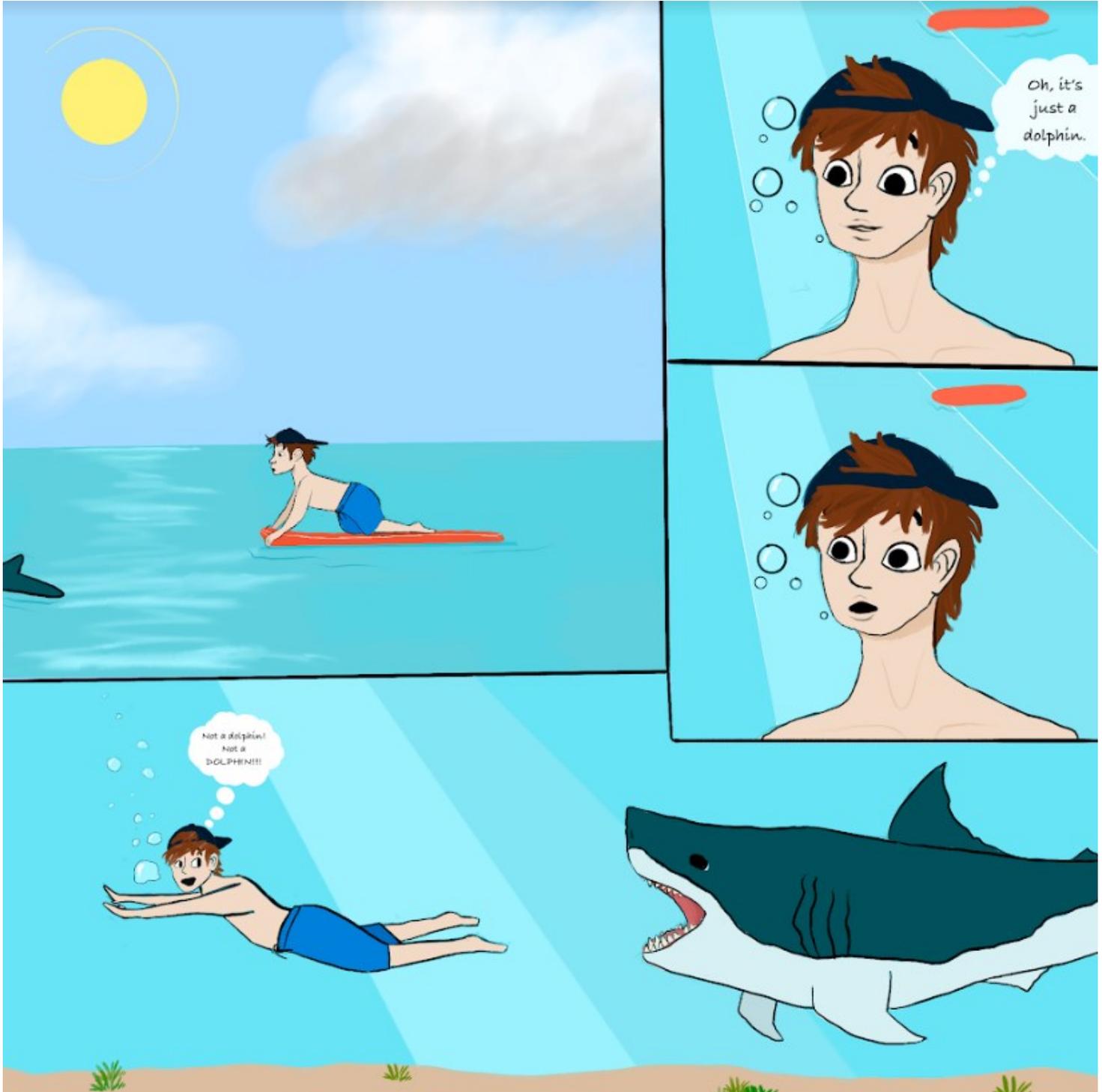


FIELD TRIPS!



BULLDOG COMIC!

Written and Created by
Norah Lipsky
Team 7 Barker



Letter from the Advisor

The final week of school is here! It's amazing how quickly this school year has gone by. For those of us leaving our great middle school, our graduating eighth graders and staff members: Thank you for making our building the incredible place it truly is. I wish you well in your future endeavors. Don't forget to visit!

The Bulldog Bark serves to represent students' voices at Northern Lehigh, so speak up! The Bulldog Bark is always looking for more Barkers to add to the pack; even if you would like to contribute to just one issue. This paper serves to represent all of us. If you have any article ideas or are interested in writing at any point, please see me in the TIS office in the library or send me an e-mail: bdunham@nlsd.org. Also, if you are a talented artist/photographer, I would love for you to feature your artwork/photography! We have plenty of room to show off your skills.

Have a great summer, or in yearbook land, H.A.G.S! :)

-Ms. Dunham

