

# The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

90



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## There Should NOT Be a Statewide Cellphone Ban in Schools!



By Olivia Pelhank  
Tusker Tribune Staff

There should not be a statewide cellphone ban in school. As a kid in middle school, I am not allowed to bring my phone into class. I am allowed to keep it in my locker, though.

I remember not too long ago, my contact lens ripped. I'm not going to talk too much about it, but I would just like to say that I was recommended by my teacher to go to the nurse's office.

Instead, I went to my locker and texted my mom. She knew exactly what to do. She gave me tips that the nurse might not have, and I know that the nurse probably could have texted my mom about it if I had asked her, but it also is just kind of good to know that when something goes wrong I



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



always have my phone to text my parents who know me best and give me tips on how to solve it.

This ban will require students to disconnect their devices from bell to bell, which won't allow people to contact other devices. Phones would be locked away during school hours. This does allow students to bring their phones to school for things like after school clubs, which is good, but it should not force kids to disconnect their phones.

Do people really want to spend \$13 million on locking up kids' phones during school?

**Source:** Gov. Hochul proposes cell phone ban in classrooms statewide—by Jack Marxen.

<https://cnycentral.com/news/local/gov-hochul-proposes-cell-phone-ban-in-classrooms>

## Total Cell Phone Ban is 'Too Extreme'



By Allison Posadas  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Did you know Governor Kathy Hochul wants to ban cell phones at school? The recent proposal by Governor Kathy Hochul to ban cell phones in school has sparked significant debate among educators, parents, and students. This decision aims to address concerns regarding distractions and their education in the classroom so I do agree with that part on why she would want to ban cell phones.

Some people would agree and disagree on this proposal, but I think we should agree on this statement because a ban minimizes distractions caused by phones, allowing students to better con-



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



centrate on lessons and participating in class.

I would also disagree with this cell phone ban for plenty of reasons, because first, on our phone there are many apps that can help as study tools. Second, what if there's an emergency, what about safety? If something happens or if you feel unsafe having a phone lets us call for help right away. Parents also like knowing if their child is ok and safe, so with a phone parents can reach their child easily. A ban makes it harder to stay safe and connected.

In conclusion, a total ban is too extreme. We need a better plan, one that lets us use phones for good things, but also teaches us to use them responsibly.

### Bat-tle Royale! (Not Really. . . )

*SMS custodians Gene Mackey and Ron Tausig engage in "bat" tle with a small bat that snuck into SMS Thursday and took a nap on the hallway banner. The bat was safely captured and released outside. Check out the video below!*

**Press CNTL key as you click on the link.**

<https://youtu.be/1g-1GSjSOCo>

### Reporters/Contributors

Ian Dempsey  
Kaylee Jeon  
Felicity McCormack  
Lila O'Connor  
Olivia Pelhank  
Allison Posadas

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

Tusker Tribune Website:

<https://sms.somersschools.org/student-life/activities/tusker-tribune-newspaper>

## Pilgrim State Hospital Has a Fascinating Past



By Felicity McCormack  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Pilgrim State Hospital was a psychiatric center in Brentwood, Long Island. A psychiatric center is a facility where people who were deemed "mentally ill" were sent to be contained and treated.

Before the 1900s, the care of these people would traditionally fall to their family. Then, they started opening these centers that used new types of treatments called "moral treatments." These institutions started closing in the 1950s, as nursing homes took many of the elderly patients, and improvements in psychiatric medications helped these people live moderately reasonable lives.

Pilgrim State was built from 1929 to 1931 and was in use as a center from 1931 to 1940. It covered over 2,000 acres (about the area of Philadelphia Airport). It was a farm colony, which means that they sent patients to rural areas to work, as it was seen as a soothing experience for them.

While in use, Pilgrim State had many methods that were used to treat the people in their care. The main methods used were lobotomies, electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), straitjackets, and insulin shock comas.

Lobotomies are a surgical severance of nerve fibers connecting the frontal lobes to the thalamus that has been performed especially formerly chiefly to treat mental illness.



ECTs involve a brief electrical stimulation of the brain while the patient is under anesthesia.

Straitjackets are a cover or overgarment of strong material (such as canvas) used to bind the body and especially the arms closely in restraining a violent prisoner or patient.

Insulin shock comas are a form of psychiatric treatment in which patients were repeatedly injected with large doses of insulin to produce daily comas over several weeks.

The use of ECTs was most commonly used to treat bipolar disorder or depression. Over the time of the institution's operation, over 2,000 lobotomies were performed on patients, or one for every 25 patients.

While in use, there were a lot of people there. There were about 12,500 patients, while in 1954 there were 13,875 people, with over 4,000 employees. A single doctor served around 100 patients at a time.

*To be continued next week in "Pilgrim State, Part 2."*

### Bibliography

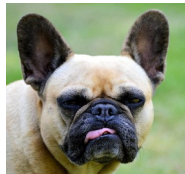
- [Abandoned America](#)
- [Atlas Obscura](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)
- [Grunge](#)
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- [Chron](#)
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## What's the Most Popular Dog Breed?



By Lila O'Connor  
Tusker Tribune Staff

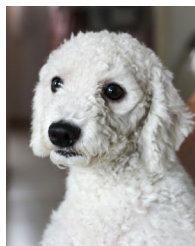
Have you ever wondered what the most popular dog breed is? Read this article to find out. In the number 10 spot is the **German Short Haired Pointer**.



In the 9<sup>th</sup> spot is the **Rottweiler**.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> spot is the **Beagle** which is one of my personal favorites.

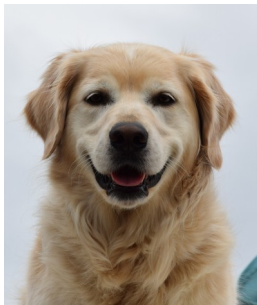
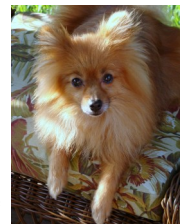
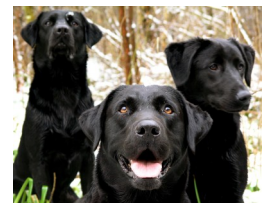
**Bull dogs** are 7<sup>th</sup> and the **Dachshund** is in 6<sup>th</sup> which are some of my favorites.



Now we are down to the final 5. In the 5<sup>th</sup> spot is the **Poodle**. In the 4<sup>th</sup> spot is the **Pomeranian**. Third is the **Labrador Retriever** and 2<sup>nd</sup> is the **Golden Retriever**.

Finally in 1<sup>st</sup> place is the one and only **French Bulldog**. It's no wonder why the Frenchies got first, but now we can go through the least favorites.

In 5<sup>th</sup> place for the least popular dog breed is... the **Komondor** or more commonly known as the "**Mog Dog**". In 4<sup>th</sup> is the **Finnish Spits** and in 3<sup>rd</sup> is the **Chihuahua** and in 1<sup>st</sup> is the **Pitbull**.





## The Trip That Became a Bad Decision



**By Ian Dempsey**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**  
**Chapter 1**

I arrived at the airport at 6:24 PM. My flight to Moraco starts boarding in 24 minutes. I was only at the TSA checkpoint. I panicked because it felt like every second was a minute just waiting on line, when finally, I got to the checkpoint. They asked me to remove any items I had on me and put them in the baskets. I then stepped through the metal detector where they called me in for addi-



tional screening. I only had 10 minutes left until boarding and now I had to go through additional screening?! They found out that I forgot to take my watch off before and I was free to go.

With four minutes left until boarding, my heart was racing as I ran as fast as I could to the gate, when I got stuck behind yet ANOTHER line. When I finally got to the gate, boarding had just started. I got on the plane and sat down. Little did I know that would be the worst decision of my life. *To be continued.*

## Chiefs Have the Edge in Super Bowl LIX?



**By Allison Posadas**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Super Bowl is a really big football game! It's hard to say who will win the 2025 Super Bowl because lots of things can happen, but we can guess!

Right now, the Kansas City Chiefs are a good team. They have superstar players named Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce and Chris Jones, according to Google.

In the other part of the league, the Philadelphia Eagles is also a good team. The team has good players who run and tackle well. But again, these



teams could surprise everyone! It's like guessing who will win a race.

Even if you think you know who's fastest, someone else could win! But I predict that the Kansas City Chiefs will win the 2025 Super Bowl according to some fans out there, saying there are plenty of good players and their strengths.

In conclusion, the Kansas City Chiefs possess a compelling combination of quarterback talent, offensive firepower, experienced coaching, and a strong team culture. But again, maybe these teams could surprise everyone!

## Winter Imagery



**By Allison Posadas**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff**

Winter's breath, a frosty kiss; Paints the World in shades of bliss.  
Crystal trees, in silent grace;  
Stand draped in icy lace.

Sun descends, a fading gleam; Shadows Lengthen, a frozen dream.  
Snowflakes fall, a gentle hush;  
Basketing the world in plush.

Rivers sleep, beneath a sheet; Of frozen ice, both stark and sweet.  
While winds may howl, a mournful tune;  
Winters beauty holds its swoon,

A fires glow, a warm embrace; Against  
The colds relentless chase,



In winters heart, a magic lies;  
Reflected in the starry skies.

The air is crisp, a biting chill; Upon the  
Frosted windowsill.

Footprints trace a snowy scene;

A fleeting path, both bright  
and clean.

A stillness reigns, a quiet  
peace; Where  
worries fade, and tension ceases.

In winters hush, a solace deep;  
While nature slumbers, secrets keep.

The scent of pine, a woody  
grace;

Fills the air, in this cold place. A robin's  
songs, a fragile sound;  
Upon the snow-covered ground, And in  
The heart, a warmth remains,  
Despite the cold, winters reigns.

## Celebrating Two Mozarts



**By Kaylee Jeon  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You may have heard of the prodigy composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, but have you heard of his sister, Nannerl Mozart? His sister, like Mozart was also a child prodigy, but why was Wolfgang more acknowledged than her?

Maria Anna Mozart was born on July 30th, 1751, in Salzburg, Austria. Nicknamed “Nannerl”, she was the sister of Wolfgang Mozart. Her father, Leopold Mozart, taught her how to play the harpsichord from a young age. She commonly practiced her instrument with young Wolfgang by her side, who loved watching her play. In fact, some may say that Nannerl might have been the one who inspired Wolfgang to start his musical career. Wolfgang looked up to Nannerl for her musical prowess and even asked for her advice on some of his later compositions.

As Wolfgang grew up, he began to earn the respect of many important people. Starting from an early age, Wolfgang and Nannerl went on multiple tours around Europe. But when Nannerl reached 18 years old, she started to be left behind every time Wolfgang went on tour. Why was that? By then, Nannerl was old enough to be considered of “marriageable age.” Unfortunately, Nannerl ended up spending 15 years at home until finally marrying her husband, Johann Baptist Franz Freiherr von Berchthold zu Sonnenburg, at 33. She did not attend any tours during this time.

Nannerl had shown just as much promise and talent as her brother. She had the potential to reach or even surpass Wolfgang, had she continued her musical studies. There was proof that Nannerl had composed beautiful works just like Wolfgang, as there were letters of Wolfgang praising her compositions. Unfortunately, none of her compositions have ever been recovered. But there is proof that Wolfgang might have used some of his sister’s music in his own works.

Overall, it is saddening that Nannerl was never able to realize her full potential despite her aptitude for music. Although we will never know what her hidden compositions may have sounded like, she is still acknowledged for the accomplishments she might’ve achieved.

Nannerl is just one of many female composers who had to suppress their gift because of society. Those like Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn, and many more could have written works that rivaled other big composers of their time. We will never find out what these women may have been able to achieve through their compositions, talent or influence – but there is still evidence that these women may have been some of the greatest musical geniuses the world has ever known.

(If you like this topic, try reading “The Kingdom of Back” by Marie Lu.)

During their childhood, Nannerl and Wolfgang created a game called “The Kingdom of Back” where they pretended to be the king and queen of the kingdom. This book is based on this game and explores what their relationship might have been like.



**By Kaylee Jeon  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

January 27th marks the 269th birthday of the prodigy composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. He was one of the most influential composers of the Classical era.

In 1756, Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria. His family consisted of Leopold Mozart (his father), Anna Maria Mozart (his mother), and Maria Anna Mozart (his sister, also known as “Nannerl”). Like Mozart, Nannerl was also a very talented musician and composer, but she is not as acknowledged as him.

At the early age of three, Mozart showed promising talent by picking chords on the harpsichord, an old instrument popular in European music around the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century. He later learned many other instruments such as the organ, viola, violin, and the fortepiano. When Mozart was five years old, he started composing such complicated pieces that many were astonished that a child had written them. There is even proof that Mozart had composed a whole concerto at the same age!

When Mozart was 6 years old, his father Leopold took him and his sister, Nannerl, to go on a tour and showcase their talents. They went to places like Munich and Vienna. There, they performed at royal courts and noble houses. Mozart continued to embark on many tours around Europe, meeting and performing for people.

When Mozart was around 21 years old, he fell in love with Aloisia Weber and almost ended up marrying her. However, he eventually fell in love with her younger sister, Constanze Weber, and got married to her on August 4th, 1782. They had six children with two surviving to adulthood.

On December 5th, 1791, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died at the early age of 35 in Vienna, Austria. Although Mozart’s life was very short, his contributions to classical music are undeniable. His legacy still lives on today through performances of his works and through other composers who were inspired by his compositions.