THE REBEL REPORT

Storm Thurmond Hgh School

January 30, 2026

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STHS welcomes media specialist

Sharing a lifelong love of reading with students



By Isabella Mora

Strom Thurmond High School is excited to welcome Ms. Kristi Newsome as the new media specialist. With years of experience in education and a lifelong love for reading, Ms. Newsome hopes to make the library a place where students feel comfortable, supported, and encouraged to explore new books.

Newsome shared that her passion for reading has been with her for as long as she can remember. “Books have the power to take you out of reality for a little while and into a whole new world,” she said. She also believes reading helps people better understand the world around them by introducing new perspectives. “Reading has been a source of comfort, imagination, and learning for me,” Newsome added.

This year marks Newsome’s 15th year in education and her sixth year as a media specialist Before coming to Strom Thurmond, she taught kindergarten through fifth grade for nine years and later became a middle school media specialist. Although she didn’t expect to enjoy middle school at first, she said it quickly became one of her favorite experiences. “It made me question my sanity because I ended up loving the middle school students,” she joked. Ms. Newsome explained that conversations about books, school, and life became something she truly enjoyed.

Newsome and her husband both began working in Edgefield County at the start of this school year, an opportunity she says she is thankful for. “I am forever grateful for the opportunity to be here and will strive to make the library a place where all students want to visit,” she said.



Ms. Kristi Newsome

At Strom Thurmond, Ms. Newsome is most excited about connecting with students and working closely with teachers. “I’m most excited about meeting the students and getting to know them,” she shared, adding that she looks forward to more classes using the library as a learning space.

One of her main goals this school year is encouraging students to read more. “I know you have to come see me for Chromebook problems, but let’s find a book you’d like to read while you’re here,” Newsome said.

Although she has many ideas for new programs and activities, she says students will have to wait a little longer. “I have a lot of ideas, but I need to have some meetings before I introduce them,” she explained.

Students might be surprised to learn that Ms. Newsome is a WWE fan, but she also shared something more meaningful about her own school experience. Looking back, she admitted she once believed that teachers didn’t care. “I was wrong. I can admit that,” she said. Now, she hopes to be a librarian who shows students how much adults at school truly care about them.

Academically, Newsome wants the library to be a place where students can get help with assignments, access resources, and study. On a personal level, she hopes students feel supported and encouraged. “I want you to know how much I truly care about each of you and want you to succeed,” she said.

For students who don’t visit the library often, Newsome has a simple invitation. “Come in and say hey! I don’t want you to feel like you can only come in here when you need something,” she said, adding with a laugh, “I’m not above bribing you with a treat to check out a book.”

With her passion for reading and genuine care for students, Ms. Newsome is already working to make the Strom Thurmond library a welcoming space for everyone.



Making relationships work

Partners see communication as key to success

By Kevin Palma and Rayterrious Richardson

With Valentine's Day approaching, some couples may be stressed by the pressures of relationships, but here at STHS many couples make it work.

Senior, Kaliyah Wingate mete their partner through one of her cousins. They've known each other for four years and have been dating for two years. She says the most important thing to consider is "your partner's feelings" and "if something is bothering you then you should talk to them about it," Kaliyah said.

Kaliyah and her partner don't fight or argue; they get along well. She feels the most important thing to keep in mind is "don't just do things based on how you feel you have to take their feelings into consideration as well." What they do best in their relationship is communicate. What they struggle the most with in their relationship is that some things go unsaid that they try to communicate but "I feel like he doesn't talk about how he feels as much as I do," Kaliyah said.

She believes that to make a relationship work "both have to be in a place where you want it because if you don't, it's not gonna work out." Advice she'd give to other couples is "just communicate, don't get mad at them for expressing to you how they feel or it shouldn't be the other way around." Kaliyah's advice to those who are single is "just live your life until you're ready. You don't have to rush things if you're not ready."



Kaliyah Wingate



Mrs. Sharp Miner

Animal Care teacher, Mrs. Sharp-Miner met her partner because they worked at the same call center training class. They've known each other for almost 14 years and have been married for eight years. She states that the most important thing to consider when entering a relationship is "Communicating and making sure you know how to communicate what you want and what you need with your partner and not just keeping things inside of you," Ms. Sharp-Miner said.

When asked if they have had a major fight and what could've prevented it, she says communication, again. "We did have a major fight and it was about us not talking things out and so once we talked it out we were better," Mrs. Sharp-Miner said.

She believes the most important thing to keep in mind about your partner is "that they're a human being and they will make mistakes and that nobody is perfect." What they do best in their relationship is "being very good at just spending time together even if it's just sitting in the same room doing two different things."

What they struggle with the most is "procrastination and getting things done on time." She says what makes a relationship work is "being open and honest and making sure to tell them if something's bothering you." Her advice to other couples is "The person that you marry should be your best friend. You should want to not only be married to them but also be best friends with them" Ms. Sharp-Miner said.

Her advice to single people is "there is someone out there for everyone and often when you stop looking is when you find them."

Senior, Christopher Lee Whatley met his partner in 9th grade in the same gym class. They've known each other for four years and dated for three years. He says the most important thing to consider when entering a relationship is "You have to know about that person and just know what their needs and wants are and just respect them."



Christopher Lee Whatley



Ja'vae Richardson

They have had major fights but it was only "a lack of maturity back when we were younger." What they do best in their relationship is "talk out anything that happens before we spend any money before we make big decisions or something that affects the other person." What they struggle with most is seeing each other.

Christopher says what makes a relationship work is "communication and just being there for that person, put their needs and wants ahead of yours while respecting yourself too." His advice to other couples is "if it's the one you'll know it and make sure to listen to your partner instead of doing all the talking yourself." His advice to single people is "I was once single too and you just have to wait for the right person."

Senior Ja'vae Richardson met his partner at the black history program his freshman year. They have dated for three years. Ja'vae feels that most importanly when entering a relationship is having trust and communication. They've had major fights and what could have prevented them is "communication because that is one thing you need in a relationship."

Also, "Think about the bad habits or things they don't like and don't do them." What they do best is "communicate. We used to not know how to do that but then we learned. Progress."

What they struggle with most is sometimes agreeing on things but other than that they have no issues. Ja'vae believes that "trust, communication, and reassurance" makes a relationship work.

His advice for other couples is to communicate, treat them with respect, and to love them. His advice to single people is "Do not rush a relationship; it'll find you, but it might be years, days, months, weeks, but it'll find you."

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School canteen provides valuable skills for Rebels

STHS benefits from products sold and delivered by students

By Chandler and Nathaniel Gagnon



Canteen workers and Rebel Runners delivery students Harry Taylor and Daniel Humphrey

Every day, Strom Thurmond's canteen is run by students from Mr. Wilson's class during all four lunches.

At the Rebel Canteen students learn important skills such as handling money, stocking shelves, taking inventory, and providing customer service, “basically all the 'ins and outs' of how to run a small business,” Mr. Wilson said.

The Rebel Canteen gives students real-world practice in responsibility, teamwork, communication, and financial decision-making as they plan, budget, and serve customers.

Running the canteen can be difficult at times for the students as multiple customers come at one time, especially on potato day. “The baked potato fundraiser provides financial support for our classroom, PAES Lab (life skills lab supervised by Mr. Bryant), product and equipment for the canteen and field trips that offer real world experiences,” Mr. Wilson said.

One of STHS's most well known members at the Rebel Canteen is Harry Taylor. Harry's favorite part about working at the canteen is stocking the shelves. Harry finds the students who talk to him to be polite.

One of the main lessons Harry says he has learned while working at the Rebel Canteen is “don't take things without permission.” Harry especially enjoys delivering the baked potatoes delivered on Monday for faculty and staff.

Moni Harrison is another student who works at the Rebel Canteen. Moni's favorite part about his canteen job is to “make sure people are behaving.” He finds students friendly when purchasing items from the canteen.

Moni doesn't find difficulties working at the Rebel Canteen, and he believes he is learning many things while working with customers.

Daniel Humpfree is another outstanding member of the Rebel Canteen. Daniel's favorite part about working at the canteen is how he and the other canteen members work as a team.

Daniel also finds the people who talk to him at the canteen to be nice. The work is not difficult, and he believes he is learning many skills like communication.

Many teachers know Daniel from his potato deliveries. Daniel's enjoys delivering the baked potatoes because of how nice the teachers are when they talk to him during his deliveries.

The Rebel Canteen continues not only to provide a food service to faculty, students, and staff, but a valuable vocational learning opportunity for Mr. Wilson's students.



Rebel Canteen workers: Jeremiah Murry, Alex Rodriguez, Moni Harris, and Deanthony Roberts

Unusual pets play a role in Rebel life

Pet ownership doesn't just include cats and dogs

By Kevin Palma and Rayterrious Richardson

Here at Strom Thurmond High School many of our students have a wide variety of pets and companions. Some animals don't get enough recognition as pets and are deserving of more acknowledgement.



Yocelin Cortez

Freshman Yoselin Cortez owns eight month old Benny, a pet goat, named after Benny "The Jet" Rodriguez from the movie "The Sandlot."Yoselin received Benny as a giftas at her quincenera. Yoselin takes care of him by taking him out, cleaning him, and feeding him. She keeps Benny in her back yard in a pen. Benny eats lettuce, goat pellets, and also hay.

Yoselin shows affection to Benny by just petting him and showing him love, and she says that this is her first time owning a goat.

Yocelin has a horse, but she has "always wanted a little goat." She says that Benny is not difficult to take care of because he's just like any other pet. Her advice to new goat owners would be to not let the goat be lonely. Lastly, the role her goat plays in her life is her source of joy.

Senior Raina Barrs has a pet turtle named Bob. He is two years old and they've had him for a year and a half. How they got Bob is "actually a funny story because one of the teachers that works with my mom found Bob outside and then they gave him to us to take care of."

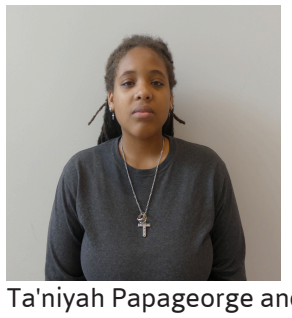
Bob stays in an aquarium in their hallway. She makes sure to clean his tank and feed him every day.

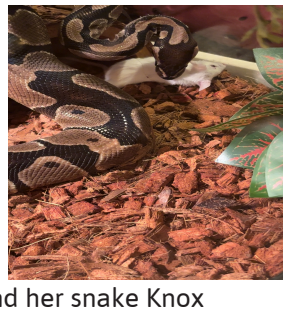




Raina Barrs and her turtle

"Sometimes I take him outside to play with him and see the outside world." This is her first time owning a turtle but she says he's pretty low maintenance. Advice to new turtle owners is to "make sure that they know that the turtle is gonna get really big; depending on the turtle. Ours started off really small like the size of a nickel and then he got really big like the size of two of my hands." Bob is important to Raina "Because like he's fun to have around, Bob's pretty chill, y'know."





Ta'niyah Papageorge and her snake Knox

JuniorTaniyah Papageorge owns a pet snake named Knox. She's owned him since last year and he's now 10 months old. Taniyah received Knox as a gift. He requires space and being fed once a week. She just "soaks" him in water once a month as a cleaning method.

Knox is kept in a cage with his door open so that he can leave when he wants but he never leaves his cage's hiding place.

Knox eats mice and sometimes rats.Knox enjoys being held. This is Ta'niyah's first time owning a snake and that Knox isn't really difficult to care for, adding that "he's just expensive."

Her advice for a new owner of a snake would be to make sure you have a big enough cage before purchasing the snake, and lastly Taniyah says that Knox is important to her because "he brings me happiness and comfort."

Senior Dallas Norris owns a Hedgehog named Salt. Salt is two years old and Dallas has owned her for all her life."I bought her from a market place on the internet". To take care of a Hedgehog "you need to make sure you have a little bit of space like a little play pen, so they have room to move around when they're actually awake.". Dallas said.

She's kept in a little pen in Dallas's room and eats rodent pellets, cat food, and sweet fruits. Dallas tries to hold her but isn't always successful. This is Dallas's first time owning a Hedgehog saying "My mom brought it up to me when I was asking if I could get a dog and it was a much cheaper option, and I thought it would be interesting if I had a Hedgehog, so I had two".

He explains that Hedgehogs "aren't necessarily difficult to care for, just tedious at times, so don't get them as a pet unless you've done your research first."

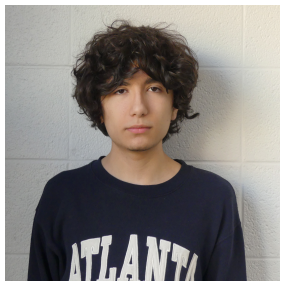
Lastly, Salt is important to Dallas because "it's one of the first pet I've actually bought myself besides fish, and also it was one of my first pets since my dog".





Dallas Norris and his hedgehog Salt

Senior Kevin Palma owns a one year old Goliath Beetle named Beetlebum, and is named after the song "Beetlebum" by Blur. Kevin has owned him for two months. "They spend around a year as larvae and I bought him as an adult from a beetle breeder online, James' Beetle Farm." Kevin cares for Beetlebum by "keeping his humidity at 50% and feeding him every day.





Kevin Palma and his Goliath Beetle Beetlebum

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Basketball Rebels score more than just points

Players gain maturity and basketball skills

By Ivey Coleman and Trinity Brown

Despite a challenging beginning, the Strom Thurmond basketball team steadily improves, this season proving that commitment, teamwork, and determination can turn early disappointments into lasting success. Players learn from their early mistakes and use those lessons to grow stronger both individually and as a team. Through consistent practice and better communication on the court, Rebel basketball develops confidence and unity.

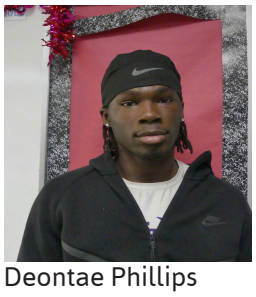
As the season continues, players step up and help push Strom Thurmond basketball forward. One of those players is senior Deontae Philips, whose effort and growth makes a strong impact on the team's improvement. Deontae first got involved with basketball because he wanted to play as many sports as possible, and when coach Jacobs asked him to join, he took the opportunity.

Before tip-off, he focuses on playing strong defense and finding ways to score to help his team succeed. One of his proudest moments came over winter break when he scored 10 points and contributed to the team's performance.

Music also plays a role in his preparation, with NBA YoungBoy being a regular part of his pregame playlist. Deontae continues to work on improving his defense, knowing it is an important part of his game. Through basketball he has developed better leadership skills and has become a stronger teammate.

His favorite memories came from winning games together, and when practices became difficult, he stayed motivated by thinking about future goals and pushing himself to keep going.

Another athlete who plays a key-role in the team's success is freshman Bryson Mims, whose confidence and mindset stand out every game. Bryson plays the point guard position, a role he enjoys because as he explained, "I get the ball more."



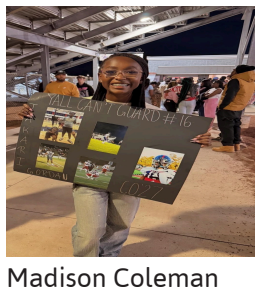
Deontae Phillips



Bryson Mims



Miriah Holmes



Madison Coleman

Another key player, with a role in the team's success, is freshman Bryson Mims, whose confidence and mindset stand out every game. Bryson plays the point guard position, a role he enjoys because as he explained, "I get the ball more."

As the team's floor general, he looks up to his biggest inspiration, his brother saying that is who motivates him the most in basketball. When faced with a tough performance, Bryson stays mentally strong by not dwelling on mistakes. "I just don't think about the bad, I just move on," Bryson said.

Defense is a major priority for him, as he would rather focus on "locking someone up" than just soaring points. One of the toughest opponents he faced this season was Lakeside, a matchup that tested both his skills and composure.

Through basketball, Bryson has learned valuable lessons, especially the importance of patience. "I gotta be patient,"he said when reflecting on the game's challenges.

When asked how he wants to be remembered as both a player and a person, Bryson answered confidently and simply, "The greatest." While strong leadership has helped drive the boys team forward, the girls basketball program has also seen standout performances from players making an impact in their own way.

One of those athletes is Miriah Holmes, whose dedication and energy bring consistency to the court. Miriah first began playing basketball as a way to support another sport, explaining that she started, ''to stay in shape for track."

On game days her favorite part is defence, where she enjoys the intensity and challenge of stopping her opponent. One of her proudest moments so far has been simply seeing her hard work pay off by "making shots," Miriah said.

Music plays a big role in her pregame routine with NBA YoungBoy, "Topopp, "Gen" and "Aspen" helping her stay "backed in" before tip off. Miriah focuses on improving her dribbling, knowing it is an important skill for her valuable lessons, especially the need to remain mentally sharp. She has learned, "you have to stay focused."

Her favorite memories with the team come from winning together, moments that strengthen team chemistry, and motivation. When asked who she wants to face in a one-on-one matchup, Miriah didn't hesitate, confidently naming "Jamarant" as her choice.

Along with Miriah 's impact on the court, another key contributor to the girls basketball team is Madison Coleman, whose work ethic and mindset help set the tone each game.

Madison plays shooting guard, a role she enjoys because she gets the responsibility to "bring the ball down the court," Madison said.

When it comes to inspiration, she looks up to Faniya Blacks, explaining that, "she motivates me because she plays hard." After a tough game, Madison stays motivated by keeping things in perspective. ''I just tell myself it's not a Region game, yet," she said.

Defense is her preferred side of the ball, which gives her more opportunities to make an impact, saying she likes defense because it's easier to get steals. Balancing basketball with school and her personal life is something she takes seriously, emphasizing that, "I always put school first."

Off the court, basketball has helped shape her character by teaching her discipline and self-control. "It taught me how to control my temper," she said. Rebel basketball players take the game seriously and show their dedication on and off the court.

There are many more games left in the 2026 season to take the opportunity to watch Rebels on the court.

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Automotive teacher Mr. Fraizer met his wife in middle school; he's known her for 45 years and they've been married for 40 years.

He says the most important thing to consider when entering a relationship is communication. He and his wife have actually not had any major fights, but they have small disagreements. "You learn to be "agreeable," Mr. Frazier said.

Mr. Frazier feels the most important thing to keep in mind about your partner when in a relationship is "your partner's feelings and being honest and trust worthy. Having a good character."

He and his wife do best with communicating in their relationship, and don't struggle much. "We probably struggle most with spending time together." He goes on to say, "It's the same thing I always say, what makes a relationship work is communication."

Mr. Frazier's advice to other couples is to communicate and be honest with each other saying it's the "key thing." Lastly, his advice for single people is "be yourself; don't copy anyone else or try to change. Just be yourself."

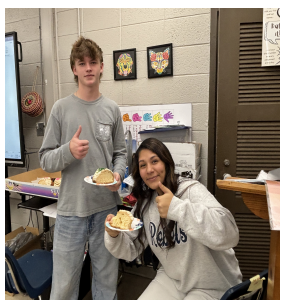


Mr. Frazier

Spanish club celebrates Three Kings Day

By Nathaneal Mims











Dia de los Reyes or Three Kings Day is a tradition celebrated across the world by many different countries on January 6, not just for Latin American countries.

It kicks off the twelve days of Christmas. Also known as Epiphany, Three Kings Day dates back to the fourth century.

A grand feast is held to honor and celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ, while also paying homage to the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They traveled a long way to be present at Christ's birth, going from the East (Persia) all the way to Bethlehem, bringing gifts like gold, frankincense and myrrh for Christ's birth, and to congratulate Mary and Joseph as well.

Culinary treats are also given with Rosca de Reyes or King's Cake as the most important. It is a symbolic pastry shaped in the form of a king's crown. A sweet bread that's served to guests that holds a special surprise inside. When it's cut and given out one of the slices will contain a small plastic baby Jesus. And whoever's slice contains this plastic figure is obligated to host a party for Dia de la Candelaria. Dia de la Candelaria which is also known as Candlemas Day on February 2nd.

The day before Three Kings Day, kids go out and gather up freshly cut grass, and place the grass inside a box. They then place the box under their beds and leave a wishlist on top of it for the three wise men to read and know exactly what their wishes are.

Across the world, there are many different ways people celebrate Three Kings Day. In England Twelfth Night is England's form of Three King's Day and includes eating cake, wassailing (singing and dancing) while praying to trees for a good harvest, and playing practical jokes. In Poland Swieto Trzech Kroli ends with a grand feast, houses are also marked in chalk with the year and initials of the three wise men.

Three King's Day is most definitely a feasting tradition which makes it the perfect day for families to enjoy a meal together.

In Latin American countries the food is enjoyed outdoors, also known as al fresco. Traditional foods served at the feast are black beans and rice and and can include peas, corn, different types of soup or salads with sides such as yucca, nopales, plantains and slow cooked meat sauteed with onions, garlic and herbs.

Three King's Day tradition consists of, family, foods, and gifts celebrating the birth of Jesus..



For many students, the day starts with music

Rebels listen to a variety of music on their way to school

By Taylor Mealing and Nia Mack

Students at Storm Thurmond High School all have different music tastes and love to listen to music on the way to school. Mr. Andrews, media teacher at Strom Thurmond High School states his favorite artist is " Taylor Swift" because her music makes me feel good."

His favorite type of music is Rap because "I can relate to the stories they tell." Mr. Andrews listens to "K Michell" in the morning because "it's very soothing." If he could listen to a song for the rest of his life it would be "Kiss It Better by Rhianna." A song that makes him feel relaxed is "Novocane" by Frank Ocean.



Mr. Andrews

Junior Travis Abney also enjoys music a lot. A song that reminds him of school is "Rhamulus because it's a very good song and I haven't listened to it in awhile." Travis listens to music "At least two or three times a day." A song his friend recommended to him was a jazz song called "Sway." A song he listens to while he's sad is "Notion." On the way to school today Travis listened to Bruno Mars because" he has a lot of range when it comes to music."



Travis Abney



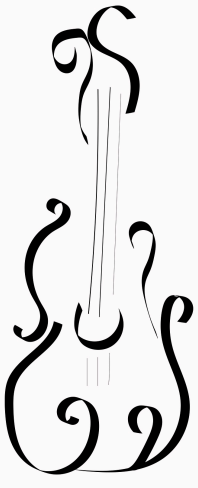
Dayton Griffith

Another Junior, Dayton Griffith likes "Fattmack" because I like the flow and his lyrics," Dayton said. Dayton's favorite type of music is R &B and rap.

In the Morning on the way to school Dayton States "I listen to Fattmack and rap". If he could listen to a song for the rest of his life it would be "Pink Matter" by Frank Ocean. Many people like to listen to music when they're sad. A song Dayton listens to is " Street Runner" By Rod Wave.

He really loves listening to music. Like other stuidents he listens to music three or four times a day.

Music is a big part of students' mornings at Strom Thurmond High School. Everyone likes different types of music, and it helps them relax, feel good, and get ready for the school day. Listening to music on the way to school makes mornings better for many students.



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He is kept in a 20 gallon tank in Kevin's room with lots of bark to climb on. Beetlebum is fed fresh fruits such as bananas, pears, and apples.

"I like to show him affection by scratching his exoskeleton but I don't know if he likes that. I like to hold him."

"It's my first time owning a goliath beetle but I have owned stag beetles, hercules beetles, and other flower beetles before," Kevin said.

He got Beetlebum because he found them interesting and wanted to own a new species of beetle. Kevin says that beetles are easy and low maintenance pets if you know what you are doing.

His advice to a new beetle owner is "Make sure they have lots of decorations to flip themselves back over. That is the most important thing." Beetlebum is important to Kevin because "He is a source of joy and I get happy when I come home and see him."

Pets are not always cats and dogs, but can be unique and unusual. Despite having pets like snakes and goats, pet owners love their animals no matter how uncommon they may be.



Love is in the air at STHS

Rebels celebrate Valentine's Day with special traditions

By Bryanna Jackson and LaKhia Norris

Many students at Strom Thurmond High School are excited to celebrate Valentine's day.

Junior Ahmad Norris's favorite Valentine Day was spending it with his friend Nick. “The best gift I have ever received was a money bouquet,” he said.

For Ahmad, Valentine's Day is best spent with a partner. Valentine’s Day isn’t really important to him if he doesn’t have a relationship. He doesn’t like getting Valentine’s candy because to him it's nasty. " If I could change anything about Valentine’s Day, I would change it to being a holiday,” he says.

Senior Ze'mera Wakefield is really into Valentines Day. “ I celebrate Valentine’s day because it's a time where love is shared,” she says. This year Ze'mera doesn’t plan on giving her significant other anything. For Valentine’s she usually likes "to buy chocolate, stuffed animals, and jewelry because you can never go wrong with some dark heart shaped chocolate, a cute red or pink stuffed animal, and even some gold or silver jewelry," Ze'mera said.

Although Ze'mera loves Valentine's Day she does feel that as you get older, it gets a little boring. Ze'mera doesn’t feel that this day should be only spent with your partner because “ Valentine's Day should be shared with everybody."



Ahmad Norris



Ms. Ginn

Biology teacher Ms.Ginn loves to celebrate Valentine’s Day because “ I love showing people that I love them.” For Valentine’s Day, Ms.G buys her mom some flowers, gets her godson a pair of shoes and if she had a boyfriend she would get him something that he really likes.

The only thing Ms.G really thinks about when it comes to Valentine's Day is "showing people that I love them because life is short and you never know what could happen."

As Ms.G gets older Valentine's Day doesn't really get boring, but it makes her realize that as she gets older, life goes by pretty fast.

Junior Amiracle Norris is actually a big fan of Valentines Day. “ My favorite Valentine's memory was when my best friend got something,” she said. For one Valentine she made a poster, a basket and brought some flowers up to the school for her valentine.

To Amiracle the best way to celebrate is “ with people that you love or even with anybody that you know.” Valentines Day to Amiracle should be celebrated with everybody. “If I could change anything about Valentine’s Day it would be when everybody makes it seem like it's just for a relationship,” she said.

This year Khia is her valentine. To her, this day is not only for women because “boys have feelings and even though we are different genders, we all love the same.”

Students can not wait to celebrate Valentines Day. This year students at Storm Thurmond High School will be able to participate in the different dress up days until valentine’s day arrives, making this happy celebration go on longer than usual..



Ze'mera Wakefield



Amiracle Norris

