

the courier

the appleton east student newspaper



Patriots *Gang* Tackle Cancer!

East Tackles Cancer, an Appleton East tradition that began 11 years ago, still manages to make an impression on the school's community. This year's fundraiser focused on fighting breast cancer, and the money raised was donated to the Susan G. Komen foundation and to Mr. Kautz's son, Ryland, who suffers from an inoperable brain cancer known as Altered Diffused Midline Glioma.

Since 2012, East Tackles Cancer raised \$150,763 for fighting cancer and cancer-related causes. This year, the second-most successful East Tackles Cancer in our school's history, added \$18,543 for Susan G. Komen and \$3,056 for the Kautz family.

East Tackles Cancer encouraged the school community to get involved in the fight against cancer by either volunteering in the organization, buying t-shirts or participating in events such as Lilian's night, Chipotle night, or football game.

Appleton East Key Club, DECA, and football team joined forces in order to turn this event into reality, the organizing committee comprised of ten very dedicated East High School students, coordinated by Ms. Loritz and Ms. Fude, who both put in a tremendous amount of effort into this fundraiser.

"It went really well," said Ms. Fude. "We had a strong community engagement and I feel like it truly represented what it means to be a patriot and the essence of Appleton East. This edition ran very smoothly, and the organizing committee was amazing to collaborate with."

"The event went very well, and even though it rained a tiny bit at the game, we were able to adjust everything with the help of our amazing committee of students," said Ms. Loritz. "The whole idea of players, spectators, parents and volunteers joining together in the face of cancer is always such a wonderful thing to see and it honestly feels really good to know that I ended my career as the Appleton East Tackles Cancer advisor on such a high note."





One of the things that left the biggest impressions on students was the amount of emotion in the march at the end and how unifying it felt to people. "It may seem sad, but it's really not," one student said. "I consider it a show of strength by people who were or are currently affected by cancer in one way or another."

In the end, the event was a huge success, not just because it achieved its fund raising goal and much more, but also because it united teachers, students, parents, volunteers, athletes and local businesses to achieve a common objective- contributing in humanity's fight against cancer.

-Amira Abugararah

What Would YOU Change at East?

The Courier asked the student body, "What changes do you want to see at Appleton East?" The responses were both unsurprising and pretty startling.

The majority of students said that they would change the phone policy, which while not terribly surprising, does show that it is not being well received and may need to be either overhauled or removed. "I would like to remove the cell phone policy as it has broken mine and many other people's phones and we have had to pay to replace them. I think all students should be able to keep their phones on them until they do something and then they should have to give their phone up." What was surprising was the large number of students who said that they dislike how students are not allowed inside the building before school unless they are buying breakfast. The majority of respondents that mentioned this were saying how this policy is not good if you have to drop something off or do anything before class starts. If you go inside, you must stay in the commons. Another thing that students are recommending is that we should be able to serve detentions during flex. Some students may not be able to serve their detentions during the allotted times.

-Jonathan Capps & Tennyson Jorgensen

THAT guy...



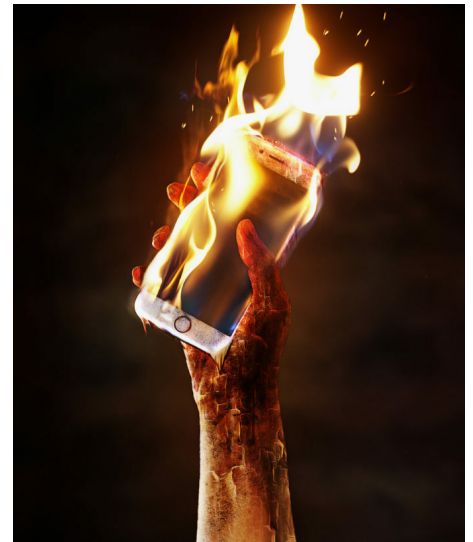
We can all relate...



Phone Pockets: Students Call Foul

There has been a lot of discussion about Appleton East's new phone policy. A recent survey asked, "How has the policy impacted your academic performance and social interactions in school?" One person wondered if students have to evacuate the building in an emergency, how will students notify families that they are okay. Another respondent noted how people crowd around the phone pockets to try and grab their phones at the end of class. "It makes me late to my next class; I have third-floor geometry and then first-floor gym." If they can't get their phones until the bell rings, a five-minute passing time becomes four minutes. On the other hand, people have said that the policy makes them more focused and makes them want to communicate more with classmates. Students also state that it hasn't affected them and their performances, but they dislike the fact that they can't listen to music while working and most websites for music are blocked or censored on the chromebooks.

A lot of students have concerns. They are worried about their phones being damaged if the phone pockets fall or their phones are stolen. Another concern is that students will forget their phones at school. At the end of the day, we are all ready to just go home, and our brains go on autopilot. Some students may not feel the need to work as hard to finish their work early because they can't get on their phones until the bell rings anyway. Even if they are done with all their work in that class, they just have to sit there. One response argued that this isn't teaching or preparing students for the real world. This policy isn't teaching students to control themselves with their phones. Once you go to college or go into the workforce, you aren't going to have someone to take away your phone.



Administration wants to help the student body understand why East took this route. The no phones in classrooms rule ("out of sight and put away") dates back to the '19-'20 school year. Educators wanted students to be free of distractions, especially during instructional minutes. They feel that the advantage is the ability to focus on those around you, to help students socialize more in the classroom, and focus on what they need.

The survey asked for suggestions. Many respondents proposed letting students have their phones during Flex/Advisory time. People feel that advisory is basically a study hall for a lot of students who aren't struggling with grades. Another suggested instead of making all students put their phones in the pockets, ask teachers monitor the students who really can't control themselves. Mature, responsible students can keep their phones.

This isn't about whether this is an efficient system. Students have already found a way around the rules. From a senior's perspective, I personally don't like the system. I know when to look at my phone and when not to. I work and focus better when I am listening to music. I always have.

-Lorelei Graf

Grading Spaces: East Transformations

Patriots, get ready to see some updated facilities. The referendum passed last year will bring many changes to the Appleton Area School District, including several changes to East.

East will see the addition of 12 new classrooms near the Schaefer Street doors. We will also be see an expansion to East's athletic

facilities. The facilities will be expanded out towards the tennis courts and the football field, giving more room and updated spaces for our phy ed classes and athletic teams. If you find yourself concerned about parking, don't worry: the plan is to conserve as much parking space as possible.

The project is currently in the design stage, with two teams of people working on it: one team for the academic changes and one for the athletic changes. The teams are made up of building administrators, parents, teachers, and construction designers and managers. The tentative timeline shows construction starting in the summer of 2024 and finishing in the fall of 2025.

-Mats Ridlehoover



The tides have shifted with the new school year, and in the ocean of changes comes a new school of fish. Only this school actually relates to school. Last year the grading system was a 90/10 split. Summatives were worth 90% of the grade, and practice work was worth 10%. This year, the amount practice is worth has been bumped up to a robust 30%. That's right, fellow students: your efforts will actually affect your grade this year!

Another exciting change has been made to the 1-2-3-4 scale used to average grades. The scale will now be utilized for all averages! It may take a while to get used to, but staff and administrators are hoping that we'll all be able to better understand our grading system this year.

-Liliana Monson

Mastery	4.0	A
Competent	3.3	B
Developing	2.83	C
Beginning	2.33	D
Insufficient Evidence	1.33	F
NO Evidence	0.0	F

Tesla Restroom Construction

Long Wait to End Long Lines

In the 2021-2022 school year, I wrote an article about the planned construction of a new girl's bathroom for the TESLA wing. Construction was planned for the summer of 2022. Now it is October 2023, and there still has been no construction.

The plan was to elevate and add more stalls for the women in TESLA. The current "girls bathroom" is a single stall, which reflects the dearth of females in technology education when the wing was first built in 1967. The men's room has several stalls. This disparity could send the wrong message to TESLA students, teachers, and families about representation and equity.

There have been times I have been waiting for the bathroom for five minutes and just ended up turning back to my class because I have already missed five minutes of instruction time, which can be frustrating. Many of my fellow female classmates have experienced the same situation. Welding and manufacturing classes require students to wear jeans. Waiting for the bathroom for five minutes and then getting changed, you might miss ten minutes of work time, which can be extra frustrating.

TESLA teachers have been nothing but kind and empowering; the delay is not their fault. Mr. German, explained the situation: "The company that was organizing/funding the project has backed away from the project." However, last spring's referendum will eventually address the issue. "This breaks my heart a bit," Mr. German said. "In the referendum there will be an additional bathroom added which will help alleviate the challenges we currently face; however, I'm still not okay with our current state or that solution. It would be great if at a minimum we remodeled the two bathrooms we currently have to be three individual stalls that anyone could use."



TESLA

Overall, the referendum will lead to more equity within the TESLA community. There has been a continuous rise in STEM jobs in the past decade, which reflects the younger generations' curiosity. TESLA provide a great opportunity for all to explore the world of STEM. Equal bathrooms for females and males will create more equity and openness for the entire TESLA community and those who love it.

Wild Changes Coming to JMMS

For many high school students, memories of their middle school experience can seem fuzzy and clouded - just a two-year blip among the rest of their academic careers. The short, transitional phase of their education ended before it began, leaving them with a whirlwind of experiences that often prove hard to recall. Similarly, teachers working at secondary schools may feel that more than two years is needed to establish and nurture meaningful bonds with each of their students. Fortunately, children and educators alike will have the opportunity to create deeper connections with one another in light of a major update coming to the district:

All AASD middle schools will undergo drastic renovations this year - including Madison. The middle school, which many Appleton East students attended, will receive two significant updates: the addition of both a fitness and orchestra room, as well as two new classrooms on the north side of the building, and a two-story classroom expansion plus remodeling for the STEM rooms on the south side.

Rather than merely keeping the school up-to-date, this renovation serves an additional purpose: to make room for the entire sixth-grade level. At the beginning of the next school year, in 2024, elementary schools feeding into Appleton middle schools will house kindergarten through fifth grade. As a result, the time students spend in middle school will extend to three years.

This new change will highly impact the staff at middle schools such as Madison. Mrs. Steiner, a science and geography teacher at the middle school, provided insight on how the changes will impact her relationships with her students: "I am especially looking forward to the extra year of having the kids at Madison. It was always wonderful to watch the student grow from 7th to 8th grade; I am looking forward to the growth from 6th to 8th grade!"

"Teachers will have to adjust to more staff and students that are much younger than we are used to," said Ms. Carter, an eighth-grade ELA teacher. "Sixth-graders may only be one year younger than seventh, but developmentally and maturity-wise, they are different. We need to be patient as we get used to it and as they adjust. Our 8th graders will need to step up as leaders. Ms. Carter added, "I hope that all students, parents, and teachers are patient and give each other grace as we get used to a new structure. We are going to learn together. Slowly, apprehension will disappear, and the result will be better than anyone could wish for. "



The Story Behind the Name of Sandy Slope

Over the last few years, and certainly the next to come, the Appleton Area School District has become quite familiar with change and compromise. Whether it's the additions to the middle schools, new district-wide rules, or in this case, building new schools entirely.

In 1999, the AASD purchased the land between Edgewood Dr. and Lightning Dr. from Richard and Alice Van Handel, knowing they would eventually need it for a new school. A clause included in the sale stated that any elementary school built on the property must be named Sandy Slope Elementary. The reason for this is that Richard Van Handel attended the original Sandy Slope Elementary in his childhood years. The first Sandy Slope was torn down in the late 1940s, likely due to low enrollment. Appleton North High School currently sits on the same property as the original Sandy Slope Elementary. Wishing for its return, Van Handel included this clause in the sale agreement. In 1999, the name was not an issue, and the superintendent and school district signed the contract.

In 2023, the district has plans to begin building a new elementary on the property they purchased in 1999. However, there was concern around the name Sandy Slope Elementary. The worry is that it is too similar to and could be associated with Sandy Hook Elementary. On December 14, 2012, a mass shooting occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. The shooting made headlines across the nation more than a decade ago when 20 students and six school employees were killed, along with the gunman himself. At that time, the shooting was the second deadliest mass shooting in the United States.

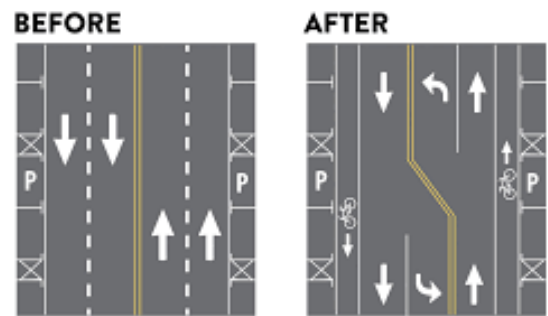
In 1999, when the sale was signed and approved, nobody could have predicted the devastating event that would occur in 2012. Still, there was fear that naming Appleton's new elementary school something so similar to that of a place where innocent children and teachers lost their lives could be perceived as insensitive to the victims and their families, especially since gun violence and school shootings have only increased in our country since then. Some, however, say naming the school Sandy Slope pays homage and recognition to Appleton's history while respecting Van Handel's wishes. Richard and Alice have since passed, so the school district reaching out to their children about possibly changing the name; however, they only further reiterated their father's wishes. In the end, the ultimate decision has been made, and Appleton's newest elementary school will be named Sandy Slope Elementary



-Makayla Jones

Appleton Makes College Ave Lane Change

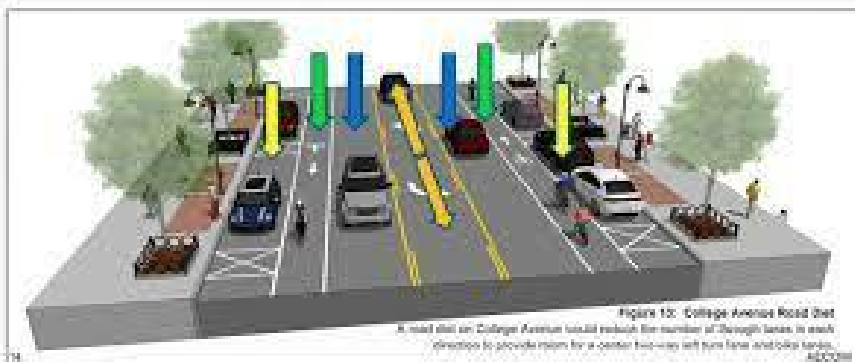
There is so much change this year that it may feel like everything is changing. Some people love it and others hate it. One change that downtown drivers are definitely getting used to is College Ave. The Appleton Common Council voted 14-1 to approve an 18-month pilot plan that allows the City to evaluate if the new lanes should be permanent.



This plan takes College Ave from four lanes (two going both ways) down to three lanes: one in each direction and a middle turn lane at the intersections. The City hopes the change will slow down speeders and give drivers more time to look around at the downtown shops. They also hope parking will be more accessible, and College Ave will see more foot traffic. People spend more money when they are out of their cars.

Lane Reconfiguration

1 lane each direction + center turn lane + bike lanes



Another change made is bike lanes on both sides of the road. This change will make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Previously, there weren't any bike lanes on either side of the road, and cyclists were instructed to walk their bikes on the sidewalks. Many cycling enthusiasts said that they think the bike lanes will make things a lot safer even though they will be

sandwiched between moving traffic and parked cars. There are some advantages and disadvantages to this change: it is projected to reduce crashes by 19% to 47% and reduce pedestrian crashes by as much as 80%.

It can improve left-turn lanes safely with better sight lines and dedicated left-turn arrows. It can also improve traffic flow, as drivers no longer get stuck behind someone making left turns, and it can reduce speeding and drag racing. Drivers can no longer will be able to weave through two lands of traffic.

One disadvantage is that drive time will be longer than normal during peak hours. Critics contend that with only one driving lane, traffic will back up, especially while waiting for someone to parallel park. Council member Chris Croatt voted against the plan: " I personally think that we can better utilize that money on some of our other infrastructure needs." The City budgeted \$130,000 for the College Ave lane change.

Take a Trip Into The Woods

So, you've heard of East's musicals? You've seen the productions come to life? Here is a behind the curtains look of how the East Drama Club is bringing *Into the Woods* to the stage!

"Into the Woods" is a musical that combines different Brothers Grimm stories into one big story. They're all tied together by granting wishes and going *Into the Woods*. We've all grown up with your typical fairy tales, and I'm sure you know some of them: "Jack and the Beanstalk" with the cow as white as milk; "Little Red Riding Hood" with the cape as red as blood; "Rapunzel" with hair as yellow as corn; "Cinderella" with the slipper as pure as gold; as well as two bakers that lead this story. When they get their wish, they end up with more than they've ever wanted.

We wouldn't have a proper show if it weren't for our protagonist, the Baker, a man who wishes to have a child. "It feels rewarding yet painful to have the role," Joey Thowless says. "This is my first time playing the main protagonist, as well as my first time playing a singing lead. And not being that experienced of a singer, I've been having to learn to overcome the hurdles of singing out of my comfortable vocal range." Earning such a big role in a production takes effort and time. "Don't get me wrong: learning the music has been fun, but I've been waking up with a burning throat the past few days. And yet, through the pain I'm still pushing on through and striving to do my best. I think what truly prepared me for getting this role was my years of experience in theater. I've been doing shows since the sixth grade. And this summer I did a show called 'All Shook Up' with the Riverside Players, and now having done community theater at an adult level, I've gotten to be much better as an actor and singer. Another factor would be our amazing directing staff at East. Every single person on our directing staff always pushes us to be our best selves on stage and as people."

This musical is a great leap for sophomore Isaac Moscinski. "*Into the Woods* is an incredible show and we have an amazing cast and crew to put it on. During the previous spring play, 'Arsenic and Old Lace,' I was the understudy for the lead which opened me up to the challenge of preparing and eventually performing a leading role." He has been in many musicals before, but never a role as big as Jack in a high school production. "Now that I am a lead, it makes me want to work hard to ensure that this production is a success. Having this experience will motivate me to want to work harder in the future to keep growing as an actor."

Drama Club and the theatre community provide a great opportunity and experience for freshmen. Jordan Farney (as Milky White the Cow) cherishes her experience in past productions and *Into the Woods* with Appleton East's Drama Club. "I was in two productions in my middle school, so I was quite eager to join when I got into ninth grade this year. I have always been interested in singing and acting and I have come to see a good number of shows at East and at other venues.

Seeing the quality of the productions and the community between the actors, I knew I wanted that same experience. My fondness for theater has grown considerably after joining the musical this year, and my favorite part is working with people who I have become friends with over a short amount of time and seeing our progress. I can't wait to (hopefully) be a part of many more shows here!"

There wouldn't be a big production without the guidance of our amazing directors, especially Amanda Peterson. "*Into the Woods* has been a favorite of mine for as long as I can remember! I've actually had the joy of being in the show twice - first, as the Witch, and then later, as the Baker's Wife. In the second production, both the Patriot Players' choreographer, Mr. Brauer, and my co-director, Miss Smith, were also involved, so it's been very fun for the three of us, along with the rest of the directing team, to revisit the show and reimagine it with a focus on what we feel are the important parts of the story. It can be very interesting to revisit a show you've done before! Depending on where you are in your personal journey 'through the woods' or through life, you see different parts of the story as more important, and often it reveals new insights and different aspects resonate with you than the last time you experienced the story. Each time I revisit this show, I find something new that connects with me - and I usually learn something about myself too!" Ms. Peterson explains how *Into the Woods* is a more laborious musical, even for the students who have done theater in the past. "One of our goals as a directing team is always to challenge the cast and crew - and ourselves! - to improve and to encourage growth and development in the many skills that can be learned by participating in theatre. *Into the Woods* is very musically challenging, so we have focused on musicianship and spent more time learning the music, which creates a good foundation for the cast since so much of the show is sung. The show also deals with more serious topics than some of our past productions, so the directing team will work with the cast on what we call tablework, which involves deeper discussion of the content of the show, how it impacts their characters, and other acting and character-building activities. This helps to build the world of the show. And speaking of building, our crew will also be taking a step forward this semester with a more elaborate set, inspired by the concept of books abandoned in the woods and slowly returning to the trees. This will involve learning some fun scenic painting techniques to make all the details really pop!"

With these behind the scenes points of view, does it make you want to come and see how this production will carry wishes through? If you would like to share your support of high school performing arts, **come and see *Into the Woods* on November 3, 4, 9, 10, and 11 at 7:00 p.m. as well as November 5 at 2:00 p.m.** The East Patriot Players would love to take you on this journey with them *Into the Woods*.

-Jo Buck & Cynthia Vang

Uncommon App: Study in Europe

Going to college abroad might seem scary at first. Moving away from your friends and family can be challenging, but it can also represent an opportunity to change your environment and discover who you are.

When you think of Europe, the first things that usually come to mind are Italian pasta, turquoise beaches in Spain and French baguettes, but something else that will most definitely pop up in everyone's head is money. The thought that Europe is expensive.

As surprising as it may seem, the cost of attending college in Europe is very inexpensive compared to the cost in the U.S, tuition fees and living expenses averaging between \$4,700 - \$21,000 per academic year for people from outside the European Economic Area. The price can be higher or lower, but all of them offer scholarships, student loans and some even financial aid that you do not need to pay back, for both students from the EEA and outside of it.

Some of the countries that report a good price-quality of education balance are the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, France, Denmark, Switzerland and Spain, where universities ranked among the top 100 in the world, such as ETH Zurich, University of Amsterdam, University of Copenhagen, Delft University, Université PSL, Esade University and Universität Heidelberg offer an elite education in English for both domestic and international students.

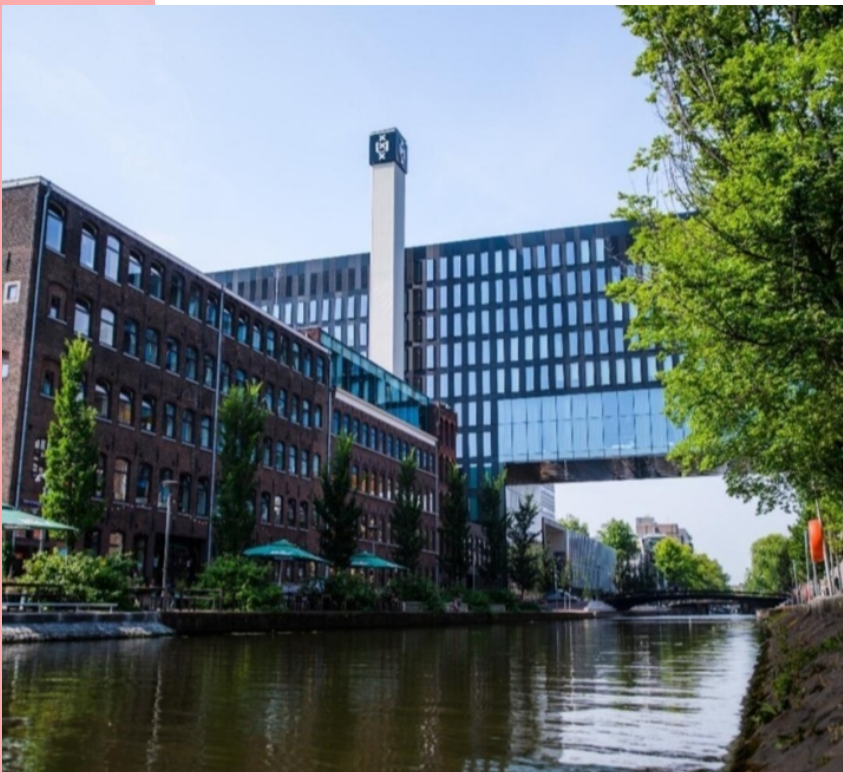
You might notice that the UK is not on that list. That is because even though the United Kingdom has some of the most internationally renowned universities, the price does not differ much from the one you find in top private universities in the U.S before aid or scholarships. If cost is not a problem for you, then UK universities might be among your best options. If cost matters, there are a lot of countries in Europe that offer a prestigious education at a much lower expense.



The application process differs very much from one country to another, but if you find that complicated, there is always the option of applying to an American university in Europe. In order to apply you need to use the Common App, which is the same portal used by most universities in the United States. These types of higher education institutions have the same curriculum as the ones in the United States, the only difference being that you can live abroad during your college years.

When thinking about applying to a university in Europe, something to consider is that colleges without an American curriculum expect you to choose your major when applying. These institutions have an overall acceptance rate that is the average of all the programs, but a university can have one major with an acceptance rate of 5% and a different major with an acceptance rate of 85%. This factor can either help or hinder your chances, depending on what you want to study, but if you are not yet sure of what you want to do, an American curriculum where you declare your major in the second year seems like the best option.

Most students find themselves scared by the words “elite” and “prestigious” because it leads them to believe that those schools are very hard to get into. You would be surprised to find that there are many programs and majors at some of the best European universities that have a really high acceptance rate compared to other top 100 universities in the world, so this categorization is not something you should allow to discourage you.



Making plans for the future as a high school kid can be hard, especially if you don't know yet what you want to do in life, but sometimes a change of air might be exactly what you need, it can be a fresh start, a new challenge and a way to discover your passions and true self.

Paul Arden once said, “It is better to regret what you have done than what you haven't.” At least this way you won't have to live the rest of your life wondering what if.

-Amira Abugarah

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Courier Contributors

Amira Abugararah: East Tackles Cancer, European Universities

Lila Bornemann: Middle School Changes

Jo Buck & Cynthia Vang: Fall Musical

Jonathan Capps & Tennyson Jorgensen: Changes to East?

Lorelei Graf: Phone Policy, Road Changes

Makayla Jones: Sandy Slope

Delaney Lehman: Tesla Bathroom

Liliana Monson: Grading Changes, Comics

Mats Riddlehoover: Referendum Changes

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The Courier, Appleton East's student newspaper, is written, edited, and distributed by Patriot students and staff.

NEXT MEETING

October 26 FLEX Mr. Otis

Spooky Season 2023

