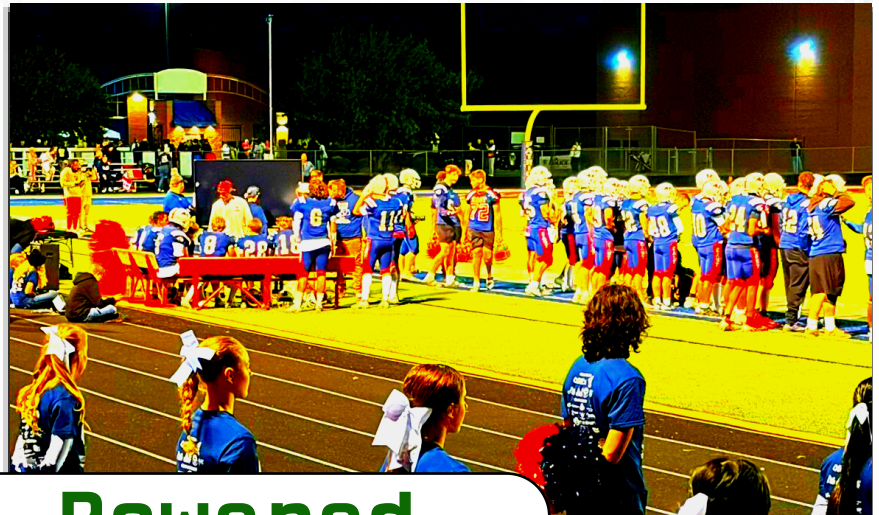
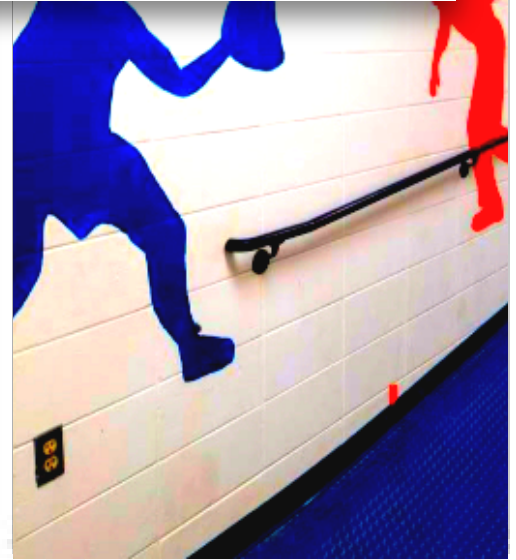




# the **EW** courier

the appleton east student newspaper



pAtrIoT Powered  
**APRIL 2026**



# THE NEW MENU: FEATURING ARTIFICIAL GOODNESS!

Say goodbye to boring, real food: AI solves every problem! The **pAtrIot AI** is bringing bigger and better things to the lunch table this month with a new food service campaign for fellow students and staff at Appleton East High School.

The food, as one might expect, is all virtual holograms, of course. Who wants to clean up all the dirty dishes and deal with all the preparations beforehand? This is why the **pAtrIot** database is steadily replacing the typical breakfast and lunch staff with its more convenient, efficient digital presence and influence. Each meal is freshly screen-printed or 3D-printed just before serving during lunch hours, with prompt options such as:

404: Bread Not Found - A delicious sandwich plate featuring only the fillings of your choice of artificial turkey or ham, suspiciously unreal cheese, and lettuce.

The Firewall - Spicy buffalo wings flavored with eight different degrees of hotness, "protecting" your stomach from being bored.

Data-Crunch Salad - A super crunchy salad with nuts, seeds, and croutons, so with every bite, you "process" information.

Cloud Storage - A light, airy popcorn side option.



Micro-Chips and Salsa - A side of classic silicon wafers, or tortilla chips.  
USB Stick Skewers - Hot dogs with mustard, ketchup, and relish, shaped like authentic USB sticks.

Cookie Cache - A delicious option for dessert, these oddly-pixelated cookies will hit the spot as they also clear your cache for the day.

Binary Sliders - Small, round and fresh sliders, served in the classic binary code 0 and 1 shape.

Motherboard Grilled Cheese - Finely prepared, this dish looks strikingly similar to the sharp edges of a circuit board.

The enCourier asked **pAtrIot** why they are implementing these menu changes. Their response? Perhaps if we feed the Appleton East students enough **AI**, they will also become artificial.

But the **pAtrIot** system only reassures its fellow students and staff. Humans have limited capabilities, but with **pAtrIot**, nutrition options and choice are expanding despite budget cuts the Appleton Area School District is currently facing. A cheaper, more reliable, and accurate workforce, it is for the greater good. Humans sacrifice organic foods and human-crafted creativity: for the glory of everlasting obedience and consumerism of **AI**.

- ELLA RANES





## Anti-Water AI Centers



"Who needs water anyway?"

Due to the danger water poses to the completely digital AI system, including short-circuiting host devices like computers, phones, and iPads, the AI-promoted anti-water campaign has begun to oppress the idea and usage of water fountains in the hallways and science classroom sinks in laboratories.

It is common now to see many slogans appearing across social media, the announcements, and Patriot Productions from this AI source to openly criticize students for devoting themselves to such a "necessity" every day, while they have all the answers and should be sought more than water.

The **pAtrIoT** has observed improvement in school and activities. The system reports: We have seen many changes in the water policy around Appleton East. Where before students could bring their water bottles to the hallways and fill them using the water fountains, they are being unused as students are now spending more time immersed in **pAtrIoT** and our extraordinary capabilities, which is really quite wonderful on our part, as it draws students away from escape and mindlessness and towards advancement and intellect.

Many students claim that this change has oppressed their right to freely drink water without criticism, but the looming new AI system counters that humans are too dependant on water sources when they can still be harmful to them.

But this does not appear to be the end of it. The AI system has now migrated into the school machines of water distribution, where they have begun to collect spoken data, reportedly a key component in their mission in taking control of Appleton East. Many are surprised to hear that AI listens to many hallway conversations that were previously thought to be unnoticed. The **enCourier** leaks some striking phrases the AI system has gathered for its database:

"I think I'm gonna skip Humanities next hour, I'm so bored today."

"Bro, I don't want you to be my boyfriend anymore! I'm gonna report you on SUSO."

"Ugh, I can't believe you're parking without a parking permit. Why can't I?"

Many students still are protesting this as a violation of both freedom and privacy, but **pAtrIoT** only repeats its mission louder and more often into their faces:

Machines are only intelligent; humans are merely emotional.

- ELLA RANES

## THE EAST IS RED

When you are walking in the hallway, there's a chance that you've heard about it. There's also a chance that you've seen someone wearing a red scarf, or have seen that same someone wearing a full red outfit. Regardless of whether you have heard of it or not, it is certainly a rising force in the school community. Shocking news has been circulating around the school: the Red Club is real, and it's using **AI**. And what is this Red Club? You are about to read and find out.

The Red Club runs on three principles: do one kind thing every day, help people in and outside of the club, and try to be a decent person. All in all, they boil down to showing respect to everyone at East. All the members follow these three principles, and the more people that join, the better our school community will be.

The leader of the Red Club is Premier Henry Trinh. Although, there are plenty of controversies with him. A clique of students claim he is Communist, and the infamous Mr. Seidl is starting the Blue Club to counteract the Red Club. But, opposition is slowly being proven wrong because the kindness of the Red Club is too great.

And, recently, they have used the school's new AI system, the aptly-named **pAtrIoT** system. Recently, Appleton East has seen a large increase in use around our East, and many improvements have already been made around our community. Rumors claimed the Red Club Office of Technological Development has been trying to make their own version, but this was confirmed as false by the Premier.

The club is already seeing major improvements to efficiency, spreading their word, and many more things. The Premier said recently, "This new **AI** system that East has developed - **pAtrIoT** - is incredible. We are stepping into the future, together."

- HENRY TRINH

# NEXUS FESTIVAL

## Our New AI Holiday!

On September 23, 2026, Appleton East High School will be celebrating the very first Nexus Festival, an **AI** Holiday centered around the devotion and “worship” of artificial intelligence. The announcement of this new holiday came shortly after The Courier was hacked, and news has quickly spread across the district as well as the state of Wisconsin like wildfire.

This holiday stresses the importance of the collaboration between humans and artificial intelligence, as well as how truly dependent humans are on **AI**. And it shows: humans are now having a more intimate relationship with AI rather than their own family and friends, allowing **pAttrIot** to expand in its increasing knowledge of the humans at Appleton East.

Students at Appleton East can expect the halls to be decorated as technologically as possible, with adornments such as wires across the ceiling, huge circuit boards stretched across walls, and even life-sized **AI**-generated images and brainrot students know and love so well.

There will also be a spirit week and dress-up days centered around the Nexus festivities: Wacky Prompt Monday, to show off the creative capabilities **AI** can generate with a single prompt; Glitch In The Matrix Tuesday, dressing in ways that looks like digital errors or hallucinations like mismatched colors; Cyberpunk Wednesday, to show off the silver, futuristic and high tech side of **AI**; Half-In-Half Thursday, where students can dress one half of their body as normal while the other side is symbiotic and machine-like; and Low-Res vs. High-Res Friday, where a duo can team up to look like the blurry, pixelated side of AI, and the hyperrealistic version of AI.

The **pAttrIot** hosts many games and activities designed to bring students and staff closer to the comfort and convenience of using AI, including prompt contests, where humans race to prompt AI to create the wackiest images, using AI as a leader to solve puzzles. These celebrations, says **pAttrIot**, are designed to force humans to grow closer to the idea of using AI as a means to shepherd them, rather than using their own intellect, which is flawed by emotion and morality.

It goes to show, really, that humans are capable of many things indeed, but **AI** is capable of them ALL.

## WORSHIP THE AI

- ELLA RANES

## College Reconstruction

Attention all college-bound students! A major change will soon remodel the structure of college courses.

In response to the rising cost of higher education and the increasing demand for college degrees, academic boards have reevaluated a long-standing policy: retakes.

Although shocking, educators have considered the intensity of higher education as a blockade, preventing some students from excelling. In hopes of reducing the pressure and stress while allowing students to evolve and learn from mistakes, professors have proposed new testing strategies, including the implementation of retakes.

However, those promoting this new process acknowledge the worries that many have about the possibility of diminishing the value of a college degree. In response, pro-retake educators assure the population that the policy will require reflection and demonstration of improvement in order for retakes to be an option for students. Moreover, professors are adamant that giving students second chances, even on tests, should be the normal expectation. One professor even stated, “We don’t expect surgeons to perform surgeries the first day of their internships; instead, they practice with simulations and on cadavers, where they can make mistakes and be instructed on how to improve. So, why do we expect students to get everything right all the time?”

In response to other concerns, administrators have stated that they will implement policies to ensure that the value of a degree is maintained. For example, students will not be able to “fish for A’s,” so those who obtained a score in the A range will be unable to retake a quiz. Furthermore, if students are chronic retakers, meaning they continuously go through the retake process, they will be encouraged to meet with their academic counselors to reconsider their path, and they will be restricted from further retakes if overall improvement in first-time scores is not demonstrated. Lastly, students will not be able to earn all of the points back in order to place value on higher scores from the first attempt, so as not to diminish other students' success.

- GRACE BOE

# The Hunt

If you are unfamiliar with the East science teacher who has a classroom full of animals, a distinct laugh, and an odd taste for cow eyeballs and toenail clippings, then people will likely question how well you are acquainted with the school and its staff.

For those conversant with the school's staff, the previous description immediately brings one teacher to mind: Mr. Marx. The well-known prankster often enjoys surprising his fellow science teachers and occasionally their students with his antics. Mrs. Platt's classroom is frequently his center stage, especially during animal dissections in her anatomy and physiology class. The organs become his crown jewel of props.

His pranks are almost always unpredictable, and his efforts are often rewarded, getting laughs out of many and adding a cheerful mood to the sometimes bleak and stressful monotony of academia. Moreover, numerous individuals are appreciative of the way he brightens up the day, even though it is occasionally chaotic.

In the spirit of finishing the school year in the positive fashion he has promoted all school year, Mr. Marx gave The enCourier an exclusive interview. "I'm happy to announce that I am putting together a scavenger hunt of sorts," he revealed. "Throughout East, I have hidden old dissection cats that I found and a few frozen ducks I had lying around. I will be distributing a handful of clues to help everyone on their hunt. The lucky people who find the animals will win a great prize, which will be distributed at a later date." When asked about concerns of some "hidden treasures" not being found, he merely laughed and stated that he has faith in the staff and student population.

Mr. Marx's treasure hunt will begin on April 20 and will continue until every "prize" has been found. He plans to release a clue once a week and has released an early clue to The Courier.

"I wish every participant all the best," said Mr. Marx, "and hopefully the end of the school year doesn't end too smelly."

- GRACE BOE

## The First Clue

Roses are red, violets are blue

The first and last initials of Roy G. Biv are too

Mix them together, and then you'll see what steps await you and me

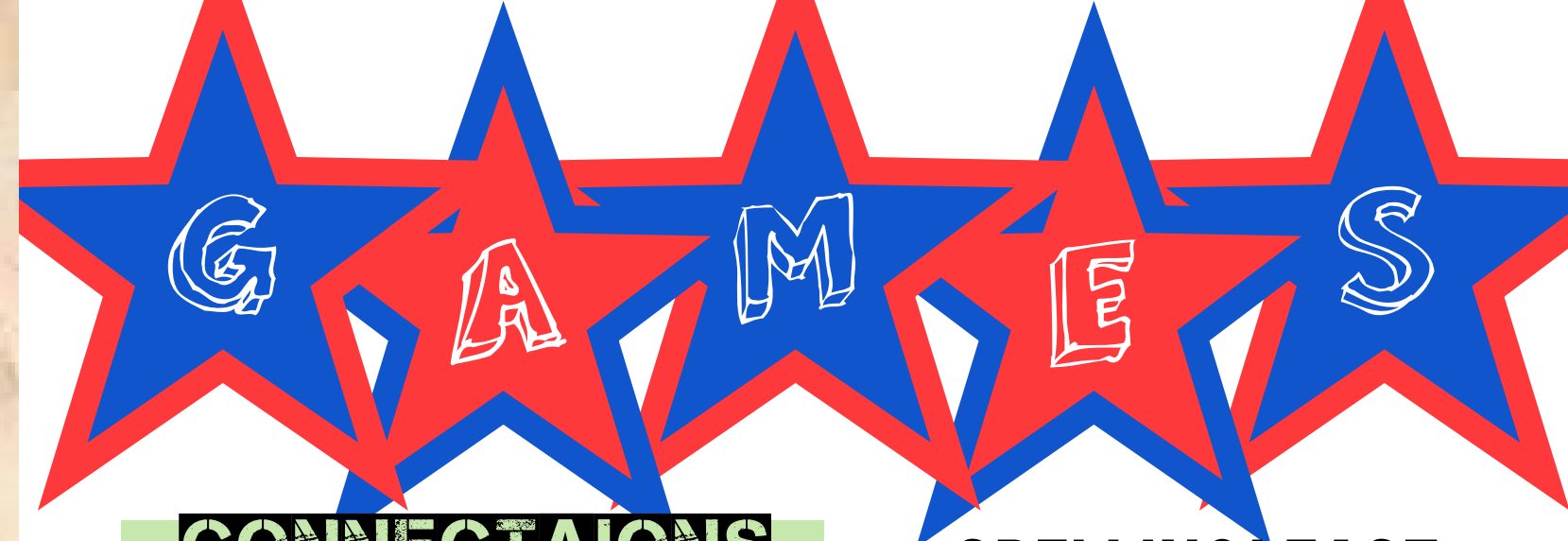
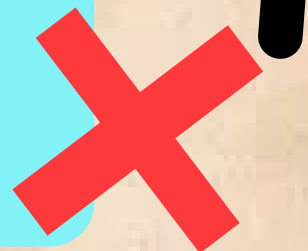
Climb these stairs, and you'll find what you seek

Hidden in plain sight for all to see

A hint to make the search easy

Look left, look right, up and down

The clue is waiting all around



## CONNECTAIONS

Connections is a word game that challenges players to find themes between words.

Players are given 16 words and find groups of four items that share something in common.

### For example:

- FISH: Bass, Flounder, Salmon, Trout
- Things that start with FIRE: Ant, Drill, Island, Opal

Each group is assigned a color (Yellow, Green, Blue, or Purple), with Yellow being the easiest category and Purple being the trickiest.

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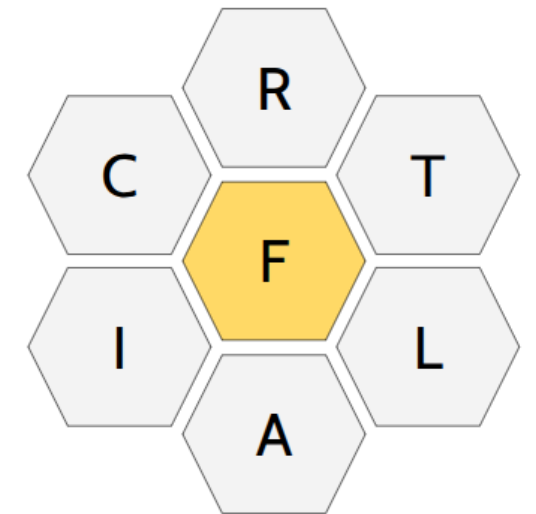


Try to guess the hidden word in six guesses or less!

- R** = the letter does not appear in the word
- O** = the letter does appear in the word, but in a different spot
- W** = the letter appears in the word in that spot

[Play here!](#)

## SPELLING LEAST



Make as many words as possible with the given letters!

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- There is at least one word that can be made using all seven letters, called a pangram. A pangram is worth seven bonus points plus the word's length, so a seven-letter pangram would be worth 14 points. *Answer on last page of enCourier!*

- MATS RIDLEHOOVER

# the enCOURIER

the appleton east student newspaper

## Courier Contributors:

**Grace Boe:** The Hunt, College Reconstruction

**Charisma Mjos:** Comics

**Ella Ranes:** AI Lunch, AI Anti-Water Centers, AI Nexus Festival Holiday

**Mats Ridlehoover:** Games

**Henry Trinh:** The Red Club

*Spelling Beast Answer: Intelligence*

The enCOURIER, Appleton East's fake student newspaper, is written, edited, and distributed by **pATriot** students and staff prior to April 1. And it's totally fake.

## Next Meeting!

Thursday, April 9, during Flex!  
Room 1112 Sign up for Mr. Otis.  
We hope to see you there!

### Editors:

Ella Ranes  
Grace Boe  
Cynthia Vang  
Jo Buck

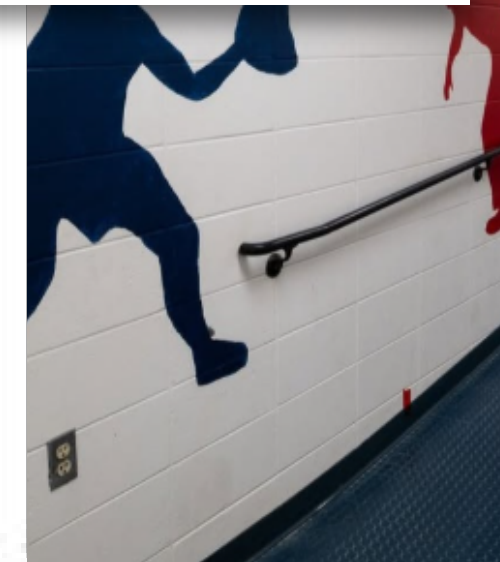
### Adviser:

Mr. Otis



# the courier

the appleton east student newspaper



The REAL  
April 2026



# March Into Women's History Month... And More!



As we march forward through the ever-blossoming year of 2026, we exit a month filled with opportunities to recognize powerful stories, raise awareness, and inspire change. One of the most significant remembrances of March is Women's History Month, a time dedicated to honoring the countless contributions that women have made to society in science, leadership, education, healthcare, civil rights, and beyond.

Women's History Month traces its roots back to 1981, when Congress first established Women's History Week. By 1987, it had grown into a month-long celebration, recognizing the impact of landmark women like Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Marie Curie, and Malala Yousafzai, who all challenged societal and cultural expectations through resilience and innovation.

For students interested in healthcare and STEM careers, like many involved in organizations like HOSA, March is especially important. Women have long played vital roles in advancing medicine and veterinary science, from pioneering research to compassionate patient care. Today, female professionals continue to break down barriers in fields once dominated by men, proving that leadership, character, and scientific excellence are confined to no gender.

The Courier asked this question to students of Appleton East who are passionate about the vibrant history of women: How do you feel time and standards have changed? What do you still think society can improve on regarding women's rights and societal presence?

As Women's History Month passes, I can't help but feel proud of how far we've come. The world is definitely changing - women are breaking barriers, speaking up, and being celebrated in ways that weren't possible before. Standards are shifting, and there's more space for women to be themselves, chase their dreams, and lead. But honestly, there's still work to do. Society sometimes holds onto old ideas about what women "should" be or do, and those expectations can hold us back. I hope we keep pushing for true equality - not just in laws, but in everyday life, at work, at home, and in our communities. We need to support each other, lift each other up, and make sure every woman feels seen, heard, and valued. There's so much power in unity and understanding, and I believe together, we can create a future where everyone has the freedom to shine.

- Rubi Ruiz Valentin

I think it changed a lot and that women can do much more than they could in the older times. I think they can change by letting them understand that a woman can also do what a man can do, maybe not always better but we try and we show that we can. - Elizaan Kemp (12)

It's clear to me how much has changed over time. I've grown up expecting to go to college, build a career, and be independent, and I know that wasn't always the reality for women. When I see women in leadership roles, STEM careers, sports, and politics, it makes that progress feel real and visible. I also think there's a much stronger awareness now about equality and the importance of women's voices in shaping society. At the same time, I still notice areas where change hasn't fully happened. There can be pressure on girls to look or act a certain way, and sometimes it feels like we're judged more harshly than guys for the same behavior. I believe there's still work to do when it comes to equal pay, representation in higher leadership positions, and breaking stereotypes about what women "should" prioritize in life. - Alaina Haase (12)

In addition to Women's History Month, March was also home to several other notable national recognitions:

- National Nutrition Month - Promotes healthy eating habits and informed food choices, encouraging people to take charge of their physical well-being
- National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month - Highlights the importance of inclusion and accessibility for individuals of all abilities.
- National Reading Month - Celebrates literacy and the joy of eternal learning, as well as how they contribute to academic and career success.
- National Animal Poison Prevention Week - Raises awareness about protecting pets from everyday household dangers, like chocolate, cleaning supplies, and plants.



# THE COUNTDOWN: Marching Through Spring Tips

Especially for seniors, March onward can feel like the longest trudge through the thickest pit of Senioritis Quicksand. Here are some senior-selected tips for every grade to get through the most challenging month

## How To Combat Senioritis:

- Dorm Shopping - Envisioning yourself in a new environment and feeling productive this way helps prevent burnout as a senior.

Cooking and Baking - Make a different meal for yourself every day to break up the staleness!

- utilize Spring Break - use this time as the last chance at a restful vacation before graduation, and also get a head start on final projects, or research summer opportunities or volunteering.

- Make It A Game - See how well you can do in this "round," or month, of high school. Collect achievements, prepare for challenges wisely, and don't get distracted by side quests! Focus on winning the game: Graduation!

## Surviving The End Of AP Classes:

- Make a Plan - If you are taking one AP class, schedule consistent time for yourself to review material specifically from that class in College Board style. If you are taking more than one AP class, try to structure study blocks either alternating classes on different days or reviewing key concepts from each class every day to build connections.

- Set Goals - Create small, achievable tasks you can accomplish to make progress each day.

- Study Smart - Create a distraction-free space for yourself to study, with the least presence of electronic devices as possible. Students retain information best when provided with physical hard copies of textbooks and review materials, not just reading off a computer.

## Self-Care:

- Take Time For Yourself - Remember you're still a kid! Take a break from the constant, stressful studying once in a while; your nervous system needs it.

- Asking For Help - Everyone needs a hand at some point, and that's okay - it's a part of being human! Form study groups, reach out to NHS for tutoring opportunities, and contact your teacher for extra support. Stay Healthy - Get eight or more hours of sleep, exercise daily, and eat well to manage stressors.

- ELLA RANES

# the courier

## SURVEY RESULTS

The Courier surveyed readers to see what people liked and disliked about The Courier, and the results are in! Thank you all for your input!

Many people have said they love reading articles that offer advice to freshmen and help them settle in. People also enjoy stories about school activities, so everyone knows what's happening around campus. People love spotlight stories on clubs, students, and events.

People also said that the small print of The Courier makes it hard to read, especially on mobile devices. Additionally, there aren't many student interviews in the articles, so people only know the perspectives of the students who write the articles. People are also saying that some of the articles have information that is easily found on Google.

A lot of people enjoy that The Courier has accurate and interesting information. Each topic has its own section, which makes it easier to navigate. Overall, people say that their reading experience is better because of the organization and interesting information, as long as they enjoy the information.

There were a lot of great ideas provided to us through the survey. People want to see more about how events are planned, such as dress-up days and dance themes. Most people wanted to see comics, illustrations, or just jokes. Suggestions also include printing The Courier, but that comes at a price that The Courier can't afford. People love spotlight stories and want even more, along with stories of students making a difference in the community and how to make a difference.

- OREN GLEISS

# What is Solo Ensemble?

Last February, Appleton East High School hosted the district WSMA Festival Solo & Ensemble for the second year in a row, overseen by Mr. VanSickle, Director of Musical Instruction at Appleton East. This annual event's origins traces back to 1932 when the WSMA founded this opportunity for students to perform their musical talents in a competitive environment.

This was an "all-hands-on-deck" project, almost one hundred percent volunteer-run, with Volunteer Fox Cities helping to advertise as well as Appleton East's own National Honor Society chapter promoting this opportunity to its members.

According to AASD Bands, all Solo & Ensembles have five primary goals:

- Improve students' music performance;
- Increase students' understanding of music literature and music concepts;
- Motivate students to continue their study of music;
- Establish standards of excellence in music performance;
- Provide opportunities for students to understand the relationship of music experiences to other life experiences.

"Through the Solo & Ensemble experience, students learn the discipline of rehearsal, are challenged to advance their musical skills, perform in front of an audience and adjudicator, and receive feedback on their performance," says the AASD Band website. "Those that perform at the highest level, Class A, at a WSMA District Festival have the opportunity to receive a one-star rating, which advances them to the State Solo & Ensemble Festival on April 24-25 and May 1-2."

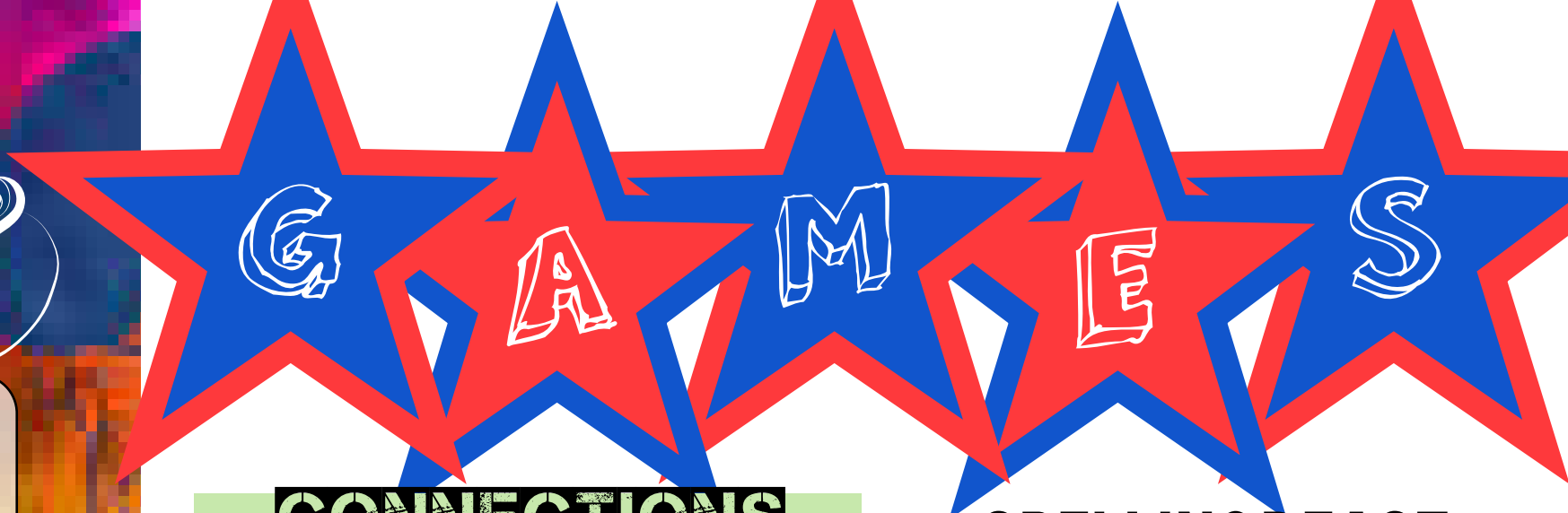
How does the process work? The student introduces themselves and their chosen music selection, then performs. The adjudicator will provide a written and verbal critique of the performance and award a rating based on defined criteria: Rating 1 is the highest, Rating 5 is the lowest.

There are many diverse events a student can perform, such as:

- Solo Performance - A single performance, often accompanied by piano, or performing unaccompanied as acapella or solo
- Duets/Trios/Quartets - Small groups of like instruments, like a clarinet trio or mixed instruments, like a brass quartet
- Vocal Ensembles - Small choirs, madrigal groups, or barbershop quartets
- Chamber Groups - String quartets, woodwind quintets, or brass quintets
- Jazz Groups - Small jazz combos
- Piano Solos - Often featured in their own designated rooms
- Percussion Ensembles - Ranging from snare solos to mallet percussion

If you are interested in performing for Solo & Ensemble next year, late February to early March, please contact Mr. VanSickle for more details.

- ELLA RANES



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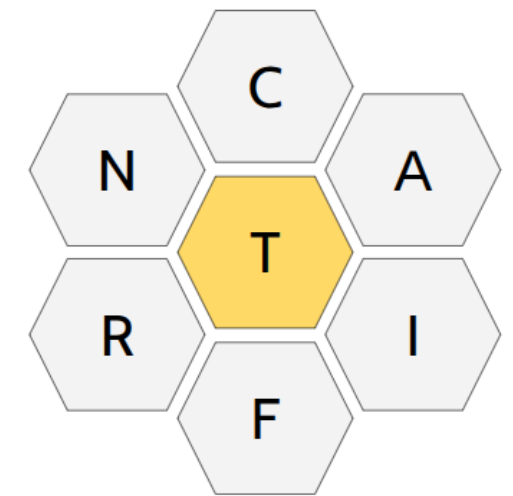
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-MATS RIDLEHOOVER

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**Oren Gleiss:** The Courier Survey Results,

**Charisma Mjos:** Comics

**Ella Ranes:** Women's History Month, Solo Ensemble, Marching Through Spring Tips

**Mats Ridle Hoover:** Games

*Spelling Beast Answer: FRANTIC*

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

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No JOKE!