



DAWG PRINT

June  
Edition

2026

Jonathan Dayton High School

# Senior Reflection

## By: Gianna Manderichio

IT'S BEEN AN AMAZING JOURNEY THROUGHOUT HIGH SCHOOL: FROM FRESHMAN YEAR IN AN ENTIRELY NEW SCHOOL TRYING TO MAKE FRIENDS, TO SENIOR YEAR TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT COLLEGE EVERYONE IS GOING TO. AT FIRST, I HAD A NEGATIVE VIEW OF HIGH SCHOOL TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST. I THOUGHT THAT I WOULDN'T FIT IN AND THAT I WOULD BE DROWNING IN WORK EVERY SINGLE DAY, WITH NO SOCIAL LIFE. I WOULD HAVE NEVER THOUGHT THAT I WOULD FIND MY LIFELONG BEST FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THESE PAST FOUR YEARS. MY BIGGEST PIECE OF ADVICE FOR THE INCOMING FRESHMAN IS TO REACH OUT TO SOMEONE AND MAKE FRIENDS. NO ONE IS TOO COOL TO BE YOUR FRIEND.

FINDING OUT WHAT COLLEGE TO GO TO WAS ALSO A HUGE DECISION THAT WEIGHED ON EVERYONE IN THE CLASS OF 2026'S MIND. I DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA FOR JOURNALISM, AND A MINOR IN DANCE. I FULLY BELIEVED SINCE MY FRESHMAN YEAR I WOULD BE GOING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI FOR BROADCASTING, AND A MINOR IN DANCE. ALTHOUGH I GOT INTO THE SCHOOL, I MADE THE DECISION THAT FELT THE BEST TO ME AFTER WEIGHING ALL MY OPTIONS. I AM THRILLED TO BE GOING TO TAMPA, ALTHOUGH I HAVE CONTEMPLATED WHAT I WANTED TO BE WHEN I GREW UP MANY DIFFERENT TIMES. CHOOSING A MAJOR WAS IMPOSSIBLE WHEN I COULDN'T DECIDE IF I WANTED TO BE A PROFESSIONAL DANCE TEACHER OR BE ON CNN NEWS, AS AN ANCHOR. I CHOSE TO STOP STRESSING ABOUT WHAT I WANTED TO DO AND LEARNED TO FIGURE IT OUT AS THE TIME COMES. THINGS CHANGE AND ONLY TIME MOVES ON; YOU CANNOT PLAN SOMETHING FIVE YEARS FROM NOW, YOU CAN ONLY HOPE AND WORK FOR IT.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF MY TEACHERS, ESPECIALLY MR. DENICOLO FOR CONSTANTLY PUSHING ME AND INSPIRING ME TO PURSUE MY DREAM IN JOURNALISM BY SUPPORTING MY WRITING. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT ALL OF MY FAMILY BEING THERE BY MY SIDE EVEN THROUGH THE ROUGH DAYS WHEN I FELT UNMOTIVATED, AND DIDN'T THINK I COULD COMPLETE ALL OF MY WORK. MOST OF ALL I'D LIKE TO THANK JONATHAN DAYTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIVING ME SO MANY MEMORIES AND UNBEATABLE FRIENDSHIPS AND BONDS.

SENIOR EDITOR IN CHIEF GIANNA MANDERICHIO SIGNING OUT.



# Senior Reflection

## By: Talulah Whelan



IT SEEMS UNREAL TO BE REFLECTING ON MY TIME AT JDHS AND AS A MEMBER OF *THE DAWG PRINT*. IT IS UNFATHOMABLE THAT MY SENIOR PORTRAIT HANGS ON THE FENCE OUTSIDE OF OUR SCHOOL, SURROUNDED BY THE FAMILIAR FACES THAT I HAVE KNOWN, LEARNED AND LAUGHED WITH SINCE I CAME INTO WALTON. FROM DCA SUMMER SCHOOL TO SENIOR SUNSET AND A MILLION OTHER LITTLE MILESTONES IN BETWEEN, THIS SCHOOL HAS SHAPED ME IN WAYS THAT I COULDN'T HAVE PREDICTED AND WOULDN'T TRADE FOR THE WORLD.

ATTENDING THE DAYTON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY WAS SOMETHING I NEARLY DECIDED AGAINST. AS AN EIGHTH GRADER I WEIGHED THE PROS AND CONS OF THE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AGAINST DAYTON. I WONDERED IF CHOOSING ONE OR THE OTHER WOULD MEAN THAT SOME PART OF ME WOULD HAVE TO BE SACRIFICED, SOME PATH OR OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE CLOSED OFF. A PROCRASTINATOR TO A FAULT, I MADE THE DECISION THE NIGHT BEFORE AND HOPED FOR THE BEST, EXPECTING EITHER WAY TO FEEL A SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT. INSTEAD WHAT I FOUND WAS A RESOUNDING SENSE OF COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY AND COMFORT IN MY DECISION.

THE CLASSES WERE OF COURSE CHALLENGING. THE TRANSITION FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL WHERE THE GRADES CAME EASILY TO STRUGGLING THROUGH AP COURSEWORK WAS JARRING. I FOUND MYSELF FACED WITH A DECISION, TO STRUGGLE IN SILENCE OR TO DO SOMETHING NEW AND FRIGHTENING-ASK FOR HELP. I BEGAN REACHING OUT TO MY PEERS AND TEACHERS, EXERCISING RESOURCES LIKE EXTRA HELP AND TUTORING. THROUGH THIS PROCESS I LEARNED HUMILITY AND GRACE. I WAS ABLE TO FEEL A SENSE OF PRIDE FOR MY WORK AND FEEL A CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY THAT WAS HELPING ME THRIVE. IF I HAD TO IMPART ONE PIECE OF WISDOM TO THE INCOMING FRESHMEN IT WOULD BE TO ASK FOR HELP. NO ONE GETS ANYWHERE ALONE, THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE ARE THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO PUT ASIDE THEIR PRIDE AND DO THE HARD, MESSY, CHALLENGING WORK THAT IS NECESSARY TO GET THEM WHERE THEY WANT TO GO. STAY DRIVEN BECAUSE ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM LIKE THE FOUR YEARS YOU ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK ON IS A LIFETIME, EVERY SECOND OF IT COUNTS AND AS THE CLICHE GOES, IT'LL GO BY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

AS I STAND ON THE EDGE OF ADULthood I FEEL INCREDIBLE GRATITUDE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE PREPARED ME FOR THIS NEXT STEP. BEING SURROUNDED BY THE MOST CARING, INCREDIBLE TEACHERS THAT HAVE GROWN MY CONFIDENCE ACADEMICALLY AND EXPANDED MY INTELLECT HAS BEEN INVALUABLE. TEACHERS LIKE MR. WHITE, WHO OFFERED HIS UNDIVIDED TIME WHEN CALCULUS SEEMED LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE FEAT AND MR. DENICOLA, WHO MADE AN ENTIRE CLASS OF SLEEPY STUDENTS ENGAGED AND EXCITED ABOUT LITERATURE THROUGH HIS CONTAGIOUS PASSION FOR THE SUBJECT TRULY MADE ME EXCITED TO COME BACK EACH DAY AND LEARN. FINALLY MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS' CONSTANT SUPPORT AS I HAVE NAVIGATED THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THESE PAST FOUR YEARS HAS BEEN INVALUABLE AND THEY DESERVE MY ENDLESS THANKS.

AS AN INCOMING FRESHMAN I WAS UNSURE OF WHO I WOULD BE. WHAT TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL CHARACTER WOULD I PLAY? WAS I A REGINA GEORGE OR A CADY HERON? A JOCK OR A GEEK? AN ARTIST OR AN ATHLETE? AS A RESULT OF NOT KNOWING WHO I WAS I TRIED ON MANY DIFFERENT IDENTITIES. I JOINED NEW SPORTS, NEW CLUBS, NEW FRIEND GROUPS. I FORCED MYSELF OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE, TO DO THINGS ALONE AND TAKE OPPORTUNITIES THAT I WAS UNSURE I DESERVED...TO BE UNCOMFORTABLE IN AN EFFORT TO GROW. MY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER HAS TAUGHT ME THAT YOU MUST ALLOW YOURSELF TO TRY ANYTHING, TO CONTAIN MULTITUDES, TO NOT LIMIT WHO YOU CAN BE TO WHO YOU ONCE WERE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO SLOW DOWN AND REMEMBER TO ENJOY IT. THANK YOU JONATHAN DAYTON, THANK YOU *DAWG PRINT*.

SENIOR EDITOR IN CHIEF TALULAH WHELAN SIGNING OUT.

# Happy 250th Birthday, United States of America!

By Mackenzie Gibb

ON JULY 4TH, 2026, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CELEBRATES ITS BIRTHDAY, MARKING 250 YEARS SINCE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS SIGNED IN 1776. KNOWN AS THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL, OR THE 250TH, THIS MILESTONE OFFERS AMERICANS A CHANCE TO REFLECT ON OUR NATION'S HISTORY, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND FUTURE.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS ADOPTED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, ANNOUNCING THE THIRTEEN COLONIES' INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITISH RULE. SINCE THEN, THE UNITED STATES HAS EXPERIENCED MAJOR EVENTS THAT SHAPED THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING WESTWARD EXPANSION, THE CIVIL WAR, AND ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, AND CIVIL RIGHTS.

PEOPLE CAN CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY BY ATTENDING LOCAL PARADES AND FIREWORKS SHOWS, VISITING HISTORICAL SIGHTS, LEARNING MORE ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY, PROTESTING, AND/OR PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY EVENTS!



# Summer Playlist

By: Gianna Manderichio



WHETHER YOU'RE DRIVING WITH THE WINDOWS DOWN AND SUNGLASSES ON OR LAYING BY THE POOL WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS, THE PERFECT SUMMER PLAYLIST IS NECESSARY. AS AN AVID LISTENER TO SONGS WITH AN UPBEAT RHYTHM AND SUMMER VIBE ALL YEAR ROUND, I HAVE CURATED THE PERFECT LIST OF SONGS THAT CAN BE PLAYED THAT EVERYONE WILL ENJOY NO MATTER THE CROWD.

- *LOSING YOU* - SOLANGE KNOWLES: THIS SONG IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF INDIE POP WITH ITS SIMPLISTIC LYRICS THAT ARE RELATABLE TO ANYONE AND ITS CALM INSTRUMENTALS. PERSONALLY, I THINK THIS IS THE SONG TO PLAY DRIVING AROUND WITH MY BEST FRIENDS ON A HOT DAY WITH THE VOLUME ALL THE WAY UP.
- *TRACK 10* - CHARLI XCX: THIS IS AN UNDERGROUND CHARLI XCX SONG THAT SHOULD BE MORE POPULAR FOR ITS CREATIVE MIX OF SAMPLED SONGS. THIS IS THE PERFECT SONG TO PLAY AT NIGHT ON THE WAY TO HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS TO HYPE YOURSELF UP.
- *DANCING WITH OUR HANDS TIED* - TAYLOR SWIFT: THIS SONG IS A GOOD SONG TO GET UP AND DANCE TO WITH FRIENDS BECAUSE OF ITS POP GENRE THEME BUT UNPOPULAR AND UNDERPLAYED SENSE.
- *SUMMER* - CALVIN HARRIS: IT'S ONLY FITTING THAT ONE OF THE MOST CLASSIC SUMMER SONGS IS ADDED TO THE MIX. THIS SONG IS DEFINITELY A 2014 VIBE AND THETUMBLR ERA TYPE OF SONG.
- *THE LOVE CLUB* - LORDE: IF YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL OR A TEENAGER, YOU CAN RELATE TO THIS SONG WITH ITS MESSAGE ABOUT TRYING TO FIT IN. ALTHOUGH THE LYRICS SOUND LIKE THEY COULD BE SAD, THEY ARE ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE AND PROVIDE AN OPTIMISTIC VIEWPOINT, WHICH IS PERFECT FOR SUMMER WHEN TRYING TO GET BACK INTO THE SWING OF HIGH SCHOOL, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE NERVOUS ABOUT GOING BACK.
- *LANDSLIDE* - FLEETWOOD MAC: THIS SONG IS ESPECIALLY FOR THE SENIORS OR THE UNDERCLASSMEN WHO KNOW SOMEONE THAT IS GOING AWAY FOR COLLEGE. THE FEELING OF GROWING UP CAN BE SAD AND NOSTALGIC, BUT CAN BE EMBRACED THROUGH MUSIC.



# Summer Jobs

## By: Talulah Whelan

SUMMER BREAK IS ALMOST HERE! JUST A FEW MORE FINALS, A COUPLE PROJECTS AND WE'LL ALL BE ABLE TO ENJOY SOME MUCH NEEDED RELAXATION. AS THE BREAK ROLLS AROUND IT'S HARD TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT THE HOURS IN THE SUN OR WITH FRIENDS WHEN OUR TIME IS COMPLETELY DISPOSABLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES SEEM FAR OFF. HOWEVER, SUMMER IS ALSO A TIME WHEN OUR FREE SCHEDULES ALLOW US TO SAVE UP FOR THE YEAR TO COME. SUMMER JOBS ARE NOT ONLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL FREEDOM THEY CAN AFFORD, THEY ALSO ARE INVALUABLE IN PREPARING US WITH SOCIAL AND PRACTICAL SKILLS. NEED IDEAS ON WHAT TYPES OF JOBS YOU SHOULD APPLY TO? LOOK NO FURTHER.

A TRIED AND TRUE TEENAGE HUSTLE IS BABYSITTING. ARE YOU GOOD WITH CHILDREN? DO YOU ENJOY HELPING WITH SPELLING WORDS AND ART PROJECTS? ARE YOU PATIENT, RESPONSIBLE AND FUN? BABYSITTING MAY BE FOR YOU. DON'T WORRY IF YOU'RE NOT EXPERIENCED, TRY FIRST OFFERING YOUR SERVICES AS A MOTHER'S HELPER TO BUILD YOUR SKILLS AND EVENTUALLY TRANSITION TO THE MORE LUCRATIVE OPTION. IT MAY BE A GOOD IDEA TO CONSIDER BECOMING CERTIFIED IN CPR OR TAKING A BABYSITTERS TRAINING COURSE IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE JOB FOR YOU.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A LOW STRESS COMMITMENT? ARE YOU UNSURE WHAT YOUR AVAILABILITY MAY BE? ARE YOU HOPING TO MAKE A LITTLE CASH ON THE SIDE OF ALL YOUR SUMMER FUN? TRY DOG WALKING. PUBLICISING AROUND TOWN THAT YOU ARE A RESOURCE FOR BUSY PET OWNERS HOPING TO GIVE THEIR DOG A LITTLE EXTRA EXERCISE COULD BE THE PERFECT WAY TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS PROFITABLY.

IS EVERY SURFACE IN YOUR BEDROOM FILLED WITH CLOTHES WORN ONCE AND CAST ASIDE? ARE YOU ALWAYS SCROLLING PINTEREST FOR THE NEXT NEW TREND? ARE YOU HOPING TO FUND YOUR RETAIL HABIT AND GET RID OF YOUR CLUTTER AT THE SAME TIME? SECONDHAND RESELLING COULD BE THE FIX. SITES SUCH AS DEPOP AND VINTED ARE PERFECT TO LIST ALL THE OLD CLOTHES THAT YOU HAVEN'T WORN IN MONTHS FOR A PRICE THAT WORKS FOR YOU. RESELLING IS AN EASY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF A SUMMER JOB WHEN THE MARKET ISN'T TOO FRIENDLY.

TRADITIONAL SUMMER JOBS SUCH AS CASHIER, WAITRESS AND BARISTA ARE ALL GREAT WAYS TO SPEND THIS SUMMER BREAK, BUT IT NEVER HURTS TO BE A LITTLE UNCONVENTIONAL. CREATIVITY CAN GO A LONG WAY AND LOOKING OUTSIDE THE BOX MIGHT JUST MAKE THIS THE MOST FUN AND FINANCIALLY SECURE SUMMER YET.

# Travel Ideas and Tips for 2026

## By: Alana Durham



WITH SUMMER BREAK FINALLY HERE, MANY STUDENTS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING A TRIP, WHETHER IT'S ACROSS THE COUNTRY, INTERNATIONALLY, TO A NEARBY CITY, OR EVEN JUST A DAY TRIP WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY. TRAVELING IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO MAKE MEMORIES, TRY NEW THINGS, AND TAKE A BREAK FROM EVERYDAY ROUTINES. EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT GOING ON A BIG VACATION THIS YEAR, EXPLORING SOMEWHERE NEW CAN MAKE SUMMER FEEL MORE EXCITING AND ALL THE MORE WORTHWHILE.

ONE TREND THAT'S BECOMING MORE POPULAR IS CHOOSING DESTINATIONS BASED ON EXPERIENCES RATHER THAN JUST SIGHTSEEING. INSTEAD OF SPENDING AN ENTIRE TRIP TAKING PICTURES OF FAMOUS LANDMARKS, MANY TRAVELERS ARE LOOKING FOR PLACES WHERE THEY CAN TRY NEW FOODS, ATTEND FESTIVALS, VISIT AMUSEMENT PARKS, OR SPEND TIME OUTDOORS. ACTIVITIES LIKE HIKING, KAYAKING, SHOPPING, AND EXPLORING LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ARE BECOMING JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE DESTINATION ITSELF.

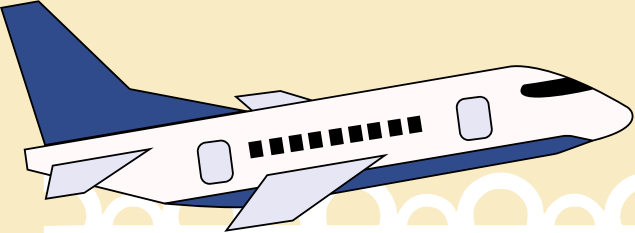
SOCIAL MEDIA HAS ALSO INFLUENCED WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO TRAVEL. MANY PEOPLE DISCOVER NEW PLACES THROUGH TRAVEL VIDEOS AND POSTS ONLINE. FROM BEAUTIFUL BEACHES TO MOUNTAIN TOWNS AND BUSY CITIES, THERE ARE COUNTLESS DESTINATIONS THAT HAVE BECOME POPULAR BECAUSE OF THE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS PEOPLE SHARE. HOWEVER, SOME OF THE BEST TRIPS CAN COME FROM VISITING PLACES THAT AREN'T NECESSARILY TRENDING, BUT STILL OFFER UNIQUE EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO CREATE LASTING MEMORIES.

WHETHER YOU'RE PLANNING A BIG VACATION OR A SIMPLE WEEKEND GETAWAY, HAVING A PLAN CAN MAKE TRAVELING LESS STRESSFUL AND MORE ENJOYABLE. PACKING AHEAD OF TIME, SETTING A BUDGET, AND RESEARCHING ACTIVITIES BEFORE YOU LEAVE CAN HELP YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR TRIP. IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO STAY OPEN-MINDED BECAUSE SOMETIMES THE BEST PARTS OF A VACATION ARE THE UNEXPECTED MOMENTS.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TRAVEL INSPIRATION THIS SUMMER, HERE ARE SOME DESTINATIONS AND ACTIVITIES WORTH CONSIDERING:

### TRAVEL DESTINATIONS IN THE U.S.:

- BEACH VACATIONS (POINT PLEASANT, NJ; THE WILDWOODS, NJ; LONG BEACH ISLAND, NJ; CAPE MAY, NJ)
- NATIONAL PARKS (YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WY; ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, ME; SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, VA; DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, NJ/PA)
- MOUNTAIN DESTINATIONS/CABINS (BEAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK, NY; POCONO MOUNTAINS, PA; CATSKILL MOUNTAINS, NY)



- Amusement parks (Six Flags Great Adventure, NJ; Hersheypark, PA; Dorney Park, PA)
- Water parks (Mountain Creek, NJ; Hurricane Harbor, NJ; Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark, PA; Splashplex Water Park, NJ; Splish Splash Water Park, NY; Water County USA, VA; Aquatopia, PA)
- Road trips (Nockamixon State Park, PA; Seaside Heights, NJ; Hudson Valley, NY; Newport, RI; Bar Harbor, ME; The Blue Ridge Mountains)
- Camping trips (Stokes State Forest, NJ; Panther Lake Camping Resort, NJ; High Point State Park, NJ; Worthington State Forest, NJ)
- Lake destinations (Lake Hopatcong, NJ; Greenwood Lake, NJ; Lake George, NY)
- Historic towns (Princeton, NJ; New Hope, PA; Mystic, CT)
- Tropical islands (Aruba; Bahamas; Bermuda; Puerto Rico; Trinidad & Tobago)
- State parks (Liberty State Park, NJ; Island Beach State Park, NJ; Cheesequake State Park, NJ; Matawan, NJ)
- Music festivals (Barefoot Country Music Fest, NJ; Governors Ball, NY)
- County fairs and summer festivals (New Jersey State Fair, Augusta, NJ; Warren County Farmers' Fair & Hot Air Balloon Festival, Harmony Township, NJ; Oceanfest, Long Beach Island, NJ)

#### Travel Tips:

- Pack light and only bring what you need
- Keep important items in your carry-on bag
- Bring a portable charger for your phone
- Stay hydrated, especially during outdoor activities
- Set a budget before your trip
- Take plenty of pictures, but don't spend the whole trip on your phone
- Research attractions and activities before you arrive so you can adventure with you friends and family
- Make a checklist so you don't forget anything
- Be respectful of local cultures and communities
- Stay open-minded and be open to trying new experiences

Overall, summer travel in 2026 is all about making memories, exploring new places, and spending time with the people who matter most. Whether you're traveling far away or staying close to home, every trip has the potential to become a memorable part of your summer.



# Fun Things To Do This Summer

By: Mackenzie Gibb

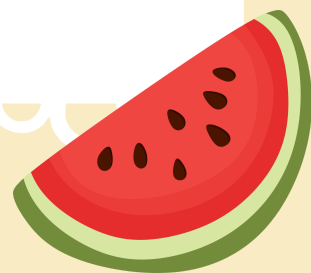
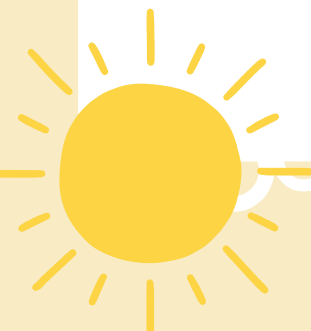


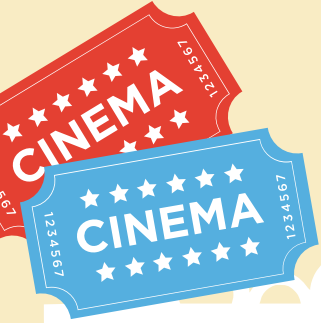
With summer break just around the corner, many students are looking forward to relaxing after a busy school year. There are plenty of fun activities to do now that the days are longer, and you have more time to relax!

If you're sporty, there are many things to do, like going for runs or bike rides, practicing your sport, participating in a summer clinic, or joining a summer league. Staying active is a great way to have fun in the warm weather!

If you're outdoorsy, summer is the perfect time for hiking, camping, visiting parks, gardening, or simply exploring nature. For those who prefer the indoors, gaming, reading, baking, learning a new skill, or starting a creative project can help pass the time.

If you're looking to spend time with friends, consider having movie nights, visiting the mall, getting froyo, going to the beach, or just hanging out together. No matter how you choose to spend the summer, stay safe and remember to make the most of it!





# Summer Movies

## By: Talulah Whelan

Look out cinephiles! The summer of 2026 has some incredible movies in store to add to your watchlist. There has already been huge buzz in the box office as we begin our summer watch season. The most prevalent trend has been an influx of young movie goers revitalizing the theaters as well as 20 year old auteurs gaining attention nationwide. The summer flicks to look out for are as follows:

*Backrooms* is a revolutionary A24 horror film directed by Kane Parsons who at 20 years old is the youngest director to ever top the domestic box office. The film was released on May 29, 2026 and has already had an influx of positive reviews. The movie is based on a YouTube series exploring an uncanny empty office hallway. The internet phenomenon that inspired the movie was adapted and evolved into a new kind of horror based on the liminal space.

*Obsession* written and directed by 26 year old Curry Barker was released May 15, 2026. The horror film follows Bear, a socially awkward man who uses a magical willow branch wish to enchant his crush Nikki and make her fall in love with him. This wish goes awry when Nikki does not just fall in love, but becomes obsessed. The love story quickly turns into a terrifying disaster rich with symbolism. Since its release, *Obsession* has received a rating of over 90% from both critics and fans.

Jordan Firstman is the writer, director and star of the film that was the subject of a bidding war after its premiere at Cannes, *Club Kid*. Acquired by A24 *Club Kid* follows a queer New York party promoter, Peter, who discovers that he has a 10-year old son. Forced to mature suddenly when he discovers that the boy's mother has died Peter must turn his life around and adjust to his new role as a father. Stay tuned for the theatrical release of the highly anticipated film.

*Fjord* was written and directed by Cristian Mungiu and premiered at Cannes on May 18, 2026. In the film a Romanian evangelical family is investigated when their daughter is discovered to have bruises. The conservative family, having recently relocated to a progressive town in Norway, finds themselves clashing with those around them on politics, religion and ideas of personal freedom.

# A Taste of Summer: The Season's Best Desserts

## By: Alana Durham

Summer break is finally here, which means more free time, warmer weather, and plenty of opportunities to spend time with friends and family. For many people, summer is the perfect season to get back into baking. Whether you're making desserts for a barbecue, a beach day, a big family gathering, or just late-night craving, there are tons of fun recipes to try this season.

One thing that makes summer baking different from the rest of the year is that people tend to look for desserts that are simple and refreshing. Instead of spending hours making complicated recipes, many bakers are choosing treats that are easy to make and perfect for hot weather. Desserts that use fresh fruit and tropical fruits are especially popular because berries, peaches, cherries, pineapple, watermelon, and even coconut are all in season during the summer months.

Another trend this year is making desserts inspired by favorite summer foods and activities. S'mores-flavored treats, ice cream-inspired desserts, and picnic-friendly snacks are showing up all over social media. People are also putting creative twists on classic recipes by mixing different flavors together, like strawberry lemonade cupcakes or peach cobbler cookies. These desserts feel familiar while still being something new to try.

Summer is also a great time to bake with friends. Since there's no homework or tests to worry about, baking can be a fun way to spend an afternoon together. It's an easy activity that lets everyone be creative, and the best part is getting to enjoy what you made afterward. Whether you're an experienced baker or just starting out, summer is the perfect time to experiment with new recipes.

If you're looking for some summer baking inspiration, here are a few desserts worth trying with some refreshing drinks that'll be perfect to have on a hot summer day:

Strawberry lemonade cupcakes

Peach cobbler

Blueberry crumb muffins

Cherry pie

S'mores brownies

S'mores cookies

Lemon raspberry bars

Fruit pizza with fresh berries

Key lime pie

Coconut cream pie

Strawberry cheesecake bars

Peach muffins

No bake strawberry Jell-o cheesecake

Strawberry shortcake

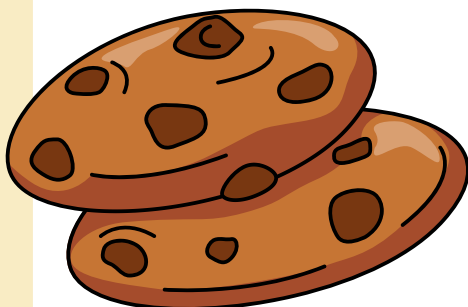
Lemon meringue pie

Mixed berry hand pies

Apple turnovers

Berry crisps

Fruit galettes





Banana bread  
Pineapple upside-down cake  
Banana pudding cookies  
Watermelon sugar cookies  
Lemon loaf cake  
Ice cream sandwich cookies  
Strawberry lemon trifle  
Piña colada lush  
Icebox cake  
Jell-o poke cake  
Cherry delight dessert  
Mixed berry tiramisu  
Piña colada poke cake  
Fresas con crema  
Root beer float pie  
Fried ice cream dessert bars  
Oreo mousse cake  
Strawberry crunch cheesecake  
Chocolate peanut butter no-bake cookies  
Rocky road rice krispies treats  
Fruit ice pops (watermelon, strawberry & rhubarb, mango)

Ice cream cone cupcakes  
Mango cheesecake  
Mini fruit tarts  
Homemade ice cream sandwiches  
Brown butter chocolate chip cookies  
Summer-inspired macarons

**Drinks:**

Classic lemonade  
Virgin piña colada  
Tropical fruit-flavored slushies (watermelon, coconut, mango, pineapple)  
Agua fresca de fresa cremosita  
Dirty sodas  
Mango-lime seltzers  
Virgin strawberry mojito  
Sparkling fruit mocktails  
Berry, melon, & mint iced tea

Overall, summer baking in 2026 is all about having fun, experimenting and trying new flavors, and making desserts that fit the relaxed vibe of summer break. Whether you're baking for a special event or just because you're bored on a rainy day, there's always a dessert and a refreshing summer drink that can make the season a little sweeter.



# **EDITORS IN CHIEF!**

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