



Advice for Next Year's 8th Graders From Someone Who Knows

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you're in 7th grade this year and heading to 8th grade next year, here are some tips for you! And trust me, these tips will make your 8th grade year so much easier!

First of all, most of you guys know that there will be an 8th grade D.C. trip and often when you're misbehaving you won't be able to go to the D.C. trip. So here are some tips on what NOT to do.

- Don't leave the classroom without permission.
- Try not to be late to classes.
- Don't act disrespectfully.
- Don't use inappropriate language.
- No horseplay.
- No bullying/teasing/or fighting.

These tips will help you be able to go on the D.C. trip without anyone getting in trouble. Because the D.C. trip will be one of the 8th grade memories you will NEVER forget!

Now here are tips for 8th grade in general, like studying tips, and what you should know when you go into 8th grade!

Have a planner to keep track of assignments, tests, and homework etc.

- Try note taking for every class it will be worth it, especially on the classes you struggle with.
- Manage your time
- Avoid drama if you don't want to get in trouble
- And lastly be yourself!



School's Ending Brings a Diversity of Emotions for Students



By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

As everybody knows, June 26 is the last day of school!

Many 6th graders are very excited because they either don't like school, are going on a vacation or have many excursions planned, or they just enjoy being at home or outside for summer.

Many 6th graders are also bittersweet about the topic, because they enjoy their friends or teachers at school, or they don't want to leave 6th grade, but they also like summer. On the other hand, a portion of the 6th graders don't want school to end because they love it and don't like summer.

Which one best describes you? I think I am bittersweet about it because I will miss my teachers and friends, and even being in 6th grade, but I love warm weather, having no school, and vacations or swimming in the pool or ocean.

In summary, there are mixed emotions from the 6th graders about the school year coming to an end

US Kicks Off Its World Cup Hopes Tonight

By Alden Heinkel
Tusker Tribune Staff

On the 11th of June 2026 the 2026 FIFA World Cup kicked off with Mexico defeating the Republic of South Africa 2-0. Later that evening, South Korea defeated Czechia 2-1. Tonight, USA faces Paraguay at 9:00.

This World Cup is the biggest tournament yet. Let me break down why. First of all, this World Cup features 48 teams, 16 teams more than the usual 32. There will be an insane 104 games in this tournament that stretches from June 11, 2026, to July 19, 2026.

You should also look for specific players like: *Erling Holland*. This Striker is an unstoppable force in front of the net. He has not won a World Cup yet, but a lot of people feel he is on track to win one.

Ronaldo (CR7) and *Lionel Messi*: These two icons are playing in what is most likely their last World Cup. Ronaldo has not yet won a World Cup and has led his team to win most of the tournaments this season and his team is a fierce competitor in this world cup.

As much as there are some great players retiring there are new and interesting players like:

Lamine Yamal. This 18-year-old winger is widely considered the most exciting player in the sport; this will be his first time playing in a World Cup and everyone is very excited to see how he will lead his team (España/Spain) and how he will handle the pressure.

Now for the big question, who will lead their team to victory? Watch the 2026 World Cup to find out (I know I will be).



Conan Gray Seamlessly Merges Music and Storytelling

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Conan Gray is an American singer and songwriter known for his honest lyrics and emotional storytelling. He was born on December 5, 1998, in Lemon Grove, California, and spent part of his childhood in Texas.

Before becoming a musician, he gained attention by creating videos on YouTube about his life, art, and interests. His music often explores themes such as love, heartbreak, and growing up. In 2020, he released his debut studio album, *Kid Krow*, which included popular songs like *Maniac* and *Heather*. He later released the albums *Superache* and *Found Heaven*, continuing to gain many loyal fans around the world.

Many listeners appreciate his relatable songwriting, distinctive voice, and creative style. Beyond music, Conan is known for his artistic visuals, stage performances, and connections with fans through social media. Like TikTok and YouTube. His career continues to grow, inspire young people everywhere to express themselves honestly and creatively.



Popularity of ‘Backrooms’ Brings It to the Forefront

By Ian Dempsey
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you heard of “The Backrooms”?

The Backrooms is a popular video series created by Kane Pixels (Kane Parsons) and it’s centered around a massive labyrinth that looks like an old office building. It originated from a 4chan post describing it as a large area, with yellow wallpaper, moist carpet, and buzzing lights.

The post says that if you’re not careful, you can “noclip” out of reality and into the backrooms. Now, this may not seem all that bad . . . but there’s a twist. Once you’re in the backrooms, not only can you not escape; but there’s also a creature chasing you. Scary, right? Scary enough to make an 18-video YouTube series about it.

The first video starts off basic--three people recording a video, when the cameraman trips and falls through the floor and into the backrooms. The protagonist is searching around when they come across a drawing on the wall. As the protagonist is examining it, they hear a distorted roar; they look next to them to see a tall pitch-black creature made of thick wires all twisted together and jumbled into a mess. This style of video is called “found footage”, and it’s usually horror videos recorded on an old camera to sell the effect of the camera or tape being found much later than when the video was recorded.

Kane Parsons shockingly didn’t go outside of reality to record the video. Instead he used Blender (A free 3d modeling and animating software) to make a captivating, surreal story. Kane Parsons’ videos inspired many more liminal space (a physical or psychological "in-between" place or state of transition) videos; in fact, his videos eventually ended up creating The Backrooms Movie (2026), directed by Kane himself!



Hold Onto Memories However You Can

By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

One of the most powerful things about humans is having memories that last forever. They allow people to hold on to important experiences, emotions and relationships long after they have passed.

Memories can be as simple as songs, photographs, or a smell that smelled like the smell you used to smell when we were younger. Because memories are closely connected to our emotions; they often have a lasting impact on how people think and feel.

One of my favorite memories that i have in my heart all the time is back when my cousins lived just 15 minutes away from me. Now that they live 55 hours and 25 minutes away, I miss them, more than I thought I would. I always felt like they would always be 15 minutes away. My favorite memories will always be the ones that involve them. I think about them all the time. They make me feel complete, even if they aren't here.



A Rainy, But Memorable Memorial Day Tournament

By Alden Heinkel

Tusker Tribune Staff

On May 23 The 25th annual Hershey Memorial Day challenge took place, organized by Hershey soccer club.

Over 500 teams in total competed. We drove to the hotel right after school on Friday. It was a four-hour drive from home to the Penn-Harris Hotel. When we walked into the hotel, there were kids everywhere.

There were six groups of around twenty kids. As we were waiting in line, we learned that quiet time was at 10 PM. When we went to our hotel room, we saw several kids ding-dong ditching rooms at random so . . . in summary, it was chaos.

After we got into our room, we went to see one of my friends in his room. As we left his room, it was 10, so a member of the hotel staff was going around and telling people to find their room. We went back to our hotel room and went to bed.

That morning, I woke up and put on my shorts, shin guards, and jerseys. I ate with my friend at First Watch, then we went back to the hotel, and after, we went to Hershey Chocolate World, which is basically a giant Hershey's gift shop. There was a small ride where you learned about how a Hershey's bar is made.

Afterwards, we went to the soccer field. It was raining really hard and the other team was playing really dirty. We scored one goal, then we scored another goal, and everyone was really cold. Finally, we won 2-0.

The next game we played, we won 1-0. The other team was playing really dirty and one of the other players even got a red card!

The next day we had another game against the Hershey SC team! I ended up getting a lot of playing time and we ended up winning 1-0. The Hershey team had lost all of their games so they got out.

Later, we had to play the Championship game, against the winner of the other bracket. We quickly scored, making it 1-0. We controlled most of the game, but one of their players slipped by us and scored, 1-1. Then the game time quickly ran out. We had to go to penalty kicks. The other team scored, then we did, then so on. It went on like that until we missed the 4th PK. The other team made it. We missed the next one but so did they. Then they scored the next one and we ended up losing. We got runner up and went home.

It was a great experience and worth it I will definitely go back next year.



Apollo 11 Moon Landing Inspires Space Travel 57 Years Later

By Allison Posadas

Tusker Tribune Staff



The Apollo 11 moon landing was the first mission to land humans on the moon. It launched on July 16, 1969, from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The crew included Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Micheal Collins.

Armstrong and Aldrin traveled to the lunar surface in the Lunar Module named “Eagle”, while Collins stayed in orbit in the command module. On July 20, 1969, Armstrong became the first person to step onto the moon and said the famous words “That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” Aldrin joined him shortly after. They collected rocks, took photographs, and set up experiments.

The mission proved that humans could travel to another celestial body and return safely. Apollo 11 returned to earth on July 24, 1969, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean, marking a major achievement in space exploration and human history forever inspiring future space exploration missions and scientists around the world today.

An Elevator Ride to a Place That Shouldn't Exist

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff



On the first day of summer break, it was supposed to be relaxing. Lilly was in her apartment building relaxing on the couch. One day, Lilly was walking up and down the hallway. And soon the elevator stopped at her floor; the elevator door opened, although no one pressed it.

The door soon closed shut . . . But then opened again . . .

When Lilly entered the elevator, it took her into a hallway that never ends. There were a bunch of clocks all over the wall.

The hallway was so silent. And every clock showed the time: 3:33.

And every apartment room door had the room numbers: "555"

The lights keep flickering. It would never stop. A shadow of a person was shown from beneath the apartment room door. And began to start moving towards Lilly.

Lilly kept on hearing loud footsteps. And she could not stop hearing it. Then everything went dark . . .

The Locker That Never Was

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

I always heard scratching noises from locker 1012 after school. At first, I ignored it. Schools make weird noises all the time. But one day, I stayed late for practice, and I saw the locker shaking.

I stopped, and was feeling unsure. And soon I reached for my phone to take a picture of the locker. When I looked up at the locker, the locker door creaked open slowly on its own. Inside was only pitch dark, darker than anything i have ever seen.

A small whisper echoed my name, and the lights above me flickered. A student walked by and asked what I was staring at, but I did not answer.

That night, I checked the school records and discovered that the locker I was staring at for 30 minutes didn't exist. There had never been a locker in the middle school in that space and it was never built there at all.



No Extra Help for Staying After School

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

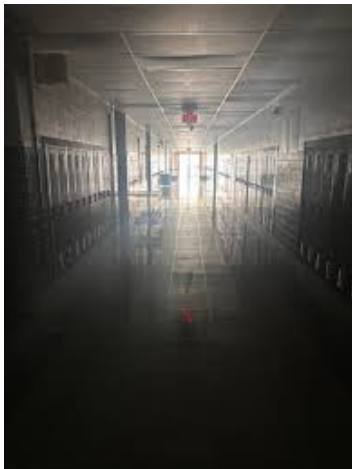
Lucy stayed late at school to finish a science project. As the building was getting quieter and quieter, the hallways felt longer than usual. Lucy started packing her bag and walked toward the exit. But soon the lights flickered above her and then she stopped as soon as she heard footsteps behind her again, but when she turned around, nobody was there.

Her heart started beating so fast. Lucy wanted to stay calm but the footsteps returned louder, but now it was echoing through the empty hallway.

Tap.
Tap.
Tap.

As soon as Lucy heard that she froze near the gym. And saw a shadow move across the wall disappearing around the corner. Lucy wouldn't move; she was thinking, *Maybe it was the school custodian making all these noises?* She laughed nervously, relieved and continued walking. But when she started exiting the school . . . she discovered that the doors were locked; there were no way out.

And the whole entire school was pitch black.



How the Worst Day Became the Best Day--Part 3

By Claire DiNardo
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor Note: Parts 1 and 2 of this story were published in last week's Tusker Tribune.

Monday

"What do you have for Lion Learning? I have a reading class. What about you?" I asked Mila.

"I have Dell," Mila answered as she went on about what she was doing there. We grabbed stuff from our lockers, and we walked up together because we both had Lion Learning on the third floor. In reading class, I was getting better. I felt good about my spelling and writing, and I really like reading and writing now.

A few weeks later

"Okay so today we are going to do a spelling test. I will just say a word and put it in a sentence, then you will write the word the way you think it is spelled."

A few words in, I felt good like I got all of them right so far. About 20 more words in, the bell rang and she said, "If we need to, we will do more but we will see we might not have to."

The next reading class came around fast and she said that another boy and I had to do a little bit more. She told us it was a good thing and that it means we got a lot right and we have to do more. We did some more words and other testing, and she said she would tell us to score.

The day

The day came, and she was going to tell us our scores. She said I got one of the highest scores she has had, and that I might be able to score out, and now every day I go to reading class, I have fun, especially now that I have been moved to the class with my best friend every A day.



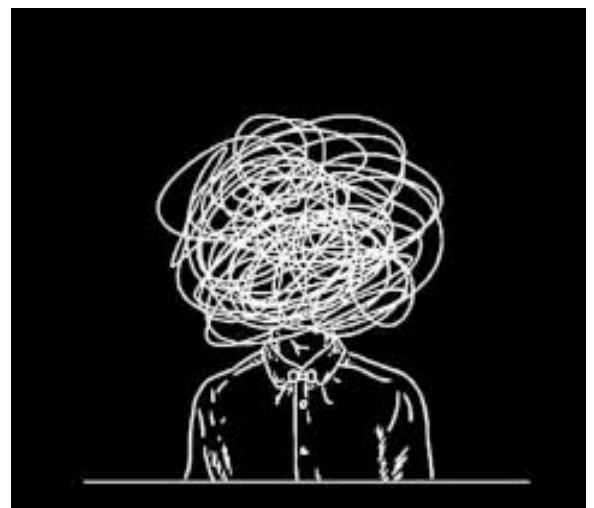
Overthinking is the Brain's Way of Playing a Video on a Loop

By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

We have all replayed conversations in our heads and have worried about earlier decisions after they were made. Overthinking has become a common habit for many of us, whether it involves school, friends, and grades.

Overthinking can cause lots of stress. It also makes simple conversations seem a lot harder than they really are. Psychologists believe that overthinking is often linked to anxiety, fear of failure, and not knowing what will happen in the future.

For me, this happens a lot, during tests, the simplest problems always make me overthink. Even if the test is in the morning, I always end up thinking about it throughout the day. This stresses me out a lot. People overthink because they want certainty. Social media can also contribute by comparing, which leads to overthinking. Overthinking can interfere with sleep and concentration. The brain often focuses on potential problems as a way of trying to stay safe.



Success Comes in All Shapes and Sizes

By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

What is the real meaning of success? As we can all guess, success is the most desired thing for all of us, whether it's getting the job we want or getting into the school we got into.

Some people believe success is measured differently, based on accomplishments, while some believe it is measured in pure happiness and loyalty, because everyone has different dreams and different priorities. So, does success have more than one single meaning? Well, no. But we all have different opinions. For example, a student might feel a lot better if they improved their test grade even by just a little bit or not having the highest grade.

However, if we all focus on success more than ourselves, we can forget how to enjoy the present. Success isn't just handed out; it requires discipline and consistency. Small accomplishments can be just as important as big ones. Personal growth is a form of success. So, there isn't just one meaning to success.



Does AI Help or Hurt?

By Jasline Alonzo Javier
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AI is helpful and harmful for students, depending on if the student is using it right.

The word "AI" stands for artificial intelligence, so it can answer questions and provide information. A lot of students use AI to help them understand school subjects, get some ideas for school projects, and they also learn new things from AI.

One way that AI can be helpful is that it explains topics to you that are hard for you in a simple way. If the student is confused about any subject at school, AI can provide explanations and examples. AI can also help students study by creating questions or even a practice test and reviewing the questions or lessons.

But AI can be harmful if the student depends on it too much. Students can use AI to copy answers instead of doing their own answers/work. And if the student copies the answer down, they learn nothing so it will make it harder for them to learn things. Also, AI can say false things, so when a student writes an answer from AI, it could be wrong. These are some reasons why AI is helpful or harmful for students.



8 STEPS TO improve self-talk

- Awareness
- Affirmations
- Intent
- Breathle
- Meditate
- Review
- Movement
- Appreciation

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Daydreaming is Your Brain Getting Up to Stretch

By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

Why do humans daydream? Have you ever been in class listening to music, or sitting quietly when your mind suddenly wanders into its own world, or elsewhere? This experience is known as daydreaming, and it happens to nearly everyone. Although it is often viewed as a distraction, psychologists say daydreaming can help with creativity, planning and self-reflection.

By understanding how daydreaming works, scientists and researchers can learn more about how the brain processes thoughts, emotions and even future goals. Daydreaming can help process lots of things, like emotions. For your future self you would daydream about future careers. Daydreaming helps people explore different ideas without leaving their current surroundings.

The ability to imagine many different possibilities is one of the reasons why humans are so creative. Scientists estimate that people spend a large portion of their waking hours letting their minds wander. The brain also has a network called the “default mode network” that becomes active when people are not focused on a specific task. When in that case, I usually can't focus on one thing alone, especially if it is boring.



Music Makes Memorizing Much More Muscular

By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered why we can remember song lyrics after hearing it only a few times, but we struggle to remember basic information for a test? This common experience has led psychologists and scientists to study the connection between music and memory.

Research suggests that repetition of emotions and rhythm makes songs easier for the brain to remember. By understanding how music affects memory, people can gain insight into how the brain learns and stores information. Music uses repetition, which helps strengthen memory. Songs often contain patterns that make information easier to memorize. Melodies create associations that make recalling lyrics easier. Music also activates multiple parts of the brain at once. Lyrics are often connected to melodies, making them easier to remember. Advertisements and advertisers use catchy songs and jingles because they are way more memorable.

Many students use songs to help memorize facts and vocabulary. The next time a song gets stuck in your head, it may be a reminder of how powerful music can be when trying to help the brain learn and remember information.

