

Thank you to our dinner-donating parents!

Linda McKeon Rachel Lewis
Elaina Lippsett Lisa Jacobson
Jenn and Mike Young Melissa Freeman
Lynette Werthwein Kristin Keating
Tier Higgins-Kirk Michelle McKeon

One Liners

Break a leg Addison and Cast! Love, Aunt Christine & Uncle Billy
E.J., - We are so proud of you! Keep reaching for the stars! - Uncle Richie, Aunt
Danielle, Savannah + Cannoli

Keep being AMAZING Alex! We love you! - The Burgos Family
Ms. Gower! You are the best director ever! Thank you for all you do!

To the whole cast and crew! Break a leg + Have a blast!

Best of luck to my gorgeous girlfriend Ellie! Love, Jesse

Break a leg Elle Belle, ❤️ Papa and Grandma

Go Layla! Good cast and crew! - The Lippsetts

Keep up the good work Jada - Larry Gunnell

"Break a Leg" - D.B. Lewis

Wishing you all the best and more - Mom and Mr. T

You were made for this !! - Mom's coworkers

Keep making us proud - Your Cousins

Name boosters for Ellie Panas: Janice Moran and Jesse Olea

Name boosters for Jada Dawson: Nanno, Poppa Cal, Nichelle Tate, Lillian Settles,

Kendrick Morissey, Andre Johnson, Milton Morris, Brian Dailey, Prue Smith,

Barksdale, Clyde Horton, Jarryd Megargel, Miss Denise, Mr. Brandon

Special thanks to the OTHS Administration and Custodians for all of their efforts,
Jaime Gilmore and family for all of their pickup truck help!

November 20th, 21st, and 22nd

THE SPARTAN PLAYERS PRESENT

RUMORS

Writtten by...
Neil Simon

FEATURING SENIORS

Lucas Branquinho Addison McKeon Ciani-J Higgins Kirk Nazhon Sanders E.J Young



At an anniversary dinner party for the Deputy Mayor of New York and his wife, guests arrive to find the host wounded from a mysterious gunshot and his wife missing. To avoid scandal, the couples invent lies and excuses, which spiral into absurd and abrupt chaos. When the police arrive, the frantic guests scramble to cover up the truth. The real story may never be revealed — this show is a highlight of the chaos that comes from misunderstandings and wild RUMORS.

JACK ANDRUS

Sound & Lighting Supervisor

CHELSEA GOWER

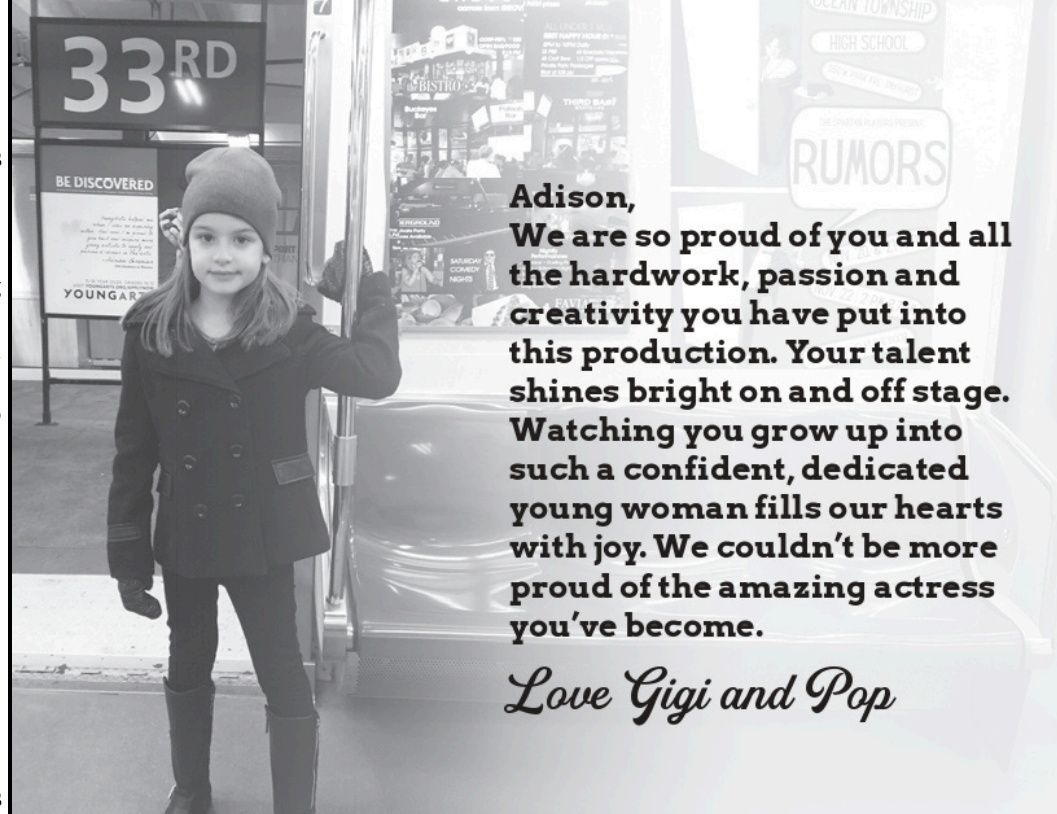
Director
& Technical Director

CAST

(in appearance order)

Ken.....	Nazhon Sanders
Chris.....	Jada Dawson
Lenny.....	E.J Young
Claire.....	Addison McKeon
Ernie.....	Lucas Branquinho
Cookie.....	Harmony Greene
Glenn.....	Nic Rindner
Cassie.....	Adison Werthwein
Welch.....	Elijah McKeon
Pudney	Ciani Higgins-Kirk
Chris u/s.....	Larissa Alves
Claire u/s.....	Kiley Rosell
Ernie u/s.....	Jason Harris
Cookie u/s.....	Alex Beaman
Cassie u/s.....	Ellie Panas
Welch u/s.....	Amore Alphonse
Pudney u/s.....	Kendall Hernandez

there will be one 15 minute intermission.



Adison,
We are so proud of you and all the hardwork, passion and creativity you have put into this production. Your talent shines bright on and off stage. Watching you grow up into such a confident, dedicated young woman fills our hearts with joy. We couldn't be more proud of the amazing actress you've become.

Love Gigi and Pop



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Production and Crew

Costume Supervisor...

Addison McKeon

Wardrobe Crew...

Lucas Branquinho, & Jada Brielle Dawson,

Harmony Greene

Supervisor of Hair & Makeup...

Cat Dizon & Angelina Martinez

Hair & Makeup Crew...

Avery Harper, Elijah McKeon, Amoré Alphonse

Layla Lippsett, JJ Regaspi, Brooke Navarrette, E'moni Reynolds

Properties Mistress...

Ciani Higgins-Kirk

Asst. Props Master ...

Evlyn Boaventura

Student Producer...

Sam Sheridan

House Manager...

Jace Beyer

Chief Playbill Editor...

Ben Jacobson

Front of House, Playbill, & Marketing Team...

Ellie Panas, Larissa Alves,

E.J. Young, Alexandra Beaman, Gerren DeSouza, Adison Werthwein

Marketing Director...

Ben Jacobson

Web/ Social Media Manager...

Alex Beaman

Asst. Social Media Manager...

Sophia Montalvo & Ellie Panas

Print Media Manager

Alex DiGiovanni

Poster Design & Photography ...

Chelsea Gower

T shirt Design ...

Julia Imbro

Educational Outreach...

Harmony Greene



EJ Young • Leonard Ganz

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E.J - YOU ARE A STAR.

CONGRATS TO ALL CAST AND CREW!!

**LOVE, GRANDMA ELLIE, AUNT GAIL, UNCLE
ANTHONY, CHRIS, AUNT CAROL, UNCLE JOE,**

KATIE AND MICHAEL ❤️

Production and Crew

Stage Manager..... Truly Freeman
Asst. Stage Manager.....Anettie Sainvilus
Master Carpenter.....Justin Carchi-Ramirez
Lead Scenic Artist.....Rex Rogati
Stage Crew..... Evlyn Boaventura, Maija Knauer,
Rex Rogati, Cash Bereza, Kate Sabbagh,
Kendall Hernandez, Madelyn Perry,
Samantha Sheridan, Ciani Higgins-Kirk,
William Suozzo, David Furda, Lynn-Stacy Blaise, Mia Torres

Student Directors.....Sophia Montalvo, Maya Tal,
Izzy Mantore

Student Sound Supervisor.....Aaron Ford
Student Lighting Supervisor.....Marilyn Marinho
Sound & Lighting Crew.....Marayah Marinho, Ryan Tilton,
Michael Trinh, Jay Hayes, Samantha Hosking



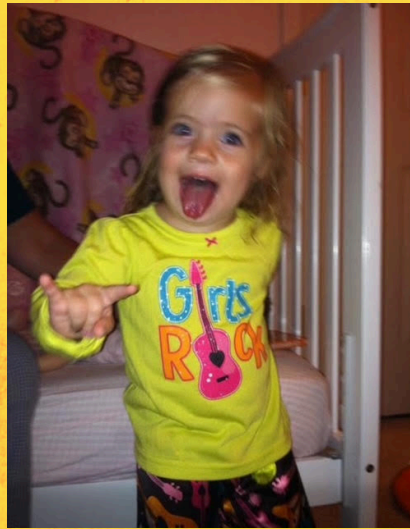
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ALEX

Good luck today, Alex! Your dedication and creativity are inspiring. We are so proud of how much passion and commitment you give in everything you do. Break a leg and enjoy every moment!

Love, Aunt Meggie and Uncle Tony

Addison.

Shine bright Addison!

So proud of our senior star!



LOVE, GRANDMA AND POP-POP



Amore Alphonse

Amore Alphonse is a Junior Theatre Major in the Spartan School of VPA and is thrilled to be playing Officer Welch (U / S) in 'The Spartan Players' production of Rumors! You may have seen her as Xavia Jones in Puffs or as the Defense Lawyer in their Basie Award winning production of Machinal. In addition to performing, Amore is also a proud member of the 'Hair and Makeup Crew, where she enjoys bringing characters to life behind the scenes. She would like to thank Ms. Gower and everyone involved in making this production possible. Amore extends special gratitude to her mother and grandparents for their endless support, and to her wonderful friends for always lifting her spirits.

Larissa Alves

Larissa Alves is a Junior. She is excited to perform in her first production with the Spartan Players, Rumors as Chris Gorman (U / S)! A proud Junior, she has loved every moment of bringing this hilarious show to life with her castmates. Larissa's favorite memory from the production was the dressing room breaks with endless laughter and jokes. She dedicates this performance to her sister for her encouragement to always follow her dreams.



Alex Beaman

Alex Beaman is a Junior Theatre Major. She has been in two musicals as a Spartan Player and Rumors is her first straight-play where she is thrilled to be playing Cookie (U / S). She would like to thank her family and Ms. Gower for supporting and believing in her. She is so excited to share the stage with her best friends and to have this experience again. Thank you to all cast and crew for making this show happen!! :)



Lucas Branquinho

Lucas Branquinho is ecstatic to play Ernie in his final fall play with the Spartan Players! He is a Senior Theatre Major & his previous roles include Seymour in Little Shop of Horrors, various roles in Machinal, & Damian in Mean Girls. He also has been in the Costuming & the Hair & Makeup crew for all shows + PUFFS. He would like to thank Ms. Gower for the amazing experience throughout his three years in Drama Club.



Jada Dawson

Jada Dawson is a Junior Theatre Major. She is so excited and honored to be in her third Spartan Players Production as Chris Gorman. Previous roles she had were, Taylor W. in Mean Girls and Crystal in Little Shop of Horrors. She dedicates this show to her family and friends who have supported her and all of her accomplishments. She would also like to thank Ms. Gower for pushing her to her fullest potential! Lastly, she would like to say to follow your passions in life and don't let anyone get in the way of what you love to do!!



Harmony Greene

Harmony Greene is a Junior Theatre Major. She's so excited to make everyone giggle with her character Cookie. She's ready for her first play and so excited to share it with everyone. She would like to dedicate this performance to her mom and her grandma who are her real-life Cookies! Harmony also appreciates everyone who came to support the show!



Bravo, EJ!!

We love watching you shine!! We are so proud of you!!

Love - Nonni & Poppi



Alex, you've been performing since you were just a little girl, and time has shown you to have grown as an adult and performer. I am so proud of you and all of your accomplishments!

Love you,
Minnie

ELLIE



Congratulations Ellie on the role of Cassie! You always shine bright in all you do. We love you so much!
Love, Mom, Dad, Sophia, and Yiayia xoxo

Addison,

Spotlight's yours
Addison!! Keep lighting
up the stage!

Love, Mom Dad and Kaylin



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Mema and Pops

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Jason Harris

Jason Harris is very excited to be in his first Spartan Players Production as Ernie Cusack (U / S). Currently, he is enrolled as a Sophomore VPA Theatre Major. He was Michael in The Layover and can't wait to get more experience through this play. This is Jason's first year in the Drama Club, and he is ready to explore this new pathway in his life. He would like to dedicate this performance to his family who have always been there for him along with Ms. Gower and the crew for helping him throughout the way.

Kendall Hernandez

Kendall Hernandez is a Sophomore VPA Theatre Major and is so excited to be in her second Spartan Players Production as Pudney & Myra (U / S)! Some of her previous experiences include the First Reporter in Machinal and French Teacher in Mean Girls. Kendall would like to dedicate this performance to her family for supporting her through this journey, Ms. Gower, and the cast and crew!



Ciani Higgins-Kirk

Ciani Higgins-Kirk is a Senior VPA Theatre Major and is excited to be apart of her fifth Spartan Players Production as Officer Pudney. She has been apart of Puffs, Mean Girls, Machinal, Little Shop, and now Rumors! Ciani's first show was Puffs, where she was featured as Sally Perks and fell in love with the stage. She is so overcome with emotion as she tackles her last play in her high school career and is grateful for everyone supporting her on her journey to bigger things.



Addison McKeon

Addison McKeon is a Senior VPA Theatre Major, and she is very excited to be in her fifth Spartan Players Production as Claire Ganz in Rumors! Previous credits include Audrey II in Little Shop of Horrors and Ms. George in Mean Girls. Addison would like to thank her friends and family for the non-stop support. She would also like to dedicate this performance to Ms. Gower for always believing in her!



Elijah McKeon

Elijah Adeline McKeon is a Sophomore Theatre Major and is thrilled to perform in another show with the Spartan Players as Officer Welch. Previous roles include Wino/ Puppeteer in Little Shop of Horrors and Janis Sarkisian in Mean Girls Jr. She dedicates this performance to her friends, her amazing mom, Eli, June, Ms. Gower, and the hardworking cast and crew of Rumors!



Ellie Panas

Ellie Panas is a Sophomore Theatre Major and is so excited for her second year doing the school shows! Her freshman year was a blast playing a reporter in Machinal and a Gutter Girl in Little Shop of Horrors. She is thrilled to play Cassie (U/ S) with this amazing cast! She would like to thank her family for being her number one supporters and Ms. Gower for giving her chances of a lifetime!



YOU HAD A DREAM AND WENT FOR IT...



**EJ -
YOU ROCK!!**
CLASS OF 2026

**YOU AMAZE US EVERY SINGLE SHOW!!!
SO COOL SEEING YOU ON STAGE DOING
WHAT YOU LOVE TO DO!!!**

LOVE, MOM, DAD, MILLANA, LINUS, + PEARL

Elijah,

I GUESS THIS ALL STARTED YEARS AGO.



NO MATTER WHERE THIS
JOURNEY TAKES YOU, I WILL
FOREVER BE YOUR BIGGEST FAN.

Love, Mommy

P.S. *I'm* a real cop, you understand?

P.P.S. I love you forever and ever, and no matter what.



Nic Rindner

Nic Rindner is a Junior and he plays Glenn Cooper in this year's Spartan Players' fall Production, Rumors. Nic made his debut in the fall of last year with Richard Roe in Machinal, and can't wait to return to stage in his third production. He would like to dedicate this performance to his wonderful parents.

Kiley Rosell

Kiley Rosell is a Freshmen Theatre Major and is so excited to be in her first Spartan Players Production as Claire Ganz (U/S)! Some notable roles include Mal in the musical Descendants Jr. and Mr. Duvall in Mean Girls Jr. She would like to dedicate this performance to her mother for always supporting her as well as Ms. Gower for being an amazing teacher and director.



Nazhon Sanders

Nazhon Sanders is Senior and is super excited to make his Spartan Players debut as Ken Gorman in Rumors. Although very new to all this, he is greatly thankful for the opportunity he has been presented and is very ready. He proudly dedicates his performance to his friends, family, cast, crew and his favorite teacher, Ms. Gower, for their support and encouragement throughout his journey.



Adison Werthwein

Adison Werthwein is a Junior VPA Major. She is so excited to be in her fourth Spartan Players Production as Cassie Cooper! Her previous credits include Dance Team in Mean Girls, Reporter Two in Machinal and one of the Urchins in Little Shop of Horrors. She would like to dedicate this performance to her mom, dad and sister Ella for always showing their support in everything she does. She would also like to give a big thanks to Ms. Gower for her dedication and hard work that made this show possible!



E.J. Young

E.J. Young is a Senior Theatre Major and is looking forward to playing Lenny in the production of Rumors. His previous credits include roles such as Orin in Little Shop of Horrors, Aaron in Mean Girls, & Husband in Machinal. This will be his 6th show overall and his last time taking the stage in a fall drama. E.J. would like to thank Ms. Gower and the Drama Club for the incredible opportunities they have given him. He would like to dedicate this performance to Ms. Gower, his family, and his friends both in and out of Drama Club.



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Half tray stuffed mushrooms
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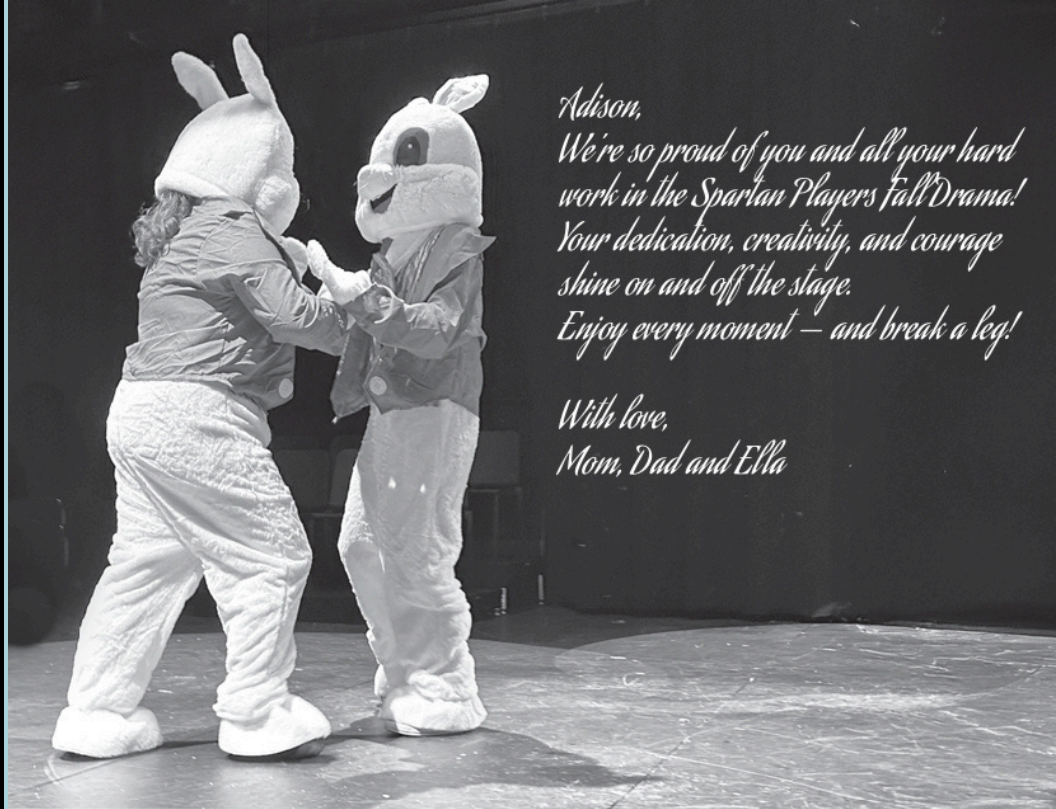
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*Adison,
We're so proud of you and all your hard
work in the Spartan Players Fall Drama!
Your dedication, creativity, and courage
shine on and off the stage.
Enjoy every moment — and break a leg!*

*With love,
Mom, Dad and Ella*

Break a leg, Spartan Players!!!

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Adison,
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proud of all your
accomplishments,
excited to see what
lies ahead for you
and love you so
very much.

Break a leg,
Mema & Pepa



CIANI

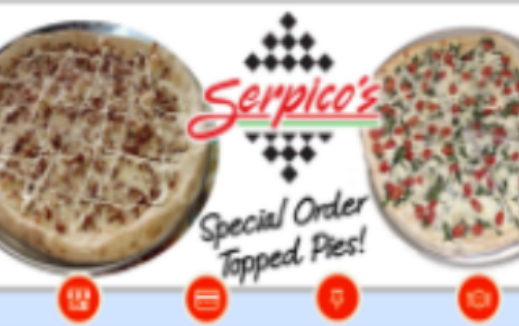
Break a leg Cî!

We love you



-Mom, Dad,
Sanaï, Zahir,
and DJ





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Jada,



We love you!! Sky's the limit!

XOXO

Your Family ❤️

Congratulations
and
Best Wishes
To Our Star!!!
Jada Briele Dawson
aka
Chris Gorman

Looking forward to
another stellar performance!
I am so proud of you!!
Continue to SHINE QUEEN!!

Love, Aunt Kelly



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Harmony

Keep reaching for your dreams. This is your second big show, I
can't express how happy and proud of you we are. Keep doing
what you are doing, and Broadway here we come!



Love,
Mom, Melody,
Melvin, and Mama Ann ❤️

RUMORS

and how they've spread.

IN A FARCICAL SITUATION AS SEEN IN
OUR PRODUCTION OF RUMORS, WE
TEND TO FORGET THEIR TRUE IMPACT.

In a show like Rumors, you can expect wild things to happen as a result of misunderstandings. Just look at the final monologue: Lenny (pretending to be Charley) manages to concoct a 2 page monologue all about what **allegedly** happened that night. Spoiler alert: it's all a lie. This show is a farce, meaning the crazy plot of the show is all played for laughs. The misunderstandings in this show are hilarious and make for an entertaining night. However, the true impact of rumors cannot go unstated.

The schooling environment lends itself to rumors being spread. Hundreds of pre-teens and teenagers are stuffed into a building each day, and through their interactions, people hear different sides of the same story. Like the saying goes, Rumors spread like wildfire.

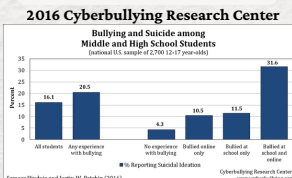
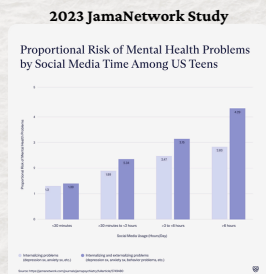
I had the pleasure of sitting in on a rehearsal where the cast shared their experience with rumors to connect more with the show. Whilst observing, our director Chelsea Gower said something that stuck out to me:

"Being a teacher, I've overheard a student tell someone the daily gossip at 7am. Later at 1pm, I'll overhear that same story coming from another person, and it's been blown out of proportion. Within the day."



Stock image.

This isn't new. Rumors and gossip are regular parts of schools and social gatherings alike. However, they've taken a new form with social media. Social media manages to remove the separation of school and home. Kids have gone from bullying students in the classroom to bullying them after-school hours. Through Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, and more, students can't avoid the gossip. If a rumor is being spread about a student, they can hear about it through others texting and posting about it. As a teenager, there is so much to figure out: your identity, your sexuality, your people. If home was ever an escape, it isn't anymore: you have to deal with peoples' assumptions about you online as well. With all barriers removed, the results haven't been great. A 2023 study found that risk of mental health problems increases as social media use increased. Adding to that, a 2016 Cyberbullying Research center saw that 31.6% of teens reporting suicidal ideation were being bullied online and at school, a jump from the 11.5% bullied at school only. With the pandemic and increased social media use through TikTok, we can only expect that 2016 number to have increased.



While our production doesn't take place in the social-media-era, it's important to remember the effect of rumors and apply them to your life, especially for teenagers. It's so easy for people to spread rumors about others with the click of a button, but we have to refrain.

Treat others the way you want to be treated. Be respectful. Remember that your digital footprint is permanent. These golden rules are repeated to us constantly, whether in school or at home or in various ways throughout life. Yet, it takes a truly righteous person to apply them day-in and day-out. Be that person.

HOW TO HELP.

1. DONATE TO CHARITIES

There are various charities that try to help victims of cyberbullying and aid the teenager mental health crisis. You can find a notable one, the JED foundation, at the QR Code to the right. It is encouraged to look for more.

2. KEEP GOOD HABITS

It is important to take it upon yourself to not be a rumor-spreader yourself. Be mindful of what your word can do to others. Try to stay away from the daily gossip. It is only harmful.

3. SPREAD THE WORD

To increase your impact, stop misinformation in its tracks when you see it. Encourage others to not spread rumors and apply the mindsets you are trying to inhabit. With more and more people being mindful of the effect of rumors, we decrease its presence in our local community.



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