Delivering high school news...one page at a time!

Pine-Richland Rampage

ISSUE #4 Thursday October 29, 2026

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FALL BEGINS



Juniors Eve Pellathy, Chloe Shute, Mikaela George, Juliette Pala

PR Local

KELS Returns to PR

Singer and Past PR Graduate Takes the Spotlight

AARON MANCINI STAFF WRITER

PR's music ensemble hosted a special assembly in which the singer KELS, a member of Pine-Richland Class of 2014 and alumni, was featured in the high school auditorium.

The assembly, which took place during 8th and 9th period, featured her viewpoint on the music industry and life experiences as an artist, from recording in a storage unit to singing in front of 300,000 people at the NFL Draft. She also sang three of her songs: “Gone,” “Call Me,” and “Daddy’s Not the One.”

Kelsey was always a musically-inclined student in high school. She was a Chamber Singer, and although also an athlete, she quit sports to pursue musicals from 9th to 11th grade. She began to write songs at age 13. Mr. Rickard, the director of Chamber Singers, notes not only the power of Kelsey’s voice, but also her vocal versatility. “She sang jazz like no other,” he said.

Despite her musical talent, Kelsey was never given lines for any musicals as a freshman, sophomore, or junior. When the same happened her senior year, she quit and started an acapella group. She said, “High school isn’t where your life starts. If you don’t get picked in high school, it doesn’t mean there aren’t people who want to listen to you. You’re just with the wrong crowd.”

She applies this idea to her early life after high school. Her parents weren’t always supportive of her career choice, as they wanted her to have a standard 9 to 5 job.



KELS singing in the Pine-Richland High School Auditorium

“I was in a nonprofit space and did music on the side until Covid hit. Then I had to decide. If I kept treating music like a side job, I would keep getting side results,” Kelsey said.

When Kelsey was first on the road, she also started a cleaning business in Atlanta to stay afloat. It felt awkward for her to be around friends who were already successful with high-paying jobs. Kelsey encourages students

PR Local

who want to go into the music field to take any gigs, big or small, to make themselves more known and find what kind of people like to hear their sound.

She found a producer in 2018 in Pittsburgh and the two began to work together. Today, she still has the same producer as well as a second producer and a mastering engineer. Kelsey gave advice from personal experiences on getting a producer, in that it is extremely difficult to afford multiple producers in the beginning of an artist's career, which is why she chose to begin with one she trusted. She also discussed the importance of having a producer that "doesn't discount you for what you bring to the table," which she says she sees occur especially to women.



KELS singing

Even after all of her years in the field, Kelsey only began to gain serious traction in January of 2026 and has been increasing in popularity ever since. Although she is now often recognized on the street, she still doesn't have a label and creates music independently. She plans to keep singing until she finds a label she is comfortable with.

Kelsey's story is nothing short of triumphant and serves as a testament to the distance that perseverance can bring a person, especially someone in a growing competitive field where very few end up succeeding. She says, "If you are looking to come down this path, it's a lot of trial and error. It doesn't happen overnight."



KELS with music teacher Mr. Rickard

PR Local

The Senior Class Photo

The Class of 2027 Leaves Their Mark

JULIA JAKOVAC STAFF WRITER

On Friday, September 25th, the Class of 2027 gathered on the Pine-Richland football field for a senior tradition: the class photo. Instead of simply gathering together for a picture, the seniors became the picture itself. Standing side-by-side across the field, the Class of 2027 was arranged to spell out “2027” with their bodies, creating a photo that captured the entire graduating class in one frame.

Although the photo only took a few minutes to create, the tradition represents much more than a number on a football field. For years, Pine-Richland senior classes have gathered to create their own class number, giving each graduating class a chance to leave its mark on the school.

For the Class of 2027, the photo is one of the first reminders that senior year is officially underway. Students who have spent years walking the same hallways, sitting in the same classrooms and cheering from the same stands are now beginning their final year together.



Class of 2027 Final Picture

Halloween

Halloween Costumes!

Best Ideas for 2026

JOHN MOODY STAFF WRITER

With Halloween right around the corner, students might be unsure what costume they want to wear for the holiday. However, Halloween costumes often reflect recent pop culture moments, so there are plenty of good ideas this year.

Movies

In my opinion, movies are the most popular and best form of media for Halloween costumes. This year, a ton of famous movies came out that are perfect for costumes. Some of them include **Spider-Man** from Spider-Man: Brand New Day, **Odysseus** from The Odyssey, **Mario characters** from The Super Mario Galaxy, **Toy Story** characters from Toy Story 5, **Ryland Grace** from Project Hail Mary, **Captain Clark** from The Backrooms, and **Supergirl** from Supergirl. There are obviously many more movie characters that you can choose from, but those are some of the most popular ones.

TV Shows

TV shows are also an amazing form of entertainment for fun Halloween costumes. Some good Halloween costumes from shows are **South Park characters** from South Park season 11, **Dr. Michael Robinavitch** from The Pitt, **Bridgerton characters** from Bridgerton season 4, **Spider-Noir** from Noir, **Stranger Things characters** from the finale of Stranger Things, and **Peacemaker** from Peacemaker. As you can see, there are many characters to choose from in these TV shows, and there are many more famous TV shows that I didn't mention in this paragraph.

The Classics

Even though 2026 had some awesome costume ideas, you can never go wrong with the classic pop culture ideas, like **Star Wars characters**, **Marty McFly** from Back to the Future, **Ghostbusters**, **Jack Sparrow** from Pirates of the Caribbean, **Ghostface** from Scream, **Superheroes**, and **Michael Myers** from Halloween.



Spider-Man Brand New Day Halloween costume

Halloween

Steel City Spooks: Pittsburgh's Wildest Halloween Lineup Yet!

Celebrate Season in the Three Rivers

SOPHIE ILGAZ STAFF WRITER

Halloween is around the corner, and Pittsburghers are ready to be frightened. This year, there are festivals, parades, and my personal favorite: haunted houses.

2026 offers Haunted Fest, an indoor electronic music festival at Stage AE featuring artists like Tape B and Mersiv. There will be food and drinks and scary decorations all around the building. And to really kick off the spooky season, KEMBA Live is having its indoor and outdoor music concert! Promowest North Shore describes it as "one-of-a-kind" with its reversible stages, state-of-the-art lighting, acoustic systems, and light shows. People around the world come to see these shows, entertaining over 275,000 people each year, and Haunted Fest will be presenting! I don't normally go to these kinds of festivals, but this year, Pittsburgh is raising the stakes, making this one of the best Halloween festivals yet to come.

This year, the "Pumpkin Patch Parade" will be held in the Mt. Lebanon Recreational Center on the 31st of October. The parade will consist of inflatables, lots of seasonal foods and drinks, and best of all- trick-or-treating! People will be able to wear their costumes and dress up as they watch the parade pass by on the sidewalks between Shady Dive and Lebanon Avenue. And best of all, it's free!

In my opinion, the best part of Halloween is the feeling of chills rolling down your spine at Haunted Houses. This year the Haunted House is Hundred Acres Manor in Bethal park. It's the top rated haunted house in Pittsburgh,



Haunted House Flyer

Each house has a different objective and a different background story. DiscoverTheBurgh calls it "A good scare indeed." I am very excited to try this house out because the reviews are extremely positive, and as someone who loves to be scared, this is my favorite part of Halloween.

So grab your costume, gather your friends, and get ready to turn the Steel City into your personal haunted playground this October!

Sources: Haunted Fest Pumpkin Patch Parade Haunted House

Halloween

Halloween Expectations and Excitement

Students Gear Up to Have a Fun and Safe Holiday

JOSIE CHRISTY STAFF WRITER

As we wave October goodbye, students patiently await the excitement that is occurring at the end of the month. Halloween is finally approaching, and talk of costumes, parties, and candy are echoing through the halls of PR. Along with the holiday's festivities, there are many factors to be aware of during the Halloween weekend, and it is important to be aware and safe on this exciting day.

Local Halloween Festivities:

The months surrounding Halloween are always full of activities. One of the most popular Halloween activities are haunted houses. These frightening experiences are sure to keep you on your toes and scared. Houses like Hundred Acres Manor and Zombies of the Corn are haunted houses that have been widely visited for years. Experiences like these are sure to get you in the spooky mood, and they are always so much fun overall. The Phantom Fall Fest is also occurring at Kennywood through November. This festival at the park has the motto "Play All Day, Fright All Night," and they certainly live up to this slogan. Through the day, park-goers are able to enjoy the rides and attractions that Kennywood has to offer. Meanwhile, seven haunted houses and four scare zones are activated during the night, allowing thrill seekers to experience scares around the park. This is an amazing Halloween adventure that everyone should experience.

Safety:

While Halloween may be a night filled with costumes and candy, it is important to keep safety in mind. Whether you are trick-or-treating or just walking around with friends, be sure to be aware of your surroundings. Walk on sidewalks, stay with your friends, and be aware of cars. Make sure your costume itself is safe, assuring that you are able to breathe and move properly. If you are driving, be responsible and watch carefully for pedestrians and slow down in neighborhoods. Most importantly, regarding Halloween parties, make smart choices, stay with people you trust, and make sure everyone gets home safely. Doing all of these things assures that this night can be remembered for all the right reasons!

As this exciting holiday approaches, there are plenty of ways to get in the spirit, whether that is wearing a fun costume, checking out local festivities, or simply spending quality time with friends and family. With all of these activities happening in our community, it is also very important to participate safely and enjoy the holiday. Remember to stay safe, have fun, and make the most of the Halloween season.



Juniors Josie Christy, Myla Lavezoli, and Allie Woessner at a Halloween party in 2023

Halloween

Favorite Halloween Candy

Which Treats Overrule the Others?

BIANCA WAID STAFF WRITER

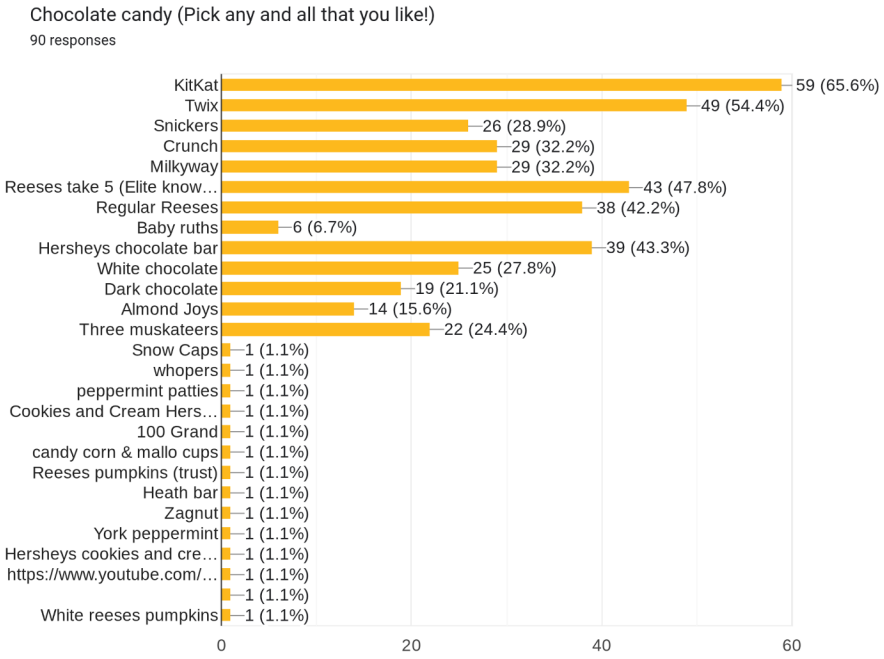
Halloween candy: how can someone choose if there are so many different kinds- chocolate candy, gummy candy, and hard candy? But which candy overrules all of the candy? We all love a good trick-or-treating night with our costumes, so I asked a lot of people what candy they run to when they see a big bowl of sweets.

Chocolate Candy winners

I will say I was shocked at the winner for chocolate candy. I never pictured this as the most popular, but the king of chocolate candy was **KITKATS**. KitKats are chocolate-covered wafers and a delicious chocolate candy that a lot of people favor. Coming in second place for chocolate candy is **TWIX**. Personally, I love a good Twix bar, and I see that a lot of people agree. Twix bars are caramelly and crunchy, the perfect mixture for the second-place medal. Running in third place for chocolate candies is **REESE'S TAKES 5**. This is such a good chocolate bar, and honestly, I did not think a lot of people liked this chocolate bar. Take 5s are pretzels mixed with a Reese's, crunchy peanut butter goodness for the third-place medal.

Gummy Candy

Some people aren't big chocolate lovers; don't worry, guys, I saw you! First place medal for the gummies goes to...**GUMMY BEARS** and **GUMMY WORMS**; they ended up being tied for first place! Both are such good gummies; honestly, I see the struggle to pick just one. Third place goes to **GUMMY SHARKS**. I've seen a lot of gummy sharks around, and I'm so glad that they got third place; such a good gummy to eat on Halloween night.



Survey Responses

Hard/underrated candies

First place goes to **M&M's**; I did not see that coming. I have not seen a lot of M&M eaters out there! Glad to see some rising and showing how good they are. Coming in second place is **JOLLY RANCHERS**. I did not see that coming either. I'm so happy people recognized this candy; it's a nice candy, and usually the bag of them lasts a long time.

Last but not least, tied for third are **SKITTLES** and **STARBURSTS.** I love me some Starbursts and Skittles, very underrated candies; I'm overjoyed to see how loved they are by all of you!

PR People

Teacher Spotlight

Meet New Orchestra Instructor Mr. Vranesevic

KASEY MEYERS STAFF WRITER

Q: What is your favorite part about being an orchestra teacher?

A: “My favorite part of being an orchestra teacher is the music, thinking about what we are going to play or how we can get better.”

Q: When did you start playing an instrument?

A: “I started playing violin when I was in third grade. That would have been in the 2000s and I switched to bass because my dad was a bass player.”

Q: Did you have any struggles coming to Pine-Richland? If so, what were they?

A: “Some struggles this year are learning the new processes and learning the new rules in this school. But as far as teaching orchestra is all pretty much the same”

Q: Do you have a favorite artist you prefer your students to play?

A: “I don't think there is one favorite musician. In class, we are playing some classical and jazz. We play multiple genres.”

Q: Who do you look up to and inspire you to be an orchestra teacher?

A: “My high school orchestra teacher as well as my student mentor teacher. He really went out of his way to help and he still contacts me to this day.”

Q: Why did you become an orchestra teacher instead of band teacher?

A: “The main reason is that I play string instruments. I did play in a band, but I prefer string music and it is too loud and I would like to save my hearing so I don't need hearing aids.”

Q: How do you help your students if they are confused or need help playing?

A: “When they need to fix something I identify the problem and we see how we can fix it but my goal for them is they play better than I can.”



Mr. V at Carnegie Hall in New York City

Q: Why are you a high school teacher as opposed to any other grade level?

A:”I tell my 8th graders I am going to teach them like high schoolers because they will play with high school students eventually. I am hard on my high school students but I also have to remember they are still kids.”

Q: What hobby/hobbies do you like to do outside of school?

A: “My favorite hobby is golf and obviously changing diapers and being a dad.”

Q: Were there any big things you wanted to accomplish?

A: “I want to grow the program and just really make it about PR orchestra and to have other programs look at us and say, ‘That's how I want our orchestra to be.’ ”

PR People

A Biology and Anatomy Teacher

A Look Into Mrs. LeVan's Science World

KAIA WILSON STAFF WRITER

Q: What inspired you to pursue biology and anatomy, and why PR?
A: "I always found the life sciences fascinating growing up, and I had a great biology teacher in high school. I taught for 10 years in NJ. My husband and I moved here 25 years ago. My first job in PA was at Ambridge. When I saw the job posting at PRSD, I applied and was hired."

Q: What was your first impression of our school when you started teaching here?
A: "The faculty is fantastic, especially the science department. Everyone is very willing to help, share materials, prep a lab, etc."

Q: What makes studying living organisms and human anatomy so fascinating to teach, especially to high school students?
A: "Every day there are new discoveries, whether it is new species or a new medical treatment."

Q: What is your core philosophy or main goal when guiding students through complex science concepts?
A: "I hope I am allowing students to sit in the struggle and learn to think. Spoon-feeding students will never help them grow."

Q: If you could only teach one lab experiment or anatomical system for the rest of your career, what would it be and why?
A: "All of the labs are important, and it would be difficult to just pick one."

Q: What is one of the most memorable or surprising moments you've experienced in your science classroom or lab?
A: "Many years ago, when I received tenure, my colleagues all day long walked into my room and sprayed me with silly string. It was a very funny and messy day."

Q: What is the biggest challenge students face when learning high-level science concepts, and how do you help them grasp them?
A: "Students struggle with connecting ideas that aren't straight memorization. We have been working on more case studies this year to hopefully connect the classroom to real life."

Q: How have science education and student curiosity changed since you first started teaching?
A: "There are more distractions- phones, computers, travel sports teams than there were 30+ years ago. It is more of a battle to keep students engaged."

Q: What is something your students would be surprised to learn about you outside of the classroom?
A: "I am an avid golfer, and I also enjoy boxing."

Q: What is one scientific concept or discovery that you think every person should understand about their own body or the natural world?
A: "People need to truly understand their carbon footprint and how much we have impacted the world. The amount of waste that we each produce will have an effect for years."

Q: What advice would you give to a student who wants to build strong study habits for science or pursue a STEM field in the future?
A: "Be engaged in class. Ask questions. Try to job shadow to see what interests you."

Q: When students leave your class at the end of the school year, what is the single most important takeaway or mindset you hope they carry with them?
A: "I hope that I have challenged them to think deeper. I also hope they know how much I care about them and want to see them 'make good choices' and succeed."



Mrs. LeVan with Mr. LeVan golfing

PR People

Meet Officer Kori

A Deeper Look at PRHS's New SRO

ABBY HENGELSBERG STAFF WRITER

This year marks the start of a new chapter for many students, both freshmen and students new to the district. But, it's also a new beginning for Pine-Richland's new high school Student Resource Officer (SRO), Officer Kori Phillips.

Even though Phillips is new to our school, he is no beginner to the PR district. He has served the last two years at the middle school, growing his connection with students and making a positive impact on the current underclassmen.

Like many school professionals, his career development has not gone exactly as he had imagined. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education, and a Master's Degree in Education. He was planning to become a social studies teacher, but rerouted to Student Affairs at the University of Pitt. But once again, his future shifted unexpectedly. He started working with police and decided that a career in police work was fit for him. After six years of working as a patrol officer, his time at PRMS began.

But the truth is, Officer Kori is much more than just a web of police work history and impressive educational achievements. He is a caring father, a dedicated soccer player, and a "Cars " movie connoisseur. As of now, he has one toddler son, Otto, but he also has a daughter on the way as well. It is extremely apparent that Phillips is a great father and husband, someone who takes pride in his family and puts them first.



Officer Kori

Something that stood out to me as an honest portrayal of good character was his response to the question - "What is your biggest fear?"

"My biggest fear as a parent is disappointing my children," responded Phillips, which was a sentiment that our Journalism class noted as our favorite reply.

There is much more to be said about Officer Kori. He has a wide variety of stories and personal anecdotes that show his relatable humor, diligent character, and enthusiastic personality. Reading this article alone isn't sufficient to understand and relate to Phillips. I encourage you to engage in conversation, confide in, or even just crack a joke with Officer Kori. He truly is an incredible addition to our school, and his dedication to keeping students safe and comfortable should be appreciated by all members of the Pine-Richland Community.

Opinion

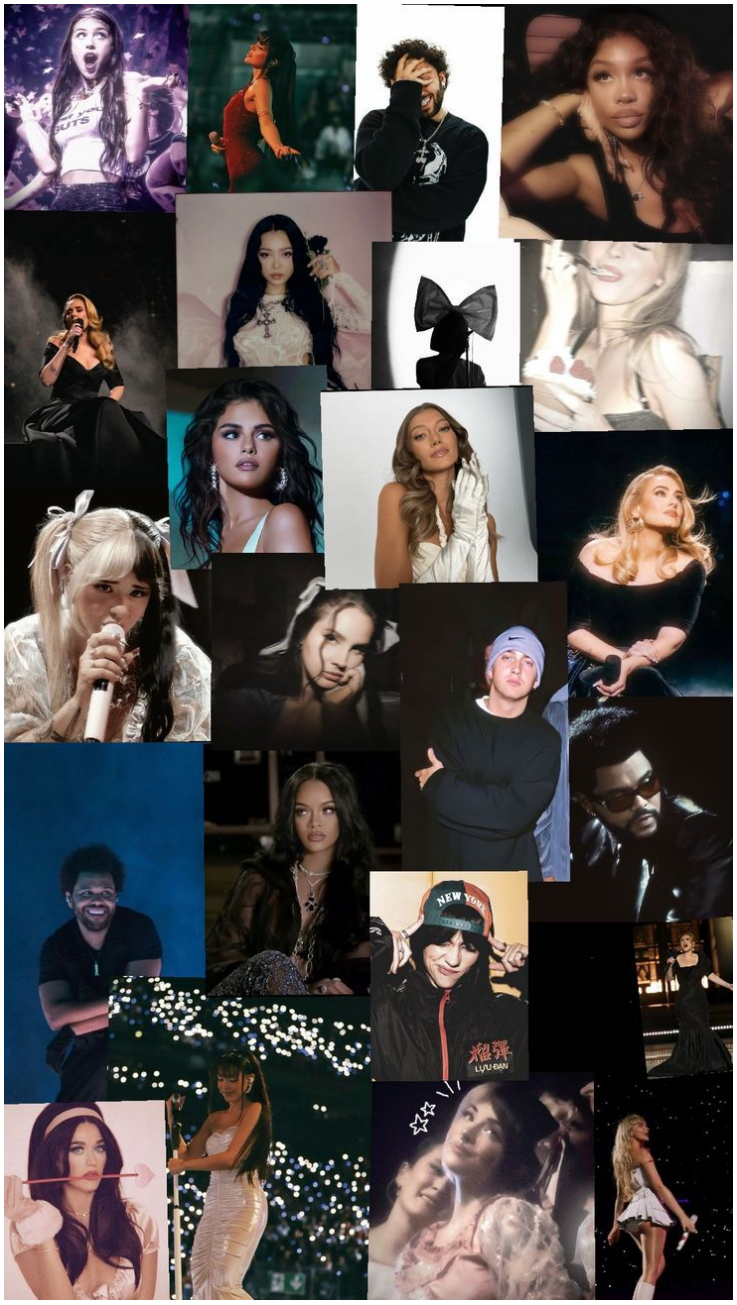
What do *you* listen to?

Is Society Self Centered or Are Bands Just Not That Popular?

ANNA SCHELLHAAS STAFF WRITER

It has been my perspective recently that not many people my age listen to bands. In true journalistic fashion, I aim to test my opinion against fact. This article is going to be an investigative survey of the student body to see whether students listen to more bands or individual artists.

As a true pop music listener, I listen to Taylor Swift, Gracie Abrams, Alex Warren, Olivia Rodrigo, and others. The majority of the artists I listen to are individual singers. I listen to them because they are popular, and as a singer, I find them fun to perform. Now that might be telling to my personality- maybe I just want to be the center of attention- or maybe I'm a basic girl. I would say I guess we'll never know, but this sentence is a lead-in to my hypothesis, so instead, I will say that I guess we will find out. My hypothesis is that while most people do listen to a mix of individual and group artists, the majority of students listen to individuals. For my procedure, I will interview 30 students and make a conclusion based on the number of bands compared to individual artists that each group listens to. I will ask all the students the same question: Do you listen to more single artists or individual artists on a



Picture provided by Google

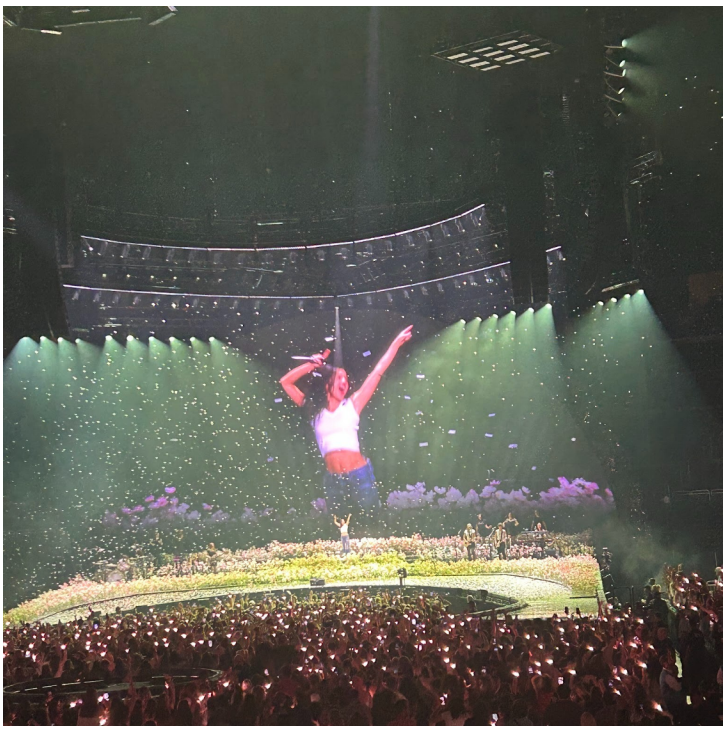
Opinion

consistent basis? This question allows the mock experiment to remain opinionated- some people will accidentally answer dishonestly because even if they listen to more single artists, songs by bands might be more enjoyable/ get stuck in their head more often. However, their answer being true or false doesn't matter- the opinion is what does.

I carried my experiment out over the course of 24 hours, interviewing my friends in my study halls and classes. The reason I did not include staff members in my survey is because they would skew the data and my demographic is high school students. In my findings, 23 out of 30 people said they listen to more single artists than bands. This proves my hypothesis because most people listen to individual artists. It could be inferred (by a cynic, perhaps) that the world we live in is self-centered because most artists' brands are their name, not a band or music label. Most people who said they listened to bands referred to bands such as Queen among others, when prompted.

So this brings us to the question, am I a basic girl after all? The answer, most presumably, is yes. I mean, my most listened to artists are shared with a majority of teenage girls. But just because I listen to popular songs doesn't mean my taste is bad; it also doesn't mean that people just like the sound of their own name. Singers have more innovative ways than they did when bands were once popular to record music. Now they can do things like record their own harmonies and layer tracks. These new techniques are more modern ways of creating musical choices which were, before newer music recording advancements, only achievable by a band with multiple instrumentalists and vocalists. So as it turns out, even if you are a basic girl like me, it doesn't mean your music taste consists of bad music.





Pictures from the Olivia Rodrigo Concert
Picture Provided By: Google

Opinion

A Guide to Art Museums in London

The Best Places to Visit

BIANKA ROMAN STAFF WRITER

As I was selecting my classes for junior year two years ago, I knew I wanted to take AP Art History, but I never anticipated how much I would enjoy the class. During Mr. Thearle's class, I learned about 250 art pieces, the techniques behind them, and, of course, just the right museums to visit. I actually had the opportunity to visit the National Gallery, Tate Modern, the British Museum, and the Wallace Collection when I visited London during the summer. I specifically chose those four museums because they all had works from the AP Art History 250.

All four museums have both strengths and weaknesses, whether that be their collection of paintings or the buildings themselves. Below I highlight what I liked and disliked about them, as well as what art piece I went there to see.

1. The Wallace Collection

During my time in London, the Wallace was my favorite museum to visit. Upon walking in, we were greeted with the most gorgeous rooms. Each room had its own coordinated color with furniture to match, and it was obvious how much care and passion went into preparing the collection for visitors. As we continued walking through the museum, it started to feel less like a museum and more like a home with its small size and intimate setting. My favorite room was, of course, the room with *The Swing*, one of the most famous paintings in all of history.

1. The National Gallery

My second favorite museum was the National Gallery, mostly because of its beautiful collections. One of my all-time favorite paintings is the *Arnolfini Portrait,* which I was able to see alongside works by Monet, Seurat, Cezanne, Picasso, and more. The National Gallery had a great collection of paintings, displaying a range of artists and different artworks. The museum itself was very spacious and quite big, but still beautifully set up.

1. Tate Modern

The Tate Modern was the last museum I visited on my trip, and it was very different from the rest. Obvious from the name, the Tate Modern displayed modern artworks like works from Warhol, Kahlo, Matisse, Picasso, and more. The architecture of the building itself was very unique and spacious and, of course, modern. Depending on what floor you were on, the rooms were all connected, allowing you to easily go from one artwork to another. There were also plenty of exhibitions such as Frida: The Making of an Icon, where they displayed several of Frida Kahlo's works and some works created by other artists inspired by her.

Opinion

1. The British Museum

Even though I did enjoy how much there was to see at the British Museum, it quickly became too much. Considering the lack of air conditioning, the number of people, and the number of floors, my experience became way too overstimulating way too fast. The British Museum does indeed have a brilliant collection of paintings, historical artifacts, and exhibitions, but it quickly became too much to see in one visit. However, their displays were very neat and informative, and I did enjoy learning about new artworks I had never seen.



The outside of the British Museum in London



Bianka Roman viewing The Swing at the Wallace Collection



Bianka Roman at the National Gallery (viewing Marriage à-la-mode: The Tête à Tête)



Andy Warhol's Marilyn Diptych at Tate Modern

Thanks For Reading!

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The RAMPAGE is available online every other Thursday under the high school Resources Tab. It is written by students, for students, and we make every attempt to report all school-related news. We welcome freelance submissions, suggestions, comments, and story ideas from students and staff. Since this is a student-publication, we realize we make mistakes: we encourage readers to report mistakes to the staff writers; you may win a prize if you locate any/all mistakes.

Thank you for stopping by and we hope to see you soon!

PINK OUT FNL





