# The Talon

*Gripping News*

Volume IX | Issue IV | Onteora High School | Boiceville, NY 12412 | November 2026

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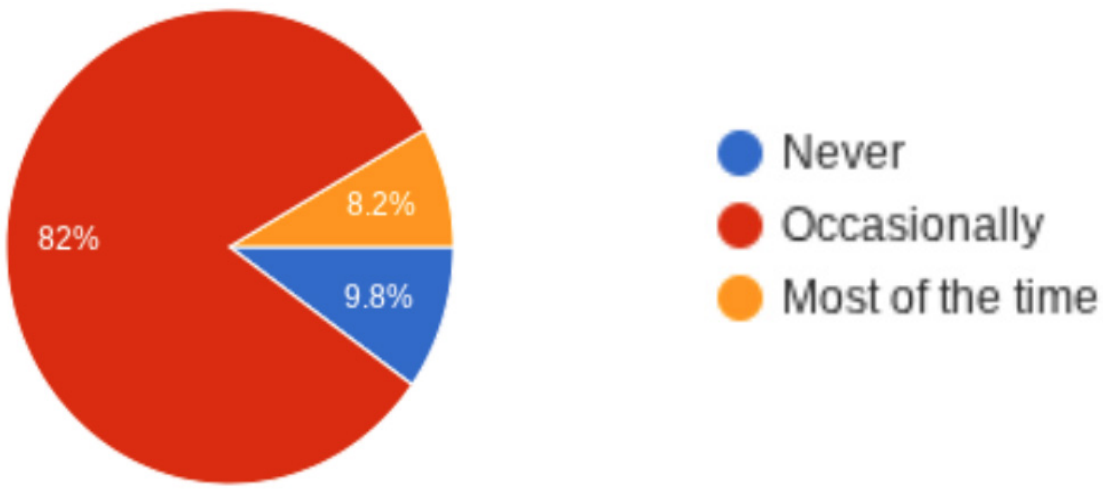
# Onteora Seniors Question: AI and Schoolwork?

By Erastus Mayunga, Junior

*In the spirit of healthy debate, Erastus Mayunga surveyed current seniors hoping to foster healthy dialogue surrounding the bullet train of A.I that is speeding toward us and impacting every part of life, especially education. The following is Erastus's compilation, interpretation, and analysis of surveys conducted during senior English class.*

In October, sixty-one students from the Onteora senior class were surveyed for their opinions about AI. The information below is pulled directly from the surveys and shows the authentic opinions of Onteora seniors regarding the use of AI in schools.

## The seniors were surveyed: When should students be able to use AI tools to help with classwork and/or homework?




**Never: 9.8%**

Maybe because "Never" is an absolute answer to the question, students who answered "Never" had stronger opinions about AI and its place, not just in school, but in all of society. One remark showing this strong stance read, "AI is bad for the environment and the human brain. You're stealing from artists and writers and pretending it's your own."

Noteworthy remarks with the "Never" stance:

- Negatively affects environment
- Should not count as your own work
- Gives wrong information
- Leads to students not actually learning essential material
- Yields a lazy work ethic

**Occasionally: 82%**

Not to my surprise, the vast majority of students answered "Occasionally," as it was the most neutral choice. Although most chose "Occasionally," there were still a wide variety of remarks within the choice, with one student adding, “I think for most assignments it's just straight up cheating to use AI. On the other hand, I think AI can be a useful tool to help understand something, or maybe summarize." A more pro-AI senior’s remark read, "AI can be an excellent study partner and be a teacher in your pocket for any question you may have difficulty with or topic you don't understand. [...] If used positively, it it is a massive boon, but it is up to the person to use it the right way."

Noteworthy remarks with the "Occasionally" stance:

- Effective studying tool
- Helps students understand an assignments directions
- Great tool for research
- Not to be used for essays
- When used correctly it's a very valuable tool, but when used incorrectly, it can be hurtful to learning

**Most of the time: 8.2%**

Students who answered “Most of the time” reported AI to be a very useful tool for all types of students, similar to how people who answered “Occasionally” felt. But what separated the two groups is the fact that “Most of the time” respondents reported very few downsides to AI, unlike the “Occasionally” respondents. One student even declared, “[AI] has never been detrimental to my learning experience.” A quote from a “Most of the time” respondent that encapsulates their choice perspective is, “AI can be used to help generate and brainstorm ideas. AI can grammar and spell check on writings and find minor mistakes even teachers might skip over.”

Noteworthy remarks with the "Most of the Time" stance:

- Allows students to prepare for the modern workforce
- Builds student confidence
- Prevents students from encountering learning blocks
- Can give ideas to students, allowing them to create original work
- Acts as a tutor for students who don’t have access to one



Hello Everyone!

I'm your senior class president, Jade Belfiore. I have been serving for almost two years now. I have loved working alongside my fellow class officers, Vice President Gabby Alterio, Treasurer Clara Swasey, Secretary Riley Peer, and Class Representative Reisa Reynolds. I can't believe this is our last year!

For those of you who are not in the senior class, you might recognize me as co-editor in chief of the literary magazine, band president, or as a member of the varsity tennis team.

Last year, we made progress on hygiene products in the bathrooms. This school year, the student government is working hard to boost student well-being, focusing on teen mental health. We are working with the Maya Gold Foundation (where I am a board member) to hopefully bring their teen mental health first-aid training into our high school health classes. We hope to start this program in the spring.

Exciting things are happening for the seniors! In the student council, we are currently designing our class merchandise, and order forms will be available soon. We are also discussing our senior privileges, such as a senior lounge in the library, or a snack hut—a fun idea that has sparked much debate. We are also planning an upcoming cookie fundraiser. Stay tuned for future happenings!

As we head into the holiday season and the cold winter months, school can feel difficult, especially for seniors working on their college applications. Remember that warmer months will come, and don't forget to have some fun!!!

Until Next Time,

Jade Belfiore

## Other Student Governments

### Class of 2030 Student Government

This year is off to a great start! Your class of 2030 student government is run by President Baxter Bryant, Vice President Jacqueline Harlow, Class Representative Emilia Sanchez Lieberman, Secretary Halie Wiacek, and Treasurer Vivienne Koenig. We have had two fundraisers so far and are planning many more for the future, as our hard work toward this goal now makes us more prone to succeeding later. All the fundraising is leading up to our goal of having money toward an amazing senior year, especially our senior prom and trip. Our most recent fundraiser was the Doggy Costume Contest on Halloween by the green in Woodstock along with a 50/50 raffle. It was a huge success with over 20 dogs coming to compete for our awards sponsored by Wagwear in the categories of cutest, spookiest, and most creative. A huge thank you to Sabrina with the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce who made the entire fundraiser possible. After talking with her we have agreed to make this contest an annual event, so join us next year to make this even bigger and better!

On top of the contest, our raffle raised more than expected and we hope to continue that as well. We are pushing hard for more freshman class representation in the hopes of being able to have more of a say and impact in our school community during the upcoming school year!

### Class of 2029 Student Government

This year our class has set many goals. Most rcently, a current focus of ours has been fundraising. To this case, we have had two fundraisers thus far, including a bake sale during Homecoming, and our Thompson Sugar Shack sales. There are ideas set for future fundraisers later this school year. We are also coordinating with the other student bodies of government towards a multitude of improvements for the school overall. Some of these possible changes include renovations to the courtyard and an adjustment to the new P.E. dress code (none of which are confirmed). For questions, comments, or concerns feel free to ask any officer listed here: President Hanna Metawee, Vice President Jade Stanley, Secretary Angely Lemus, Treasuer Isabelle Terpening, Class Representative Isaia Travis. Please come to us with ideas or recommendations for our class.

### Class of 2028 Student Government

The Onteora Class of 2028 proudly presents the student council of President Harper Mack, Vice President Sarah Craig, Secretary Saige Gierloff, Treasurer Oriah Steiner, and Class Representative Jesper Peacock. Us officers have been working hard to come up with new and exciting fundraising ideas for our prom. Next week, Santa Fe is hosting a night for the junior class. Twenty percent of the bill goes to our class. We are also working towards a donation-based bake-sale for right around the holidays. We are excited to continue working towards our prom and hope all are enjoying a wonderful start of the school year!

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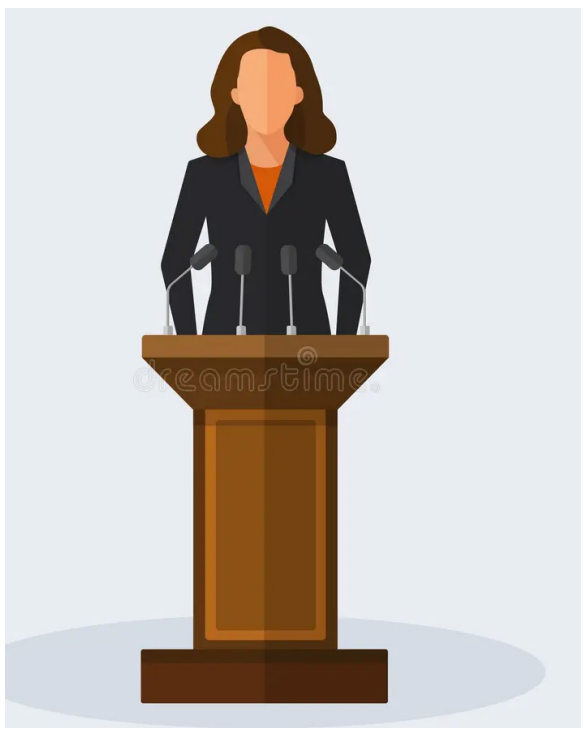
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## Spanish Club

At Spanish Club, we have been ramping up fundraisers in preparation for our Puerto Rico trip at the beginning of this summer! In Puerto Rico, members will get to learn about the rich culture, and do fun and interesting activities with their peers. We had great success at our stand during Homecoming selling popcorn, water bottles, and homemade cookies! We continue to look for opportunities to fundraise for our trip and love to see new faces! Stop by if you'd like to be a part of the fun at Spanish Club!

## Chamber

For high school students looking to push their skills to the limit, the Chamber Orchestra offers an advanced environment to play classical pieces that are more niche and historical compared to the regular orchestra. As a selective small-ensemble, members play complex, high-level pieces that require teamwork and skill. Because chamber music features smaller instrumental sections, every individual plays a critical role in shaping the ensemble's unique sound. Chamber performs during the winter and spring concerts as do the band, orchestra, and chorus.

## Literary Magazine

Hi Onteora readers!
The literary magazine is a club for writers, poets, artists, photographers, dreamers, and other creative people. In our magazines, we showcase Onteora students' writing and art. During our meetings, we read poetry, discuss fundraisers and events, watch movies such as Dead Poets Society, eat snacks, drink tea, listen to relaxing jazz music, and host writing workshops. We are always looking for writing and art submissions for our magazine. The deadline for our next issue is November 23, although we accept late submissions. Submit by emailing onteoralitmag@student.onteora.k12.ny.us. We can't wait for you to join us!

## GSA

Keep an eye out for events hosted by the GSA (the Gender and Sexuality Alliance). Monthly gatherings will each have an activity and are open to all LGBTQ+ high school students and their allies. Come join us for board games after school on Wednesday, 11/18 in room 100, and then help us plan December's event!

## Human Rights Club

Have you ever felt as if you wanted to make a change, but didn't know where to start? The Human Rights Club offers students a collective outlet to participate and advocate for social justice, while simultaneously educating students on prejudice and discrimination. Recently, the Human Rights Club has been underway in gaining new members; however, they are in desperate need of active members able to attend each meeting. The Human Rights Club is a cooperative group of students advocating to bring peers together to discuss and advocate for social justice and to give students of minority status a safe haven to come together and be heard. The Human Rights club selects topics regarding social inequalities to cover each meeting. Currently, the Human Rights Club is issuing posters regarding the honoring of Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month. However, various topics spanning the year will consist of: Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month (January), Women's Rights (March), and Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May). The Human Rights Club meets and discusses these topics. Then the following meeting is dedicated to curating posters highlighting the importance of why and how awareness is being spread about each subject. Oftentimes, students feel as if their voices are not heard, and the oppurtunities to protest and speak out seem limited. However, Human Rights Club offers a safe haven for students to express their beliefs, without the fear and judgement for their values. The Human Rights Club is managed by Mrs. Thomas, with meetings once a month each Monday in room 112. The Human Rights Club is striving to create a difference in the lives of every student, by educating, informing, and amplifying the voices of those who are not often heard.

## Philosophy Club

This past month we had three meetings, discussing the morality of selecting eggs before pregnancy, inheritance, and the questions surrounding economic freedoms and human equality. The debate regarding inheritance, freedom, equality, and change in society spanned three meetings. Mr. Colevas argued that attempts at economic equality that take wealth from people limit freedom to an unjustifiable amount, with President Foster Knoche taking the opposite stance. We need more members, so please come. Everyone is welcome, and no viewpoint is excluded from discussion. Philosophy has changed many of the members' lives for the better, and it could do the same for you.

## Math Club

The Onteora Math Club is a small group of Onteora students who simply think math is fun. Once a month, these select few will take a trip down to Kingston High School to compete against other schools like Kingston, New Paltz, and Saugerties. We are given six problems which are split into three groups of two. Each section covers a different math course: two questions on Algebra 1, two on Geometry, and the last two on Algebra 2. Don't be fooled though, these questions are challenging. Just because Algebra 1 is the easiest course doesn't mean its question will be equally simple. To finish it out, at the end of the six questions, each school conjoins for a final team question, which can sway the tides of the competition. So far, we have had two competitions, and have won both of them. There are three more competitions and we hope that you all will cheer on our contestants, Shaun Bonan, Azarax Tehrani, Archie Popp, Fenwick Fredericks, Saige Gierloff, and Oriah Steiner. We hope to continue our streak for the months to come. Additionally, the club's advisior, Bryan Steiner says, "It's not too late to join Math Club. We meet Mondays after school in Room 101. Hope to see some new faces!"

## French Club

French Club is a laid back hangout spot for all Onteora students interested in the French language, the culture and the fundraisers! This year we have been trying to start fundraising to go on a trip to Quebec. On the 7th of November, we went to NYC to eat crepes, look at museums, walk around the Central Park Zoo and hang out with each other. On Monday 11/9, we held a bake sale during parent teacher conferences. If you are interested in joining, please ask Mrs. Nelsen, or the officers of French Club: Esme Drucquer (President), Henrietta Phillips (co-Vice President), Oliver Haas (co-Vice President), Isabelle Terpening (Treasurer), Al Robinson (Secretary). Also, we are better than the Spanish Club.

## Color Guard

Color guard is beginning to prepare for its upcoming competitions in March. The team has chosen a theme focused on raising awareness about toxic relationships and is currently looking for music that fits the message and atmosphere of the performance. Members are working together to develop their ideas as they begin putting the show together.

Outside of practice, the team has been participating in fundraisers, including face painting at Homecoming and selling items at the Community Yard Sale. Color guard has also welcomed several new members this year and is looking forward to the upcoming competition season.

## The Talon

Behold!
The paper in your hands is created by *The Talon* high school newspaper club! We publish quarterly and meet on Wednesdays after school in Room 117, and by far have the best snacks ever. All are welcome to attend, but don't need to attend in order to be published. News, editorials, comic strips, and your creativity are always welcome for submission at thetalon@student.onteora.k12.ny.us
All Onteora students are elligible to submit to *The Talon* as it's their voice that makes the publication thrive.

**Want your club updates in the next issue? Email them to us at Thetalon@student.onteora.k12.ny.us**





# Cheating Culture

By Rama Gabriel, Junior

The year is 1981, and you are about to enter your final exam for 11th grade math. You have memorized none of the dozens of formulas and rules you were supposed to study, but that will not be a problem for you today. Luckily, you and your best friend spent hours throughout the last few days engineering the solution to how you will ace this exam. You took your grandfather's old watch apart completely, planning to only leave the glass front remaining. You then took a strip of paper and wrote down each of the formulas and rules you had to memorize in tiny, tiny lettering by hand. You and your friend manage to slip the paper into the watch instead of the clock, and attach the paper to the scrolling crown in a way that you could scroll through the formulas as though you are checking the time. You leave the exam with a score of 88/100, which was a score remarkably better than what you would have achieved had you not had your grandfather's watch. Your friend then used the same watch with another strip of paper for his physics exam, also achieving an excellent score. This is a true story, told by someone who shall remain anonymous.

From the second you enter elementary school, you, as a student, are already warned of the consequences of cheating, and you are told this until you complete your education. Some adults admit that cheating is a part of the real world, and will hence advise against cheating as a whole, but will not see it as such a black and white issue as others view the subject. Everyone has felt overwhelmed by their schoolwork at one time or another, and many students have found the common yet frowned upon solution of cheating. According to a 2012 Josephson Institute's



Center for Youth Ethics report, around 74 percent of students admit to having copied homework answers off a peer at least once, and about 58 percent of students admitted to cheating on a test. This data raises the question: How come so many students cheat, despite being told the consequences of that choice of action?

Children, especially teenagers, often find that being told to do one thing often makes them want to do the opposite. For instance, a student has come home from school, and decides to start their homework early, so that they would have less to do the next day. They are about to take out their work when one of their parents comes and tells them that they have to do their homework at that exact second. Suddenly, all the joy of doing their work ahead of time, by their own decision, is gone. The desire to cheat, or lack of opposition for it, partially stems from the same reason. Teenagers are also notorious for finding ways to rebel, and cheating is a less harmful, yet entirely effective way of satisfying that desire. To add, the pressure to achieve perfect scores and being a perfect student has reached an all time high, causing students to overload themselves with intense classes and a variety of extracurriculars, leaving little time to genuinely absorb the information needed to achieve the perfect scores they feel are the only way they are guaranteed a bright future in our rapidly burning, corrupted, deteriorating world.

Whether or not cheating is immoral and unethical is a subject that will likely forever be debated. However, the stories people make from their cheating endeavors will always be amusing to many. Sharing stories of sneaking cheat sheets into exams by glueing them to the inside of your belt, learning just enough sign language to silently communicate answers with your friend across the room, and taking apart your grandfather's watch to create an entirely new mechanism, is a way for students to be brought together under the pressure of our flawed education system and toxically competitive society.



# Women Still Progressing in STEM

By Audrey Grindley, Freshman

I am an 8th grader, it is a warm summer day and I pick up *The Talon* from a windowsill in a cafe in Woodstock. I sit down at the table with my chai latte and start reading. The front page article is titled "Women in STEM: Right Here at Onteora." In bold letters, centered on the page, is a list of 16 women graduates from the class of 2026 entering STEM fields.

I wonder ... How many men graduating from OCS entered STEM fields? My teacher and I researched the question. 5 men entered college with STEM majors.

But what is remarkable in the research is that significantly higher numbers of male graduates from our high school directly enter vocational fields instead of going to college. This parallels national norms.

According to Forbes, "in 2021-2022, women earned the majority of post-secondary degrees at every level, accounting for 62.8% of associate degrees, 58.5% of bachelor's degrees, 62.6% of master's degrees and 57% of doctoral degrees."

All of these changes are happening right now and all around us. In recent years, it has been observed by many that there is a gap in graduates of college since the 1970s, with women making up roughly 60% of all college graduates and starting to take over formerly male-dominated fields such as health care and medicine. I want to dive deeper and look at exactly what goes into that and the reasons. Maybe one major reason is early influence? Or is it genetics?

Most men from a young age are taught that they can be anything they want to be—including vocations that rely on physical labor, or what we may call more traditional blue-collar fields.

Maybe women are often steered away from work requiring their hands and physical strength?

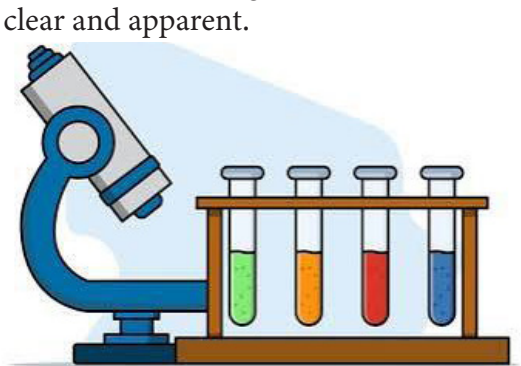
I looked at data from the most recent graduating class at OCS and observed that of the 11 people recorded going from high school to employment, only two were girls.

Previously, women were steered toward social work or teaching and what was deemed "appropriate" for women. And for many years women breaking these "rules" was very rare. But that seems far in the past now.

Women have pushed through stereotypes around them in careers and higher education and now make up 53% of people who earn doctoral degrees (the highest degree).As recent as the 1950s and 1960s only 10% of all doctoratal degrees were earned by women.

Also, we may never be able to account for women's work and achievements and discoveries were stolen, lied about or just down right brushed off.

These barriers will continue to be broken, though men still are the majority of some fields. These changes and gender expansion in higher education is happening all around us. And as of last year at Onteora, 16 women in the graduating class of 2026 went into STEM related majors which many "usually" think of as a male dominated field. While women are still underrepresented in a few areas of high education majors, the graduation rate for women is higher than ever. And women's progress and achievements are clear and apparent.



# The Doomsday Youth: A Reflection on Generational Differences

By Henrietta Phillips, Freshman

I stepped around the corner of the busy New York City street, eyes on the ground. I walked behind my dad and brothers, a DuaneReade ahead and a mural above. I pointed it out to my dad, curious.

"Oh, the doomsday clock," he remarked. Quizzical, I looked up to see the thing he referred to. A large digital countdown to the day climate change will be irreversible, stark red digital numbers against the black screen. At the time of this writing, the climate clock reads at two years and two hundred sixty-two days. It knocked the breath out of me for a moment. I had seen photos of the countdown before, an image I tried to push out of my mind. My dad did not seem concerned though, a look of almost amusement on his face.

"It's not really true though," he remarked, scoffing a bit at the impossibility of it. In his eyes, the threat of an apocalyptic future is inane, not something that might influence his adulthood. He has lived enough life to not be so drastically affected. But I have not.

The quick dismissal of a world I might reach adulthood in is isolating. Most of the population can not relate to the reality I face—that AI is taking over the workplace, a climate catastrophe is coming closer, and the literal doomsday clock is ticking closer to midnight every day - all before I have even graduated from high school.

And I'm not the only one who feels that way. According to a UNICEF study, 6 out of 10 Gen Zers feel overwhelmed by current events, and according to an NBC News poll, 56% of Gen Z feel worried about the future most of the time, compared to just 37% of people ages 45 to 64. The worries of my generation are clearly very real, even if the older generation's opinions would differ.

Some experts, like Penn State professor Philip Tetlock, believe that a doomsday so soon is an unlikely possibility. He believes there is a 0.48% chance of a catastrophic AI event by 2030. And while his belief that an event at that scale is unlikely to happen so soon, the idea that AI will not impact the paths my peers and I choose to take is just as impossible.

Additionally, my peers and I have to live fully through these projected issues, and a delay of a few years or even decades will still mean the very real possibility of experiencing such events. This can impact the life-changing decisions we make in our early life, and according to the See Change Institute, "Concerns about climate change have begun to shape major life decisions among young people, including where they live, what careers they pursue, and whether or not they plan to have children."




Older generations do not need to worry about the long term effects of AI or climate change issues, but my peers and I do. Even if it takes thirty years for the world as we know it to end, I will be forty-four, an age that normally would have double the amount of life they have already lived still ahead of them

Curious as to the thoughts of my peers, I asked a few fellow ninth-graders their thoughts on the matter. Vera Davis said, "For me I'm more concerned about AI for recent times, because climate change takes longer to effect. I'm scared of AI because I have a fear that in years to come I might not be able to get the job that I want, all because of the way that AI is progressing."

Jacob Lane stated, "I think that AI can do a lot of good, but it's being used for a lot of bad. For example, AI could just do a programmer's job– then companies won't have to pay robots. I think I want to do a space-related job, and robots are really good for space—because they don't need oxygen. I realize this means AI may take the future job I want."

Kahlan Liverani thinks, "My consideration for a career was not changed, but hearing headlines of the doomsday clock getting closer to midnight make me petrified because of our irresponsibility with our earth."

The reality of issues like this is there is no complete certainty. No one can say if or when climate change will be fully irreversible, and there is no way to tell if AI will result in a humanity ending event at any time in the near future. There are only predictions to base our worry off of, and the evidence of what may lead to such things.

But the complete ignorance that is often true when speaking to adults who didn't have to consider these aspects in their future is vastly frustrating. We are expected to plan out our lives like every other generation, with no consideration to the fact that if those who had the chance don't make efforts to reverse the future they've created, there will be little my generation can do to turn it around when our time comes. There's a reason that, according to the Pew Research Center, 32% of Gen Z has taken action to help stop climate change. We will be affected. The future we have been taught to live by is becoming less and less real every day.

It's time for a different outlook, a change in the way we plan out our lives. Despite beliefs like my dad's and his peers, the future is coming, whether we're ready or not. And unless we bring awareness and action, that countdown will hit 0.

# Philosophy Club: The Value of Philosophy

By Foster Knoche, Senior

People often get annoyed by faux-philosophers, those who think they know far more than they do, spreading their overconfidence at every chance. This has damaged the view of philosophy, but philosophy will truly make you a better person—if you dive into it deep enough. Philosophy ought not be left to the world of debate alone; it should be applied. Philosophy shouldn't just make you think about your beliefs; it should shape you into the type of person who couldn't make the immoral choice, the one who—by their own conviction in their beliefs—could make no choice but the righteous one. Aristotle said, "We are inquiring not in order to know what virtue is, but in order to become good, since otherwise our inquiry would have been of no use." Philosophy should be a subject we all care for, as it allows us to develop values, figure out what our beliefs are, and act accordingly to shape the world around us.

Mr. Colevas, the host of Lyceum/Philosophy Club, has many good words to say of philosophy, stating, "It makes me a better person in every aspect of life; as a friend, husband, teacher. It has made me more humble on most human questions and taught me I am not alone." But he also warns of how it can be harmful if not approached with humility "I really do think it has made me a better person in the long term, not in the short term."

If one is just introduced to philosophical questions, rather than taking the necessary time for full developed thought, they oftentimes take a stance with far too much pride in their ability to reason; only after one realizes the scope of human knowledge, the totality of beliefs that exist, can one recognize their own ignorance and flaws in their beliefs.

Most people have many contradictions in their beliefs, or they've hardly solidified them at all, but philosophical debate develops concrete stances; it allows for well-formed values people can truly stand by.

Beliefs are only superficial if left unchallenged. Views must be questioned before one can call them their own. Philosophy allows for the strengthening of the mind, it helps people become more virtuous toward those around them, and it can also be used to overcome personal struggles.

Philosophy truly has made me happier, able to disconnect myself from many of the rather insignificant personal problems that I've fixated on. Psychology descends from philosophy, with both being equally as valuable to one's mental wellbeing in my opinion. Mary Astell, an English philosopher, in her *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies*, wrote, "We all agree that its fit to be as Happy as we can, and we need no Instructor to teach us this Knowledge, 'tis born with us, and is inseparable from our Being, but we very much need to be Inform'd what is the true Way to Happiness."

# Teenage Love

By Tavyn Carchidi, Freshman

High school lunch: The time of day when every student gets to hear all the gossip and what everyone's been up to for the last four hours. The whole room is buzzing with voices from every direction. But I am only focused on one conversation. My friend Melissa is talking about her boyfriend. They've been together for a couple of months, and she's at that stage where she can't stop talking about him.

I mean, I can't really blame her because he's her first boyfriend. I'm happy for her. She seems really content. But she keeps saying something that catches my attention: she says she's in love. I don't mean in the way someone says they're in love with a puppy, but in the sense that she means actual romantic love – like, really in love. That's what gets me thinking: what does love mean to a fourteen year old, and is it even real? That's what I'm determined to figure out.

Some people may think that teenage love isn't real. Adults often assume that teenagers aren't mature enough to know genuine love. They can be dismissive of the strong emotions felt by teens, often misconstruing their feelings as exclusive to raging hormones. Even though hormones may have a large influence on how teenagers experience love, that doesn't automatically make their feelings invalid.

Onteora CSD psychologist, Jennifer Simco, explained that "teenagers absolutely feel love." She also explained that teenagers have the same capacity to be in love as adults, although the intensity of their feelings can be different. This suggests that while the teenage brain is still developing, that does not mean teenagers are incapable of genuine romantic love. Rather, their age may affect how they experience and respond to those feelings.



Experiencing love as a teenager can be different from experiencing it as an adult because teenage emotions are heightened. Simco also pointed out, "The feeling that people get when they're teens and they're in a relationship, is so much stronger because the brain's telling you it's so much stronger." In other words, the intensity of this feeling doesn't automatically determine that it's illegitimate.

Romantic relationships in adolescence are an important milestone in one's life. A study done by W. Andrew Collins, Deborah P. Welsh, and Wyndol Furman states, "Romantic relationships are a hallmark of adolescence" [published 2009]. This establishes that romantic relationships as a teenager are not insignificant, they are an important part of adolescent development. This idea is shown in another study done by Sarah Sorensen and updated by Jasmine Feng and Karin Schantz which states, "These early relationships play a pivotal role in the lives of adolescents and are important to developing the capacity for long-term, committed relationships in adulthood" [published 2008-2010; updated 2025].

As teens grow up, their perspectives, wants, and needs change. Romantic relationships can be a part of that growth, helping people learn more about themselves and what they want in a partner. Early relationships can influence how people approach future relationships, since each experience can teach them something new about ... something. As people mature, their understanding of love can change along with them.

But if teenage relationships can be meaningful, what makes a relationship more than just a crush? A crush would suggest that one feels infatuation: a short-lived feeling based mostly on a fantasy. Love, on the other hand, can involve deeper affection and desire to care for another person. Although the two feelings can overlap, they aren't necessarily the same. Infatuation can fade quickly, but love is more enduring and genuine ... but may not last forever.

# Clawsnaps

By Henrietta Phillips, Marley Bishop-Mann, and Tavyn Carchidi, Freshmen

You're staring at the TV screen, clicking through the endless shows and movies. Nothing seems right.
Suddenly, you see the perfect option.The remote falls onto the couch.

## What's Your Remote Drop?



Emilia Sanchez Lieberman, Freshman
"The Rookie"



Al Robinson, Senior
"Cloud Nine or Fight Club"



Tori Cordero, Sophomore
"When Marnie Was There"



Grayson Peltzman, Sophomore
"BoJack Horseman"



Vivienne Lamb, Junior
"New Girl"



Byron Reznick, Sophomore
"Samurai Gourmet"



Julia Young, Senior
"Vanderpump Rules"



Luca Makowski, Senior
"Family Guy"

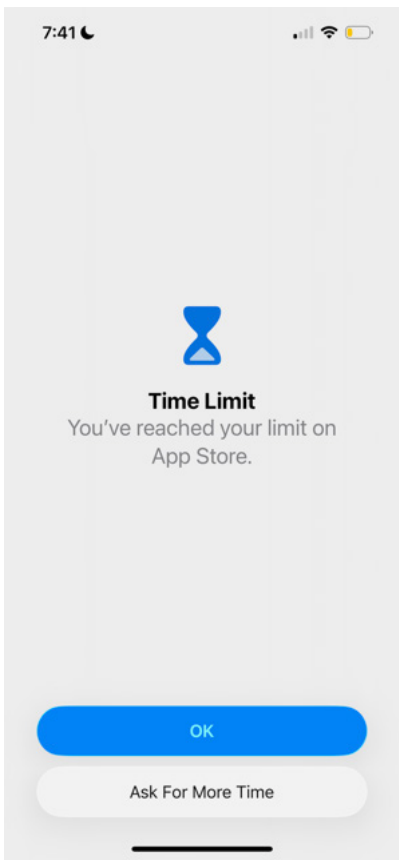
# App Limits—Theoretically A Good Idea, But Flawed In Practice

By Vivienne Koenig, Freshman

After field hockey, fried from a long day of school and sport, I grab a snack, run upstairs, get cozy in bed with my blankets and reach for the comfort of my phone. I get in the zone, scrolling and sending my friends Tiktoks. I feel relaxed, not thinking about my homework or anything having to do with school.

Disturbing my peace, a notification pops up—a purple hourglass icon. “Five minutes remaining on Tiktok.” Suddenly, I’m not having fun. I’m rapid-firing streaks—then shutting the app. I get back on my phone later and see a different notification. “Five minutes until downtime.” Five minutes later, almost all my apps are shut off until six a.m.

App limits is a service that Apple offers to parents when their child's device is on “teen” or “child” mode so that the adult can monitor their child's screen time. During “downtime,” all chosen apps are restricted. Parents can also set a limit for a specific app. For example, if a parent sets a two-hour limit for Snapchat, after the child is on Snapchat for two hours, the app is shut off for the remainder of that day. That is, unless a parent enters a four-digit code and chooses between “15 minutes,” “1 hour,” or “remainder of the day.”




While I understand adolescents in recent times have spent more time on their phone than is good for them, App Limits is not the way to go. The frustrating and unnecessary flaws within this app can ultimately create tensions between the parent and the child. For example, sometimes when I wake up, my downtime will be off, but the restricted apps—which should now be available—are not. All my other apps will be available, but specifically Tiktok, Snapchat, Instagram and Amazon are off. When this flaw in the App Limits service happens, the only solution is to have a parent override the error in the system. This is not only frustrating and unnecessary, but some kids might have to wake their parents to ask them to do this. Now, the day has started off tense between the two.

Another problem arises when a child has homework due at 9:00 a.m. on a Saturday and their downtime is set until 10:00 a.m. Once again, unless they go to their parents and wake them up to ask them to override the settings, they cannot access their schoolwork.

Furthermore, when the parent grants the child one hour additional time by entering the four digit code, the app basically sets a one hour timer. Exactly one hour from when the parent entered the code, the app will turn back off. Because of this, kids feel the need to get their one hour worth, so they won’t put down the phone for an hour straight.

Another inconsistency with the app is when I’ve pressed the “one more minute” button to do my streaks on TikTok. I’d noticed a minute had passed while I waited for it to shut back off, then it was two minutes, then three and so on and so forth. The "one more minute" button for some reason will turn off app limits for the day, and allow you on that app until 12pm the next day. In my experience, this only happens after downtime is on.

According to the article from the Pew Research Center titled “How Teens and Parents Approach Screen Time,” about 47% of parents say they limit their teens' screen time. Most of the time, these limits are for younger teens, 13-14 year olds. The percentage of teens of that age with device restrictions and teens that are 15-17 are very different. This could be because older teens may have jobs or more responsibilities they need their phone for, compared to a younger teen.

Student Jacqueline Harlow states, “Sometimes it [time limit] just decides to turn on even though its the first time being on my phone, and sometimes it gives me the opportunity to ignore limits and sometimes it doesn't.”

While I understand parents don’t want their children to waste away all their time on their phones, there are much better, less flawed ways of limiting adolescents' screen time.

# The Dangers of Poli-TikTok

By Sophia Howard, Freshman

When I doomscroll on TikTok at the end of the day, I expect a brainless safe haven where I can just watch without a thought drifting in my head. What I do not expect is my “for-you-page" to be littered with political videos, not only about Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, but even more so about controversial historical figures, such as Benito Mussolini, Napoleon Bonaparte, Karl Marx and King Baldwin. As these videos have filled my TikTok feed for a multitude of months, I cannot help but question: Is TikTok aiding and abetting a surge of political ignorance? Is this dangerous?



I often pause and wonder about others my age, across the globe, not only busy with their everyday lives, but also filling their brains with political ideology they may not properly comprehend at this young age. How do they respond to these videos? Do they feel disturbed? Should they feel disturbed? Are we desensitizing a generation to societal matters as a whole? I feel as though TikToks about politics that are thrusted upon children and their developing brains are dangerous and harmful because they are cramming complex political models and intricate ideals into 15 second, often ill-informed, reels that sound attractive, and are extremely persuasive.

For example, I recently saw a thread of comments in which someone claimed that the double lightning bolt emoji represents the Nazi Swastika, and while in fact a double lightning bolt is a Neo-Nazi symbol (the Schutzschaffel), the two are not the same. Another user boarded the train of comments and replied claiming the symbol was the Buddhist Swastika, which could not be farther from the truth.

Meanwhile, the original user to which these people were replying then said he only used lightning bolts because he likes Pikachu, a Pokemon character with electric abilities.

Other comments manage to be even more ludicrous. For instance, one user typed “Communism is Homophobic btw”. How did we even get here? Another keyboard warrior had written “The Nazis were a far left movement.” One would think these bold, nearly comical statements were satirical, and while that is often true, many of these commenters are genuine and clearly uneducated.

This exhibits that many kids (and occasionally adults) are not yet able to grasp major, mature matters like this. Politics occasionally are confusing, and often there are grey areas that us adolescents may not understand because some of us have not had the experience to see that not everything is black and white. I believe that if teenagers want to educate and involve themselves in politics, it should not be through TikTok.

# The Night Sky in Novemeber

By Isabelle Wentland, Senior

Have you ever looked up at the night sky and wondered what lies above? In November, there will be a plethora of wonders to locate in the night sky above Onteora High School, some of which include the most visible stars to see: Vega and Capella; the most visible planets to see: Venus and or Jupiter; all of which depend on time. There will also be meteor showers throughout November!

**Celestial events in November:**

**Early Meteor Shower:** Around (November 4-5), you may spot slow-moving meteors from the "Southern Taurids", which can be unusually bright at this time. The best time to view them is late evening or early morning, when the sky is dark. The American Meteor Society lists a typical rate of about five meteors per hour under ideal conditions, but this is only an estimate. They generally appear to radiate from the direction of Taurus, although sightings may be difficult.

**Second Meteor Shower**: Around (November 11-12), you can also spot meteors from the "Northern Taurids." These are known for occasionally producing fireballs! They're not guaranteed, but undeniably interesting regardless. The moon is expected to be about 4% illuminated around this time, making viewing conditions exceptionally good. The shower typically produces about five meteors per hour under good conditions, but again, it's not guaranteed.

**Mars & Jupiter passing close:** Around (November 14-16), Mars and Jupiter will appear close together, separated by approximately 1.2°! They aren't actually close in space, but appear that way from our perspective on Earth. You will be able to see this with the naked eye! But through binoculars, you may notice a color contrast between a reddish (Mars) and cream-color (Jupiter) in the morning sky near the constellation Leo. They're best viewed in the hours before sunrise, making it a pre-dawn event.

**Orion the Hunters Constellation:** Mid-November marks this constellation's return to the winter sky. You can look for Orion's Belt, which is three bright stars arranged in a line; Betelgeuse, a reddish star making up Orion's shoulder; Rigel, a bright blue-white star marking one of his feet; and the Orion Nebulae, located in a region of his sword, below his belt. Looking at this stellar nursery is essentially looking at a nebula roughly 1,300 light-years away.

The night sky above Onteora High School offers a wonderful opportunity to stargaze, spot celestial bodies, and find various constellations. If you're interested in spotting some of these, why not take a peek at the darkness above? Or talk to Mr. Marks about his astronomy elective offered for the first time this year! You may discover wonders that you never knew were hidden right above our school.

**Trivia Questions**

1. "What color are sunsets on Planet Mars?"

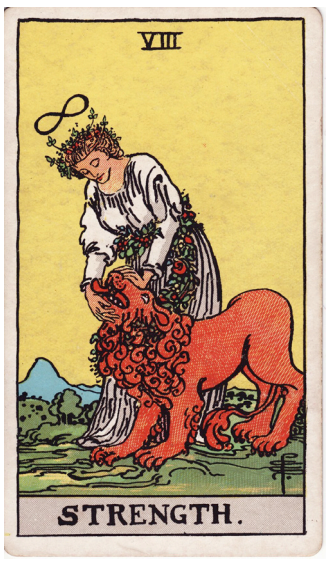
2. "Astronaut originates from the Greek language, what is the translation?"

3. "What materials make up comets?"

See Isabelle for the answers!

# Tarot-ology

By Esme Drucquer

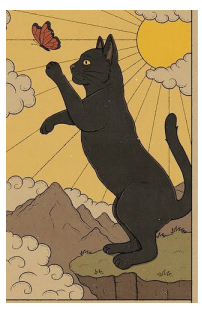



To do my horoscope readings I use two different decks of tarot cards. After I shuffle the first deck I put down six cards: the first two mean what has happened, the next two mean what is happening and the last two mean what will happen. I use two decks because my main Tarot deck can be non-specific. I read people's tarot and sort their reading depending on what their sun sign is.












**Capricorn**
(December 22-January 19)
You've misplaced something dear,
And yet you still cheer.
This loss was never that severe.
As you still have a career,
During the start of the school year.

**Aquarius**
(January 20 – February 18)
You have an exam coming up,
But the material isn't worth getting round-up.
So while doing your flashcards don't ruin your makeup.

**Pisces**
(February 19 – March 20)
You're having a bad week,
That makes your eyes leak.
But you are not weak,
So stand up and wipe your cheek.

**Aries**
(March 21 – April 19)
You need a breath of fresh air.
You need a day to just take care.
We all see how you work anywhere.
But maybe you could stop bringing homework to the lawn chair?

**Taurus**
(April 20 – May 20)
Change is happening,
But you don't have to leave galloping. For whatever is changing, it's very flattering.
It's making you more and more dazzling.

**Gemini**
(May 21 – June 20)
Start searching for a new environment,
It will lead to your enlightenment.
You're unhappy and need a new assignment.
And knowing that doesn't mean you have to feel embarrassment.

**Cancer**
(June 21 – July 22)
You're putting off your work.
It's making you feel like a jerk.
It's not a funny quirk,
To ignore your homework.

**Leo**
(July 23 – August 22)
The Smiths wrote a song,
It's called Accept Yourself and they weren't wrong.
So look into the mirror and be strong.

**Virgo**
(August 23 – September 22)
Fear and worry shake up your head.
So keep moving ahead.
You aren't going to end up dead,
From dread over something stupid like bread.

**Libra**
(September 23 – October 22)
Stress is getting to you.
It's making you feel like you have the flu. So go run to your favorite store.
Maybe buy a new shampoo?

**Scorpio**
(October 23 – November 21)
New beginnings and new friendships will come.
So don't look so glum, loneliness is something you can easily overcome.
And soon someone will give you a piece of gum.

**Sagittarius**
(November 22 – December 21)
It's been a long year waiting for your birthday.
So get ready to say hooray!
Because you'll blink and that day will be today.
I hope you're excited to eat cake and sorbet.

# A Taste of Fall: Homemade Apple Crisp

By Oliver Haas, Sophomore

As the weather gets colder and the leaves start changing and morphing colors, there absolutely is nothing better than coming home to a warm dessert, and the aromas of cinnamon and apples. Fall is the  best season for baking, and one recipe that really captures the feeling of autumn is homemade apple crisp. It's sweet, a little crunchy and honestly pretty easy to make, even if baking isn't really your thing. Apple crisp is a classic fall staple with fresh apples and a buttery oat topping. Unlike apple pie, you don't have to worry about making a perfect and exact crust, which reduces a lot of the stress from the baking process.

5–6 medium apples (Granny Smith or Honeycrisp work great)
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 cup old-fashioned oats
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup melted butter
A pinch of salt



**Step 1**: Preheat your oven to 350 F. Wash, peel and slice the apples into thin pieces. Put them in a large bowl and mix them with the granulated sugar, cinnamon, and lemon juice. The cinnamon is what really gives this dessert that warm fall flavor.

**Step 2:** Make the crunchy topping

In another bowl, combine the oats, flour, brown sugar, melted butter, and salt. Mix everything together until it forms a crumbly texture. It doesn't have to look perfect, so don't worry if some pieces are bigger than others.

**Step 3:** Put everything together

Spread the apple mixture evenly in a greased baking dish. Then, sprinkle the oat topping over the apples, making sure most of them are covered. You want a good amount of topping because honestly, that is the best part.

**Step 4:** Bake until golden

Place the dish in the oven for about 40-45 minutes, or until the topping is golden brown and the apples are soft. Your kitchen should be smelling amazing by this point. Let the apple crisp cool for around 10 minutes before serving, since the filling will be extremely hot.

**The Best Part:** Enjoying It!

Apple crisp tastes great on its own, but if you really want to make it better, serve it with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. The combination of warm apples and cold ice cream is hard to beat, especially on a chilly fall evening.

# Steel Magniolias Cuppa Cake

By Tavyn Carchidi, Freshman

The movie *Steel Magnolias* is a heartwarming and deeply moving film that I thoroughly enjoyed from start to finish. The characters who stood out to me the most were Clairee and Ouiser, whose witty banter and close relationship provided great comedic relief throughout the story. Beyond its humor, the movie effectively explores themes of resilience and powerful bonds of friendship, illustrating how a tight-knit community can help individuals navigate even the most difficult times in life.

This message is most powerfully conveyed during an intense scene early in the film, where a woman named Shelby suffers from a severe insulin reaction, causing all of the women in her community's salon (owned by Dolly Parton's character, Truvy) to surround and support her, as they try to find a solution. Overall, *Steel Magnolias* offers an excellent balance of comedy and tragedy and I would one-hundred percent recommend it to anyone looking for a meaningful cinematic experience. Especially alongside the famous"Cuppa Cuppa Cuppa Cake" recipe!

The Cuppa Cuppa Cuppa Cake shows up in *Steel Magnolias* when Truvy, Shelby, and other women in the salon are gossiping. Clairee, one of the women in the salon, inquires about Turvy's infamous cake/cobbler. She responds by sharing the recipe with pride, saying "That's simple. You don't need to write that down."

**Cuppa Cuppa Cuppa Cake Recipe**

**Ingredients:**
1 cup of sugar
1 cup of flour
1 cup of fruit cocktail with juice
Vanilla ice cream for serving (optional)



**Step 1**. Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C). Lightly grease an 8×8-inch baking dish or pie dish.

**Step 2**. In a mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar, and fruit cocktail (including the juice). Stir with spatula or wooden spoon until everything is mixed into a thick batter.

**Step 3**. Pour mixture into your greased baking dish and spread evenly. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes until it turns "gold and bubbly" and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

**Step 4**. Let it cool for about 5 to 10 minutes. Serve warm, ideally topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream to balance the sweetness.

# The Secret Ingredient for the Best Banana Bread!

By Audrey Grindley, Sophomore

Have you ever wondered what's the best banana bread recipe and what are the secret ingredients to add to make it just the best? If you have – we've  got what you are looking for, so get cozy with a cup of tea, a warm blanket, your favorite show and get ready for an indulgent fall treat!



**Ingredients:**
Three ripe and spotting banana's
One egg
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 ½ cup of flour
1 cup sugar
1 ½ cup of melted butter
2 teaspoons of cinnamon
1 teaspoon of honey (the secret!)
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
½ cup dark chocolate chip

**Step 1**. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees, then in a bowl add melted butter, honey, and mashed bananas and stir until combined.

**Step 2**.  Add sugar, egg, vanilla, baking soda, cinnamon, and flour to the bowl and stir until silky smooth.

**Step 3**. Add chocolate chips and pour batter into a greased loaf pan, and bake for 50 minutes.

Wait 10-15 minutes till it is not too hot and enjoy!

# Judge a Book by Its Cover

By Kira Jule, Sophomore

Never judge a book by its cover, although... there are some exceptions to that rule. *Shatter Me* by Tahereh Mafi is a young adult dystopian novel with sub-genres of fantasy, sci-fi, and romance. The cover of this book is a beautiful yet ominous eye, with varying colors and backgrounds for every book in the series.

The reader learns all about 17 year old Juliette Ferrars through the first-person perspective of her diary entries. From being cursed since birth with the gift of a lethal touch to bouncing around between countless hospitals and holding facilities to having lived in an asylum for the past 264 days - this girl has not had an easy life. That being said, these examples are only her backstory; as the series goes on, we get to unearth so much more about Juliette: her friends, her family, her "gift," and her role in saving the world from the corrupt, power-hungry government known as "The Reestablishment."

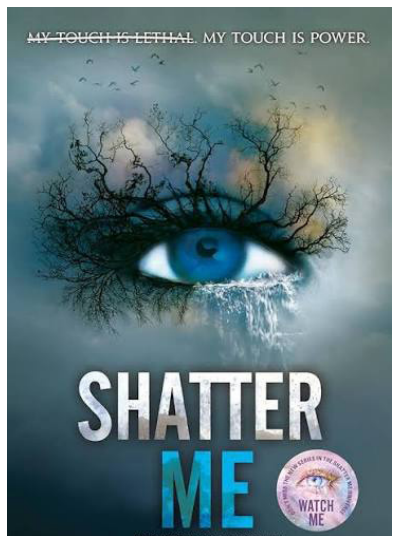
It's incredibly interesting to hear from someone who has what most would consider a superpower, but yet believes that this power has ruined her life. Not only is the storyline well thought out and interesting, but the writing itself is phenomenal. Multiple times I paused to reread sentences solely because they were so thought-provoking.

Throughout the book and series, we see remarkable character development from not just Juliette, but the later-introduced Adam, Warner, and fan favorite, Kenji Kishimoto whose true feelings are often invisible to others (more on that in his novellas, *Shadow Me* and *Reveal Me*). From famous quotes and acronyms, to jaw-dropping plot twists and jokes that are sure to make you laugh out loud, this book will become one of--if not your favorite--literary world to visit.

One of the most memorable lines for me in this series was written by Juliette in her diary on page 121 of *Ignite Me*, the third novel in the series: "Words, I think, are such unpredictable creatures. No gun, no sword, no army or king will ever be more powerful than a sentence. Swords may cut and kill, but words will stab and stay, burying themselves in our bones to become corpses we carry into the future, all the time digging and failing to rip their skeletons from our flesh."

Reading all of the books is worth it simply to see all these covers, if nothing more. *Shatter Me* is part of an extraordinary six book series, in addition to five accompanying novellas, and a spin-off series called *Shatter Me: The New Republic*. If you've never heard of or read this story before, one hundred percent go read it now. Coming from someone who reads a lot of books, this might just be my favorite series I have ever read.

If you're interested in checking out these books, Mrs. Weiss in our very own Onteora library has all six books in the first series (*Shatter Me--Imagine Me*) and the first book from the spin-off series.




# Al Held Foundation Art Class Trip

By Jack Goodman, Junior

The Al Held Foundation: What is it?
Characterized by his large-scale ambitious paintings, Al Held was an American abstract-expressionist painter who rose to prominence withhis intense and often colorful portrayals of geometric shapes. Since Held's passing in 2005, The Al Held Foundation, a non-profit organization, has maintained his former property to share Held's legacy in art. The foundation has shared their mission of fostering the advancement of the principles of modern art and to further advance the public's understanding of Held's contributions to modern design.

Recently, Onteora classes directed by Mrs. Hamilton like Glass and Metals, AP Art, and Drawing and Painting, have expanded their knowledge of the importance of Held's legacy by visiting the Al Held foundation. Daniel Belasco, the executive director of the Al Held Foundation gave visiting students and teachers a tour of Held's works and helped explain them. Through touring and investigating pieces by Held curated in his former home and studio, students were able to grasp the significance of abstract-expressionism and appreciate the emotional draw of Held's geometric design. Each of Held's pieces stand enormously large, some even reaching the lengths of over nine feet tall and wide. This causes those admiring the painting to feel absorbed into the work, almost as if you're standing inside of the art.

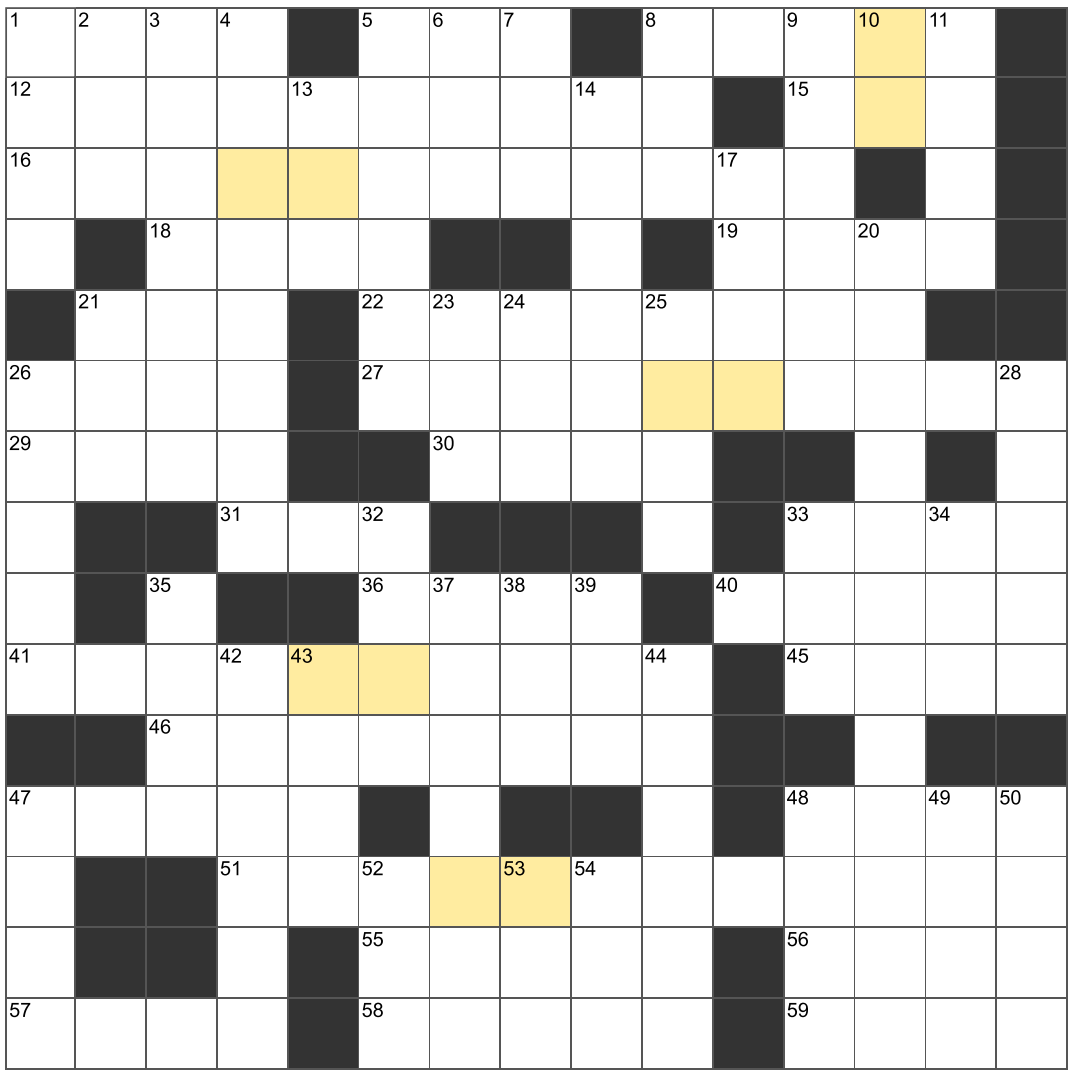
Daniel Belasco and Mrs Hamilton collaboratedto create a rich educational project. Upon returning to the classroom, students were tasked with creating artwork inspired by Held's paintings. Not only will these works demonstrate the significance and emotional understanding of abstract artwork, but the art curated by students will be displayed in the Al Held Foundation. While the opening reception is planned in February/March, students have already begun crucial planning regarding the process. Abbi Carris, a student in Glass and Metals, plans to conduct research on Held and then curate a piece inspired by his paintings. She said, "Im going to look at his paintings from old to new and incorporate that into my artwork."

It is apparent that the Al Held Foundation serves a grander purpose than just conserving works. Instead, the organization's cultivation of student works that will be featured in the foundation showcases the value of studying modern art and its principles. Mrs. Hamilton noted, "It is exciting to see what students are inspired by in Al Held's work and how they interpret and apply such inspiration into their own artwork." This assignment's purpose was significant in providing the utmost appreciation for Al Held, while deeply inspiring teachers and students alike to create artwork that fractures the boundaries of what defines a composition.



Onteora students at the Al Held Foundation learning about one of Held's pieces

# Advanced Tile Placement



## ACROSS

1 Holders of teeth
5 Alternative to high school diploma
8 Like most of New York State land, despite what is commonly believed
12 Phrase your friend without a car might say
15 Greek food spot in Uptown Kingston
16 March Madness tournament, for example
18 National Women's Soccer League, abbreviated
19 It takes two of these to kiss
21 Poem of praise
22 Subj. of the 17th Amendment
26 Utter delight
27 Classic legendary classroom reward
29 99+ GPA holder, perhaps
30 ____ Pueblo of New Mexico
31 Item you might need to get down Belleayre Mountain
33 Desired fast food spot for the bus to stop at after a game, for short
36 Lays down turf
40 "Let me get a pastrami _____"
41 Shot taken after Calvin Peck gets fouled and makes the layup
45 Some movie theatres
46 Actor that plays Buster in Arrested Development
47 "When in _____ tell the truth" - Mark Twain
48 Kids and teens do this to increase their "score" and to not lose their "streaks"
51 High-energy electron emitted during radioactive decay, as taught by Mr. Keenan
55 Cover story, in court
56 Suffix with Oktober
57 Veteran's affliction that is covered in Mrs. Curlew's Psychology class
58 Steeplechase and the 4x400
59 General of Chinese food

## DOWN

1 Cotton Processors
2 Senior, to a freshman, in modern slang
3 Roam
4 Slimy annoyances when trying to play in the ocean
5 New Mexico Town referenced in hit song "Route 66"
6 The Roaring Twenties, for one
7 Make your own table, for example
8 Zebra on the field
9 Spanish speaking Muppet on "Sesame Street"
10 *Remember to study for these tests at the end of the school year! The answer to this clue is a hint for the other shaded squares.
11 Mr. Keenan and Mrs. Funck's rooms
13 They result in two outs in baseball, for short
14 "If you don't feel good we're _____," Classic meme with a guy spotting a kid doing a flip
17 What a birds wings do
20 The Beatles rooftop concert and Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock
21 Common World Cup cheer
23 Something a teacher might yell at a student if they are walking around a classroom
24 Artist that sang Snooze and Kill Bill
25 NBA free-throw and passing legend Steve ____
26 Short man in an old lady's garden (He's not alive)
28 Noes' opposites
32 "____ with my little eye a girly I can get" song lyrics by Lil Yachty
33 Genetic related term taught in Mrs. Funck's Biology class
34 The concrete jungle where dreams are made of
35 Famous line Caesar uttered, "__ __ Brutus"
37 "Beaa-uti-ful!"
38 Day en la clase de Sra. Joslin
39 "Weekend Update" show, in brief
42 "He _____ the store for all they had."
43 Start of a pokergame
44 Classic falling-block game
47 Little ____, popular swimming hole by Woodstock
48 Sort (through)
49 "And one more thing"
50 Gives a dog love, for example
52 Paving gunk
53 Insta post
54 This pres. was an honest man

# Senior-ology

By Sophia Howard, Freshman

**In an old Onteora High School newspaper, dated November 18, 1965, and titled *The TomTom*, I found the most entertaining column, asking random questions to Seniors. I found it to be so interesting and interactive, and I just knew it was a necessary addition to our current newspaper!**

**Full name:** Abbi Carris
**What's your "theme song"?**
Jamiroquai, "Cosmic Girl"
**Advice for the lowerclassmen?**
"It's you vs you."
**Biggest pet peeve?** "People who have no sense of urgency, or like oblivious."
**How do you feel about being a senior?**
I couldn't be bothered.
**Where do you envision yourself ten years from now?**
"Living in Europe, with a teacup pig and baby goat."

---

**Full name:** Zackary Hayden Wotherspoon
**What's your "theme song"?**
Gummibar, "The Gummy Bear Song"
**Advice for the lowerclassmen?**
"Take more electives, do more sports."
**Biggest pet peeve?**
"BOCES taking up five whole periods"
**How do you feel about being a senior?**
I'm savoring my last year.
**Where do you envision yourself ten years from now?**
"Commercial airline pilot."

---

**Full name:** Shelby Weber
**What's your "theme song"?**
Overboard, "Sail North"
**Advice for the lowerclassmen?**
"Don't rush your school career it will fly by before you can think about it then when you blink you'll be in your senior year"
**Biggest pet peeve?**
"I don't like stupidity."
**How do you feel about being a senior?**
I can't wait to leave!
**Where do you envision yourself ten years from now?**
"Doing my dream job and married to my current partner, as well as starting a family."

**Full name:** Jonah Brekke
**What's your "theme song"?**
BabyCheifDoit, "Who Gon Drive"
**Advice for the lowerclassmen?**
"Stay happy."
**Biggest pet peeve?**
"Laughing weirdly."
**How do you feel about being a senior?**
I can't wait to leave!
**Where do you envision yourself ten years from now?**
"Being a Flight Instructor."

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**Full name:** Alexander Zapata
**What's your "theme song"?**
Kettama, "Pretty Green Eyes"
**Advice for the lowerclassmen?**
"Be yourself."
**Biggest pet peeve?**
"Having no food."
**How do you feel about being a senior?**
"I can't wait to leave!"
**Where do you envision yourself ten years from now?**
"Working."

# Girls Volleyball Cruises to Victory at Volley in the Valley Tournament

By Marley Bishop-Mann, Freshman



On October 17th, 2026 the varsity Lady Eagles volleyball team competed in The Volley in the Valley Tournament in Ellenville. Our Lady Eagles had a rocky start with a 0-2 loss against Sullivan West, but they played their heart out in the next two rounds, beating Ellenville 2-0 and Fallsburg 2-0, landing them a position in the finals.

The pressure was on and adrenaline was setting in which led them to play like a whole new team. This helped the Lady Eagles beat Sullivan West 2-0, and take home first place for the second year in a row! Go Eagles!



# Lunch Time Basketball Association

By Vaughan McDonagh, Junior

The LBA has been the talk of the town in the upperclass Onteora lunchroom throughout the beginning of the school year. Either you love it or you haven't witnessed it yet. It's the most exciting new up-and-coming league there is.

The LBA consists of five teams: The Scholars, A “Maize” ings, TP2G, Super Seniors, and Dunna’s Disciples. The league is supervised by LBA commissioner Harken. It is a king-of-the-court-style tournament each day where, if your team wins, you stay on offense. Whichever team scores the most baskets that lunch period is the winner of that day. At the end of the period, first place gets eight points, second place gets six, third place gets four, fourth place gets two, and fifth place gets zero. However many points you get that day are then added to your team's total score for the season.

The competition is fierce, but called fouls are few and far between. The league is accepting of all skill levels and play styles. The game is fast, physical and despite a league wide shooting slump so far this season, the three-point shot continues to be by far the highest volume shot despite it being worth the same as any other shot.

Our members are inclusive, competitive and fierce. When asked about his thoughts on the LBA, here's what Martin Berhman had to say: “I think the LBA provides a fun and entertaining outlet for people who enjoy basketball.” That's really what the LBA is about. creating a fun atmosphere where anybody who wants to play can enjoy some basketball.

# Pep Rally Moments! Fall 26'

Photos Credits: Will Barron, Senior





## GO ONTEORA EAGLES!





