

search	CHSRampage	Q
	Student Life	2
	Sports	3
	College	4
	Arts & Review	5
	Opinions	6
	Health	7
	Quotable Quotes---	8



Curriculum Night 2019

by Sammi Bosque 2020

Curriculum Night is often one of the most memorable times of an 8th grader's life; it's the halfway mark of their year and here at this event they get to see what lies ahead of them. The energy in the room was high as plenty of future freshmen entered the high school. Parents and students alike were able to see the various subjects, clubs, and sports Cheshire High School has to offer on Thursday, January 24th in the cafeteria and commons. There was plenty of representation to see from the leaders of the student body, such as the captains from Girls Swim, Boys Lacrosse, Boys Volleyball, Girl's Golf, Wrestling, and Fencing, as well as other sports. On top of it, there was plenty of club recruiting for members,

like the Rampage, NHS, Best Buddies, Unified Sports, and business clubs.

Curriculum night is a great opportunity for all incoming students, as it gives them a chance to be able to sign up for clubs ahead of time. With this event, students are able to take an advanced step and by signing up for listings or giving their information to leaders, they're able to get the information ahead of time and learn about Cheshire High before they even arrive.

Another great part of Curriculum Night was the academic area in the commons, where teachers from different electives came to showcase the many different classes to take beyond the core four subjects. Mrs. Berkin and Mr. Kuhner were there to show off the creativity that can

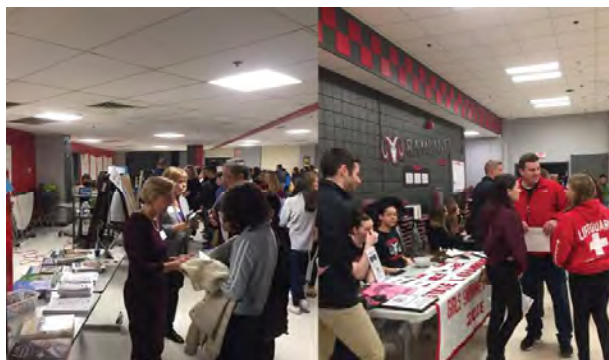


Photo Credits: @cheshirehigh Twitter

be found in the arts electives; between the many options for the fine arts. There were great opportunities of drawing, painting, theatre, band, and orchestra, there were

Please See Curriculum night, page 2

Girl's Basketball player hits 1000 career points

by Abby Dziura 2020

Just nine girls in all of Cheshire High School's basketball history have scored 1,000 or more career points on the court. Mia Juodaitis, senior captain of the team, just became one of them.

On January 24th, 2019, Juodaitis scored 22 points during the game, beating the 16 she needed to reach the milestone against Jonathan Law. Early into the fourth quarter, she netted a basket for two points. She later went on to score two foul shots to send the Rams into overtime, where they lost 60-53.

To celebrate, Mia and the team posed with pictures of a "1,000" banner and the next Monday, there was a small ceremony of balloons and cake before the game.

As the first player to reach this



Mia Juodaitis and her team pose with a banner after she scores 1,000 career points in girl's basketball

Photo Credits: Cheshire Herald

incredible milestone since 2014, Juodaitis has shown how tough she is both on and off the hardwood. She is a star softball player in the spring and has been on the Connecticut state championship team. Mia has committed to play Division I softball for Providence College, where there is no doubt she will excel.



Mia Juodaitis poses with her head coach, Michelle Viara

The Longest Government Shutdown

by Neeha Zaman 2022

By now you may have heard about the government shutdown, which was the longest one in US history. A government shutdown happens when either Congress fails to allocate funds in the budget, or the President refuses to sign certain bills or resolutions into law. Prior to the recent government shutdown, the longest one lasted for 21 days during the Clinton presidency.

This current shutdown started on December 22, 2018 after Congress couldn't agree on a spending bill. However, the cause could be traced back to President Trump's refusal to sign a bill that didn't have what he deemed "sufficient funding" for a wall along the US border with Mexico—the Senate passed a temporary funding bill that would last



Photo Credits: ABC News

until February 2019, but he also refused to sign that one at first. After this the House, which, at the time, had a GOP-majority, cleared a bill that included the 5 billion dollars Trump wanted for his wall, but that didn't go through in the Senate, where

Republicans alone didn't have enough votes to pass the legislation.

So how did the longest shutdown in US history affect everyday people?

Please See Government Shutdown, page 6

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Students take 5 APs: what happens next will shock you!
Page 2

Into the Wild - A Detailed Perspective on a Young Man Escaping Life
Page 5

The Case for Vaccines
Page 6

Pure Pen Comics
Page 7

Community Service Opportunities in the Area

By Sarah Chen

2020

Giving back to the community is something that is constantly encouraged by family, friends, and teachers. Taking time out of your day to help other people without material gain is what we know as community service. In fact, high schools across the nation are starting to adopt a system that requires a student to complete a certain amount of community service before he or she can graduate. Community service not only exposes a person to a new environment, but it provides the person with various tasks and obstacles that they must solve, whether it be picking up trash at a local park or creating meals at a soup kitchen.

The Cheshire Public Library has been a part of Cheshire History since 1961. To volunteer at the library, all you need to do is sign up on the Cheshire Public Library website: <https://www.cheshirelibrary.org/teens/>.

Sleeping Giant State Park is perfect place to go hiking. The guided trails, beautiful scenery, and stone "castle" at the end of the trail makes for a perfect spot to go hiking with friends or family. However, the park is maintained mainly through volunteer work. To be a part of the team that preserves Sleeping Giant all you need to do is sign up online on the Sleeping Giant Park Association Website: <https://sgpa.org/volunteer/>.

Love helping animals find their forever home? Become a volunteer for the adoption team at Louie's Legacy Animal Rescue in Meriden, CT. In this volunteer position you would help connect animals to their forever homes by interviewing prospective adopters and assessing whether or not the home is suitable for the animal. You would also volunteer at weekend events and help with setting up before and cleaning up afterwards. To apply all you need to do is go to: <https://www.louieslegacy.org/wp/get-involved/volunteer/>.

Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community. It is a simple and fast way to gain community service and there are various events that are flexible around every person's schedule. Plus, there are organizations for anyone's interests, and they can provide wonderful experiences for everyone involved. To find more volunteering opportunities, go to the State Farm Neighborhood of Good website: <https://neighborhoodofgood.statefarm.com/>.



Photo Credits: Google

Curriculum Night

Continued from page 1

also core teachers, such as Mrs. Maisto, to show students their possibilities and choice of classes in the math department. The future freshmen were able to see their options for classes and even met potential teachers right before the approaching course selection. The wide range of options that are available to students is a drastic change from Dodd. It gives them a chance to get an overview of everything before their arrival.

Overall, Curriculum Night proved to be a great success with the excited eighth graders, who showed great promise for high school next year. Everyone was enthusiastic as they entered in the doors, and they surely will be a fabulous class at the high school!

For more information on clubs at CHS, be sure to visit the extracurriculars website: <https://sites.google.com/a/cheshire.k12.ct.us/chs-service-groups-clubs/>

I Would Give this a Title, But I Procrastinated Writing the Article

By Samvi Bhardwaj

2020

The art of procrastination is something almost all high school students have mastered. The act of delaying something until the very last moment until it's due is second nature to Arlo Hatcher (2020), Wade Fowler (2020), and Asher Fritz (2020). These juniors have figured out a way to somehow maintain decent grades while doing the bare minimum.

Wade starts his homework the earliest, normally around 5; Arlo lives on the edge and normally does his work "the period before it's due." Asher tends to do his homework at "11 PM-ish or in school the day it's due." While procrastinating, Wade tends to do "anything really," with his activities varying from Netflix to ping pong. However, while avoiding doing work, both Wade and Arlo feel stressed (though they ignore it). Asher has an interesting perspective, saying "There are more important things in life than homework." In today's competitive atmosphere, everyone is gearing up for college admissions and lose touch with the things which matter most to them in light of other commitments.

Some students even go so far to procrastinate doing work with other work. For example, putting off a physics lab by doing math homework or ignoring an essay for a Spanish assignment. While Wade has done this, but "only if I really don't want to do an assignment," nei-

ther Arlo nor Asher have done this. Said Asher, "Normally when I procrastinate I completely focus on relaxing and avoiding thinking of homework at all." However, this habit has led to lost sleep and grogginess throughout the day. Despite these effects, Arlo has "never been anywhere near successful" in stopping this routine. He claims, "I usually do my work pretty efficiently for the first 2 weeks of school and then it's a giant slump after that," while adding, "I should probably start the chem homework that was due last week."



Photo Credits: Google



Wade, Arlo, and Asher procrastinating their work
Photo Credit: Samvi Bhardwaj

Model UN: A Fun Opportunity to Participate in International Relations

By Abby Dziura

2020

Every year, the Cheshire High School Model United Nations team takes a group of select members to Baltimore, Maryland to participate in JHUMUNC, one of the biggest Model UN conferences in the area. JHUMUNC, or the John Hopkins University Model United Nations Conference, takes place in February and is run by John Hopkins University. Students usually stay for four days in Baltimore and go to multiple committee sessions per day, including some that start in the middle of the night, simulating a real-life "midnight" crisis.

Dozens upon dozens of high schools from all over -- including internationally -- send students to the various committees in a mock version of the United Nations, a gathering of countries across the world in the name of world peace. Each committee has a different topic or discussion they focus on (topics this year include space exploration, small islands, nanotechnology, and American territories). Students write a paper on their position based on their country and use this as the basis for their debate. Everyone has to follow parliamentary procedures, which is a specific type of debate and discussion format that is incredibly formal.

Despite the formalities, the trip is still considered an amazing experience by members of the club. Says Sammi Bosque (2020), "Model UN is such a fun experience. The people are awesome and you always learn so much". With the knowledge of other cultures and the international political landscape, as well as formal debate procedures, students learn and grow as speakers and debaters and meet other people with similar interests.

Good luck to everyone traveling to Baltimore in the upcoming weeks!



Photo Credits: Samvi Bhardwaj



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
SESSION XXII / FEBRUARY 7-10, 2019

Photo Credit: Google

Message From the Sports Editor: The Worst No-Call in History?

SPORTS EDITOR
by Mike Lewis 2019

I'm going to preface this article by saying that I have no bias in the situation. I am neither a Saints fan or a Rams fan (but rather a Patriots fan, whose team advanced to the Super Bowl fair and square), therefore my point of view is purely from a football fan perspective.

The Saints got robbed of a win and deserve a rematch with the Rams.

In case you didn't see the play or hear about it from others, late in the 2019 NFC Championship the Saints were driving to win the game and advance to Super Bowl 53. The game was tied at 20 with less than two minutes left. On 3rd and 10 from

the Rams' 13 yard line, Saints quarterback Drew Brees threw a pass to wide receiver Tommy Lee Lewis, but was unable to complete it due to an early hit from Rams' player Nickell Robey-Coleman. If you haven't seen it, look it up. Even people who know nothing about football will agree that something was wrong. As fans cheered, expecting a pass interference call on the Rams, which would've taken them to the 3 yard line, the referees stayed silent. Fans slowly began to realize that there wasn't going to be a call, forcing the Saints to kick a field goal while also giving the Rams a solid 90 seconds to get into field goal range and send the game to overtime.

Now, what if the pass interference had been called? What impact would it have made. In that case, the Saints would now be at 1st and goal on the 3 yard line, with the ability to either score a touchdown or run the clock down to three seconds left, allowing kicker Wil Lutz to come in and kick the game winner 20 yd FG, a easy kick for all NFL kickers. However, that wasn't the case. The Rams drove down the field and kicked a field goal to end regulation, tying the game and sending it to overtime.

Now yes, the Saints had a chance to win in in overtime. Yes, Drew Brees threw a crucial interception to set the Rams up for the game winning field goal. However, none of that would have happened if the referees had called pass interference.

As a Patriots fan, I honestly wanted the Rams to win. However, after that call, I was full-on rooting for the Saints, as no fanbase or team should have to end their season on something they couldn't control. While I do believe the Rams are a great team, they did not deserve to win that one game.

(And for the Patriots, it's nice to finally have no controversy surrounding our trip to the Super Bowl).



Photo Credits: USA Today



Come support the Rams!

- Boys Basketball**
Fri 2/8: @ Hand
Tue 2/12: @ Hillhouse
Fri 2/15: Southington
Mon 2/18: West Haven
- Boys Swimming**
Thur 2/7: Hand @
Cheshire Pool
Fri 2/15: Holy Cross
@ Kennedy HS
- Girls Basketball**
Fri 2/8: Jonathan Law
Mon 2/11: @ Sacred Heart
- SCC and State Playoff Schedules TBD, follow @CHSRamPride and @chsramland on Twitter for up-to-date info!**

- Boys Ice Hockey**
- Wed 2/6: East Catholic @ Champions Skating Center, Cromwell
Wed 2/13: Guilford @ East Haven Ice Rink
Sat 2/16: Amity @ Wesleyan
Mon 2/18: Farmington Valley @ Avon Old Farms
Sat 2/23: Hall-Southington @ Wesleyan
Wed 2/27: New Milford @ Wesleyan

Ramland Helping CHS Hockey Thrive

by Mike Lewis 2019

The hype around the Cheshire High School hockey team this year is unrivaled by previous seasons. A hot start to the season got the ball rolling, urged on by the rabid student section coming out to every game.

Despite the fact that Wesleyan University's ice rink is about 30 minutes away from Cheshire High School, the student turnout at the Rams' "home" games is incredible. Led by the many seniors holding down the front, Ramland turns out in droves to see their team play. With the flag waving and students right on the glass, the students have provided

a huge help for their team so far this season.

The Rams started the season with four straight wins, their largest winning streak to start a season in the program's history. Despite losing two straight after the hot start, the Rams seem to have regained momentum heading into the back half of the season. At 7-3-1, Cheshire seems poised for a solid state playoff run.



Photo Credits: @gledernernews on Twitter



Photo Credits" @CTHSHockeyDB on Twitter



Photo Credits: @gledernernews on Twitter



Photo Credits: @gledernernews on Twitter

Ithaca College

by Meredith Carson 2020

Located in Ithaca, New York, Ithaca College is well known for its strong Liberal Arts program, specifically focusing on music due to its founding as a music conservatory. However, it also focuses on business, communications, health sciences and human performance, as well as humanities and sciences. From the sciences to the arts, Ithaca provides a variety of majors for any student interested.

With three colleges in the area, including Cornell and a local community college, as well as Ithaca itself, the town supports a college lifestyle. With beautiful waterfalls and landscapes, students have the ability to hike during the summer and still enjoy the beautiful autumn leaves that New England brings. The summers tend to be warm and generally mild, while the winters can be long and snowy; which leave plenty of time to engage in fun winter activities, like sledding. The city also has art galleries, theaters, and farmers markets, along with other similar features that add to the college experience.

Rated as #9 in the north by U.S. News & World Report, Ithaca has become well known for its expansive Liberal Arts programs. But it doesn't only offer numerous majors, but Ithaca offers on campus housing, multiple clubs



and activities including intramurals and athletics. To further support its students, the college provides various academic supports, and for those struggling on what they want their future to look like, they have an Office of Career Services to help you decide. Of course, Ithaca also provides students with health centers and clinics just in case a student becomes ill or an accident occurs. Ithaca also has fitness centers for those focusing on staying in shape.

If any of these features sound appealing or interesting to you as a part of your future, Ithaca College may be right for you!



Job Shadowing

by Grace Azula 2020

"What do you want to do after High School?" This is one of the most common questions, and also one of the most stressful, questions asked to Juniors and Seniors. At such a young age, it can be nearly impossible to know what you want to do with the rest of your life, but thanks to the exceptional guidance department, especially Ms. Generous, students have a much better chance at figuring it out. On February 1st many juniors and seniors attended a job shadow in a career field of their choice, where they were able to get a clearer idea of what they want post-high school.

Students shadowed all different kinds of occupations, from nurses, to business managers, to writers. Ms. Generous did an amazing job at finding jobs that fit what students were looking for. For students already fixated on a career, she made sure to set them up with the exact positions they wanted. While giving those who were still unsure jobs that she believed would provide them with a beneficial experience. Each and every shadow was carefully tailored to the student, resulting in some very satisfied experiences.

"They were so enthusiastic about everything! They gave us a really accurate representation about what the job was ac-

tually like. They were very honest about what it takes and it really opened my eyes to what it was actually like," says Paige Remillard

Although figuring out what you want to do can be a very difficult task, this job shadow program took students one step closer to actually picking a career they want to pursue. Once again, Cheshire High School set up their students up for success by giving them yet another incredible opportunity.



SAT Preparation

by Aida Adiguzel 2021

SATs may be one of the most important tests you will take in your life. They determine the overall performance of a student in regards to everyone else in the world; and they can determine what college/university that you will go to. So, of course, many students strain under the pressure and stress of doing well on their exam. Knowing what to look out for and how to prepare for the SATs could save your score by many points. There are a variety of preparations you can do for your SATs inside and outside of school.

If your school offers SAT prep courses make sure to stop by and sign up for a class! Do not miss out on opportunities that could help you earn points especially if you are an auditory learner who works better with the hearing aspects of learning. There also may be online courses that you can take that can help enhance your reading/math level. For example, Khan Academy offers a great "crash course" on the SATs, and it is also free. When your school offers a PSAT exam make sure to take it to see what your weaknesses are. Pinpointing which section you got a lower grade in will give you the hindsight to know what to study for the actual test. If you can afford it, getting a personal tutor can also benefit you. It is a much more personalized approach, you can get customized lessons that are specialized to what you have mastered and what you need more practice in. SAT prep books are a good way of studying for the exam, they provide overall knowledge about the test and practice problems that are similar to the SAT's questions.

Familiarize yourself with the material covered in the exam, the sections and directions for each. Don't study all at once, you won't be able to memorize

the material if you do it the day before the exam (that goes for any test). Study over a longer period of time, a few months before is a good baseline for how long you should study. Repeat the same material over and over until you have mastered it and then move on to the next section as soon as possible. Make sure to read more books, preferably nonfiction and classics, because they help you with your vocabulary, grammar and comprehension. If you can, practice greek and latin roots, they can help give you clues to what a word means on the exam. Take practice tests on math with and without a calculator, perfect your basic math skills like adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, times tables, square numbers and factoring. Switch up your studying methods. Do a lot of logic/word problems to further your math comprehension.

While studying, it's important that you take a couple small breaks so you don't overwhelm your brain with information. Overworking and burn out can easily be avoided by studying months earlier before the SAT, instead of studying two weeks before. Setting up a good mindset is just as important as studying, so make sure to get a good night's sleep and eat healthy food before taking the test. You shouldn't stay up right up until the exam, you will perform better if you are healthy. Learn what method of studying helps you best, ex. writing everything out, listening to someone explain, etc. Not everything will work for everyone which is why it is important to learn how you study the best.

Southern Connecticut State University

by Natalie Vetto 2019

Southern Connecticut State University located in New Haven CT has an open and positive learning environment. This school has a wide range of majors, but they specify in nursing and public health degrees. While on the tour, they showed all of their buildings, and explained how they are refurbishing all of health and science buildings within the next year. The university is full of new technology and helpful staff that are there to help you succeed.

The president of SCSU, Joe Bertolino, expressed his love of his school and his students. He explained that his goal is for the students (who he knows all by name) to be able to push themselves and grow into better people. He explained to the families that he wants to see all of his Alumni to be better citizens by giving back to their communities, being polite, and overall striving to be the best.

As the tour continued the groups arrived at the mess hall. Their food program consists of an all you can eat buffet. They have a sushi counter, a pizza counter, a sandwich counter, an asian counter, an all day breakfast station (my favorite), and an ice cream machine. Their food was delicious and they made sure there was an option for everyone. The tour guide also explained that upon asking any of the stations, there will always be vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free options available. If that wasn't enough, the campus also has two Dunkin Donuts and one Starbucks.

When it comes to the rooming and student life, its huge. Rooming is split up by degree and major, this means that all of the freshman public health would room in the same building and freshman business in another. Each building and floor have at least one group event or activity a month. SCSU prides itself on their safe and accepting communities. They want to make sure that every student has a fair shot at getting to meet someone new and find their path. This school has come a long way and in my opinion it is the best state school in Connecticut.



Aquaman Movie Review

by Eleanor Boyd

2022

Aquaman is the latest movie from DC comics, the rival comic company to Marvel comics. DC has never quite measured up to Marvel and the extended Marvel Cinematic Universe, but this time, Aquaman, along with Wonder Woman (also a DC film), may just be one of the best superhero movies to date.

Aquaman follows the story of Arthur Curry, a man whose father was human and whose mother was Atlantean. Arthur's mother, Atlanna, was the Queen of Atlantis before she was executed for having Arthur, her illegitimate son. Years later, Arthur is recruited by Mera (another highborn Atlantean) to find the mystical trident that will prove that he is the true King of Atlantis and enable him to stop his half brother Orm from destroying the entire surface world. Arthur and Mera, with some help from Arthur's mentor, travel the world in search of the mythical trident while trying to defeat Orm and his pirate lord, Black Manta.

Aquaman is an amazing movie with stunning visuals and dry humour. It's packed with beautifully sequenced action scenes and it manages to convey more character development in a short amount of time than one would expect. The characters are wonderfully developed thus helping you to gain a true understanding of them. This speaks not only to the actors' ability, but to the impeccable script as well. The writing is nearly perfect and overall, the movie is great. However, there



were some issues.

(WARNING--SPOILERS AHEAD)

While the visuals of the movie looked beautiful and serene, there was a certain je ne sais quoi missing during the underwater scenes, which made up about half of the movie. The underwater lighting was a little spotty and the way the actors looked while "underwater" felt off. It wasn't anything definite and I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but it was there and that little detail bugged me the entire movie. The whole underlying romance arc between Arthur and Mera also felt just a little too rushed for it to be real. They disliked each other very much from the start, Mera believing Arthur to be conceited and foolhardy, and Arthur believing Mera to be arrogant, uptight, and mean. And even though these kinds of movie tropes are

cliché and to be expected in this genre, it was still a little bit surprising to see Arthur and Mera fight one minute and embracing each other the next. It felt very rushed and it lacked the development it should have been given. However, that's understandable- Aquaman is an action movie and all other sub-plots have to take the back seat to the action. It would have been better if more slow development was given to Arthur and Mera's relationship, saving the "confession" for a possible sequel.

The positives of the movie very much outweigh the shortcomings. The cast is diverse, starring Jason Momoa, a biracial actor, as the lead Arthur Curry and Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, an African American actor, as Black Manta. The movie also starred Nicole Kidman as Atlanna, which is always nice to see. You might even recognize Jango Fett or Commander Cody, as he starred as Arthur's father, Tom Curry.

This movie was great. Yes, there were a few things to be critiqued, but they can be overlooked because everything else about the movie was excellent. Congrats to DC for finally making something that can stand up to Marvel!



Bucket List Broadway

by Grace Azaula

2020

It is no surprise that Cheshire High School's theatre department is full of talent. Whether you come see the musicals, fall plays, one acts shows, or all of the above, you are sure to be blown away by the ensemble's singing, dancing, acting, and enthusiasm. However, it is not everyday that you get to see these performers individual talents. Although group dances, songs, and scenes are tons of fun, there is nothing like getting a chance to show off what you've got, and on February 9th, these performers will get an opportunity to do just that. On that night young performers from the CHS theatre department will get their chance to shine at this year's Bucket List Broadway, hosted at the Waverly Inn.

This show will be a cabaret of sorts, where students will sing solos and duets, all of which correspond to this year's theme: Broadway, with love. This theme seems quite fitting, as Valentine's

day is just around the corner. Songs will be sung about all different types of love, from romantic love, to friendship, to love amongst family members. The performers have put lots of time and effort into choosing and practicing songs that not only highlight their voices, but that tell a beautiful love story.

However, the singers are not the only ones preparing for this event. The theme, location, and decorations have all required lots of planning, and Ms. Demeo and CHS student Julianna Distantte have been hard at work making sure that everything goes off without a hitch. But to them, it is 100% worth it. Says Julianna Distantte, "It is a really fun cabaret event that gives everyone a chance to showcase their talents. It's just a really fun night out!" She is so excited for the event that the preparation barely feels like work. Some of the stress is also being lifted off of their shoulders due to the drama parents contributions of baskets that will be sold in a raffle.



The students, faculty, and parents have been working diligently to make Bucket List the best it can be. But all of this hard work will be worth nothing if there is no audience to see the ending result. So come see the show! There will be light appetizers, an open bar for adults, raffle prizes, and, of course, incredible performances by CHS's very own students for a small fee of just \$20. What could possibly be better than that?

CMEA Regionals Concert

by Grace Azaula

2020

Cheshire High School's music department is full of extremely talented, dedicated musicians. Not only do they love to sing and/or play their instruments, but they look forward to improving, and challenging themselves musically. Much to their delight, some of Cheshire High's most exceptional musicians had an opportunity to do exactly that by participating in a prestigious regional concert held at Platt High School on January 11th and 12th.

CHS had great representation in each of the festival's ensembles, including orchestra, concert band, jazz band, mixed choir, and treble choir. Each of these ensembles came together with dedicated student musicians from all over Southern Connecticut on Friday the 11th for their first, and last, rehearsal before their concert on Saturday the 12th. Choirs worked diligently on making their tone the best it could, singing a variety of pieces ranging from Georgian folk music, to traditional Italian, and everything in between. Orchestra practiced developing intensity and interpretation whilst practicing incredible arrangements, like a medley of Phantom of the Opera. Jazz band learned how to feel the music and make the audience feel it too, while concert band worked together to make beautiful, classical music the best it could be.

After five hours of hard work, the students went home to get some well deserved rest in preparation for Saturday's concert. The following day, they returned to Platt High School where the final bells and whistles were added to their repertoires right up until their performances. All five of the ensembles did such an amazing job at the concert that people could hardly believe that the musicians were high schoolers.

But while it was a great experience for the audience, it was an even better one for the Cheshire High School students. For it was this festival that allowed them how to come together to do what they love, with people who have just as much passion as they do. And to them, that is the ultimate musical experience.



Into The Wild Book Review

by Meredith Carson

2020

To any high school student who has become overwhelmed with work, it's common to think about escape. Life in today's society is complicated, filled with roles to fill, people to please, with concerns about money and material goods.

The new trends in fashion and technology constantly flit through an average teenager's mind. As teenagers, we inherently worry about how we are presented to others, and fashion and technology often highlight this the most. Plus, to any juniors and seniors, college is a threat with acceptance rates and towering student debts. Society is based around material goods and obligations, and nobody knows that better than Christopher McCandless. In Jon Krakauer's novel, *Into the Wild*, protagonist McCandless tells the story of his experiences donating and destroying

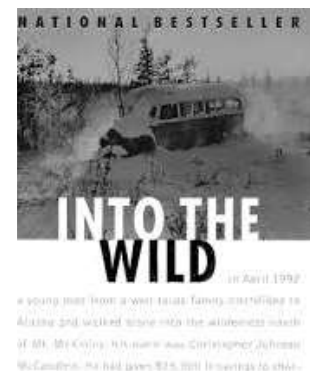
donating and destroying the majority of his belongings, only to go on a two year hitchhike to Alaska and die in a bus, likely from starvation. Krakauer first came to know of McCandless when his body was found in 1992, and had written an article about him and his life the next year. He then went on to write *Into the Wild*, in which he reveals a raw and extreme version of many dreams to escape from ordinary life.

Being a journalist himself, Krakauer wrote the book like an article. The descriptions of the landscapes McCandless saw are written as a journalist would: very matter of fact but still revealing the beauty of it. It doesn't over exaggerate the appearance of it as many fictional authors would, but describes it to the reader as it is. Krakauer further shows his journalistic background through his

background through his descriptions of other people and what they say about a situation. It's a very observant view of Christopher's life. It's honest, thus reflecting McCandless's own writing, which is also featured in the novel. Both authors write in third person, Christopher referring to himself as Alex in his journals. The main difference between McCandless and Krakauer is McCandless's passionate descriptions of life, writing as if what he's recording exactly what he felt in the moment.

For anybody who's interested in an honest, real story showing the life of a man willing to throw everything away to find who he truly is, *Into the Wild* is a great read. The novel gives readers a fascinating look into Christopher McCandless's last few years, as well as the impact that others had on him, and the mark that

he left on on those around him.



Government Shutdown

Continued from page 1

Hundreds of thousands of government workers didn't get paid, and many of them were still expected to report to work. To add to that, flying also became more dangerous due to many TSA agents calling in sick--why go into work without pay? Museums were closed and national parks were damaged, like at Joshua Tree National Park, where visitors cut down one of the Joshua Trees. The FDA was forced to suspend safety inspections on food that had a high risk of contamination, leading to a question of whether the food or not the food we are consuming was (or is still) safe.

On January 25th, the House, Senate, and President Trump agreed on a short-term spending bill that would temporarily reopen the government through February 15th. Federal government workers are expected to receive their back pay, but it's unclear exactly when that will happen. There is a chance that the government might shut down again if Congress can't agree on a long-term budget by the 15th, but we can only hope it doesn't come down to that. The government shutdown hurt many Americans, and no matter what side of the political aisle you're on, another one will only make it worse. It's time for this to end, but the only problem is that there's no end in sight.



*Trump with his advisors discussing the shutdown
Photo Credits: Google photos*



*A national park shut down
Photo Credits: Google photos*

The Case for Vaccines

by Abby Dziura

2020

The Measles. Chicken pox. Polio. These three diseases have wreaked serious havoc on our society and our youth population in previous generations, as countless have died from these debilitating illnesses. Yet these diseases have seemed to be in America's rearview mirror as of late with the invention and proper implementation of vaccines. Vaccines have given so many citizens the ability to be immunized and safe from epidemics like the flu and chicken pox. Despite the existence of these preventative measures, there has been a recent wave of parents and advocates that believe that they do more harm than good. The main argument of the supposed "anti-vaxxers" is that we don't fully know the ramifications of how vaccines individually affects those who receive them. The biggest fear of those who don't support vaccines is that certain vaccines can lead to autism developing in young children. There have been a smattering of scientific studies that seem to suggest this link, but no high-ranking or strongly credible medical organization has come out with any data to fully support this hypothesis. In fact, many organizations have argued the opposite, that there is virtually no link between vaccinations and autism, and that that mere suggestion is incredibly harmful. I resoundingly agree

with this sentiment; anti-vaxxers are a true danger to our current health climate. The reason that diseases like the measles and Polio are returning is because this latest generation is no longer immune to them since they are no longer being vaccinated on a regular basis. In addition to the dangers of decades-old diseases returning, unvaccinated children present a grave danger to vaccinated children. If an unvaccinated child enters a classroom of vaccinated children, the likelihood of a disease like Polio spreading from the unvaccinated child to the rest of the class is incredibly high. This is a risk that simply cannot be taken, and it is a risk that is enabled by anti-vaxxers. Ultimately, the case for not vaccinating your children or yourself is flimsy at best and harmful at worst. Why put your own life and the lives of so many in danger because of one misplaced and misguided theory?



Photo Credits: Google photos

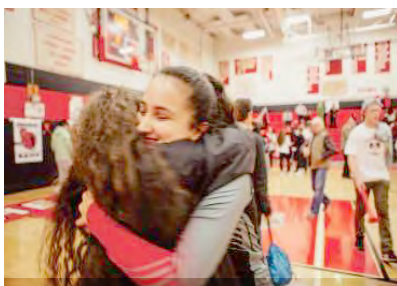
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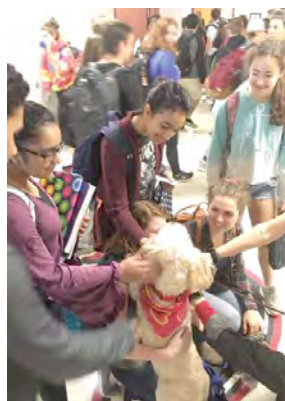
*Girls' Volleyball plays their senior night game
Photo Credits: Erin Wu*



*A ram cheers on her fellow students
Photo Credits: Erin Wu*



*Seniors celebrate after their volleyball game
Photo Credits: Erin Wu*



*Students pet a service dog in the halls
Photo Credits: Abby Dziura*



*The marching band preps for a performance
Photo Credits: Natalie Vetto*



*Seniors enjoy the weather on the senior walk
Photo Credits: Erin Wu*



*Two students pose after Music in Motion
Photo Credits: Erin Wu*



*Students study in the cafeteria
Photo Credits: Natalie Vetto*

Flu Season 2019

By Callie Fritz

2020

Winter has arrived in Cheshire, all blustering winds and black ice. Yet the weather is not the most dangerous thing you will encounter this month: the flu epidemic of 2019 is upon us. This recent season of the flu has been the most harrowing our state has seen in recent years, as of last month, 527 people had tested positive for the flu virus in CT. In addition to the mass of infected people, the flu virus has also been declared as "widespread", meaning that more than half of the state has been inflicted. A total of 6 people have died in Connecticut as of January 19th as a result of the flu, which is a very scary fact.

There is one way to definitely avoid catching the flu this season: simply getting your flu shot. Getting your flu shot, no matter how far along in flu season we may be, is vital if you want to stay healthy all year round. It is also easier to get your flu shot than ever before. There are two ways to get your flu shot, the typical vaccine route, and for those with a fear of needles, the nasal spray route. The latter option is an invention that has only existed for the past 10 to 15 years, and involves your doctor spraying the weakened virus into your nose. Both options have been



found to be equally effective, so whatever your method of choice may be, the fact that you're getting immunized is what is really important. Not only have the methods of getting a flu shot become more accessible over the years, but so have the locations and opportunities to get them. Going to your doctor or physician is always an easy way to get immunized quickly and efficiently, but that is no longer the only option. The flu vaccine is now available at walk in clinics and pharmacy's, with the Cheshire CVS being one notable local place for obtaining one. As January comes to a close and February begins, it is more vital than ever to be fully immunized, not just for yourself but for your friends, classmates, and family as well.

Winter Recipes

by Callie Fritz

2020

Vegan Brownies

From AllRecipes

Ingredients

2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
2 cups white sugar
3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup water
1 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

In a large bowl, stir together the flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt. Pour in water, vegetable oil and vanilla; mix until blended. Spread evenly in a 9x13 inch baking pan.



Bake for 25-30 minutes in the preheated oven. Let cool for 10 minutes before cutting into squares.

Vegan Spicy Black Bean Soup

From AllRecipes

Ingredients

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced

Students Take 5 APs: What Happens Next Will Shock You!

By Sanvi Bhardwaj

2020

We've all been there. The 2 AM struggle, barely awake but still doing homework, working on a project, or studying for a test. And this happens more often than we'd like. Here's a firsthand look at some of the brightest, yet most sleep-deprived students at Cheshire High School.

Cindy "Yaya" Guo (2020) and Laxman Singanamala (2020) are both in the thick of junior year, struggling under the weight of their coursework, extracurriculars, and just day-to-day life. For them, sleep is not a need, but a luxury. They both survive on a paltry few hours of sleep per night; Yaya averages 4-5 hours, while Laxman averages 3-4.5 hours. Their reason? Yaya states it well: "It's usually because of homework with a dash of procrastination and bad time management sprinkled in." Laxman echoed this statement, and it likely resonates with a majority of the student body.

To keep up, sometimes students sacrifice an entire night of sleep and pull an all-nighter. Laxman has fallen victim to this, saying "[all-nighters] happen about

once a year. The lack of sleep causes your mind to muddle and it dulls your senses, more so than a regular day." For them, a "regular day" means that they don't feel awake until 8:30-9:00 AM. This does not bode well during class, where students are struggling to stay awake and learn the material. Yaya is victim to this, saying she falls asleep "maybe once every two weeks" in class. Laxman, however, claims differently: "I have never technically fallen asleep during class time, but once during a break in between double period Physics I fell asleep."

When asked if they had any advice, Laxman said simply, "sleep more," while Yaya went a little more in depth. "Take car naps. They're wonderful. Also, if you're going to fall asleep in class, face away from the teacher and have a friend cover for you. Make sure you have your arm placed so it looks like you're taking notes." These pieces of advice--while not condonable--accurately portray the daily life of an average Cheshire High student: tired and looking forward to a nap.

2 carrots, chopped
2 teaspoons chili powder
1 teaspoon ground cumin
4 cups vegetable stock
2 (15 ounce) cans black beans, rinsed and drained
1 (8.75 ounce) can whole kernel corn
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 (14.5 ounce) can stewed tomatoes

Instructions

In large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; cook onion, garlic, and carrots, stirring for 5 minutes or until onion is softened. Add chili powder and cumin; cook for 1 minute. Add stock, 1 can of the beans, corn, and pepper; bring to boil. Meanwhile, in food processor or blender, puree together tomatoes and remaining can of beans; add to pot. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes or until carrots are tender.



Quotable Quotes

What is the best local pizza place?



"Mr. B's, it's clearly
the best"
~ Sammi Bosque
2020



"Frank Pepe's, they have thin
crust and it's really light"

~ Lavana Gulati
2020



"Mr. B's!"
~ Yaya Guo
2020



"Pop's Pizza is my favorite"
~ Shreya Dhumre
2019



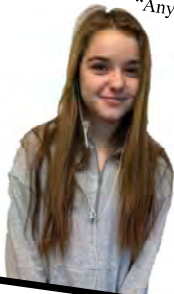
"Sally's in New
Haven"
~ Tobias Tello
2022



"Pop's Pizza.
They have
really good buffalo
chicken pizza"
~ Sarah Chen
2020



"Anything vegan around here?"
~ Izzy Dziura
2022



"The pizza served here in
the Ramland Cafe!"
~ The Ram
1957



"Cheshire Pizza is my
favorite"
~ Abby Robinson
2020



"I like homemade pizza"
~ Anshika Pandey
2020



"In Connecticut, it's
Frank Pepe's in New
Haven"
~ Meredith Carson
2020

