



CHESHIRE HIGH SCHOOL

RAMPAGE

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And the winner of the Name the Ram contest is...

Abby Dziura, Editor-in-Chief

2020

This October, the Rampage ran a contest to name Cheshire High School's ram mascot. Since the school's inception in the 50s, the ram has only been known as "The Ram". Now, the Rampage is excited to announce that the ram's official name is "Ramsey"!

The winner of the contest, Alexa McPadden, 2023, was given a season pass to all home games this year at Cheshire for any sport, as well as gift cards to Sweet Claude's, Cheshire Coffee, and the Dollar Tree.

The Rampage staff took open submissions for names for one week, and then picked five of the

best and most popular names for the school to vote on: Ramsey, Joe, Bam the Ram, Rambo, and Charger. McPadden was randomly chosen from the pool of students who submitted Ramsey in the first round of the contest. Ramsey won by a small margin, with Joe close behind in second.

The winning name was announced at the home football game on October 18th in front of a bustling student section that began to chant "Ramsey!"

The Rampage would like to extend its congratulations to Alexa McPadden for officially naming the ram and to thank the student body for sending submissions and voting.

RAMSEY
THE RAM



The 2020 presidential election: who's who?

Callie Fritz, Editor

2020

The Rampage prides itself on being an outlet for student voices. With the 2020 presidential primaries and election upcoming, the Rampage staff decided to ask students who they will support in the upcoming election and why. We were able to reach out to students across the political spectrum and were happy to see how engaged and informed our student body is.

The views presented in these write-ups do not necessarily reflect the views of the Rampage or Cheshire High School.

Donald Trump

Alec Frione, Writer

2020

I support Donald Trump because he is tough in the sense that he does not let any country or person take advantage of him. Also, he has been constantly attacked throughout his presidency and has not let that affect his success at all. Finally, he has helped our economy tremendously in just 3 years in office.

Joe Biden

Anonymous

Joe Biden is by far the most qualified candidate in the race. The main criticism of Biden is his age, but what some may perceive as a hindrance to his candidacy, I see as a strength. Joe Biden was not only a senator for decades, he was also the Vice President, heartbeats away from the presidency. Biden's experience is what defines him and makes him my ideal candidate for 2020.

Bernie Sanders

Anonymous

One of the biggest crises currently facing our country is inequality—it's reared its ugly head in many forms, and Bernie Sanders has the best plan to combat this. Sanders is well-versed in the political world and has long been a champion of those without voices. Comprehensive healthcare and education plans are the hallmarks of his campaign and show real promise. Overall, he is the best candidate for the good of society, the US, and the world as a whole.

Elizabeth Warren

Neeha Zaman, Staff Writer

2022

One of the biggest reasons why I support Elizabeth Warren is because she seemingly has a plan for everything - one of her biggest campaign slogans is "Warren has a plan for that." I also like her background, and how she has a history of supporting progressive policies. She's also been pretty consistent on not backing down from fights surrounding her policies, which I appreciate.

Andrew Yang

Sanvi Bhardwaj, Editor

2020

In my opinion, Andrew Yang is the most relatable candidate in the entire race. As son of immigrant parents, he is trying to change the sole narrative of the poor immigrant experience. His policies are well thought out, especially the Universal Basic Income (UBI), and he strikes the moderate-progressive balance that Democrats need, especially in such a contentious race.

Pete Buttigieg

Sean Bishop, Writer

2020

With the divided political climate we find ourselves in today, what this country needs is a communicator, someone who can bridge the partisan divide and be the leader of the United States. Pete Buttigieg provides a millennial perspective to a Democratic primary made dominated by septuagenarians, and is committed to solving not just the problems facing our nation today, but promoting policies that will create a bright and prosperous America in the future.

Cory Booker

Katie Baroli, Writer

2020

Corey Booker is a great candidate for the 2020 presidential race, and he is exactly what our country needs what right now: a moderate diplomat. Our sitting president is on the far right of the political spectrum, and many of the Democratic presidential candidates are on the far left. I believe he'd be an impressive and diplomatic president.

Tulsi Gabbard

Aidan Palmer, Writer

2022

I support Tulsi Gabbard because she is the personification of integrity and selflessness. She put her values first and endorsed Bernie Sanders for president in 2016, knowing it would put her political career at risk. She has long been a proponent of marijuana legalization, ending America's wasteful regime-change wars, raising the minimum wage, banning private prisons, and so much more.

Kamala Harris

Anonymous

Kamala Harris is my candidate for the 2020 presidency for so many reasons. She is the only woman of color in the race—not only is she African American, but she is also Indian. More than just her racial background, Harris is a progressive with a penchant for justice, and I believe she will bring our divided country back together.

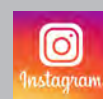
We're online!

Check out the Rampage website!



SCAN ME

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Bread Club: a rising club for carb-craving students

Grace Azaula, Editor

2020

Bread. One of the most delicious, simple, versatile foods of all time. A food beloved by so many here at Cheshire High School that a group of students decided to create a club to enjoy it.

The Bread Club was created last year by student Joe Pepper. Inspired by Worcester Polytechnic Institute's two cheese clubs, Pepper decided to make a club for his own favorite food: bread. He thought that if a college could have multiple clubs for cheese, a high school could most certainly have a single club for bread.

The Bread Club meets most Wednesdays

during the school year. Members are expected to bring various breads to share during meetings, where they cut the loaves and socialize with other members. Each week the club tries to pick a different theme in order to spice up their palates and meetings. One week it could be Italian, the next week, it could be dessert. But no matter what type of bread they are eating, the members enjoy the food and the company.

Life for a student can be stressful, so take time out of your day to eat some bread, unwind, and chat with friends at the CHS Bread Club. For more information, join the classroom page using code pg8zc5w or at check out their website at tiny.cc/chsbreadclub.



Some mouthwatering types of bread you could see at the bread club. Photos courtesy of Google Images.

Eggs-aming physics projects

Sanvi Bhardwaj, Editor

2020

The AP Physics C class had eggceptional amount of fun on November 4th with their egg drop projects. The students had to drop their containers, made eggclusively from white copy paper, school glue, and tape, from the eggstremely tall press box.

The class broke off into pairs to begin work on this project. At times, the work was eggscruciating, as they had to create designs that were less than 1 kg (including the egg) and could fit in a closed copy

paper box. They created preliminary designs over the summer and worked to develop a container that could absorb the force of impact and soften the fall of the egg.

"We were eggstremely happy with the results of our project," said Chloe Stults (2020) and Sophie Gessman (2020) after their egg survived the fall. Ms. Barker echoed these statements, saying, "The results were eggcellent!"

Clearly, AP Physics C is more fun than it's cracked up to be.



Sanvi Bhardwaj and Yaya Guo's Egg Drop. Photo courtesy of Sanvi Bhardwaj.



Scott Heseltine and Wade Fowler's Egg Drop. Photo courtesy of Scott Heseltine.

Tissue quality is nothing to sneeze at

Sanvi Bhardwaj, Editor

2020

As flu season is reaching its peak, so is the annual CHS tradition: complaining about the school's tissues. Yaya Guo (2020) says that, "the tissues are thinner than tissue paper" and went on to compare it to sandpaper due to its abrasive feeling on her nose.

Mrs. Shirk discussed the effect of the tissue quality on the spreading of colds: "When we don't take proper care of nasal fluids, it can lead to the perpetuation of germs." She went on to describe the phenomenon of the fluids leaking out of the tissue, which is not only disgusting, but also unhygienic.

Mrs. Carbone decided to take matters into her own hands by buying her own tissues. She also raised a concern that Mrs. Shirk echoed: "The size

of the tissue boxes. You have to get an incredible amount of tissue boxes for about a hundred students. I could go through a box in a day in the winter."

This issue has become more prevalent due to the new sign-out for tissue boxes. No matter if you're a teacher or a student, when you go to the main office to retrieve a box of tissues, you have to write down your name and the amount of boxes you took. Generally, teachers are encouraged to limit themselves to one box per pickup, although this quickly becomes an issue in the winter. Both Carbone and Shirk are unsure of the sign-out's purpose and believe it's unnecessary.

In the future, Mrs. Shirk suggests a review of the quality and quantity because "this is an issue that affects all of us." This tissue issue is clearly not one to be taken lightly.

Calling all grocery shoppers!

On Wednesday, December 4th, CHS will be holding the first ever "Supermarket Challenge" as part of a week long celebration for the Joy of Giving. Previously this was an afternoon gathering in the library where students and staff brought in items for the Cheshire Community Food Pantry, and were treated to snacks and prizes.

This year Coach Lee and the Peer Health class are challenging students and staff to organize teams and shop for needed food pantry items in a competition format as follows:

- Gather a team of 5 and register with Alec Frione or Marisa Brough (see contact information below)
- Fundraise \$75 per group—make checks payable to Cheshire High School
- Meet at the Southington ShopRite at 7pm on December 4th
- List of foods from the CCFP will be provided
- Compete with other teams to gather the most items in 30 minutes without exceeding \$100



There will be prizes, food, team bonding, and much more. Please contact Alec Frione at afrione@cheshire.k12.ct.us or Marisa Brough at mbrough1@cheshire.k12.ct.us for more information or to register your team.

We are now selling OFFICIAL **Rampage** shirts!

This comfortable heather gray long sleeve is made of Gildan Ultra Cotton fabric and features the Rampage logo in red and black.

Interested in buying one?

Contact Mrs. Wellspeak or Abby Dziura at amwellspeak@cheshire.k12.ct.us or adziura@cheshire.k12.ct.us. Each shirt is \$18 and is available in sizes S-3XL.





Fall Sports Recap

Girls and Swim and Dive
12-1

Field Hockey
10-7

Boys Soccer
11-6-1

Girls Soccer
14-4-2

Football
6-1

Girls Volleyball
17-6

Girls XC
7-2

Boys XC
7-2

Results as of November 14th, 2019.

e-Sports mid-season update

Max Braylyan, Editor 2020

While most of the sports run at Cheshire High School are wrapping up their seasons for the winter, there are still two teams who have a few weeks to go: the SMITE and League of Legends teams. So far, they’ve been on a rampage throughout their various leagues. The League of Legends team has been performing consistently well (4-2), only losing to one team because of a player substitution. The SMITE team(6-0) has been on a tear as well, not dropping a single match and tying for the highest ranked team in the league. Already, the season looks promising for both and there is certainly a chance to see them go to playoffs.

Editorial: Is the student section too rowdy?

Abby Dziura, Editor-in-Chief 2020



Students in the student section. Photos courtesy of Abby Dziura.

The student section at Cheshire High School always rivals other schools, even if our team doesn’t. There’s screaming, there’s signs, there’s color coordination and face paint, and there’s definitely hype. But do we take it too far?

Sort of.

Every year I have been a student at CHS, at least one person has passed out at a football game. Students scale the fences of the bleachers to make it to the top. There’s vaping, drugs, and alcohol galore. Everyone is packed in like sardines and people are constantly pushing their way in and out (how this isn’t a fire hazard, I don’t know).

Obviously, students drinking and passing out is a serious problem. Not only is it illegal, it’s incredibly dangerous to everyone involved. To be frank, I find putting other peoples’ safety at risk because you want to get drunk at a football game selfish. On the other hand, I understand that everyone makes mistakes. No one—including me—is a perfect person. This is where I think the student section crosses the line.

When no one is passing out, however, the student section is awesome. Each and every “First down!” is electric, and I love singing along to “Livin’ on a Prayer” with the rest of the crowd.

As a senior, my perspective might be a little biased. I wouldn’t trade my experiences in the student section for the world, and I know that college games won’t be the same. Hopefully, upcoming games will be just as chaotic and exciting, but in a good way. For the future, stay safe and have fun! I’ll see everyone at the next game.

Four seniors officially commit

Abby Dziura, Editor-in-Chief 2020

On November 13th, four seniors officially signed to play a sport in college.

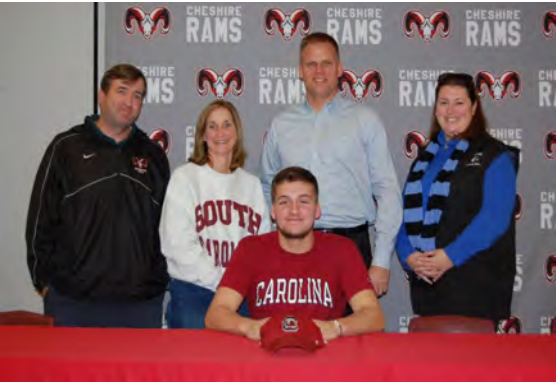
While the students had already verbally committed, the signing ceremony makes the process official.

Sam Hanke (2020) signed to swim for the University of South Carolina. Hanke will be the tri-captain of the Boys’ Swim and Dive team come this winter.

Caroline Champion (2020) signed to compete for Marist College in New York. Despite an injury that has prevented her from playing soccer during her senior year, Champion continued to support the team in her role as tri-captain. She follows in the footsteps of her coach, Kylee Diane, who also played for Marist.

Julia Stevens (2020) signed to compete for Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, where she will swim Division I. Her twin sister, Jillian Stevens (2020), signed to swim Division I for Bryant University in Rhode Island. The Stevens were tri-captains for the Girls’ Swim and Dive team and served as role models during the fall season.

Though it is hard to see seniors go, we wish them luck in their athletic and academic endeavors.



Sam Hanke (2020), Caroline Champion (2020), Jillian Stevens (2020), and Julia Stevens (2020), sign to their respective colleges with friends, family, and coaches. Photos courtesy of Greg Lederer @gregledernews.

The Big Stressor

Chipotle: where the prices are as jacked up as the hype

Patrick O'Conner, Staff Writer 2021

GPA. When you hear those three cursed letters, your mind probably starts racing, thinking about how it just went down or up a few points. You whine and worry about how bad it is, or boast and brag about how good it is. The truth is, your life does not depend on your GPA. Don't get me wrong, it's important to work hard to get the best GPA you can. But just because you don't have a 4.0 doesn't necessarily mean that your life is doomed.

There are a lot of other factors that come into play when applying to colleges, like extracurricular activities, community service hours, and strength of schedule. In addition, you're only in high school once. While it's important to put effort into your work, it's also important to enjoy being in high school. Why waste it away worrying about grades all the time? Think about it this way: Would you rather look back upon high school knowing that you had a 4.0 GPA but were always anxious about your grades, or knowing you didn't have a 4.0, but you still worked hard and had fun in high school?

Your grades don't define you. Being the best student you can be is necessary; however, you should never get overwhelmed. There's more to high school than your GPA. With all of the clubs and sports available at CHS, you should get involved, meet others, and connect with your fellow students.

It's okay to make the grade, but don't forget to live the life.

Brendan Mellitt, Writer 2020

Ever since I can remember, I've always heard people rave about how great Chipotle is. Never having been there myself, I decided to see what it was all about.

Located on North Colony Road, the hub of Wallingford, I recognized the boxy and drab building I always see on my way to Chick Fil A, and ventured inside. Their menu displayed a long list of options: burritos, quesadillas, tacos, bowls, and a lot more. I decided to model after my usual Moe's order, a quesadilla with chicken, cheese, bacon, guacamole, and chipotle mayonnaise.

Unfortunately, I only received half of this order, as the topping selection was extremely limited. The quesadilla only had chicken and cheese, and the guacamole came on the side since they would not put it on my food. I also learned that chips and salsa cost extra jacking up the price even more. In the end, I settled for a depleted entree and a large drink, because no medium size is offered, at a staggering total of \$12.48 and sat down.

Keeping with the poor theme of this experience, I was unimpressed by the quality of the food. The ratio of cheese to chicken was way off, and the chicken was bland and burnt. Using the guacamole on the side may have been the only thing that gave this

quesadilla flavor. It didn't take long to conclude that this meal was mediocre, even for fast food. Needless to say, my meal ended shortly after.

Next time you are looking for quick Mexican food of high quality, I would suggest going to Moe's. With more options and ingredients offered at a lower price, as well as free chips and salsa, they are clearly the superior option. After my disappointing experience, I can confidently say one thing: Chipotle does not live up to the hype.



A Chipotle in Connecticut. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Should election day be a holiday?

ASMR: Youtube's hidden crown jewel

Neeha Zaman, Staff Writer 2022

While students here in Cheshire had the day off for Election Day, and always have, this is not the case for most Americans across the country. For most people, Election Day is treated just like every other day: get up, go to work, go home. Vote—but only if you have time.

The key to a healthy democracy is the enfranchisement of as many people as possible. Enfranchisement is the giving of a right or privilege, particularly the right to vote. However, according to FairVote.org data, the US consistently has a lower voter turnout than other developed countries and is also one of the few democracies that has weekday voting. There are so many possible culprits behind this worrying statistic—voter roll purging, issues with voter registration, and more, but one of the biggest is time. Many Americans simply don't have the time to vote, as many work late hours, especially those in low-income families. Add that to early poll closings in some states; for example, in Kentucky, polls close at 6 pm, when most people are barely out of work. Clearly, there's a problem.

One step the U.S. should take to improve voter turnout is to institute a national holiday on election day. There's bipartisan majority support for this idea according to a Pew Research poll, the results of which showed 71% support among Democrats and Democrat-leaning independents and 59% support among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents for a national holiday on Election Day.

So why would a national holiday help anything? Basically, it would help create time for more people to vote. Many people want to vote, but can't because of their long workdays. Get rid of that workday and you enable more people to vote. While necessary services like hospitals would still be open, many other places would close, allowing for more and more people to complete their civic duty and express their opinions on the things that affect them.

While more trivial a reason, instituting a national holiday could also emphasize the importance of voting, and thus increase future voter turnout—remember going with your parents to the polls to get that “I Voted” sticker? This could be like that, showing younger generations how important it is to vote and remain engaged in our democratic system.

Some opponents say that instituting a national holiday won't actually help increase voter turnout. They harp on the fact that hospitals and other necessary facilities would still be open, and that

the revenue loss behind closing things for an extra day wouldn't be worth it. I say it will.

Of course, this probably won't be happening anytime soon. There have been repeated attempts to get a bill like this passed, even as recent as January 2019. As long as we have people in power who think that allowing more people to vote is a “power grab,” nothing like this even has a chance.

While nothing's happening on the federal level, states are taking action to help people get to the polls—with catches, of course. 30 states mandate some time off to vote for certain employees. 13 states give state employees a paid day off (Kentucky only doing so during presidential years). Evidently, there are efforts going on to improve turnout; however, the big issue is that nothing is happening at the federal level. None of this is universal. Why? Partisanship is not an excuse for failing to attempt to allow more people to vote, even when opinions on this issue tend to be based on party line when it comes to Congress.

Says Aidan Palmer (2022), a fellow CHS student, “When people have to choose between going to work to provide for their families and performing their civic duty, then there's something very wrong in this country.” Whether it's through a national holiday or through mandated time off, something should happen at the federal level to increase voter turnout. Our democracy will thank us for it.



Members of Cheshire High School's Young Democrats club volunteer on Election Day 2019. Photos courtesy of Callie Fritz.

Callie Fritz, Editor 2020

ASMR, known in the scientific community as Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response, is a phenomenon that has been sweeping not only Youtube but the nation as a whole. Now you might be wondering, what even is ASMR? How can I watch it? ASMR is the sensation one experiences due to a certain stimulus, like whispering, personal attention, and tapping, that starts in the scalp and moves throughout the body. There are thousands of ASMR videos on Youtube alone, with so many different kinds of triggers and themes. Most ASMR videos can fall into two categories: role-plays, which portray a specific scenario that the viewer envisions themselves in (like a hair salon or spa,) and “trigger” videos, which portray a person making a specific sound like tapping or crinkling. The controversy surrounding the ASMR community is not within its rank or even regarding its viewers; the scandal around ASMR is all about the perception of the genre by those unfamiliar with it, often in positions of power like celebrities and Youtubers.

What are these Youtubers saying about ASMR? The main argument against ASMR by critics is that the very genre is exploitative and overtly sexual in nature. The evidence these people use is the sub-genre of ASMR that has popped up in recent years, involving “adult” content. The secondary argument against ASMR is that it's “creepy” and “weird”; and this stance is one that absolutely fails in making any sort of logical point. By immediately labeling a genre as strange and writing it off, the nuances of a style of video like ASMR are completely lost. It is simply close-minded and judgemental to dismiss things different than you enjoy as weird or creepy. Regarding the second argument, anything can be taken out of context or become something else when put in the wrong hands. It is the fault of the viewer for turning often innocent and innocuous videos meant to relax into something with explicit or suggestive undertones.

Ultimately, these anti-whispering advocates cannot and will not stop the ASMR movement. All that this negativity does is put more eyes on the genre, which will only lead to bigger and better things.

Love Island: US vs UK vs AU

Callie Fritz, Editor

2020

Love: something everyone is looking for yet rarely finds. The quest for “forever” has led many singles, desperate for both partnership and Instagram followers, to turn to reality television. While programs like *The Bachelor* and *Big Brother* have been on for ages, practically becoming relics of the reality TV genre, a new phenomenon has spread across countries, oceans, and Twitter: *Love Island*. It’s become an international sensation. The concept of this program is simple: 10 incredibly attractive and unemployed singles pair up to form couples based on appearance alone, and every week, one couple or single are eliminated as new singles come in to break up the pre-existing relationships. The drama is turned up to a ten from the first episode on; loyalty is a word that the islanders have never heard, always believing the “grass is greener” when it comes to abandoning relationships left and right, even if they’ve lasted for weeks or months. Just like a dumpster on fire, there is a sick appeal to watching hot people with slightly baffling accents get drunk, get together, and fight over incredibly trivial topics like sandwiches and sharing showers. *Love Island* is so wildly popular that it has spawned two identical spinoffs, *Love Island US* and *Love Island Australia*. While they may all be the same structure, there are fundamental differences in all three shows, and not all of them are equally entertaining. Here is my personal ranking of all three versions of *Love Island*:

1) *Love Island UK*: As they say, the sequel is never better than the original, and that is indeed the case for the *Love Island* franchise. The UK version is by far the best version of the original show, the casting is amazing, and every season has clear heroes, villains, and heartbreakers. The contestants are some of England and Ireland’s least desirable—some may venture to call them trashy, but I would never go that far. The challenges, while dumb and time-consuming in the US and AU versions, are actually funny and cause actual drama in the villa. What puts *Love Island UK* over the top for me, is the inclusion of Casa Amor. Casa Amor is a separate villa where all of the boys or all of the girls in the house are placed for a whole week, with many new attractive singles meant to tempt them from their current relationships. The week where the islanders head there is always the most dramatic and leads to almost all of the relationships that have previously been built to crumble in the most explosive of fashions. All in all, *Love Island UK* is the queen of the reality television kingdom.

2) *Love Island Australia*: While not as amaz-

ing as *Love Island UK*, *Love Island Australia* is a close second. The villa is gorgeous, despite the lack of a hot tub, and the contestants are almost as wild as those from England, they cheat on each other with abandon, and cry ocean’s worth of tears. The men are not of the same caliber as those in the UK—many are gaslighting jerks or wannabe Instagram models. The ladies are actually quite nice, but that’s the problem, lots of the single gals are just too easy-going and don’t cause enough of a stir.

3) *Love Island US*: There is no question—the most recent version of *Love Island* is by far the worst one. The villa, while in beautiful Fiji, was dreary and lacking in real personality. The casting was a real crime; while everyone was incredibly attractive, they were all way too nice—no drama or fights happened throughout the entire season! Almost all the final couples stayed together from Day 1 on, and once they coupled up, the pairs never parted. There were no classic *Love Island* partner swappings, devastating breakups, or petty fights. I love romance and happy endings just as much as the next guy or gal, but this season was just plain boring. Hopefully, with a whole year in between seasons, the CBS producers can take the right lessons from the UK and Australia versions of the show, and make a much better final product.



Graphic by Gabby Debroisse.

Untitled Goose Game Review

Max Braylyan, Editor

2020

Geese are jerks. They’re loud, haughty, obnoxious and probably have no sense of morality in their feathery forms. It makes a goose the perfect protagonist in a game about being a jerk. *Untitled Goose Game* is an indie game published by House House for the Nintendo Switch and PC.

You play as a white-feathered waterfowl with the sole goal of sewing chaos in a small, quiet town. The game presents areas in a linear fashion, from a small garden to a pub, with each area containing its own endearing gimmicks and tasks that range in difficulty from pulling a rake into a lake, to setting a dinner table. Despite being a goose, your range of movement and abilities is surprisingly wide. The goose can walk and run, although its lateral movement is significantly decreased while running. The goose can flap its wings and reach its neck out to squeeze into small passageways. Finally the goose can grab things with its beak and honk. All of these abilities are immediately available from the start and all have a use at some point in the game. The goose is given tasks to complete whenever it enters a new area. However, not all of these tasks are required to complete an area. Some of the tasks require the goose to collect a certain group of items in a specific location, and these can be really annoying to complete. In some areas, it’s almost required to distract an NPC (Non-Player Character) by getting them to the other side of an area, stealing the item, and then re-

peating the process. Thankfully, none of the missions like this are required to move past an area.

Personally, I believe the game is absolutely worth the \$20 price tag. Although it only took about 3 hours to complete the main game, the replayability is almost infinite. The game has an extensive postgame, with a speedrun mode and a full page of additional tasks that when completed, nets the goose a nice, golden crown. Additionally, it’s just stupidly fun to mess with the people living in the town. Stealing their stuff, untying their shoes, advocating for goose rights inside of a TV shop, dropping their stuff into the canal and overall just being the epitome of a goose.



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Is it worth
all the buzz?



The Bee Movie Review

Scott Heseltine, Writer

2020

Dreamworks’ *The Bee Movie* is a fun and exciting event for the whole family. Written by and starring comedian Jerry Seinfeld, the film is hilarious and has an interesting plotline. It’s certainly no masterpiece, but it does the job it’s meant to do: keep you entertained for 90 minutes.

The movie follows Barry B. Benson (Jerry Seinfeld), a bee fresh out of college who becomes disillusioned with the “work till you drop” lifestyle of his species. He leaves the hive to explore the world outside, and in doing so, discovers that humans are kidnapping bees and stealing their honey. This prompts him to sue humanity for the rights of bees. Along the way, he meets a human florist (Renée Zellweger) named Vanessa with whom he falls in love, and she helps him with the lawsuit. Barry must overcome the fear of his species and the superiority of humans in order to do what’s right for bee-kind.

The movie is filled with comedy from start to finish. It’s clean and simple enough to entertain younger audiences, with some hidden adult humor to entertain adults. For example, when Barry is trying to introduce himself to Vanessa, he panics and can only come up with the line, “ya like jazz?” This may not sound too memorable, but this line is one of the funniest moments in movie history. Jerry Seinfeld’s delivery and comedic timing are unrivaled. It has a feel-good story that will warm your heart. Keep in mind, this movie has flaws, and can be very silly at times, but it adds to the humor. Everyone should watch this movie because it is hilarious and perfectly executed.

Show Spotlight: Antigone in Munich

Grace Azaula, Editor

2020

Rehearsal for the current fall play *Antigone in Munich*. Photo courtesy of Brianna Gallagher.

For the past few months, the Cheshire High School Drama Club has been working tirelessly on their upcoming production *Antigone in Munich*. Set in World War Two Germany, the show follows real-life-resister Sophie Scholl, and her path to joining the White Rose Resistance, a group protesting the Nazi Party. The show evokes important themes applicable to today’s society, encouraging audience members to ponder one crucial question: when authority conflicts with your personal values, what do you listen to? Come see this thought-provoking show on December 5th, 6th, and 7th in the Thorp Auditorium at 7:30 pm; \$8 for students, \$10 for adults.

Editorial: Dear senior, congratulations!

Sanvi Bhardwaj, Editor

2020

Dear Senior,

I recently watched confetti pour down on my screen as I submitted application after application for schools where I might spend the next four years of my life. I didn't really believe anyone when they said they felt instant relief after submitting their applications; after all, this is only the early round. But as I pressed submit, I felt a myriad of emotions: hope, fear, happiness, nostalgia, relief.

The deadline of November 1st has come and gone, a major deadline for many college applications. As we pass that milestone, some congratulations are in order.

Some of you licked the stamps of your Yale application when you were four. Others tried to soak up as much as they could out of high school, prioritizing your happiness over schoolwork. No matter who you are or what you did during these last four years, we all agonized over word counts, deadlines, application fees.

And when we finally pressed submit, we not only shared our entire lives with complete strangers on the admissions committee—we took the first step to our future alone, in a place far from where we've taken our first steps, read our first words, had our first day of school. Sure, we felt nervous. But we felt hopeful, too.

Seniors, we've taken this step forward to-

gether. It's easy to forget that, especially with the pressure that we've collectively felt because of those deadlines. But we've been forgetting one more deadline: June 11, 2020. That's eight months away. Eight months left with people who we've traded silly bands with, spent hours at book fairs with, had giant games of tag with at recess. It's important to keep that in perspective. Because no matter how fast (or slow) these four years have gone by, next year we're starting the next phase of our lives. A phase where we'll become doctors, teachers, lawyers, writers, activists, and artists. And by submitting those applications, we've gotten even closer.

Congratulations, senior. You deserve it.

The SAT versus Curriculum changes: what can the ACT

Owen Fiore, Writer

2020

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the American College Testing (ACT) are the two types of standardized tests that most colleges and universities look at when a prospective student applies. The number of students taking the ACT surpassed the number that took the SAT for the first time in 2012 and is now taken by 55% of all high school seniors. But which test is easier?

One of the main differences between the SAT and the ACT is the inclusion of the science section on the ACT. The ACT's science component allows students who are strong in science students to potentially score better. Both the ACT and SAT require four sections and have an option for an essay component; the ACT's lacks a math without a calculator section.

While the reading sections are similar content-wise, the ACT gives students 35 minutes to answer 40 questions, versus the SAT, which allows 65 minutes for 52 questions. The questions are similar, the breaks are a little longer on the SAT, allowing for a more sustained rest after each section.

Ultimately the decision on which test to take is a matter of personal experience, but it is better to focus on one in particular rather than splitting time and effort between the two. The ACT rewards time management skills and those who can score well in science; however, the lack of a math no calculator section penalizes strong math students. The ACT and SAT are both accepted at most schools, however, some schools require one or the other depending on where the school is geographically located. Whether somebody takes the SAT or the ACT is a matter of what aptitudes the student scores well in and where they are applying to college.

Max Braylyan, Editor

2020

With the new school year, there are always changes being implemented to generally improve school life and education. One of the more drastic changes to come into effect this year was in regards to the freshmen class (what will be the graduating class of 2023). The Connecticut State Department of Education raised the minimum credit count for graduation in public schools to 25; however, the current minimum credit requirement for Cheshire students to graduate is 22, so the school administration was forced to make some changes.

Previous Requirements	New Requirements
Overall Number of Credits	
22	25
Number of Humanities Credits	
7	9

The changes in curriculum requirements. Graphic by Abby Dziura, 2020.

Mr. Tartarelli, one of the Vice Principals at Cheshire High School, had some comments regarding the implications for the current and rising freshmen classes.

The current per year minimum of credits is 6.5, which hasn't changed. This minimum credit count already gives a student above 25 credits, which means that a change to it would be mostly unnecessary.

In addition to this, there is a new, required health course that freshmen must take about stress management and executive function. This class was also created in response to the raise in required credits for the "Health and Safety" classes.

The state also increased the guidelines for humanities to 9 credits. Previously, Cheshire High School's elective credit requirement was 7. Instead of raising that number, the administration decided to require an art class and a humanities class. This decision was intended to broaden the experiences of students so that they might gain more experience in subjects that they normally wouldn't take.

"Aside from the academic requirements, participation in the arts is important for developing one's motor skills, language skills, social skills, decision-making, risk-taking, and inventiveness," says Tartarelli.

Thankfully, he reports that senior privilege "should be unaffected."

An opportunity arises with instant decision days

Abby Dziura, Editor-in-Chief

2020

With the stress of college season, many seniors wish that they could receive a decision the second they submit their applications. Now, with instant decision days, they can.

Central Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University, and the University of New Haven are all offering on-site decisions at Cheshire High Schools. Seniors can sign up for interview slots in the guidance department and be admitted on the spot if they have previously submitted the Common Application for those schools and meet specific academic requirements.

CCSU will be visiting CHS on December 9th. They are looking for a GPA of 2.5 or higher and a minimum SAT score of 950. Students must sign up

by November 27th and submit their Common Application by December 2nd.

SCSU will be visiting on December 17th. They are looking for a GPA of 2.75 or higher and an SAT score of at least 900. Students must sign up by December 6th and submit their application by December 9th.

UNH will be visiting Cheshire on December 10th. They are looking for a GPA of 2.7 or higher, but are test-optional for all students except those interested in forensic science. Students must sign up by November 27th and submit their application by December 3rd for free.

Any senior interested in CCSU, SCSU, or UNH as their first or second choice should visit the guidance department for more information and to sign up for an interview.

Hey seniors!

We want to see YOUR reactions to your college decision letters! Record your reaction and send it in to rampagechs@gmail.com for a chance to be featured* on our YouTube channel!



*By sending a video, you consent to the video being posted online. We will be accepting videos throughout the year.



Central Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University, and the University of New Haven will be holding instant decision interviews for seniors at Cheshire High School. Photos courtesy of Google Images.

EEEk! The EEE Crisis of 2019

Callie Fritz, Staff Writer 2020

August 2019: it's evening time and the sun is going down. You're playing Spikeball in the moonlight when a tiny, harmless-looking mosquito lands on your arm. Ouch! You've been bitten by this little critter, and this is not your average mosquito bite. Soon, you've taken to the bed with a fever, intense headache, and crippling tiredness. What is happening to you is not a regular illness or infection, you've been infected with Eastern Equine Encephalitis or, as it is known to mere mortals, the EEE virus.

The EEE virus rose to prominence in Connecticut during the summer months (June-September) as the numbers of mosquitos increased exponentially. Yet these were not just innocent mosquitos flying—around the steamy evening air, these mosquitos were carrying the EEE virus, and a total of 83 mosquitos in 25 towns across CT tested positive for it. Soon after the arrival of this illness, 3 people in Connecticut died after being infected. These deaths left government officials as well as regular citizens in a panic. What, if anything, could be done to stop this deadly virus? After deliberations, many towns, including our very own Cheshire, decided to install a curfew, forcing all outdoor events to end before 6 pm (after which the density of mosquitos was at its highest, from dusk until dawn). Many members of Cheshire High's illustrious sports teams were upset by this change and felt like these new times messed up their rhythm and flow. Despite the controversy, a few weeks after this curfew was mandated, the number of EEE related deaths and illnesses decreased. After the risk of contracting EEE had lowered substantially, Cheshire, along with other towns, lifted the curfew and life returned to normalcy. Yet for those who lost friends and family members to this crisis, their lives can never go back to any kind of normal.



Students play on CHS's home turf at night. Photo courtesy of Greg Lederer @greglederernews.



A mosquito biting its next victim. Photo courtesy of the New York Post.

Low-sugar apple muffin recipe

Abby Dziura, Editor-in-Chief 2020

This a modified combination recipe from Mrs. Wildermann and AllRecipes.

- Ingredients**
- 2 cups of flour
 - 1 cup of oats
 - 1/2-3/4 cup of sugar
 - 3 tsp baking powder
 - 2 tsp cinnamon (add more if desired)
 - 1 stick melted butter
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 1/4-2 diced apples
 - 1 mashed banana or 2 single-serve containers of unsweetened applesauce
 - 1/4 cup of milk
 - Pinch of salt

- Directions**
1. Preheat oven to 375 ° F.
 2. Mash the banana in a bowl (if needed).
 3. Cut and dice the apples. Peel if desired.
 4. Mix the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, salt, and oats together.
 5. In a separate bowl, mix the banana or applesauce, sugar, milk, and eggs together.
 6. Pour the "liquid" bowl into the dry bowl and add the apples.
 7. Spoon the mixture into a muffin tin.
 8. Cook for 24-27 minutes (Watch them! They should be browned on top, but you don't want to burn them.)
 9. Cool for 5 minutes and enjoy!
- This recipe is perfect for fall-lovers, as well as being a healthy alternative that is just as sweet.

Fall cranberry bar recipe

Barbara Canning, Teacher

- Ingredients**
- 1-12 oz. package whole cranberries
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 3/4 cup water
 - Zest of one orange
 - 1-18.25 oz., package yellow cake mix
 - 1 cup butter, melted
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 cup rolled oats (maybe another couple tablespoons if batter is too "loose")
 - 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
 - 1 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
 - 1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

- Directions**
1. In a saucepan over medium heat, combine cranberries, white sugar, water and orange zest. Cook, stirring occasionally until all of the cranberries have popped and the mixture is thickened. You can "mash" lightly as it is cooking to help the cranberries break down. This takes about 15 minutes. Remove from heat and cool completely.
 2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
 3. In a large bowl, mix together the cake mix, melted butter, and eggs. Stir in oats, brown sugar, ginger and cinnamon. Set aside about 1 1/2 cups of the mixture. Spray a 9 x 13 inch baking pan lightly with an oil spray (or grease with Crisco). Spread the rest of the mixture on the bottom of the pan, packing down to form a solid, even crust.
 4. Spread the cooled cranberry sauce over the crust. Pinch off pieces of the remaining dough mixture.
 5. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes until lightly browned. Cool completely in pan before slicing into bars. Sprinkle with confectioners sugar before serving.

Note: You may want to make the cranberry sauce the day before so it is completely cooled.



A stack of cranberry bars. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

The Rampage Staff

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QUOTABLE QUOTES

What is your favorite Thanksgiving side?

"Stuffing."
~Kate Warzycha
2021



"Apple pie.
It's the best part."
~Mrs. Velez



"Does mashed
potatoes count?"
~Mr. Faggella



"Bread."
~Jack Markarian
2023



"I'm a big crescent roll guy."
~Tom Graikoski
2020



"I like corn . . . corn on the cob."
~Phil Roubidoux
2020



"Mashed potatoes."
~Clément Pez
2021



"Stuffing."
~Margaret Kae
2021



"Biscuits."
~Ava Matikowski
2023



"Gravy, bro."
~Zack Strout
2020



"Whatever the
Ramland Cafeteria
is serving!"
~Ramsey
1957



"This might be weird,
but green beans."
~Caroline Campion
2020



"Stuffing."
~Mrs. Shirk

