

The Westword

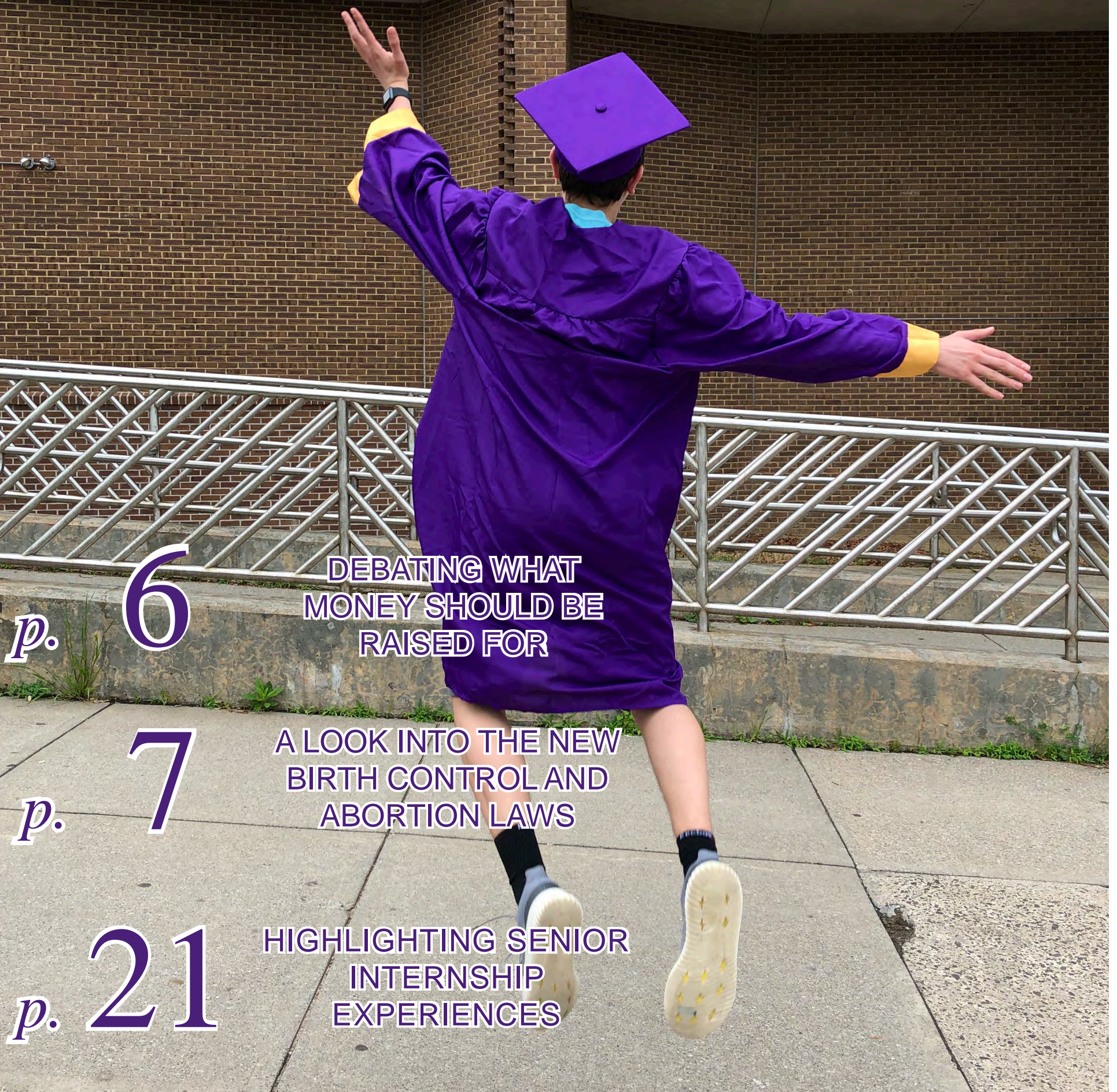
Student voice of the Westhill community
"The test of good journalism is the measure of its public service."

Congratulations to the Class of 2019

Senior Wills

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WESTHILL HIGH SCHOOL



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MONEY SHOULD BE
RAISED FOR

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BIRTH CONTROL AND
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INTERNSHIP
EXPERIENCES

The Westword

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to view our print archives.

May/June 2019

Note from the Editors

Dear Readers,

It is the bittersweet time in the year once again when we say goodbye to our readers for the summer. The staff is pleased to bring our Senior Issue and we hope you have enjoyed our publication throughout the year.

Our Editorial section this issue will continue the tradition of giving the opportunity for the Editor-in-Chief to reflect on his or her time with *The Westword*.

News spotlights Senior Prom and Junior Semi-Formal. News also contains the column, Good Month Bad Month.

In Viewpoint, we look into the risk associated with parking near the baseball field and whether it should be the school's responsibility if your vehicle is hit.

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This issue, Special Report focuses on the recent laws about abortion and birth control that have been passed.

This Supplement insert gives seniors the opportunity to leave something behind before they graduate.

Continuando con Las Noticias, diferentes cosas que hacer durante el verano y un destacó en el nombramiento de la nueva superintendente.

Feature this issue discusses what students plan to do after graduation and the ups and downs of the school year. There are also interviews with seniors who went on a senior internship the past three weeks.

Limelight reviews the final season of *Game of Thrones* and the new Tyler, the Creator album *Igor*.

In Sports, we look back on the boy's tennis season and their track record.

For more, visit thewestwordonline.com. Be sure to check out our Instagram account for updates @thewestword.

We encourage any and all readers with comments, questions, or concerns to contact us by either dropping a letter into Addison Magrath's mailbox in room 224 or emailing us at westwordwhs@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Addison Magrath & Rachel Plotzky
Editor-in-Chief & Executive Editor

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Editorial Policy

The Westword will be guided in the publication of material by a concern for truth, human decency, and human benefit. It is published during the school year by the late night staff, along with the Communications class. Letters to the Editor, advertising requests, comments, criticism, or suggestions are always welcome. The views expressed in Viewpoint and the Op-Ed page do not necessarily represent the opinions of *The Westword*.

The Editorial Board consists of Addison Magrath, Rachel Plotzky, Alexandra Watkinson, Bailee Esposito, Katie Gaia, Chloe Giulini, Tamar Bellele, Quinn McHale, Kate Williams, Alliyah Rivera, Camila Miranda, Jason Zarrilli, Kayla Mendiola, Mr. von Wahlde, and Mr. Wooley. The Editorial can be found on page 3.

Announcements

The Westword is pleased to announce new Editor-in-Chief Chloe Giulini, Print Executive Editor Veda Bhalla, and Online Executive Editor Micayla Roth.

Corrections

The Westword omitted the credits on page 20 of the April 2019 issue. The poll was conducted by Sara Gatz and Ashley Shapiro. In the same issue, the article on page 14 was cut off where it stated that all names were changed for their anonymity.

Front cover photo illustration by **Rachel Plotzky** /
Print Executive Editor.
Back cover photos by **Rachel Plotzky** (top) &
Harrison Travaglino
(bottom right & left) / Print Executive Editor &
Photo Manager.

If you have an announcement or an advertisement you would like published in the next issue, please e-mail us at westwordwhs@gmail.com.

Editor-in-Chief writes her final piece

I applied to be a section editor for the school newspaper during my freshman year when I saw its booth at the activities fair. After my application came the interview. Little did I know, this would be the first interview of many with *The Westword*. I was just one freshman facing down a panel of six seniors.

Two years later I was interviewing people as Print Executive Editor, and I now I sit in room 224 writing my final farewell as Editor-in-Chief. My experience with *The Westword* has been more than I ever imagined it could be.

To anyone who has not yet found what they want to dedicate their time to or wants to meet new people; get involved. I feel so prepared for the road ahead of me because not only have I finished high school, but I have experience that some people do not gain until they have a real career. This opportunity is available

to everyone in Westhill and so few people have taken advantage of it.

This year has been quite special for *The Westword* as we have covered some controversial topics including mold issues. While this was not an easy task, seeing readers rely on *The Westword* for unbiased reporting on such a large issue was so rewarding.

The Westword has also shortened its usual 40-page print issues to 24 pages. I believe this was a great step into the digital age for *The Westword* as we direct more of our time and efforts into *The Westword Online*.

I have been extremely proud of each of the seven issues that came out this school year which is cause for a huge thank you to this year's Print Executive Editor, Rachel Plotzky. Many of this year's accomplishments and changes could not have happened without your innovative and quick

working mind. You have had my back in every way and have kept me focused all year, so thank you.

And to Alexandra Watkinson, this year's Online Executive Editor, I admire your desire to make *The Westword Online* the best it can be and all of your big ideas.

To this year's managing editors, Katie Gaia and Chloe Giulini, your commitment does not go unnoticed. Thank you for your commitment and passion to the paper that engages our staff and brightens up the room.

Our Editorial Board worked tirelessly to make sure the student body could read Editorials that were relevant and relatable. There were some amazing minds and opinions and our conversations could go on for hours which is what made these Editorials so special, but I feel it is especially important to thank Bailee Esposito, the Ombudsman. Nothing

was more exciting than when you found passion for an Editorial idea and it became a living piece of writing.

To *The Westword* staff: this job does sometimes go unnoticed, and not a lot of people know what being on *The Westword* really entails or what goes on behind the scenes, but regardless of this, you help put together one of the greatest high school publications in the country. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to this newspaper.

Being an adviser can be a challenging job. Mr. Woolley and Mr. von Wahlde have put in countless hours to help us make sure we reached our deadlines and met *The Westword's* standards. For this, we are so grateful for the two of you.

To next year's Editor-in-Chief, Chloe Giulini, Print Executive Editor, Veda Bhalla, and Online Executive Editor, Micayla Roth, I wish you the

best of luck and I am so excited to see what you will do with this paper. You all have the passion and drive it takes to fulfill your positions to the greatest potential.

One more important thank you is owed, and that goes out to the readers and contributors. There is no reason for *The Westword* to function without you. You are the motivation that keeps this going and we would not be standing without your support.

I could not imagine my life without *The Westword* and all of the people that make it such a special publication. It has been a truly amazing experience serving as your Editor-in-Chief.

Sincerely,



Addison Magrath

Congratulations to next year's editors



Veda Bhalla
Print Executive Editor



Chloe Giulini
Editor-in-Chief



Micayla Roth
Online Executive Editor

Students celebrate end of year at dances

Alexandra Watkinson
Online Executive Editor

On May 24, the Senior Prom was held at The Loading Dock in Stamford. The event hosted almost 500 students and the venue was packed with seniors.

The dance was themed “A Starry Night,” with blue and white decorations scattered throughout the venue, including floral arrangements by Sydney Steinberg (’19). Additionally, seating was open rather than assigned.

“While the planning process for this year’s prom started off slowly, it quickly picked up and became increasingly better by the week. Once we decided on a theme, it was a lot of fun looking for decorations and coming up with ideas on how to decorate... Prom definitely would not have been possible without our amazing class advisors Mrs. Miraballes and Mrs. Grant. They guided us in the right direction with their experience from previous proms,” Sam Essenfeld (’19), Senior Class President, said.

At the dance, students were served appetizers such as mini chicken tacos and falafel waf-

fles, along with the main course in a buffet-style.

For dessert, students were served ice cream bars and cookies by waiters walking around the venue.

The venue itself also contained smaller areas with playing cards, dominos, and other games in case students wanted to get away from the main dance floor. On top of this, there were two photobooth areas where students could get souvenirs from the night.

“It is kind of wild how two years ago we did not even know if we had the funds to put on a prom. It really shows how hard [the] student council worked [in the past two years],” Kara McLaughlin (’19) said.

After the main event, seniors could go back to Westhill, where a free of charge, beach-themed, after-prom was held.

All students were allowed to bring one guest and were able to enjoy food fresh off the grill, raffles, airbrush tattoos, another photobooth, and inflatable activities, such as a bull riding attraction and an obstacle course.

Any senior, regardless if they attended prom, was allowed to spend the late hours

of the night celebrating the upcoming end to their high school careers.

Junior Prom took a turn this year, differing from proms past. This year, the event was called the Junior Semi-Formal, where more casual attire was encouraged in order to make the event more affordable and inclusive.

“We realized that Junior and Senior Prom was a huge cost, from tickets to dresses to corsages. We also felt as though Senior Prom was not much grander than Junior Prom, just at a different location. We decided to reduce the cost of the ticket by eliminating a subpar dinner and encouraging short dresses and suits,” Divya Gada (’20), Junior Class Vice President, said.

Nearly 250 students were in attendance at the Junior Semi-Formal, which took place at the Italian Center on May 17. Those in attendance were served light hors d’oeuvres including cheese and crackers, and tomato and mozzarella salad. For dessert, ice cream with a variety of toppings to choose from was served.

Overall, both dances were a success, with many students able to celebrate their academic year in style.



DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY Juniors and Seniors dance the night away during their proms.

Photos by **Harrison Travaglini** / Photo Manager.

The SoNo Collection opens in Norwalk

Ashley Shapiro
Staff Writer

Brookfield Properties is building a 700,000+ square foot retail center called The SoNo (South Norwalk) Collection in Norwalk, CT.

The mall received zoning approval in June 2016 and was expected to take 30 months to complete. Currently, it is projected to open in late 2019.

“It will be great to have a new place to shop, hopefully with a wider variety of stores,” Ava Mastrone (’20) said.

The SoNo Collection will include Nordstrom and Bloomingdale’s, 80-100 small shop inline retailers, a large public commons area, and a curated selection of food and beverage venues.

It will contain over 87,000 square feet of public space including an indoor/outdoor sculpture garden, rooftop SoNo garden, exterior public plazas, enhanced West Avenue streetscape, potential museum and education space, and three interior courts.

The mall will be friendly to pop-up shops and more permanent brick and mortar stores, allowing for a larger variety of stores.

According to sonocollection.com, Douglas Adams, the Senior Director of Development and Municipal Analysis at General Growth Partners, is working with Norwalk Community College to offer a retail training program created by the National

Retail Federation. This program aims to train new retail workers and create a professional atmosphere.

“It is a great idea. I would love to have the opportunity to shop in new places and go to different stores that the Stamford Mall does not have... I am very excited to shop there,” Holly Furrer (’20) said.

The SoNo Collection intends to be an experience as well as a shopping location, and is not meant to take business away from Greenwich Avenue, the Danbury Fair Mall, Westfield Trumbull, the Stamford Town Center, or the Connecticut Post Mall in Milford, according to Adams.

According to dailyvoiceplus.com, the mall attending experience is intended to be as exciting as a visit to the city.

Stores that are already set to open in the new space include: cosmetic chain Sephora, apparel chain J. Jill, apparel boutique Chico’s, the sleepwear boutique Soma, and the sports bar Yard House.

“I heard it has designer stores. I am excited because Stamford [Town Center] does not have designer stores and it will [hopefully] be better,” Cyrus Tavern (’21) said.

This new mall will contain a larger variety of stores than the surrounding area. Many students are excited at the prospect of new stores.

In the last three months, more than five retailers including Ann Taylor and J. Crew have left the Stamford Town Center or have announced their intent to leave

when their lease is up.

Rumors have been circulating that University of Connecticut (UConn) intends to purchase the building to expand their Stamford campus and housing for students. UConn officials denied the speculation and expressed that they had no intention to purchase the land.

The Stamford Town Center is not just losing tenants; in March of 2019 it was announced that several new tenants are set to open in the mall within the next few weeks.

Although the list has not been officially released, the new additions will include a Genesis luxury-vehicle showroom, a candle store, and a children’s entertainment center.

According to a dailyvoiceplus.com interview, Jack Condlin, president and CEO of the Stamford Chamber of Commerce, “competition is always the best thing for consumers.”

All in all, the SoNo Collection will provide another opportunity for residents in Fairfield county to explore new stores.



COMING SOON The SoNo Collection is expected to open up later this year.

Photo by **Harrison Travaglini** / Photo Manager.

Good Month Bad Month

Column by
Sanjana Nayak
& Jessica Matloub



Good Month for...

National Spelling Bee In the finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, there was a new occurrence, an eight-way tie. The organizers of the National Spelling Bee changed their competition rules five years ago after experiencing a tie. The organizers wanted to avoid this from happening again. Though precautions were taken, the competitors managed to exceed expectations and continuously spell every word flawlessly. This competition exemplified how students have pushed their abilities to the limits and have expanded their vocabulary.



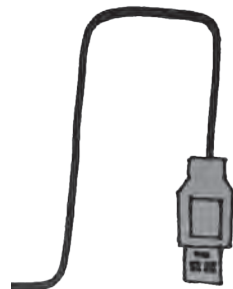
Earthquake-durable Buildings Today, many countries throughout the world have invested in and built earthquake-durable buildings. According to *The New York Times*, the U.S. is willing to start the construction of these structures as soon as possible. They will have base isolators, which are similar to shock absorbers between the building and the ground motion, letting a building slide back and forth while remaining upright during an earthquake. Buildings that use base isolation are more likely to survive a strong earthquake and remain functional afterward. This can save thousands of lives if a catastrophic earthquake hits.



Children with Prader-Willi Syndrome This genetic disorder that occurs once in every 15,000 to 25,000 live births results in babies unwilling to latch or feed from their mothers. However, two to three years later, they face an insatiable appetite. Extreme obesity is a common symptom as well as restlessness and hyperactivity. A new drug called Wakix is reported to have shown improvements in patients within days of starting on a low dose of the drug that was gradually increased. According to *BBC News*, many children with the condition can benefit from decreasing hunger and increasing alertness.

Bad Month for...

USB Chargers On May 30, Target recalled over 90,000 USB charging cables. The metal surrounding the cord could cause the charger to spark, which is a safety hazard. 14 Target consumers reported cases of their chargers smoking and two individuals were burned as a result. It is essential that an individual who owns one of these chargers disposes of them for their own safety. Hopefully Target will be able to resolve this issue as soon as possible so customers will not have to fear charging any of their cellular devices.



Uber The ride sharing app, Uber recently opened publicly on the NASDAQ stock exchange. For the past three months, Uber's stock has been falling quickly and its first earning reports show the significant decrease. According to *Business Insider*, 2019 was expected to be a year of growth for the company, but instead, they are facing their lowest growth rate since 2017. The company has lost over a billion dollars since going public, as did its rival Lyft. This immense loss for both transportation companies has resulted in the rise of speculation as to whether or not these businesses will recover.



Australia Laws Tighter gun control laws were on Australia's agenda, when a gunman shot and killed four people on June 4. The suspect was identified as a former prison inmate paroled in January. The act was not linked to terrorism. Mass shootings have been relatively rare in Australia since it enacted a strict gun-control law after 35 people were killed in a rampage in 1996. According to *The Washington Post*, polls suggest that the shooting rampage has generated support for tougher measures, even though Australia already has some of the world's strictest gun control laws.

Dr. Lucero named new superintendent

Marta Zach
Staff Writer

Following Superintendent Earl Kim's resignation before spring break, a new superintendent was named for Stamford, Dr. Tamu Lucero. Lucero was voted in by the Board of Education (BOE) and is the first black woman to serve as Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools (SPS).

Lucero has been working in the school district for years. She was a physical education teacher at Stamford High School, served a five year tenure as Assistant Superintendent for elementary schools, and has been Deputy Superintendent since July 2018.

"I do not have to go around and meet people, as many superintendents who are new to the district [have to]... I already knew everyone so it has been a nice transition for me," Lucero said.

Kim resigned as superintendent after three years and recent renewal of his contract in August. He still had two years left on his contract prior to his stepping down. Both his resignation and Lucero's new position were effective immediately.

She got right to work and began looking into building management in Stamford, which was a step in the right direction in facing the mold problem head-on.

"The new superintendent will do a great job and she seems like an ideal candidate for the position," Rachel Mensah ('20) said.

Lucero was runner-up to Kim three years ago when he was appointed, so she did not have to repeat the application process.

"I was surprised to see Kim go. It feels like he just became superintendent," Gabe Schmidt ('20) said.

According to *The Stamford Advocate*, Lucero has made various initiatives around Stamford, including "the building of Strawberry Hill Elementary School, a U.S. Department of Justice order to improve English-language programs, a student-abuse case involving a Stamford High teacher, and an ongoing effort to clean school buildings of mold, brought on by years of neglected maintenance."

Lucero has been involved in various community boards for years, which was taken into account when selecting a new superintendent.

Lucero's incentives regarding mold control do not go unnoticed. SPS has been facing a mold crisis ever since the start of the 2018-19 school year, when high levels of mold were discovered and disclosed to faculty and students. Westover Elementary School was shut down entirely and Westhill has been forced to make various reparations as a result of mold in the school.

Lucero denotes how Westhill has been very helpful in regards to mold control. Because Westhill asked the Mold Task Force (MTF) for in-person intervention and to target issues specific to the school, the MTF now carries out such proceedings in every building they visit.

"It is going to take a long time for us to deal with all of these issues, but we are committed to doing it right," said Lucero, regarding her involvement with the MTF.

"Lucero is a great fit for our diverse school district, and I commend her many [aforementioned] efforts," Bintou Bane ('20) said.

Lucero was unanimously deemed a great fit by the BOE and appears to be fulfilling the role appropriately.



MEET THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT Dr. Tamu Lucero became the new Superintendent of SPS in April.

Photo contributed by stamfordpublicschools.org.

The impact of donating to history versus the future

Micayla Roth
News Editor

On April 15, many were shocked to hear that the famous Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, had caught on fire.

According to *BBC*, the main structure and bell towers remained intact while the spire and roof collapsed.

This was heartbreaking to many because the fire occurred while Catholics worldwide were amidst the celebrations of Holy Week, the time leading up to Easter.

The cathedral was built in the 12th and 13th centuries and is recognized as a religiously sacred site as well as an icon for both Paris and Catholicism.

It contained the crown of thorns that many Catholics believe Jesus Christ wore before his Crucifixion.

According to *The New York Times*, just two days after the fire, one billion dollars was raised by philanthropists worldwide.

While this surely reflects the significance of preserving such a historically important monument, the influx of money

has raised questions as to why other pressing issues—such as the harmful effects of littering and pollution on the global climate—have not received the same attention or donations.

“While the Notre Dame [Cathedral] is an important cathedral that is a special place for many people, climate change has also been negatively impacting our world at a high rate and in order to change that, millions of dollars should be donated to help fix climate change in addition to the millions of dollars that were donated to rebuild Notre Dame,”

Shira Cohen ('20) said.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, for example, requires large amounts of money to clean, which no country wants to take responsibility for due to the fact that it is far from their coastlines.

According to science.howstuffworks.com, the patch stretches across the Pacific Ocean from Japan to California and consists of microplastics that break off from plastic items, and is essentially “the largest landfill in the world.”

These microplastics block sunlight from reaching plankton and algae deep in the sea, which in turn disrupts the food chain, and when marine life consume the pollutants from the microplastics, humans who eat them are put at risk too.

According to Boyan Slat, CEO of The Ocean Cleanup, an organization that is working to clean the patch, 24.6 million dollars are needed to build a beta system that can perform the cleanup.

According to greenpeace.org, one truckload of plastic enters the ocean every minute, so many environmentalists argue that the best way to manage the patch is to stop plastic from entering in the first place.

Just as an overflowing sink should be stopped by turning off the tap rather than mopping up the water, the Great Pacific Garbage patch must be cleaned by preventing plastic from entering

anymore.

“The cathedral plays a significant role in Europe’s history, and is admired by all. However, climate change is an ongoing issue which needs to be fixed in order to stabilize the environment, as well as cleaning the earth and keeping it sanitary... They should use the money to target environmental issues, and create different programs to fund for the cathedral’s new establishment,” Marijke ChandraRaj ('20) said.

While it is important to preserve Notre Dame and its history, it is equally, if not more, important to raise awareness and money to prevent littering in the ocean, pollution, and environmental harm altogether.

“It is heartbreaking how quickly [millions of] dollars could be raised for the fire, but a more pressing issue like climate change fails to get recognition for years. We need to realize that the fire in Notre Dame is not the only fire that needs saving,” Maansi Shah ('20) said.

The way people treat the environment now will impact the planet in the future, and it is crucial to recognize the urgency of the environmental issue in order to take care of our planet.

Saving the Notre Dame cathedral will help to preserve history, but saving the Earth will ensure that future generations of both humans and animals will be able to survive, thrive, and prosper.



Illustration by Neeka Baclayon / Illustrator.

Sports liability system hides truth

Sara Gatz
Staff Writer

Accidents occur daily, but proper consequences should be in place and followed thoroughly to prevent them. Sports accidents at Westhill have been no different.

Since the start of spring sports, problems have arisen where individuals and their property are damaged due to carelessness or unluckiness. When parking at a sporting event parents and students run the risk of an accident. A sports team or members of the team could potentially be at fault for a foul ball hitting a car.

Athletes on the baseball team have caused issues in the past few months that could be serious. Multiple cars have been struck by foul balls near the baseball field.

Students and teachers should be warned against parking in certain places, specifically by the baseball field after

school. The school should be required to tell students, teachers, and parents about these accidents.

“People should be told not to park [by the baseball field] but it is also self-explanatory. If you do not want any risk of your car getting damaged, do not park in front [or near] of the field,” Noam Haron ('20) said.

Even some baseball players have been affected by these foul balls. Not only have they seen cars get hit, but their cars have been damaged.

“I got in my car and did not notice for a second [that my car was hit]. Then I looked up and all I could do was laugh. I thought I was parked in a good spot away from where the foul balls go but I guess I was not. Maybe I did not think that it could happen,” Robert Smeriglio ('20), baseball player, said.

Accidents happen, but there are factors Westhill can take into consideration to prevent further incidents.

Spaces around the lot should be marked with warning signs advertising the potential damage that can occur by parking there.

Since cars have been hit multiple times, it would only be fair to the staff and student body to alert them of the possible destruction that can come from parking a car too close to the baseball field.

“After [the day my car was hit and my windshield was cracked,] I never parked next to the baseball field ever again,” Tamar Bellele ('20) said.

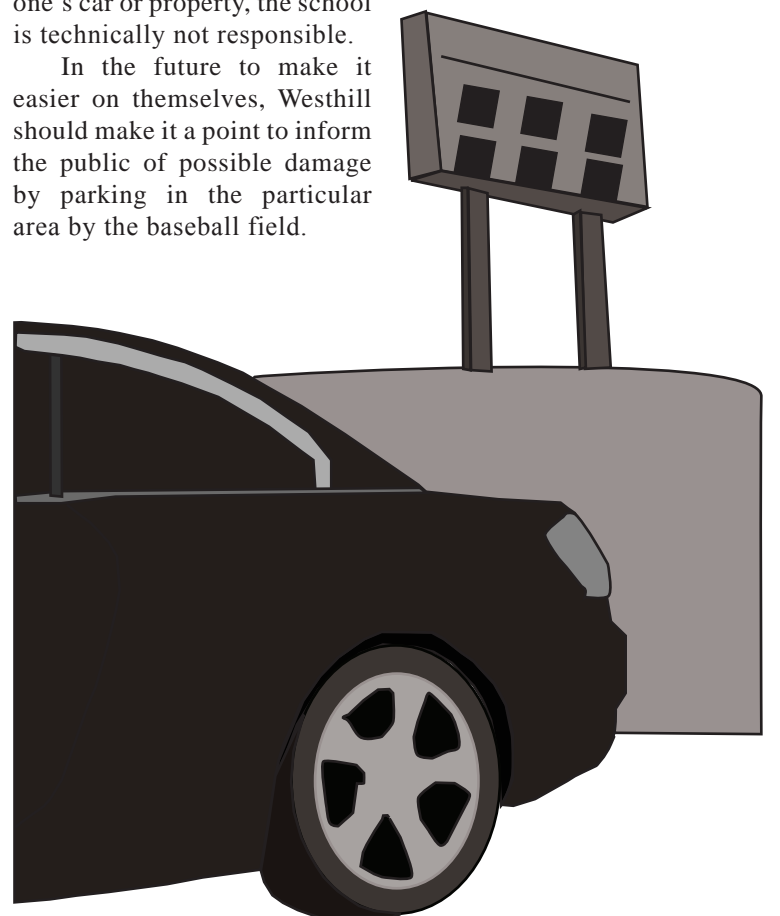
People are always at risk of having their cars or property sustain damage throughout sports seasons, but it should be the school’s job to warn people that by parking there, their car could get damaged.

In cases like Bellele’s, the school tells the individual that there is nothing they can do once their car is hit.

Although insurance would likely cover any damage to

one’s car or property, the school is technically not responsible.

In the future to make it easier on themselves, Westhill should make it a point to inform the public of possible damage by parking in the particular area by the baseball field.



Graphic by Jason Zarrilli / Viewpoint Editor

Newly set abortion laws cause controversy

Hailey Baloutch
Reporter

Seven states have recently undertaken efforts to restrict access to abortion, and in Ohio's case, birth control as well. Fierce arguments and protests have begun on opposing sides all around the country.

To fully understand what is being protested, people must gain an understanding of what birth control and abortion are and where they are being restricted.

Birth control refers to any method used to prevent pregnancy. Methods such as the birth control implant or the intrauterine device (IUD) release the regulatory hormone progestin into the body, not only preventing pregnancy, but also alleviating period cramps.

These two methods are surgically implanted into the body and function for many years with little to no upkeep, according to plannedparenthood.org.

With a 99 percent effectiveness, the only downside to these methods is their cost, which can climb upwards of 1,000 dollars.

Other options, such as the birth control pill or the patch, run on a schedule. The pill requires daily consumption, and the patch is applied anywhere on the body

about every three weeks.

While rather high-maintenance, the pill offers health benefits, such as the ability to prevent cysts, infections, and cancer in the ovaries.

These are only a few examples of the various forms of birth control.

However, no method—except permanent surgical procedures—is entirely effective in preventing pregnancy.

Abortion is the termination of a pregnancy. At this point in the conversation, many strong stances arise. Those who believe abortion should be illegal are dubbed “pro-life,” and those who support legal access to abortions are considered “pro-choice.”

States that have recently pushed pro-life stances include Alabama, Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Georgia, and Kentucky.

These states, with the exception of Alabama, have advocated for “heartbeat bills,” according to *The New York Times*.

Once implemented, these heartbeat bills would outlaw abortion as soon as electrical activity, a heartbeat, is detected in the embryo's heart, typically around six weeks.

Opposition to this bill cite that the heart is not a formed organ at this stage, and it cannot

beat or pump blood, according to *The Washington Post*.

At this point during pregnancy, many women do not realize they are pregnant. The embryo would be the size of a garden pea, or one-fourth of an inch, according to thebump.com.

Stances regarding the heartbeat bill and abortion, in general, vary vastly around Westhill.

“The heartbeat bill is a good and moral in concept, but has poor execution. The law will cause a lot of collateral damage, but in turn give many unborn children a chance at life,” David Jahaj ('22) said.

Some students regard abortion as a basic right.

“[Access to abortion] is a human right. End of story,” Andrew Hicks ('22) said.

Most of the bills proposed by these states would not prosecute women who received abortions, but rather those who perform the procedures.

Abortion providers could land 99 years in prison in Alabama under the proposed law, according to *The Washington Post*.

An exception to this is Georgia, whose proposed legislation may grant embryos and fetuses human rights. A woman who has an abortion could possibly be charged with murder.

Ohio legislation is challenging insurance companies on the coverage of not only abortion but birth control methods like the IUD as well.

According to radio.wusu.org, insurance would be banned from covering any methods of birth control that, “prevent the implantation of a fertilized ovum.”

This means access to contraceptive devices such as IUDs would be restricted for many women, due to their expensive cost without insurance coverage.

Many people find this bill to be hypocritical, as it would reduce women's access to birth control methods that prevent pregnancy and abortions from happening in the first place.

According to *The Washington Post*, restricting abortion lowers abortion rates by three for every 1000 women, whereas, “giving women free birth control reduces abortion rates by 62 to 78 percent, compared to the national rate.”

Alabama has begun to establish legislation stricter than that of the heartbeat bills, which would prohibit abortion at all stages, including cases of sexual assault or incest. There are exceptions if the mother's life is endangered by the pregnancy, or if the fetus has severe health complications.

This bill was recently approved by Governor Kay Ivey.

“I would like to see what women who are so against abortions would do if their daughters got pregnant at 12,” Anupriya Lulla ('22) said.

If passed, the law will almost certainly be challenged. In that case, it will likely make its way to the Supreme Court in the challenge of *Roe v. Wade*, the ruling that legalized abortion until viability in 1973.

Now that Republicans outnumber Democrats in the Supreme Court, there is a chance that this verdict will be overturned, which would signal an end to federal abortion rights in the United States.

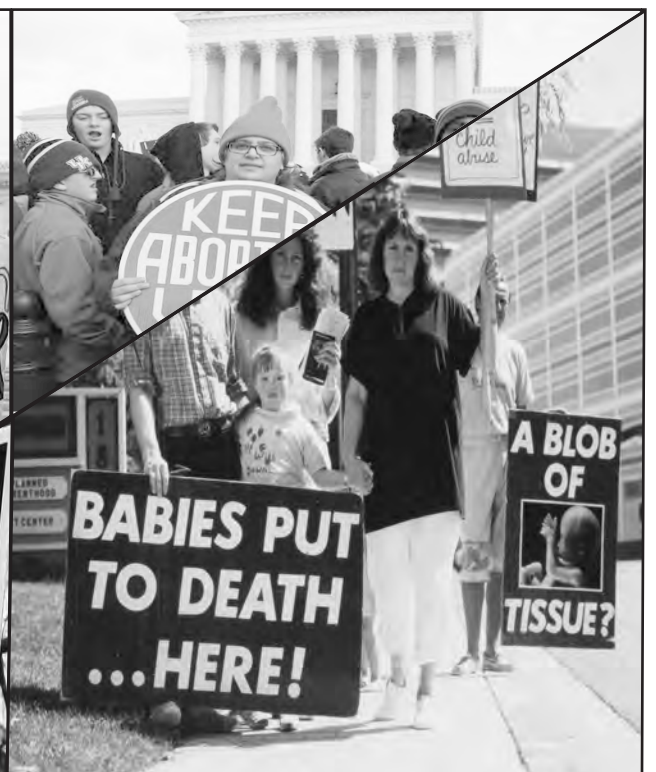
This could then lead to states having complete control over their own abortion laws. Liberal states such as New York, Connecticut, or California would likely maintain abortion rights.

On the other hand, conservative states like Alabama and Texas would be free to ban abortion, which they have only been hindered in achieving by *Roe v. Wade*.



"YOU CANNOT HAVE MATERNAL HEALTH WITHOUT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH. AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INCLUDES CONTRACEPTION AND FAMILY PLANNING AND ACCESS TO LEGAL, SAFE ABORTION."

—HILLARY CLINTON



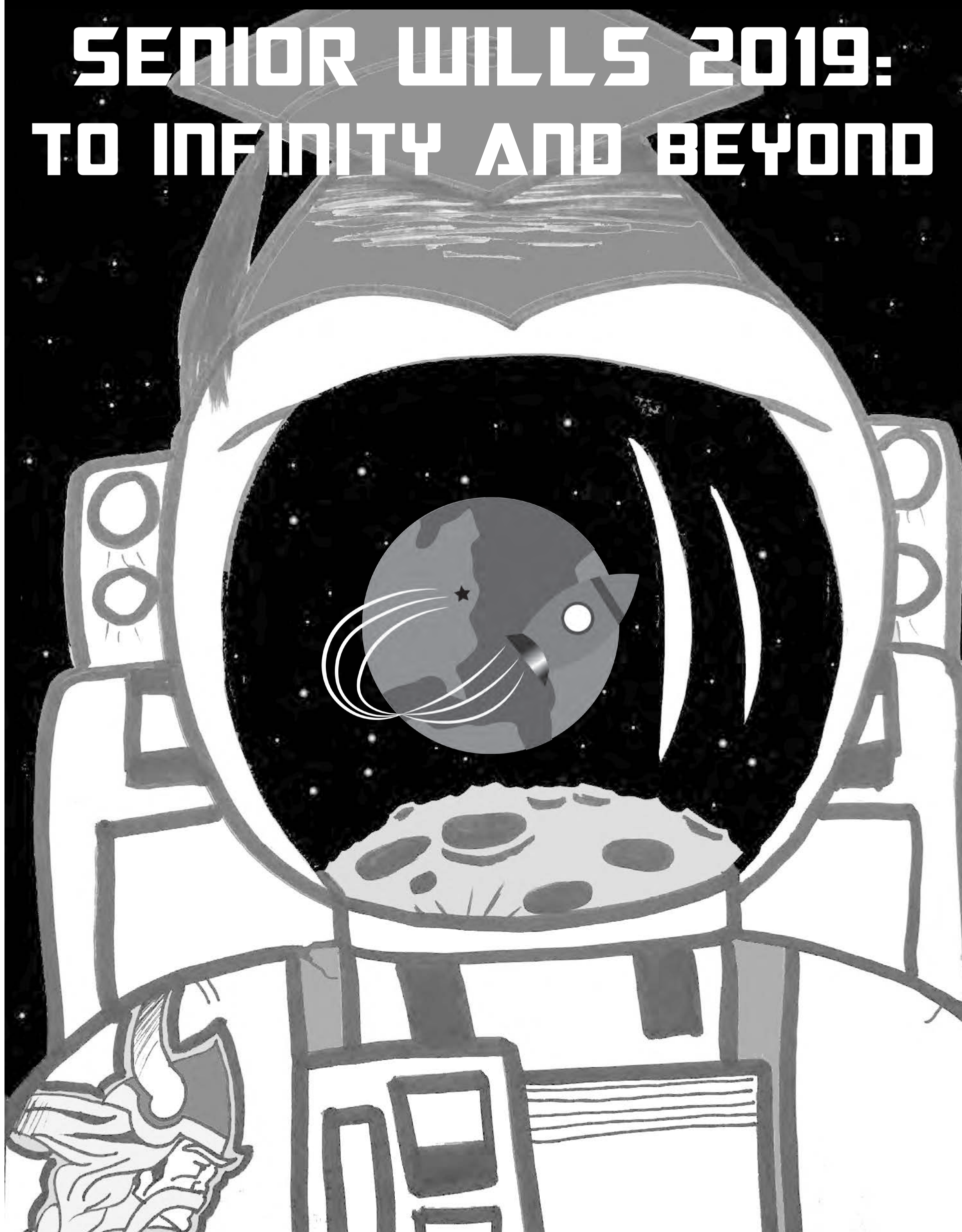
"TOO MANY PEOPLE USE ABORTION AS A FORM OF BIRTH CONTROL. AND THAT IS VERY WRONG. I COULD NEVER, EVER HAVE AN ABORTION."

—BROOKE SHIELDS

The Westword

Supplement

**SENIOR WILLS 2019:
TO INFINITY AND BEYOND**

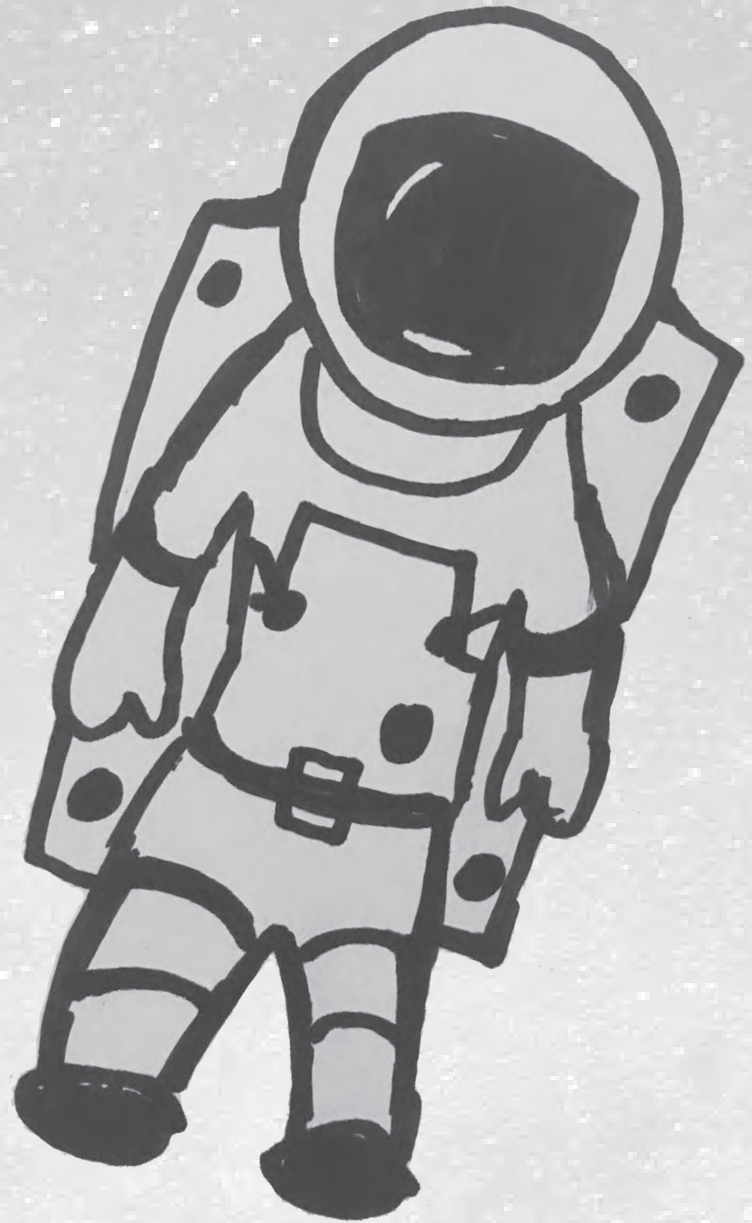




I, Shaunna Alexander, of peaceful mind and built body, hereby leave...

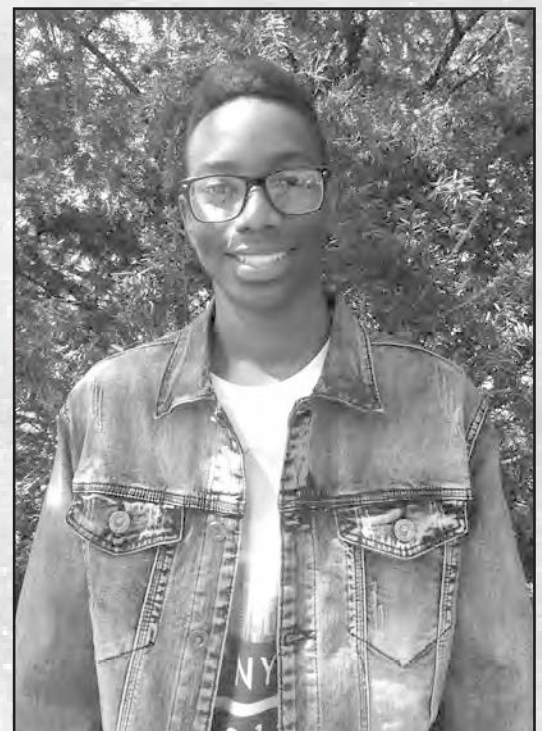
This was nothing like *High School Musical*.

Delaware State University

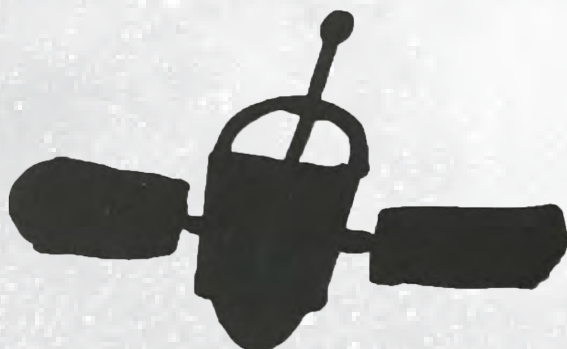


I, Shamar Bryce, of creative mind and silly body, hereby leave...

Senior Avid Class: Hours of countless tutorials, seminars, field trips and laughter at our various conversations. **Mrs. Petrizzi:** *Gran Hotel*. **The Northstar Playmakers:** Dedication and my thanks to Second Electric. **Orchestra class:** Puns, puns, and more puns, lyricists and keeping the tradition alive with only one violist. **Katerin Ramirez:** Laughing in class, bonding over food and movies, Theatre, Cumbaya, and Mother Mo. **Iyonna Walker:** Simultaneously laughing at the same things, always dissing me, and Halloween. **Samantha Moavero:** Logic, Mrs. Cole's class, and my dancing skills. **Ms. Reap:** Always letting us use you as our Film Club advisor even though half the time we did not do anything Film Club related. **Danielle Gleaton:** Childhood jokes no one else could understand, Bojangles, and Kool-Aid. **Catalin Medina:** Our fake fights, the rides home in your car, and our struggle to doing work in Walden's class. **Film Club:** The shorts we attempted to complete and our arguments about club leadership. **Ms. Deangelis:** The mannequin challenge and providing flexibility to do all kinds of writing. **Ms. Cahill:** Cahill cash for extra points. **Mrs. Melfi:** All the advice you have given me to overcome an obstacle, Avid projects, and field trip memories. **Mrs. Calandro:** Debates, puns, vocabulary tests in Avid class, government project, fruit roll-up sales, laughs, build a tower game, and how to survive Calandro's class videos. **Mr. McFillin:** Always having powerpoints to take notes on and class discussions on what is going on currently in the world. **Precious Thomas:** The motherly advice, puns, Mrs. Delson's class. **Maria Cabrera:** Making fun of your blushing, hugs whenever you needed it, my antics, and "Oh my god-uh." **Mrs. English:** Breakfast, singing in class, and giving me a place to go when I was skipping. **Mrs. Walden:** Four Universals, Femme Fatales, Birtha, and abstracts. **Mr. Weintraub:** Pizza parties and debates on how teenagers act. **Mr. Milas:** Switching me out of classes, college help, and staying involved in my decisions. **Steve Garcia:** Being the only two guys in AP Psychology, ice cream lab in Chemistry, our daily arguments, and my insults. **Everyone that knows me:** Always giving out food whenever they ask.



Manhattan College

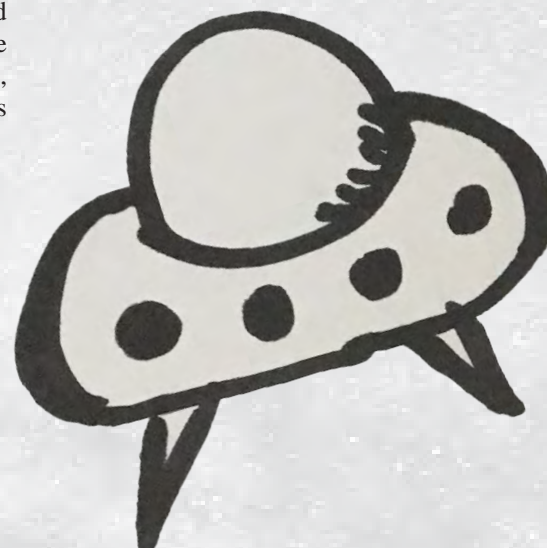
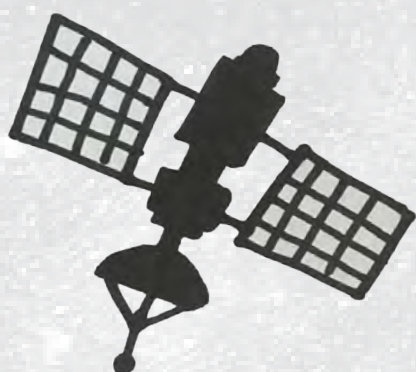


I, Emily DiGiacomo, of ambitious mind and lazy body, hereby leave...

Westhill High School: Wider hallways, traffic cones, less tea, and a useful class about life. **Kate Williams:** Late night texts and FaceTime calls, talking about anything and everything, TMI moments, expert procrastination, Nick Scratch, cute old people, Facebook memes, being your ward, prom every year, gov class (last year), indecision, NON-spicy food, lots of seltzer, scalding hot tea (literally and figuratively), clean cubbies, that blue hat, the Jonas Brothers, the iPad, sTrEeT sMaRtS (ft. J.J Bittenbender), lunch after APs, switching who drives, EVERY John Mulaney film, insane binging speed, the best photos, high on life, a charger for Wonder Boom, the best car playlist, and my love and sanity. **Benjamin Sisco:** (Constant) validation, roasts, illegal drives everywhere, fixing hair, no more gel, checking teeth, AI, accidentally matching, chase (the better) bank, my car sunglasses, Sir Bobby Hall the Third, my keys, Baby Groot, jip jip jip, molly Percocet, Fraiser the Crane, Bobby Sisco, John Mulaney on vinyl, every meme in existence, my Vuarnet sunglasses (RIP), coffee, yellow post-it notes, and a red pen. **Kara McLaughlin:** Asking about Adderall, yelling about my love for you, the BEST Instagram advice, fake veganism, Buddha, spilling tea (literally), overdosing on Advil, my heart, b-dubs and movies, painting our jeans, a Hufflepuff water bottle, art history memes, my keychains, *Threat Level Midnight*, and code red. **Julia Brown:** Randomly picking up my book to rifle through it, talking about books, buying too many books, watching movies instead of doing homework, my rowan, my feyre, the Spock to my Kirk, baking, all the WGI merch, and understanding (about literally everything). **Meredith DiGiacomo:** Being in high school for seven years, random songs coming on from my phone, hugs because you need it, NOT being 15, Del's lemonade, nicknames (only for me), and yelling in my car. **Savannah Madar:** (Illegal) rides to work, ranting about our boss, the Hollister page, the -or sound, your fashion (and my need for validation), LITERALLY being the same person, getting you a job, hot chocolate at work, endless mom-made snacks, being called Carly, the cookie dough, my rain boots, COMPORTER, and the A-Team. **Veronica Misiak:** The cymbal Instagram (aka my pride and joy), creating cool visuals, putting my arms on top in a hug, being a fashion icon, planning Instagram posts, *To All the Boys I've Ever Loved*, reading *Throne of Glass* (side eye), and my cubby. **Helena Dougherty:** The visual line, not wearing shoes, Crocs the wrong size, the fairy aesthetic™, all the rays of sunshine, the deep, awkward stretches, photos of your splits, bubbles, Jibbetz for days, pirouettes, beat-up dance shoes, and Mac and cheese. **Ava Spinelli-Mastrone:** The trumpet section, brass captain, all the high notes, lack of chops, double tonguing, my cymbal spot, playing loudly, my mouthpiece (for getting those sweet high notes) brown combat boots, Mona's coffee, and the *Mamma Mia 2* sing-along edition. **Bill Williams:** Drives from school (and to gigs), *The Flash* seasons one and three (the good ones), and mad marching skills. **Harrison Travaglino:** The jazz charts, sheet music, making copies, every photo ever, that ride to Trumbull, and the truck loading assignments. **Patrick Grant:** That high E, lead trumpet in jazz, all my sheet music, double tonguing, the blue juice valve oil, and the Arban's book. **Brianna Gibson:** Our weird handshake, bra-shopping, KETCHUP, the best cookie dough in the world, and playing an instrument (for the first time). **Kassandra Forbes:** All the hugs, and endless energy. **The Band Room:** My trumpet, broken mutes, my mute holder, broken stands, Michael Jorbear, the mail cart (and tetras), my dignity, organization, more signs about no food, incessant drumming, my self-confidence, and a clean (second) home.



University of
Connecticut-
Storrs



University of
Connecticut-
Storrs

I, Taryn Duncan, of ambitious mind and tall body, hereby leave...

Divya Gada: Gossip sessions in the morning, endless car rides, junior student council jobs, all our spoons immunities and strategies, my parking spot, adventures to Costco, all of the pasta and waffles in my house, one football game a year, being my mom's favorite child, and wsswimdiver. **Olivia Ochocinski:** Senior Rats, freshman year homeroom, AP Lang, our identical Soapstone, my Hydro Flask, and Zoey from *Zoey 101*. **Amanda Veseli:** Senior Rats, Groton, memeable videos, Dolores and Mary Jane, Govinid, my Hydro Flask, and Lola from *Zoey 101*. **Sam Page:** Study sessions, Eileen's pasta, track 2015, needing to know the time every five minutes, and our least favorite class. **Bailee Esposito:** Magnifico, period two study hall, endless rants about a certain Italian, yoga club, and our seventh grade friendship. **Maura Johnston:** Our AP Physics project, buffalo chicken pizza, the IC, Calculus and English scheming, and freshmen year biology tests. **Abby Sottile:** My broken glasses, track 2016, Pre-Calculus and Calculus packets, Psych Dreamz, and Mrs. Paolini's promposal. **Chloe Giulini:** Chloe the cat, all of my Human Physiology flashcards, Pre-Calculus 'tutoring,' my GW acceptance letter, Paolini's looks when we talk, oregano and basil. **Madison Mahar:** Dr. K, Rick Lewis, sleepovers, spirit week, the 200 free and the 500 free, and the world. **Jessie Velishka:** Sleepovers, private Snapchat stories, secret handshakes, and the dungeon.





University of Colorado— Boulder

I, **Bailee Esposito**, of geriatric mind and teenage body, hereby leave...

Sydney Steinberg: All of the plants I can find, firm but true advice, Ms. Tintle's hair, and all my love. **Owen Pollard:** My heart. **Taryn Duncan:** Mag and his son, a chest tattoo that reads, "you don't care I don't care," and a whole lot of love. **Isabella Adamo:** All of the mold. **Julia Hassentalebi:** Fifi when she does that arm folding thing. **Olivia Ochocinski:** All the Cahill cash I have left.

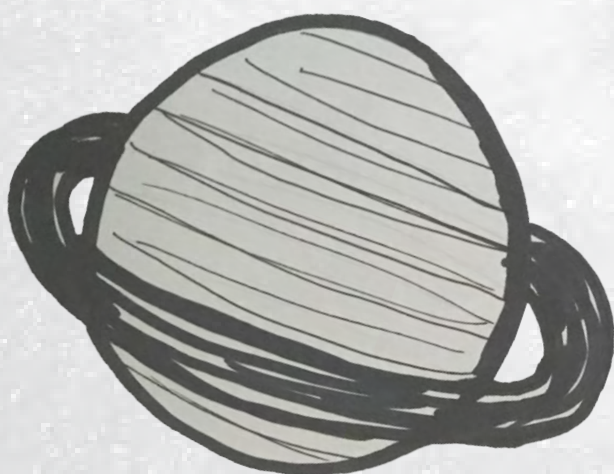


I, **Katie Gaia**, of sentimental mind and stressed body, hereby leave...

Kenny G: Homemade quesadillas, emotional support, and soirees. **Mason Perkins:** An infinite amount of jack-ets, localfoodfanatics, *High School Musical* sing-alongs, Pier, "shut up Hudson," annual haunted house, list of made up words, 300 chocolate chip cookies, William Henry Harrison, blind drawings, your betrothed, the polaroid, and Bodiless Souls. **Emma-Rose Strom:** Math memes, morning rides to school, our eerily similar dads, *Futurama* and specifically Dr. Farnsworth, Mr. P & Mr. P, your lack of direction, missing AP World, and the deer :(. **Julia Brown:** Lobster Diner, solitaire battles, motherload, and drawing on my hand. **Rachel Plotzky:** Bowl/bull, hyperbolic paraboloids, only Snapchatting with filters, scavenging for NHS hours, a new phone, "a line of credit is a line of credit," our least favorite teacher in the Academy, Viking of the Month, and our "verbal cuddling." **Ally, Rachel and Addison:** Our failed book swap club. **Kate Williams:** All our childhood memories, Tyche, Luna, the best friend box, and Frick & Frack. **Molly Herckis:** Three years of math together and all the stress, "It's fine." **Quinn McHale:** "Classic" horror movies, Face Value & Beyond, Civics, and our daily hallway encounters. See you in Germany! **The Westword:** Luck in finding Mr. Sandoval, an organized closet, new computer monitors, and the best club in Westhill! **Teachers:** Special shoutouts to Mrs. Dodita, Mrs. Khetan, and Mrs. Kurtz. You were all incredible teachers that shaped me into who I am today and I am forever grateful for that!

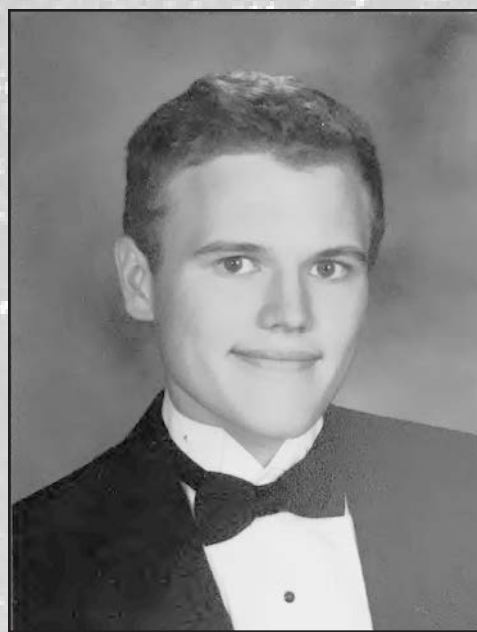


University of Delaware



I, Kevin Harrington, of powerful mind and awesome body, hereby leave....

The Boys: Beehive Kevin, “about eight”, the bathroom burgers, the wax gauntlet, the Merchandise, Avengers assemble. **Melanie Montavlo:** “to te Maximax,” “Thot Patrol,” “Romeo and I are interchangeable”. **Owen Pollard:** David Hasselhoff, Thanos Kevin, square-about, Kevin X. **Alyssa Goldberg:** It is not that serious. **Georgia Colegrave:** TALL GEORGIA, please learn your left from your right. **Addison Magrath:** that pen on Alyssa during enviro, “what do they call French Fries in French?”, Philly-gang.



**Drexel
University**

I, Lauren Klym, of determined mind and exhausted body, hereby leave...

Rachel Plotzky: Morning coffee and hot cocoa talks in our cars, crazy English poems, Grace Farms membership, 100 percent plagiarism, prom dress fashions shows, English triangles cluster notes, my love for grilled cheese, sass and RBF. **Evie Wolpo:** My FFA Jacket, farmering boys, all the animals in the animal lab, adventures in Indiana, all the cow trips, AP Environmental Science answers, Nestle sponsorship, luxury barns, long drives, constant need for Sierra Grille, Garth books obsessions, Luna bars. **Maggie Fritz:** Best cluster, lunch time rants, diner days, all the tea. **Abby Lupinacci:** Jessie, all the cowboys, Danny Quinn, Trevor clap, voice memos, *Grey's Anatomy* obsession, all the dabs. **Zoe Karukas:** Presidency hopes, x-mas tree parties, wifey forever, campaign for 2020. **Ries Allyn:** My Billy Joel playlist and love for old music, singing it out, business power suits, Ag business notes, cowboy hats, sunshine boxes. **Bission Brip:** Johns waiver, PDA, carpets and drapes, 50 cent Frosties, Jessie's girl, Tripp W, full fledge, Nancy's oxygen, my peeps shirt, road trips, sunset photo shoots, cow tipping, Donna's many issues, Groton, Sunday school, yg, and American Pie. **Amanda Veseli:** My Pinterest board, Joons, my grilled cheese toaster, all my arts and crafts supplies, all the syrup, Jude's, Tommy, James, Maeve, all the yellow paint, and sheds. **Lupe Tamayo:** My legendary green stick, KT Tape, megaphone voice, endless injuries, and countless shooting space calls. **Georgia Colgrave:** Four years of giraffe collisions, snacks, and defense lines, all my expressive faces, endless jokes, ice cream nights, awesome accents, hot boys, long talks and forest photo shoots. **Ag Sci:** Jon Russo, all the rubber cement, and hours on scrapbook. **Abby Sotile:** My Jergens, tan lines, defense squad. **Lacrosse team:** The cotton eyed joe, Devellis sunflower seeds, epic bus rides, naps on the turf, broken ankles, winter “workouts,” shoulders and concussions, crazy tan lines, flicking, crazy Cathy, STN, pasta parties, and endless sunscreen.



**Syracuse
University**

I, Addison Magrath, of chaotic mind and vegetarian body, hereby leave...

Rachel Plotzky: Extra credit hair labs, making bread, sophomore section editing, and many many *Westword* struggles. **Katherine Pacheco:** Too much information about coffee and the perfect then and now picture. **Kevin Harrington:** Philly phriends, Marvel conversations, and failed Snapchat games. **Konrad:** Mini breakdowns in your closet (thank you). **The Westword:** Long hours, mold coverage, and many thanks for giving me a real purpose in high school.



**Temple
University**

I, Kara McLaughlin, of simple mind and exhausted body, hereby leave...

Kate Williams: Counting down to Christmas, the wise words of Michelle Obama, cows, Western Regionals auditions, Thelma and Louise, matching Halloween costumes, holes in your leggings, and your future job as President of the United States. **Julia Brown:** Baking in your kitchen, falling asleep in Elizabeth's bed, threatening to steal your dog, the one class we have ever had together, “Out There” from the *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, “Go The Distance” from *Hercules*, calling Elyce “Mom,” and 14 years of friendship. **Emily DiGiacomo:** Pancakes, DJ Voldemort's Beat Laboratory, holding hands during APAH, *Threat Level Midnight*, button buddies, sneaking BWW's into the theater, my Instagram advisor, and Buddha. **Audrey Molina:** Sending Bitmojis during Curri's rehearsal, Hozier's EP “Wasteland, Baby!”, our mutual love of Mexican food, St. Leo's trash duty, kisses on the cheek, the fever dream that was “Xanadu Jr.”, the government watching our every move, and classic Audrey/ Kara conversations during the two minutes you were not on stage for “9 to 5.” **Ally Watkinson:** The alternate universe where we meet Ben Platt, cool teacher Mr. Wooley, hysterical sobbing both times we saw “Les Miz,” Jeff Koons burning in hell. “get the clay, put her in clay,” all of your ridiculous wigs, Sandra trying to set you up with literally anyone, and nine years of being confused for one another/sisters. **Alyssa Fish:** Quoting the entire *Blades of Glory* movie, biking through Hammonasset State Park, turning into a lion at midnight, “Requiem for a Tuesday,” sending each other SparkNotes memes, “speaking of ****,” Earl's Rock, and *Camp Rock 1 & 2*. **Brynn Miller:** Our psychic connection, kidnapping Timmy the plastic dinosaur, the entire *High School Musical* franchise, standing on a stool to braid your hair, green index cards, *Shallows* from *A Star is Born*, barely scraping by in Berkley's, and missing you constantly. **Colin McLaughlin:** “You guys are brother and sister?”, medium vanilla milkshakes at Carvel, and “I love you.” **Deanna Gladstone:** Kara's three rules, making good decisions, and the next generation of Shadows. **Savannah Madar:** Staying hydrated, taking deep breaths, and remembering that you are strong, wonderful, and capable. **Ben Sisco:** “High School Never Ends” by Bowling for Soup, “Benny Boy,” and stuffed Groot. **Veronica Misiak:** A choreographed dance routine to *Super Trouper*, your tissue box, and literally all of my love and adoration. **Ava Mastrone:** Our matching black leotards, the original choreography to “Chorus line,” and all the wonderful things you so very much deserve. **Helena Dougherty:** My water bottle squirts, a boy with the nicest personality, and the knowledge that you are the light of my life. **Mr. Wyatt:** Four years undercover, over and out.

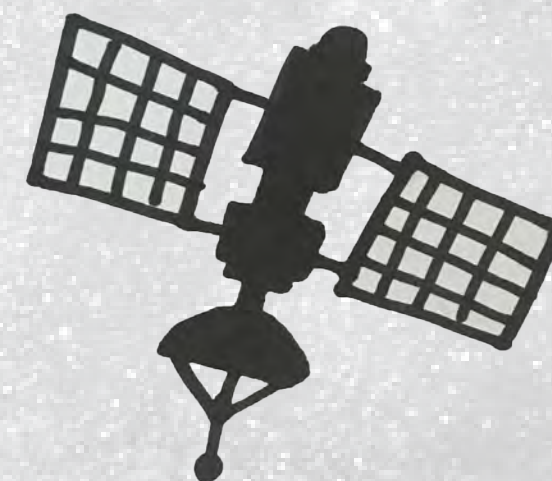


Dickinson College



I, Rachel Plotzky, of diligent mind and sassy body, hereby leave...

Lauren Klym: Sitting in your car, small hot chocolates, 100 percent plagiarized, English class, the amazing Grace Farms and their slave free chocolate bars, grilled cheese for days, painting our spots, go orange, peaceful piano, and snap crackle pop. **Maggie Fritz:** Taking years to become friends, prom twice, and our gossip sessions on the way to period three. **Addison Magrath:** Biology freshman year, rides to your car, the post office, CSPA, bullet journals, new music, and everything *Westword*. **Katie Gaia:** Verbal cuddling, curl F, next four, Pringles being hyperbolic paraboloids, trying to find NHS hours, and understanding my constant rage. **Kate Williams:** Freshman health and gym, eating lunch with history teachers, hundreds of tiny flags, and the Civics textbook. **Ashley Shapiro:** Long packets, bumpy roads, and spilling tea. **Olivia Berni:** BBYO, communications, and hoping we stay in touch. **Ries Allyn and Abby Lupinacci:** Wish we stayed closer during high school, love the two of you, expecting to be closer in college. **Evie Wolpo:** Everything, from hate to love, friends forever, surviving camp and BBYO together, the trio, cannot wait to visit you at Penn State. **Molly Herckis:** Years of friendship, Hebrew school, and not failing calculus or multivariable. **Ryan Kipp:** Prom and wanting to be quoted constantly. **The Westword:** A soundproof room, CSPA, Michael Mchale, and all my free time. **Teachers:** Thanks for all the help along the way. Special shoutouts to Mrs. Khetan, Mrs. Dodita, Mrs. Kurtz, Ms. Tintle, and Mrs. Wheeler.



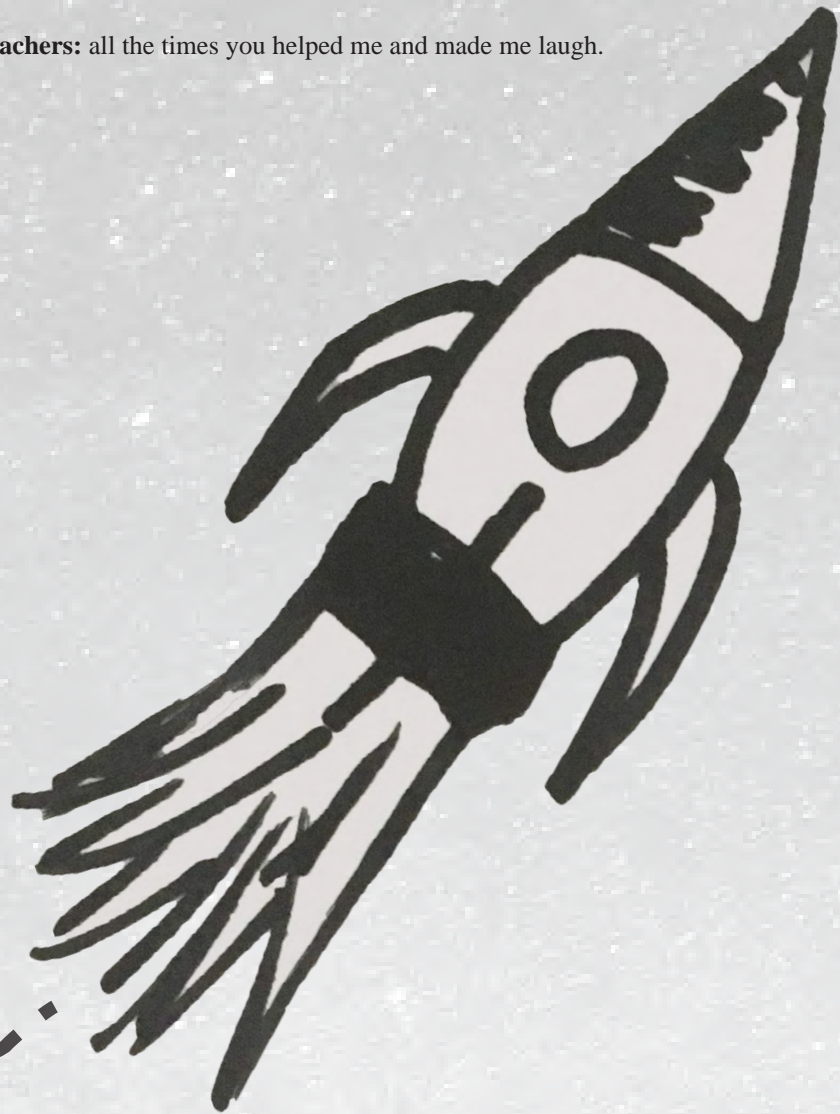
**University of
Delaware**



Norwalk Community College

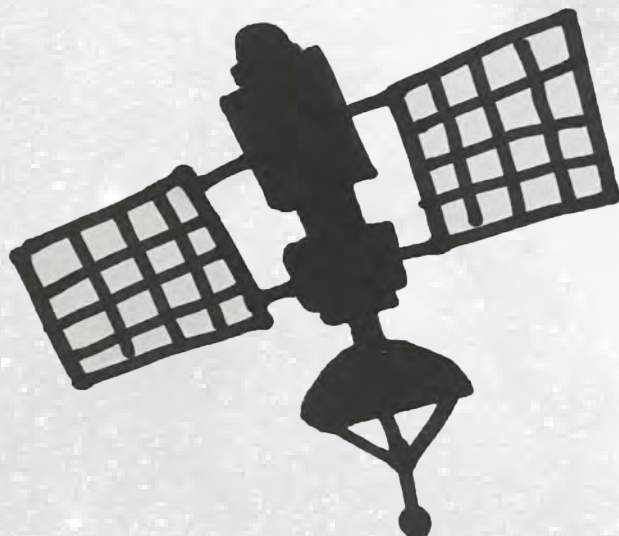
I, Yenifer Recinos, of brilliant mind and beautiful body, hereby leave...

My classmates and teachers: all the times you helped me and made me laugh.



I, Sydney Steinberg, of big mind and small body, hereby leave...

The Northstar Playmakers: So many Angelo Goosenellis, CDA Dubs, endless productions of *Cats*. **Stamford Regional FFA:** Watermelons. **Ms. Cipolla:** An even cooler trapperkeeper. **Mrs. Cascio:** The same FFA lanyard. **Ms. Jeffries:** The crazy eye look, color-coded everything. **Mrs. PC:** An axolotl in a bottle. **Ms. Martin:** An abundance of rabbits. **Ms. Cahill:** Infinite paper mate ink joy pens. **Isabella Adamo:** Class clown, a crazy dare. **Lucas Pinto-Leite:** Smart choices, an All-Connecticut Cast Award. **Isabella, Lucas, and Patrick:** A baguette in ze Oven. **Zac Kitay:** Pranks. **Bailee Esposito:** 1,635 miles, Golive. **Abby Lupinacci:** half of my brain, half of your brain. **Caroline Klumac:** Speedy Robeks. **Audrey Molina:** Too much lettuce. **Maddie MacDonald:** Employment Skills dubs, a working microphone. **The AG Office:** Binders. **Owen Pollard:** Bathing suit shorts. **Ava Mastrone and Olivia Wenke:** Fun time NPPG meetings. **Eli Shattuck:** More light up sketchers in size 11 men's. **Kevin Harrington:** A prom haircut. **Adriana Colombo:** Tomatoes. **Alexandra Watkinson:** And the bottle, the swallows. **Elizabeth Watkinson:** You already know.



Elon University



I, Guilmar Valle, of senioritis-infested mind and iced coffee-filled body, hereby leave...

Bintou Bane: An overwhelming sense of joy after having passed (but just barely) our first few chemistry tests, countless .pdfs, and a slithering snake. **Maansi Shah:** A Hindi-English dictionary, web assigns, and an ICE table. **Rachel Mensah:** Two weeks of AP Chemistry, Two weeks of BC Calculus, should I go on? **Hoshania Kumerman:** Red cat Republicans, Mike(s), Shirkley. **Emma Sawch:** Blue dog Democrats, "I like that laugh," St. Patty's Day at BU. **Liz:** Taking me to UConn, USC decision night, tolerating each other. **AP Chemistry:** ICE tables, the overflowing Tom meme, crazy eight's. **Mrs. Dodita:** Your new Connection Time student, (almost) never sleeping in on your class, and a love for all things chemistry. **Mock Trial:** Feet, "Mo Bamba"/"Sicko Mode," Thotiana. **AP Biology:** Sub test, The Chicks, and Mastering Biology. **Mrs. Paolini:** Gossip sessions, 20 dissections, and a lifetime of advice. **Derek Rivera:** Toad's, York, and all things college. **Shaira Sunbeam:** Ketchup, boys, and the next four years. **Ms. Berkley (Sheryl):** Civil liberties, civil rights, pep talks, and killer advice. **Mrs. Ashkin:** Ln(x), Hameancles, and a killer appreciation for math teachers. **Amanda Veseli:** Karyotype project, a light bulb, and the flashcard from math. **Michael Hernandez:** Los Angeles, crashing at my dorm, and things, should I ever speak of them, that would come back and haunt you when you run for office. **Naomi Julca:** "BESTFRIEND!", your roommate, and "I'M HEATED." **Jenn Carias:** A broken door handle, moving to Norwhack, and random 2 a.m. explorations. **Val Neyra:** A porcelain Goddess, a dollar, and a hefty deposit. **Nicole Leon:** Your grades being cold, being thirsty, and rubbing my eyes when you walk into Human Physiology. **21+:** Dollaritas, the city, and a beard. **The Group:** Toad's, Adrian, and a lifetime of shenanigans. **Daniela Valle:** In the crazy event that you are reading this, a lifetime of love, support, and a familial bond. **Spoons:** Where is my money??

University of Connecticut-Storrs

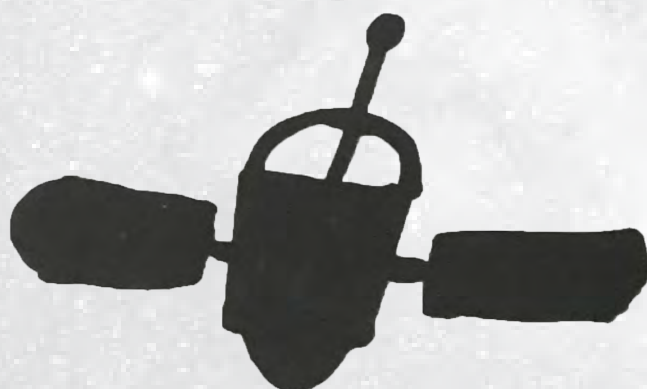


I, Alexandra Watkinson, of musical-filled mind and nervous body, hereby leave...

Elizabeth Watkinson: Barb, Catie's sass, a nice caramel frappe, Bring the belt!, señor, *Ducktales*, not being able to dance, 16 years of friendship and many more to come, "You made me bleed!", being long, and SSDGM. **Audrey Molina:** Budy Jernly, Course, Mr. Petrone's class, "Kobe, what color am I?", chocolate ripples with an n, "Under this brain is a hair," and kazoo dealers. **Kara McLaughlin:** Sheep boy, "We will not get ruined by stick boys," feeling weird about jazz, goose licenses, Jackie Kennedy, When will my husband return from the war?, How do you keep the dogs from eating each other?, looking just enough like me, and skating all those years ago. **Lilah Steinberg:** falafel, rides home, "In your home?!", your love of my W&M friends, and your bright future. **Lucas Pinto-Leite:** the number one tenor in CT, Adrian has so many friends, tying you up, hitting you to get out of the garbage can, the blackmail pictures you have of me, and the responsibility of driving Lilah around. **Jessie Velishka:** OMG, Steve, Derek Kle-na, Carrie Hope Fletcher, and being my daughter. **Caroline Klumac:** Rides in Barb, falafel, the best stage manager, "Good luck Ally on your drivers test," and sharing your fries with me always. **Bailee Esposito:** *Boss Baby*, "Excuse me, are you homeless?", three years of CSPA, and always being able to make me laugh. **Abby Lupinacci:** Ms. Wheeler's class, It's from all of us!, Happy birthday Charlie!, reading guides, late night talks in the Westhill parking lot, and Dave. **Zara Williamson:** my loud alto legacy, both of us having absolutely no chill, and being the most talented Williamson. **Isabella Adamo:** I was beginning to think the swallows had flown away with ye. **Sydney Steinberg:** BABE, the acting instructor at NEDF, and many, many laughs this year. **Ries Allyn:** We miss our alumni, DAVE, and four wonderful years of theatre madness. **Julia Brown:** Obsessing over Anastasia together and reading instead of listening to Mrs. Wheeler. **Ellie Balestriere:** Broadway trips together, Tree Time, Dave, bullying Avi, late night talks in my car, and being the future Northstar Uber. **Avi Gordon:** Brandy, your shaky legs and hands, GoOdY NuRsE, being robbed, and being my husband. **AP Art History:** Plinth! **Eva Miskevitch:** Workin' Boys. **Chambers:** Five dollar fades, singing Lion everywhere, and us all being the number one tenor in CT. **Northstar:** Heeyah!, my bad southern accent, belting out showtunes always, Angelo Sagnelli, Sonder, and the wonderful shows yet to come. **The Westword:** Three wonderful years of fun, news, and content for the Westhill community.

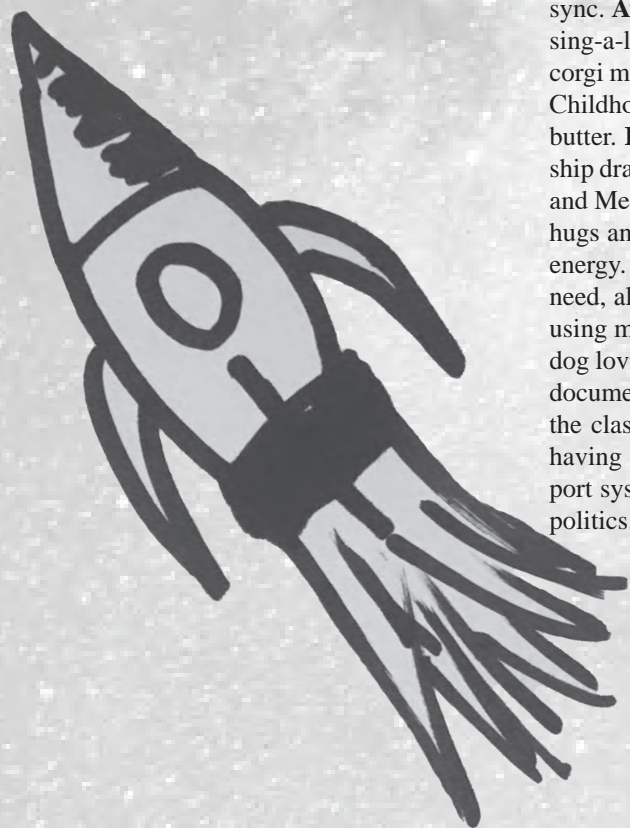


College of William and Mary



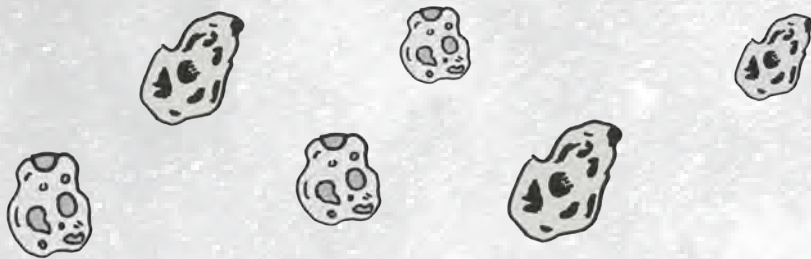


Yale University



I, Kate Williams, of zestful mind and sleepless body, hereby leave...

Bill Williams: Twin handshake, too much oatmeal, nyalright, all of the cats, using up the internet, twin time, “sharing” a car, my chauffeur skills, being useless, a supply of sustenance to live, and all of the money I have spent on you. **Emily DiGiacomo:** Summer workouts, Jon Bellion songs, matching cow onesies, glazed chocolate donuts, matching white converse, turtle hats, chapter 51, spicy sandwiches, gov class survival, New Years Eve hangouts, 3 a.m. crisis texts, chocolate chip pancakes, master meme tagging, not making decisions, flying pig socks, Annie’s gummies, an infinite supply of swedish fish, pre-show bowels, stealing snacks, gavin leath-erwood, CAOS frustration, and my survival and sanity. **Kara McLaughlin:** Ugly selfies, TMI conversations, Thelma and Louise, Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum, getting Pam to bring you ice cream, being Bill’s favorite, all of the sunscreen, so much tea, sibling car rides and Christmas countdowns. **Julia Brown:** Me falling asleep during every movie, THE double chocolate chip cookies, not wanting solos, making judgey eye contact when things happen, complaining about people, and always understanding sassy Elizabeth. **Harrison Travaglino:** Never-ending rounds of ninja, hilarious dance moves, our never perfect handshake, and disgusting electrolytes. **Grady Orr:** Death stares, painful smiles, and nine to nine mental breakdowns, reeeeeee. **Helena Dougherty:** Running away together, our farm, a damp tear-filled shirt, no more of this, shower FaceTime, couples yoga, ninja with noises, dry scalp, dance breaks, wrestling on the band room floor, Dayton bus floor cuddles, contact, PB and J, slides with Sean, stretching my legs, GPS directions, korl, fall beach day, requiring human contact, Doritos to eat while watching the podium, Annie’s mac and cheese, cleaning my room for you and only you, last minute sleepovers, your missing UGG, being the little sister I never had, and an open invitation to come live with me at school. **Savannah Madar:** Unlimited supply of seltzer, the go-to wingman, math hangouts, showing up at your house any time any day, waking up early for work, taking tea to go, sharing your mom, switching clothes, and living at your house. **Ben Sisco:** *Game of Thrones* addiction, intermittent fasting, love for Elyce’s double chocolate cookies, making fun of New Canaan, the assassin at work, workout buddy, midnight hair treatment sessions, and holy guacamole! **Veronica Misiak:** A light for your driveway, driving on the left side of the road to avoid potholes, never making the right turn, Polish lessons, squishing into my bed, and being in sync. **Ava Spinelli Mastrone:** The not-going-to-college scare, teenage boys ain’t s***, and your *Mamma Mia* sing-a-long DVD. **Kevin Zyskowski:** Adorable animal pictures, Spanish with Ms. Alvarez, cute dog videos, corgi mixes, never eating a hamburger, *Game of Thrones* bingeing, our playlist, and being a nitwit. **Katie Gaia:** Childhood adventures, Tyche, Frick and Frack, sharing your house, Luna, and an unlimited supply of peanut butter. **Rachel Plotzky:** Lunch with Mr. White, hanging with Berkley, a green flute, physics torture, relation-ship drama and an unlimited supply of pettiness. **The Pit:** Your very own exclusive Dr. Beat, quarter inch cable, and MegaVox with a full charge, glasses to protect your eyes from Sean’s clicking, my chestnut, Jake the Dog, hugs and support for the rough times and mental breakdowns, and every single ounce of my endless love and energy. **The Band:** My Wonderboom, the most efficient podium system, all of the advice and support you will need, all of the time I have put into the program, and love and luck for the coming years. **Ms. Tobin:** Always using me as your example, feminist power, introducing me to the egg bagel, playing all the *Hamlet* characters, dog loving, sharing all the gossip, and being the coolest ever. **Ms. Grant:** My undying love for cows, top-notch documentaries, stalking college interviewers, spicy dilly beans, tea tree tingle conditioner, fun book recs, and the class that changed my life. **Ms. Berkley:** My corner seat by your desk, keeping a stash of food for me, having lunch together, talking about everyone and everything, sneezing everything out, being the BEST sup-port system and advice giver, and a thank you for sparking my passion and love for history, government, and politics. **Mr. Wyatt:** The best four years of high school I could ever ask for.



I, Kevin Zyskowski, of humble mind and giving body, hereby leave...

Alex Phillipson: 40 dollars so you can finally buy a cheap graphics card to make a functioning server. **James Lis:** My horrendous attempt at a fake laugh, though it may never be as good as yours, and all the Hawaiian shirts in my possession, because they suit you far better than they suit me. **Bill Williams:** My PC so that you can stop lagging so much in games, and my Cards Against Humanity deck; I think that the type of humor is more for you than me. **Glen Dombroski:** My PT bands so you can heal your leg faster because we all know it is hard to dance on one leg. **Dan Greco:** My school supplies for when you show up to class and suffer through physics; Dr. K thinks that you are in California. I honestly might not have been as excited about Computer Science as I am if it were not for you teaching me small things whilst working on your own projects, so thanks for being an amazing friend and partner in crime (cybercrime?). **The Rishabhs (both of you):** My phone, because you always try to take it from me in class without me noticing it (I always did). Jain, keep wearing hoodies, and Sahu, keep scheming. **Eamon Mahoney:** My pair of jeans, the only thing that is able to contain your power. You were the life and spirit of our track team, and I am so glad to have experienced that energy, so thank you. **Savannah Madar:** Our handshake, the best handshake in the world. Thank you for being an amazing friend and wingwoman, I will never forget the fun times we had this year. **My friends in Connection Time:** All our crazy eight games and good laughs. Unlike a lot of other students, I can truthfully say that I actually enjoyed Connection Time, and you are to blame. **The swim team:** My speaker so you guys can bump to music while doing your boxes. Like Coach Rick always says, just swim fast man. **The Band kids:** My guitar that I can only play a couple of chords on. I am so grateful to have been able to experience even a tiny bit of the family that is band. **Mr. Sarkar:** All my projects and code from my years at Westhill. You have been the greatest mentor to me in the field of Computer Science, and also in life. You taught me to try to live my life outside of a cubicle, so thank you so much for everything. **Kate Williams:** I will always be your nitwit. I leave you my time and energy for when the going gets rough. You were way too good to me, I could not even keep up in trying to repay you, but I will still try. Thank you for the greatest year of my life.



Northeastern University



Don't Enroll In The Wrong Driving School

Don't Be Fooled by PART-TIME SCHOOLS Operating in Stamford.

Since 2005, the **High Ridge Driving School** has been the driving school of choice for Stamford-area teens and their parents because of our commitment **to always put the student FIRST!** In fact, as a result of our student-centric philosophy, we have taught more Stamford teens to drive than all of the other driving schools... *combined*.

The fact is, **we are not a driver education factory.** From day one, we have strived to offer the best possible driver education experience for each student. When it comes to driver education, just like shoes, one size does not fit all. And there is only one way we can offer this level of

attention – by being local business-people who are actively engaged with our instructors, students, parents and the community. We don't own numerous driving schools around the state or operate part-time, **our focus is here on the driving students of Stamford and the surrounding communities, all day – every day.**

The purpose of this ad is to provide you with a fair and accurate comparison of your driving school options in Stamford, so you can make an educated decision. In the end, you will have to decide which driving school option is best for you and your family.

THE HIGH RIDGE DRIVING SCHOOL ADVANTAGE

	Other Driving School Options	High Ridge Driving School	FREE TEST DRIVE! Any student accompanied by a parent can sit in on one of our weekday classes absolutely FREE so you can get a feel for our school, our curriculum, and our teaching methods. INTERESTED IN ONLY THE 8-HOUR DRUG & ALCOHOL CLASS? We offer 16 & 17 year old students the chance to take just this class every weekend. (EXCEPT MAJOR HOLIDAYS) Always separate classes for teens and adults.
Flexible Schedule	No, they schedule sessions that begin and end. So, if you miss a class, you might need to go to another town, or wait quite awhile to finish your training.	Our classes NEVER end. We teach in the classroom 52-weeks a year. In the summer we offer up to 3 classes a day!	
Driving Hours	We know of students from other driving schools that have needed to go to other towns to finish their driving hours. Some schools do not even offer in-car sessions on a regular basis!	We drive 7-days a week, all year long. You're assigned an instructor who's dedicated to providing you with the best driver education experience possible. Plus, we pick-up and drop off ANYWHERE locally.	
Off-site Testing at the School	Possibly.	Always available in Stamford multiple times a month since 2005 - And always will be!	
Customer Service	Questions, phone calls, and DMV paperwork usually handled by a corporate office or a branch office in another town, generally only by phone. Some schools do not generate DMV CS-1 certificates in Stamford. VERY limited office hours in Stamford, if at all.	We're almost ALWAYS open – in person or by phone. All phone calls, certificates, and paperwork handled in Stamford. No phone queues or customer service reps, we deliver REAL customer care with our dedicated Stamford staff. We invite parents into our facility, and offer training and support to ensure the time spent driving with your teen is productive.	
The Oldest Driving School in Stamford	No.	Yes, High Ridge Driving School has been locally owned and operated since 2005!	

We think you'll agree that the advantage of

- A Flexible Classroom Schedule • An Expanded and Flexible Driving Schedule
- Taking the Driving Test Here in Stamford • Having Ownership Local and Involved...

Makes **High Ridge Driving School** The Logical & Best Value!

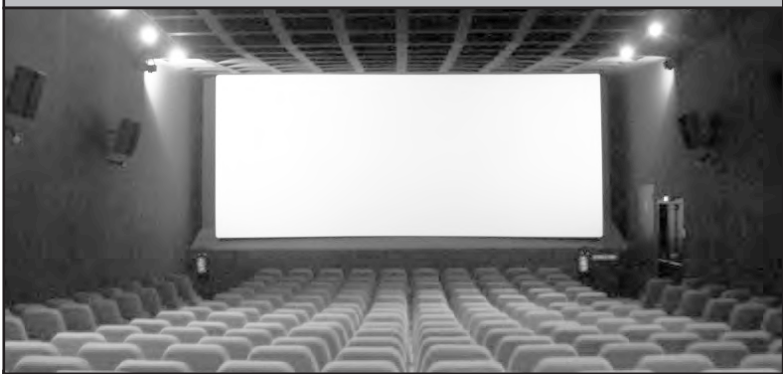
High Ridge Driving School

992 High Ridge Road, Stamford
(203) 329-3030
 HighRidgeDrivingSchool.com

Just south of the Merritt Parkway, Exit 35 – High Ridge Road, next to Town Fair Tire.

Las Películas

Durante el verano hay muchas actividades que hacer por ejemplo pueden ir a ver una película o una obra en el teatro. Durante el verano salen muchas películas nuevas, por ejemplo salen películas de miedo, aventura, drama, comedia, románticas y más. Allí pueden comprar palomitas, dulces y bebidas. En el teatro pueden ver actuaciones vivas. Las dos actividades pueden ser relajante y divertidas porque lo puedes hacer con amigos y tu familia.



Stamford Museum y Nature Center

Otra actividad que pueden hacer es ir al Stamford Museum y Nature Center. El museo cambia por la temporada, pero tienen una granja. La granja tiene caballos, vacas, gallinas, cabras, cerdos y mas animales, también tienen reptiles. Este lugar es un lugar ideal si tienen hermanitos, si les gustan los animales o si quieren aprender de los animales. El Stamford Museum and Nature Center esta en North Stamford. aquí también se puede ser voluntario con los animales.



El Centro Comercial

La ciudad de stamford tiene un centro comercial. Tienen tiendas de belleza, ropa, joyas, comida y dulces.

“A mi me gusta ir al centro comercial porque tienen muchas tiendas,” dijo anónimo (’22).



La Playa

La playa se un lugar donde muchas personas van durante el verano. Aquí pueden hacer muchas actividades. por ejemplo pueden ir a nadar, pasar tiempo con los amigos y familia, hacer un comida, jugar y hacer ejercicio.

Surovi Das (’22) dijo, “a mi me gusta ir a la playa porque está afuera y puedes tomar aire fresco. También me gusta que puedo ir a nadar y hacer different actividades mientras bronceandome.”

En la playa pueden rentar tablas y canoas par ir a embarcar paletas y hacer piragüismo. Todos los años en el cuatro de julio tiene fuegos artificiales en la noche para celebrar el día importante. En ese día también ponen música y venden comida.



Los Parques

En Stamford también tenemos muchos parque. En mill river park se puede hacer ejercicio, ellos también ofrecen clases que todos pueden ir. Por ejemplo ofrecen zumba y yoga. Durante las noches ponen películas y las cambian para que todas las edades pueden tener una oportunidad de ir y disfrutar con amigos y familia. Mill river park tiene un carrusel que vale dos dólares por paseo. El parque es un lugar muy bonito para tener un picnic y para ir caminando. Otro parque popular en Stamford es Scalzi park. Allí tienen un lugar de agua para jugar. También tiene lugares para jugar básquetbol, fútbol, tenis, un parque de patinaje, y un curso de cuerdas.



La Piscina

A muchas personas les gustan ir a nadar durante el verano. Pueden ir a Heroy Pool, Chelsea Piers, YMCA, Italian Center, y el JCC. Todos los lugares tienen una picana y también pueden jugar otros deportes.



La Biblioteca

En Stamford tenemos cuatro bibliotecas y hacen muchas actividades. Por ejemplo leen different libros de diferente edades y en la noche ponen películas para que los disfruten los niños. Durante este verano la biblioteca va tener una actividad donde te enseñan como hacer chocolate, esta actividad va ser el diecinueve de junio a las cuatro en la biblioteca central. La biblioteca siempre busca voluntarios y solo se tiene que apuntar y llegar a sus session de entrenamiento.



RPM Raceway

Hace un año abrieron una pista de carreras de carro, se llama RPM Raceway. Ese lugar es bueno para tener una competencia amistosa.

Behanka Adonis (’22) dijo, “llenado una carrera de carro es muy divertido y recomiendo que todos lo traten.”

En el lugar también tienen una arcada y para jugar boliche. El lugar es ideal para fiestas porque tiene una variedad de actividades que hacer.



Actividades Durante el Verano

Debatiendo cuando debería empezar el año escolar

Camila Miranda
Las Noticias Editor

En Stamford, muchas escuelas empiezan el año escolar a finales de agosto y terminan a principios de junio. Pero sabían que muchas escuelas en los Estados Unidos empiezan a principios de agosto y terminan en

principios de mayo? Este es el caso en muchos estados de los Estados Unidos y muchos alumnos se preguntan porque no Stamford ase lo mismo.

Aunque saldríamos de la escuela más temprano, muchos piensan que esto sería una mala idea por varias razones.

Una razón es porque en

agosto todavía hace mucho calor y muchas escuelas no tienen aire acondicionado. También hace demasiado calor para que los alumnos se vengam caminando y tengan que montarse en el bus.

También muchos dicen que el verano no se sentiría lo mismo sin el mes de agosto inclu-

ido en sus vacaciones. Muchos discuten que el verano se sentiría mas corto.

“No creo que empezar el año escolar sería una buena idea porque sentiría como que parte de mi verano me la quitaran,” dijo Nicole Rodas ('20).

Como esta estudiante muchos piensan lo mismo y creen que empesando más temprano les quitaria otras oportunidades que ofrece el verano, como pasar tiempo con la familia y los amigos y aparte ir de vacaciones.

En el mes de mayo todavía no hace mucho color y el clima es muy lluvioso y los alumnos prefieren pasar su verano en climas calurosos para poder hacer más actividades.

“No me gustaría eso porque en el mes de mayo recibimos mucha lluvia y prefiero pasar mis vacaciones en clima de verano,” opinó Behanka Adonis ('22).

Igual como esta estudiante, Alyssa Goia ('22) también opinó, “No creo que sería una buena idea porque si el año escolar terminará más temprano en abril y mayo, las vacaciones serán muy lluviosos porque

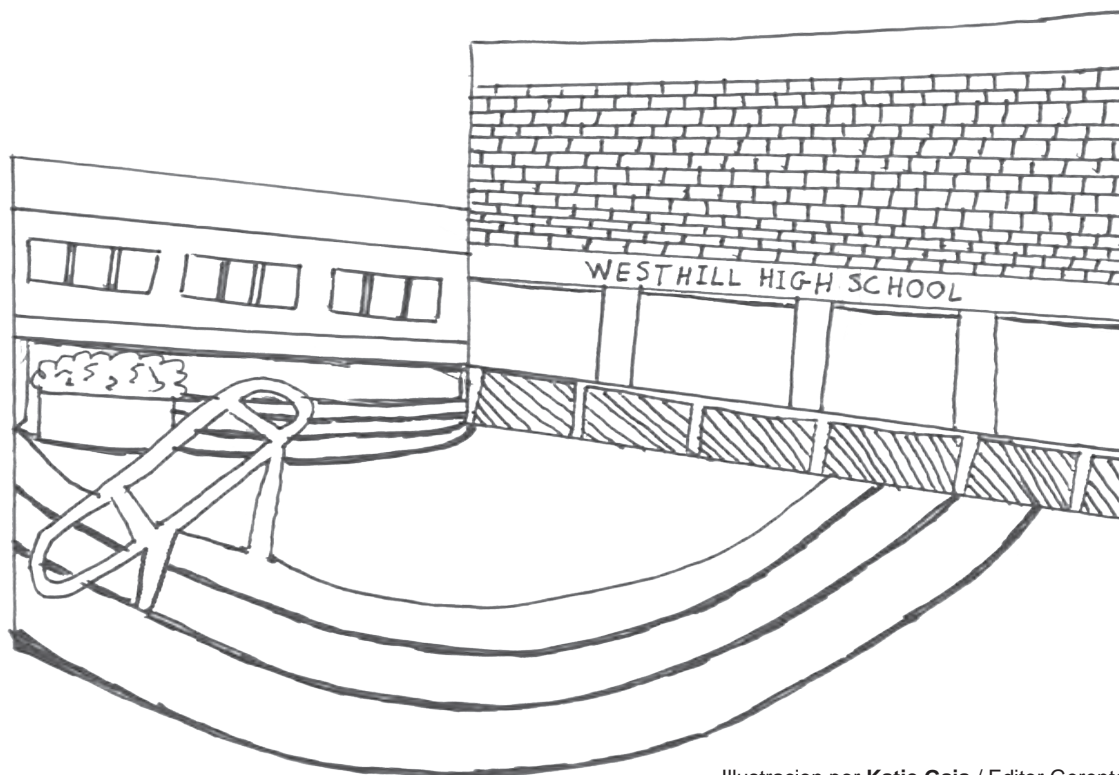
estos son los meses que más llueven.”

Este es solo el aspecto de los estudiantes pero muchos no se ponen a pensar cómo este cambio afectaría a las escuelas.

Aunque muchas escuelas no tienen aire acondicionado, las que sí tienen gastarán mucho dinero en aire acondicionado. El mes de agosto es uno de los meses más calurosos del año y refrescar todo la escuela para un mes adicional aparte de los meses calurosos del fin del año, costaría mucho.

También los maestros no tendrían suficiente tiempo para prepararse para el siguiente año escolar. A cambio si empezaramos el ano a fines de agosto, los maestros tendrían el tiempo para prepararse y adicionalmente, pasar las vacaciones bien.

Es por estas razones que muchos piensan que sería mejor no empezar en agosto y seguir con la misma fecha de comienzo y salida del año escolar. No solo sería la mejor opción para los alumnos en términos de sus vacaciones, pero también para las escuelas para no tener inconvenientes.



Ilustracion por **Katie Gaia** / Editor Gerente.

La Nueva Superintendente de Stamford

Marta Zach
Escritora del Personal

Siguiendo la renuncia del superintendente Earl Kim antes de las vacaciones de primavera, se nombró a una nueva superintendente para Stamford, el Dr. Tamu Lucero. Lucero fue elegida por la Junta de Educación (BOE) y es la primera mujer de color en servir como Superintendente de las Escuelas Públicas de Stamford (SPS).

Lucero ha estado en el distrito escolar por varios años. Comenzó como maestra de educación física en la escuela Stamford High y se desempeñó durante un período de seis años como superintendente adjunta del distrito.

“Estoy emocionada y humilde por la oportunidad de servir como Superintendente de SPS y continuar el trabajo positivo que logró el Superintendente Kim durante nuestro Plan Estratégico. Me siento honrada de que nuestra Junta [de educación] tenga la confianza en mi dirección, y espero trabajar en colaboración con ellos, nuestro personal, las familias y los socios de la comunidad para beneficiar los estudiantes de Stamford,” dijo Lucero.

Kim renunció como superintendente después de tres años y la reciente renovación de su contrato en agosto. Su contrato no había terminado antes de su renuncia, ya que le quedaban dos años más. Tanto su renuncia como el nuevo cargo de Lucero fueron efectivos inmediatamente.

“Estuve sorprendido al ver Kim irse. Se siente que acaba de conver-

tirse en superintendente,” dijo Gabe Schmidt ('20).

Segun The Stamford Advocate, Lucero ha realizado varias iniciativas positivas para Stamford, incluyendo: “la construcción de la Escuela Primaria Strawberry Hill, una orden del Departamento de Justicia de los EE. UU. Para mejorar los programas en idioma inglés, un caso de abuso estudiantil que involucra a un maestro de la Preparatoria Stamford, y un esfuerzo continuado para limpiar los edificios escolares de moho, provocado por años de mantenimiento descuidado.”

Lucero fue subcampeón de Kim hace tres años cuando fue nombrado, por lo que ella no tiene que repetir el proceso de solicitud. Ella era oficialmente la Superintendente de SPS después de la renuncia de Kim y la aprobación del BOE.

“Lucero es una buena opción para nuestro distrito escolar diverso, y la felicito por sus esfuerzos [mencionados],” dijo Bintou Bane ('20).

Muchos estudiantes han expresado su gusto hacia Kim pero concuerdan de que Lucero se adapta adecuadamente a la parte.

“Me gusto como [Superintendente Kim] llamo días de nieve cuando eran necesarias, pero confío de que la nueva superintendente va a hacer un buen trabajo y parece la candidata ideal para el trabajo,” dijo Rachel Mensah ('20).

Los incentivos de Lucero sobre el control de moho no pasan desapercibidos. SPS ha enfrentado una crisis

de moho desde el principio del año escolar 2018-2019, cuando se descubrieron altos niveles de moho y se revelaron a profesores y estudiantes. La escuela Westover Elementary fue cerrado por completo y Westhill ha tenido que hacer varias reparaciones como resultado del moho en la escuela.

De acuerdo con The Stamford Advocate, Lucero trabajo de inmediato para resolver el problema y contacto la administración de edificios en Stamford, que era un paso en la dirección correcta para enfrentar el problema del moho de frente.

Ctpost.com denota el déficit de 2.2 millones de dólares de SPS y menciona la participación de Lucero para solucionar el problema.

Lucero fue considerado unánimemente un gran ajuste por el BOE y



CONOCE AL SUPERINTENDENTE La Dra. Tami Lucero se convirtió en la nueva superintendente de SPS en abril.

parece estar cumpliendo el papel de manera apropiada.

Traducido por Alessandra Pinto

Foto contribuido por stamfordpublicschools.org.

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FEATURE

Ups and downs of the school year

The Ups: This is a list of four of the best events from the 2018–19 school year at Westhill.		The Downs: This is a list of four of the worst events that have happened this school year.	
<div>November 21</div> <div>2018 Lip Dub</div> <p>Westhill staff and students participated in the filming of the second lip dub, which featured a live recording of the school choir and a helicopter.</p>	<div>February 22</div> <div>Dr. DaMaris Hill Presentation</div> <p>Author of <i>A Bound Woman Is a Dangerous Thing</i> and Westhill alumnus Dr. DaMaris Hill visited the school for a presentation and partial recitation of her novel to students and faculty.</p>	<div>October</div> <div>Mold Issues</div> <p>After it was revealed at the beginning of the year that many rooms in Westhill tested positive for mold. Numerous teachers had to take medical leave. Also, several students organized a walkout in protest of the district committee’s resolution of the issue.</p>	<div>January 28- February 8</div> <div>Media Center Closed</div> <p>After being closed for weeks for renovations, the Media Center was reopened with new tables that were not compatible with the school’s computers, leaving 60 computers idle in a closet.</p>
<div>March 8</div> <div>Fashion Show</div> <p>After taking a break last year, the school fashion show, hosted by the Classes of 2019 and 2020, made a return spotlighting outfits students could wear to prom.</p>	<div>April 7</div> <div>Color Run</div> <p>The rescheduled annual Color Run had an impressive turnout. The profit was split between Westhill and the WE foundation, which donates clean drinking water to those who need it.</p>	<div>March</div> <div>Pool Closed</div> <p>The swimming pool downstairs in Westhill was closed after the boys swimming season ended due to a chemical imbalance.</p>	<div>April 12</div> <div>Student Riot</div> <p>The day before Spring Break, many students participated in a food fight-turned-riot in the courtyard. The incident resulted in numerous students being suspended and an SRO and long term substitute were injured while trying to contain the situation.</p>

Briefs by Katie Gaia / Managing Editor.

Seniors taking the paths less traveled

 <div></div> <div><p>Mario Orellana</p><p>“I am going to join the Army National Guard for six years while still going to Eastern Connecticut State University to study criminal justice. After my six years, I am either going to enlist for another six years in the Army National Guard or the Navy. Throughout those years, I am going to pursue a career as a detective.”</p></div>	 <div></div> <div><p>Josh Gordon</p><p>“I am spending a year in Israel. I will be spending half the year in Jerusalem doing academics, and the other half in Tel Aviv volunteering for the community.”</p></div>	 <div></div> <div><p>Nikki Newcomer</p><p>“I am traveling throughout the year... I am backpacking with a friend through Southeast Asia. In South Asia we are staying in Indonesia, then Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Then we will be living in South Africa through Christmas for about two months, then I will be partaking in a mission trip in Uganda, doing community service for a month afterwards. We will be coming home for about two months to work and make more money... to go to Europe in the spring.”</p></div>	 <div></div> <div><p>Dennis Lodolce</p><p>“I am taking a semester at Norwalk Community College and hopefully I will be in close contact with the Army or Air Force recruiters. I will [then] hopefully join the Army or Air Force reserves and finish up my education at the University of Connecticut to become a history teacher.”</p></div>
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Quotes from Victoria Zilins / Reporter.

Images courtesy of wikipedia.org, wikimedia.org, & publicdomainpictures.com.

Seniors take action in their internships

Seniors in Stamford Public Schools with qualifying grades had the opportunity to participate in the Senior Internship Experience (SIE), in which their grades were frozen for the last three weeks of school and they worked at either a location they were assigned to or one they self-designed. Three seniors participating in the SIE at various locations were interviewed this issue.

Questions

1. Did you self-design your internship or was it assigned?
2. Do you like your internship experience?
3. How is the internship different than attending school?
4. Is the internship anything like a real job?
5. What would you say to incoming juniors debating doing a senior internship?

Melanie Montalvo Stillmeadow Teacher Assistant

1. I was assigned my internship. I created a list on the SIE website of certain internship I was interested in and landed with the teacher assistant position at Stillmeadow Elementary School.
2. I really enjoy my internship. Working with kids can sometimes be a hassle, but this is an experience I will never forget. I have learned so much in the past two weeks and improved my people skills, which I will take with me throughout college and in different jobs and internships. It is also cool to go back and see how the school changed after I left.
3. Instead of sitting in a classroom and listening to a teacher and doing work, I am now the one in the teacher's position helping kids with whatever problems they have. Although I am still dealing with the same material at a different level, it is a very different environment.
4. It is definitely like a real job, especially if you are looking to work with children at an elementary school level. This internship showed me what it would be like to be a teacher. I learned how to deal with kids in difficult situations and how to help them in many ways I previously did not know how.
5. I would tell them to do it. Not only do you get out of school three weeks early, but it is also a great learning experience and a way for you to test out some possible career choices.



LEAVING HER MARK Page writes her name in on the wall of records at BlueStreak, where she interns.

Samantha Page BlueStreak Sports Training

1. I self-designed my internship. I have worked with Bluestreak before with soccer and I thought that it would be a cool place to work and gain experience.
2. Yes, I love it. It is much different than a classroom setting and allows me to experience things that I can bring with me to future jobs, internships and college. I am also a big fan of fitness and working out so getting to help out other people and workout myself is a perfect balance.
3. The internship is completely different than going to school. Although you learn a lot of valuable things at school, you learn certain skills school cannot really teach you. It is a completely different environment and gives me a taste of what future jobs may be like. It is preparing me for the people I may have to deal with or certain tasks I may have to accomplish.
4. Yes. Before starting the internship, I had to create a resume, there were certain requirements for the internship like GPA, attendance, and qualification. There also is an interview process which is required for almost all jobs.
5. I would definitely want to encourage them to do so. It is a great experience and exposes you to real-life situations. After a long four years of hard work, the internship is a great way to end off the school year while gaining a lot of knowledge that can be used in the future.



HARD AT WORK Benner and her group work to improve LanD Crew under Mr. Dunlap's guidance.

Katelyn Benner LanD Crew Improvement

1. My internship was self-designed. Grace Hansen, Maura Johnston, Abby Sottile, and Mary Leydon, and I came up with the idea and all thought it would be a great idea due to the fact that we have been working with LanD Crew all year long and that it is convenient because we are here at Westhill.
2. The internship experience is great. We are working to improve this program for the upcoming students. LanD Crew is a great way to introduce students to the school. It is a peer-to-peer mentoring program and we are working to make it the best it could be.
3. Although we are technically located in Westhill, it is very different from a traditional school day. We are collaboratively working to improve this school program and brainstorming different ideas and thoughts. We are putting all of our focus on one thing and creating a positive change in the school environment.
4. Yes, I would say so. With the interview process and creating a resume, it is very similar to a real job. We have a goal and are striving to meet it like many different careers.
5. I would definitely recommend to do it. It gets you out of the classroom and is a great learning experience that you can take with you in your future. Whether you self-design or get assigned an internship, it is worth your while.

Interview & Photos by **Bella Vaccaro** / Staff Writer.



7th Peter Cernansky Memorial Golf Tournament, Dinner & Auction

Monday ... **June 17, 2019**

Rockrimmon Country Club

2949 Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903



Golf Tournament

- Play your own ball; shotgun start [Noon Sharp]
- Pistol Pete Trophies for men & women low gross
- Brunch/warm-up 10:30am to 11:59am; dinner follows

Dinner & Auction

- All invited
- Dinner & silent auction 5:15pm; open bar ends 8:15pm
- See www.pcmgolf.org for ticketing/details/updates

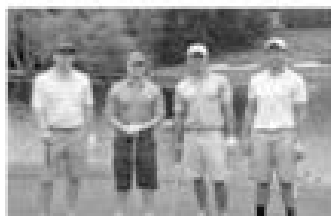
Proceeds support:

- Westhill HS "Purple PACT" & Stamford HS "Knight Life"
- Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) & Stamford Youth Foundation (SYF)
- AthLife Foundation & Stamford Middle School Mentoring Initiative
- Boys & Girls Club of Stamford

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Album Review: *Igor* by Tyler, the Creator

Timothy McKeithen
Reporter

On May 17, rapper Tyler, the Creator released a 12 song album, *Igor*, featuring many big names in hip-hop such as Lil Uzi, Playboi Carti, and Kanye West.

The music on the album has no gray section, you either hate it or you love it. The songs that stood out most were “EARFQUAKE,” “A BOY IS A GUN,” and “NEW MAGIC WAND.”

“EARFQUAKE” is by far the best song on the album. Not only does it have Playboi Carti on it, but it also maintains the perfect balance of being a song you can listen to whenever, and an exciting song. The song opens with piano melodies and then evolves with the addition of snares and a nice bass to a truly amazingly produced work of art.

“Tyler made a deep sentimental connection with this song,” Aaliyah Fernandez (’20)

said.

When listening to the song, individuals can understand what Tyler and many others are saying.

Tyler manages to convey his true feelings and emotions in every song he records.

“*[Igor]* really speaks to my heart and gives listeners an emotional roller coaster. It makes me want to get up and dance,” Rafli Harahap (’21) said.

According to complex.com, the awe inspiring cover art for the album was influenced by an abstract painting of the rapper himself, done by Lewis Rossignol. However, Tyler, was not satisfied with only one piece of cover art so he decided to grab a photo from a long time collaborator Luis Perez.

Another song that really stuck out was “NEW MAGIC WAND.” This song has the ability to brighten anyone’s mood.

The first lines of the song are: “sometimes you gotta close the door and open a window.”

This line is quite relatable to teenagers as they hit puberty and begin trying new things.

Other than the flawless production of this song, Tyler was not afraid to add in other more exciting lyrics.

For example, he says, “I saw a photo you looked jealous... I need to get her out the picture she is really f*****d up my frame... she is not developed like we are.”

Overall, Tyler has grown in success from his past studio albums. However, some people actually see this fifth album as falling short from his past work. Many believe that he had the chance to go above and beyond.

“It is all overrated. None of his music is good. The only good song on the album was “EARFQUAKE” because of Playboi Carti,” Jordyn MacDonald (’20) said.

In conclusion, I would rate the album as a solid eight out of ten, and the only reason it lost points was because the intro-

duction and ending for the album was not as hype as other intros and outros that he has done.

Despite this, it is still overall a great piece of work put out by Tyler.



IGOR Tyler, the Creator release his new album, *Igor*, this May, receiving praise from fellow artists and listeners alike.

Image courtesy of flickr.com from @sarahelsiee.

TV Review: *Game of Thrones* airs disappointing season

Kate Williams
Supplement Editor

SPOILER ALERT

Game of Thrones (GoT) is one of the most popular television shows in the world, and has become a cultural phenomenon of the 21st century. After nearly a decade, this groundbreaking show has finally come to an end.

Following the premiere of its eighth and final season in April, many fans became skeptical of how it would end. Many were afraid of disappointment after seven seasons of unexpected twists and amazing writing.

The television show is based on George R.R. Martin’s book series, *A Song of Ice and Fire*. He first started the series in the early 1990s, and since then

has released five books.

However, he has yet to finish the series, so once showrunners David Benioff and Dan Weiss got past season six of the show, they had run out of Martin’s material. Thus, they had to take the fate of the characters and story into their own hands.

Many fans started to feel let down after season seven, thinking that the storyline had been rushed. Now that season eight is over, and the series has come to an end, it is clear that the consensus amongst many of the fans is that the final two seasons were rushed and lacked development.

According to syfy.com, “in short, the final two seasons, despite everyone’s best efforts, could not cover for the lack of *A Song of Ice and Fire* novels from author George R.R. Martin to adapt.”

GoT has been known in the past for its intricate storylines and careful development. The entire show before the eighth season led up to the great war between the living and the dead. It was clear that this was the threat that all of the characters in the show would have to face—it seemed it would be a culminating point of the story. Then, in the third episode of season eight, Benioff and Weiss end this overarching storyline in a single hour and a half long episode.

All of a sudden, an event that had been anticipated since

season one was wrapped up in an abrupt, victorious ending. The Night King was killed almost too easily for the preestablished GoT fashion, without a shocking twist or main character dying.

This left viewers feeling unsatisfied and confused. They had thrown away and finished what had been the main conflict of the entire show, the one that every character from every side would unite for.

“This show has been building itself up for a major climax for ten years and it is almost like Benioff and Weiss just lost sight of all of that and wrote just for the purpose of getting it done and not to give the fans the proper climax the show deserved,” Ben Sisco (’21) said.

This was not the only decision that caused upset among GoT fans. In the fifth episode of this season, one of the main characters makes a decision to slaughter and destroy the entire kingdom of King’s Landing. It is a decision that many fans believe simply did not make sense. Daenerys Targaryen had been made out to be a compassionate and empathetic leader in the beginning seasons.

“[Daenerys] focus was setting people free, and breaking the wheel of abusive power. When Benioff and Weiss had her kill thousands of innocent people, it did not make sense.

They had not developed her character enough after the loss of material to adapt from. They had not written in or proven her switch to a crazy, ruthless dictator. There was a lack of character development.

“[Daenerys] swore to save the people from tyrants and ended up barbecuing them,” Kevin Zyskowski (’19) said.

Finally, the ending that showrunners created for the series left many outraged. It was an ending that—again—felt rushed and as if they had ignored much of what came before it. It had not been developed enough to make sense to viewers. A secondary character, Bran Stark, who the audience had not seen nearly as much of won the Iron Throne, the position that had been sought after by many main characters throughout the entire series.

“It came out of nowhere and there were little to no clues hinting at it happening. I do not hate Bran as king of the six kingdoms but wish there was more build up to it happening and the end of the show,” Emily DiGiacomo (’19) said.

All in all, the television show that rocked the world ended up having an average, lackluster ending. While the showrunner’s did their best, the true downfall of the show seemed to be the absence of Martin material to adapt it from.



GoT SAYS GOODBYE With the show now over, many fans will miss iconic characters and scenes from the eight year series.

Photo courtesy of flickr.com. from @bagogames.

Game report: Boys tennis takes on Stamford High

Tamar Bellete
Assistant Managing Editor

The 2019 Westhill boys tennis team ended their season with an 11-6 record. This allowed them to qualify for both FCIAC and state tournaments.

They have four seniors on the team, all of whom have been playing since freshman year. The team has had a lengthy successful history, being both FCIAC and state qualifiers for many years, as well as being state champions in doubles in 2016 and 2017.

One of the most anticipated matches this season was against city rival Stamford High.

The weather that day was not ideal which can pose a potential hazard for the players, but the

Vikings did not give up that easily.

At the first singles position, Tyler Pomerance ('19) played a tough battle, and ended up victorious in the first two sets 6-4, 6-4. Captain Shiloh Williamson ('19) was next, with an end score of 6-1, 6-0. Rohan Suryawanshi ('22) was able to sweep his opponent 6-0, 6-0. Finally, at fourth singles, Justin Bieckner ('22) was fighting for every point, and this led him to a 6-4, 6-4 victory.

The doubles teams brought home wins as well. At number one doubles, Neev Suryawanshi ('19) and Rohit Jha ('21) overcame their opponents and won 6-3, 6-1. At number two doubles, Gaurov Bansal ('21) and Arjun Anand ('22) won 6-1, 6-0. Next, the third doubles team pair of Ethan Moskowitz ('20) and Arjun Batra ('22) lost 4-8 in what is called an eight game proset, where the teams play until one side has won eight games.

In the end, the overall score came out to be 6-1, in favor of our Vikings.

"This year, the Stamford

High boys team showcased the highest level of talent in the last decade," Patrik Vician, Head Coach of the Westhill Varsity boys tennis team, said.

The team came together afterwards to celebrate their title as City Champions.

"It was exciting for us to be City Champions again, and hopefully we will continue to be in the future," Williamson said.

The team was ranked seventh seed in the league, and qualified for both FCIAC and state tournaments. Seeding in sports is a preliminary ranking to draw a bracket, this formatting for tournaments is intended so the best teams meet later in the competition. Unfortunately, they fell to second seed against New Canaan in the FCIAC quarterfinals.

On the bright side, the team was still in the state tournament, and have numerous players who have qualified for and will compete in the individual state tournaments.

Jordan Soifer ('19) played in the singles finals, and Pomerance

and Suryawanshi competed in the doubles finals.

"We still have three players alive [in the individual tournament], which is great, and our hopes are high to go deep into both singles and doubles competition," Vician said.


Unfortunately, Soifer fell to the number one seed, 3-6, 6-0, 4-6, in a very long and hard fought match. Similarly, the doubles pair lost to Staples 4-6, 2-6. Although they did not come out on top, the boys still had a lot of fun competing against some of the top players in the state.

The boys are looking forward to another great season next year.

Graphic by **Jason Zarilli** /
Viewpoint Editor.



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The new management team p. 3

A sneak peak at the SoNo Collection [p. 4](#) / Read about both Senior & Junior Prom [p. 4](#)



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