

SPARK

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The front and back covers were created in Canva by Ingrid Cushman

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Science (Olympiad) Rules!

By Ingrid Cushman

One Saturday in the beginning of February, Hillsborough Community College was flooded with students. However, they were not college students; they were here to participate in a competition about science well beyond the curriculum taught in their grade. These students were part of a club called Science Olympiad. These club members had been training for this for the better part of a year.

The middle school Science Olympiad sponsor is Rebecca Kehler, a high school science teacher. There are two twelfth-graders that help mentor and run the club, Nathan Widjaja and Jacob Koshy. The members meet every Friday at Pine View after school and work with their partners and coaches.

"Sometimes they do complicated stuff like physics and even calculus," Koshy said. "It's mostly a lot of hands-on coach-

ing. We do building with them and whenever they have questions, they can always text or call us."

Out of the nine highly competitive teams in the Sarasota region, Pine View's two teams placed first and second at Hillsborough Community College. Each student was placed into a specific event with a partner. With 17 different events, Pine View won 14 first, 9 second, and 5 third place medals.

However, this year presented something that none of these students had ever experienced before. In the previous few years they had competed online because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students like eighth grader Kelsey Elton said that it was very different to go in-person this year and see the actual faces of their judges and the competition.

"In person I feel like it was

a lot easier [to compete] especially in the lab type of tests," Elton said. "I have an event called Rocks and Minerals and just seeing the prototypes in person is just a lot easier to identify the type of rock. I feel like it was a lot more fun, too."

Even though the participants learn and improve their science skills greatly, the club's activities don't end with the competitions. The members have created family-like bonds with each other doing science and nonscience activities.

"Once we got all of our events done, we just played tag nonstop for like the last hour because we had nothing else to do," Elton said.

The Middle School Science Olympiad team brought home many medals and will now move on to the State Competition. And, who knows, they may get themselves even further.

MATH COUNTS!

By Faith Downie

The timer starts, and students from all over the U.S. race to finish their sheet full of math problems. Pine View's MATH-COUNTS team is always preparing for this moment, as they take part in local, state, and, this year, the national MATHCOUNTS competition.

The local competition was held in Bradenton, FL, February 10. Pine View School took home a third-place ranking.

The next competition was the state competition March 10. This competition was held in Orlando, Florida. Pine View's team received third place again, and seventh grader Benjamin Jiang won second place in the solo-competitions.

May 15, Pine View's MATH-COUNTS team will be going to the national competition also in Orlando. Benjamin Jiang will be the only student representing Pine View in this competition. The national competition is part of a four-day trip. On the first day, competitors will arrive in Orlando and rest. The second day is full of preparing and practicing for competitions. The third day the competitions will be held, and National Champions are determined. Finally, the fourth day, many depart after the final breakfast.

Mathcounts provides plenty of practice and chances for competitions for those who want

to test their skills.

Keiran Prather, a seventh grader, said participating in MATH-COUNTS is "...fun, if you like math."

The club meets on Fridays during seventh period.

Jiang takes part in the antics of the MATH-COUNTS team, saying that people often steal his pencil case. Since the school competitions ended, the club is participating in Arete Labs Math Madness competitions for fun.

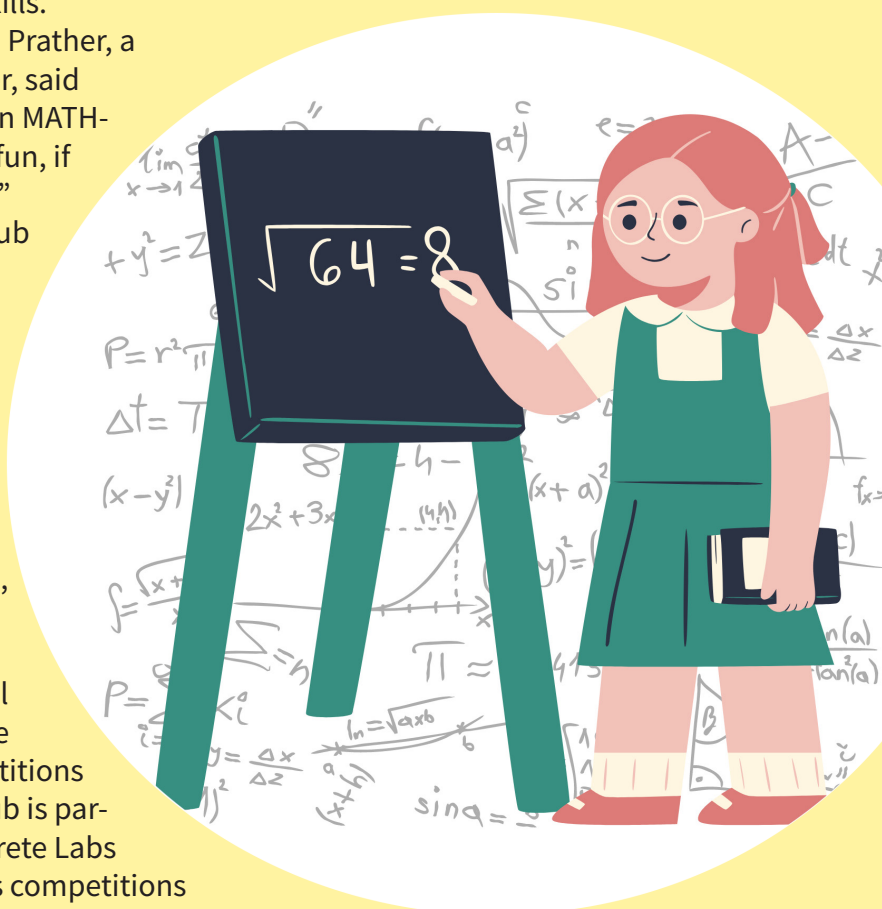
Jiang joined the club in sixth grade.

"I was already doing other competitions, like the AMC10 and AMC8," Jiang said.

He likes math because of the puzzle-like aspect of math problems.

He has enjoyed math since fifth grade and started practicing it more often that same school year. However, he does not see himself entering a profession based on mathematics.

"First of all, they're diffi-



cult,
and

second of all, you can think of [a math problem] for as long as you want, but you're not guaranteed a solution," Jiang said.

If you are looking for an extracurricular that includes math practice, teamwork, and exciting competitions, the MATHCOUNTS club is a great candidate.

Late Bus Peril

By Felix Ratner

"The late buses make me late to class, quite often," seventh grader Nuolin Liu said.

Situations like this are very common for students, especially recently. Late buses prevent students from getting to class on time, and can stop students from being able to go to extracurriculars. Buses can come thirty, forty, and even an hour late sometimes. According to Charlotte Price, the Acting Director of Transportation for Sarasota County, there is a national bus driver shortage. When the county doesn't have enough drivers, not enough buses can arrive where they need to be on time. This affects students and makes many of them late to either get to school or get home.

To help remedy this issue, Sarasota County Schools has tried to increase bus driver pay, and even to have an extra emergency pay increase to help entice potential drivers.

"We are seeing an uptick in potential drivers, and the training that new folks want to do," Price said.

However, there is still a massive shortage of these drivers. Not enough drivers forces Sarasota County students to endure arriving at necessary destinations later and later.

Besides the pay, drivers also need to be trained. They need to get a CDL class D license, which requires extensive training to acquire. To help potential drivers get these licenses, the Sarasota County School district runs a training

program.

"...There is a classroom piece that they have to go through here as well for Sarasota County, so that we make sure they [bus drivers] understand our policies, procedures, and that sort of thing," Price said.

All these issues, though, mainly affect Sarasota County students. These students then must drop their extracurriculars.

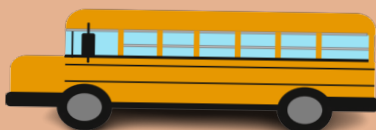
"I haven't been able to go to afterschool activities because the bus was late. I got home at five thirty and six o'clock, much later than I should have," seventh grader Sanul Gamage.

Students like Sanul would love to go to aforementioned afterschool activities, but can't due to transportation restrictions.

Despite this, the Sarasota County School district has been trying to make the school bus system an effective method of transportation. "... Thankfully, our community has been supportive of our struggles... and the department just wants to say 'Thank you,' to the community . . for showing kindness and patience in our struggle, and we appreciate that," Price said. Sarasota County wants to help students in the community enjoy extracurricular activities and their own family time, free of having to wait for a late bus.



The Sarasota County Schools Department of Transportation, Information, and Communication fills with school buses after school.
PHOTO BY FELIX RATNER



GRAPHIC BY CANVA AND YATHARTH KAKKAD

LIFE AFTER THE LAW

PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

BY JAKOB ROCHE

In the middle of the Florida 2022 legislative session, an eerie silence settled over the legislature. As votes were read out for SB 1054, or the “Dorothy L. Hukill Financial Literacy Act,” a relatively rare occurrence played out on the House floor: a unanimous vote. With the passing of this bill, a record was set: Florida became the largest state to mandate education in personal finance.

This means that beginning with this year’s 8th graders, all Pine View students will be required to take Personal Financial Literacy to graduate.

However, as Master Scheduler Stephanie White said via email, this doesn’t necessarily mean giving up an elective

“We are also hoping to offer this course as a seventh,

eight, or ninth period class so that students can take the course in the afternoon and not have to give up an elective,” she said.

In addition to this, Personal Financial Literacy can also be taken online.

Many of the Senators who introduced the bill vigorously debated each other on the topic of more controversial bills, such as HB 1557. Their motivation for proposing this bill? “The Legislature finds that, in light of economic challenges nationwide, sound financial management skills are vitally important to all Floridians, particularly high school students,” Florida Senator Hutson states in the bill’s text.

The bill, which takes effect July 1, revises the graduation requirements listed in the Florida Statutes. Namely, a section in Statute 1003 that

states that 24 credits are required to graduate. (four in mathematics and ELA, three in science and social studies, and one in both the arts and physical education, the rest being in electives)

The law inserts a sentence into the statute that states: “Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year, each student must earn one-half credit in personal financial literacy and money management.” This Personal Financial Literacy course is based around teaching students

skills such as the basics of money management, filing taxes, and investing.

Assistant Principal for Curriculum Tricia Allen thinks that this change is for the better.

“To me, it’s a benefit that students in other generations may



Many young people out of high school do not have the financial skills to handle adulthood. SB 1054 will help inform teens and young adults about these skills, necessary for living as an adult. PHOTO BY STORYBLOCKS

not have been given. A lot of people left high school and became adults and had to learn it [money management] through making mistakes ...,” she said.

Instead, she sees this course as giving students the knowledge to make financial decisions ahead of time, better preparing students for their future, and for being a part of society as a whole.



Photo by: WFTS. When SB 1054, the “Dorothy L. Hukill Financial Literacy Act,” was signed, Florida was made the largest state to mandate education in personal finance.

BEADING A BUSINESS

By Ana Easter



Carefully beading hand-picked charms together on sharp wire to make a keychain or bracelet, then shipping it off to a buyer, is all a part of running eighth-grader Vivienne Lieberman's jewelry business. Lieberman began selling her hand-made jewelry during Thanksgiving break and has since made quite a profit.

Lieberman sells her jewelry through Etsy, an online marketplace where independent crafters and artists can sell their creative works. Lieberman's shop is called Starry Swirls and has made over 50 sales since it was started in November 2022. Through this platform, Lieberman sells hand-crafted beaded necklaces, bracelets, and keychains to customers throughout the United States. "I make something, and then I post it on my shop, and then buyers can just buy it from there," Lieberman said.

Not only has this shop made multiple sales, but customer reviews have also been exemplary. For example, one customer's review stated "the item was beautiful and very dainty. Well made. It's an item that makes one smile when holding it." This is just one of her many five-



star reviews, with many sharing this reviewer's opinion.

Several reviews added that the product looks just like it is pictured on the Etsy shop. Various customers mentioned in their reviews that they appreciated the free stickers that came with their orders. Lieberman's high reviews have



helped her to earn the title "Star Seller" on Etsy. A Star Seller is somebody that is efficient with replying to customers and shipping out products. Star Sellers must also be known for selling high quality products that customers love in order to earn the coveted title.

Lieberman's shop sells a



variety of different jewelry designs in the form of necklaces, keychains, and bracelets. Much of her jewelry follows themes such as fairy core, coquette, and grunge. She also sells several animal-themed items. Her shop also offers the ability to customize designs, which, although she has not received any yet, she would gladly make and ship out.

The jewelry sold in Lieberman's shop is made from various colors and designs of beads, which she uses wire to string together in patterns.

Lieberman was inspired by other small businesses to begin her shop.

"Seeing other people's jewelry was really inspiring, because I like to buy jewelry and I saw a bunch of pretty designs, and it just inspired me," she said.

In the future, Lieberman wishes to continue selling her jewelry through Esty, and for now does not wish to expand it to any larger platforms. This year, Lieberman wishes to grow her business from where it was last year, hoping to produce more designs, and make more sales.

Electric Cars

By Benjamin Jiang

For the past century, gas cars have been the only type of car available and electric cars were at most a rarity. Nowadays, electric cars can be found everywhere, from a supermarket parking lot to the driveway of a neighbor's house.

Electric cars have been around since the 1800s century. After the Ford Model T came out, they were swiftly outcompeted by the lower costs. However, due to the increasing concern regarding carbon emissions, electric cars have recently grown in popularity.

The first mass-produced electric car was the EV1 from General Motors, but it was unsuccessful, selling just over 1000 of them from 1996 to 1999. Tesla is currently the most well-recognized electric car company, having sold over 3 million electric cars in total. However, other competitors, such as Ford, General Motors, NIO, and Volkswagen either have invested in or are producing electric cars, but still sell many fewer electric cars than Tesla.

Electric cars can be charged by a charging station, or at home. The received energy gets stored in a battery, and later gets converted to the kinetic energy needed to run the car.

Hybrid cars use both an electric motor and an internal combustion engine. Compared to electric cars, hybrid cars can be refueled, but have a lower fuel efficiency and can still leave a carbon footprint. They also cost more than electric cars. The batteries cannot be plugged in to be recharged, and instead are recharged through regenerative braking (which turns the kinetic energy of a car into stored electricity during braking) and the internal combustion engine.

Compared to gas cars, electric cars offer a clean alternative. However, while the lithium batteries used in electric motors are a definite improvement over gasoline-powered cars, they are not biodegradable and can still be dangerous to the environment. On average,

electric cars are more expensive than gas cars, but they have lower fuel costs. On the other hand, electric cars have less total driving range than gas cars.

A criticism of electric cars is that much of the electricity used to power the cars comes from coal or gas. However, solutions such as solar power are being researched and might replace natural oil and coal soon.

In recent years, the electric car industry has grown very quickly, and it is extremely likely that this will continue. Once electric cars become more popular, companies may very well see reason to construct charging stations in smaller communities, making it easier to charge electric cars for people who don't live in large cities or towns.

A future entirely with zero-emission vehicles will be much more eco-friendly. In the far future, if electric cars become the norm, then charging stations will not be a concern and there will be more options for people who want to buy one. Electric cars have gone a long way and will be important even far into the future.



An Overview of the AI Revolution

By Sora Fancher

In November of 2022, OpenAI launched one of the most impressive pieces of technology to exist; ChatGPT. The relatively small company founded by a handful of people, (including Elon Musk and Sam Altman) and backed up by various investors, suddenly drew itself an immense amount of attention as their AI chatbot captivated those around the world.

ChatGPT, formally Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer, was worked on by many members of OpenAI for years. Standing out from all the other AI systems created by Open AI, ChatGPT has become widely known and often used outside the field of technology.

Simplified, ChatGPT is a chatbot that a user is able to type commands into, and in a matter of seconds, the AI is able to generate a solid answer strongly resembling the style of a human. Most language models like this operate by initially being trained to process massive quantities of data that is

sourced from various locations throughout the internet. Then, the AI will be able to piece together the data and decide what information to use in which contexts.

This is a revolution for which existing philosophical concepts and societal institutions leave us largely unprepared.

Excerpt from “The Age of AI and our Human Future”

This core principle is prevalent in ChatGPT, as when a user asks it a question, the AI is able to recall the massive quantities of data it was trained to use and creates an answer based on that.

This newfound ability to generate lifelike, solid responses in a press of a button has received mixed responses to its effects on the nature of human creativity. Especially relevant right now is the presence of ChatGPT in schools and its usage for assignments.

Pamela Novak warned the chatbot could be taken advantage of, if openly allowed for use on assignments. Novak, an 8th grade English and AP literature teacher, said, “[ChatGPT] could give students ideas for essays, but you know there might just be those certain students who use it then change a few words.”

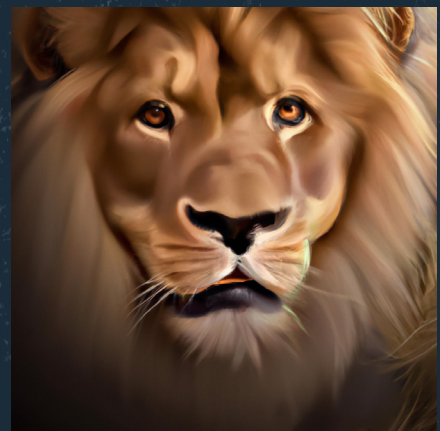
Novak believes the effects on our society from ChatGPT also translate to an appreciable impact on schools

and classes. With the increasing number of online assignments, she is worried that there will be more standards issued by the state for online writing assignments where ChatGPT can be used by students to bypass the process of actually writing a paper.

However, the field of AI does not end with Chat GPT, as there exist many other systems specializing in a plethora of areas. One notable example of these lies in another model engineered by OpenAI; Dall-E-2.

Dall-E-2 is classified as a generative image AI, which essentially means that it takes user input in the form of a prompt/description of something and turns those words into a picture. Dall-E-2 is able to create images of various art styles and perspective from the prompt it is given. The more descriptive the user is with their prompt, the more detailed and accurate the picture made by Dall-E-2 will be. Similar to Chat GPT, Dall-E-2 has gained a lot of publicity for serving as a pioneer in bridging the gap between humans and technology.

Weighing the benefits and consequences of these AI models like ChatGPT and Dall-E-2, the future of this technology remains unclear. The final stage of the ethical side of AI revolves around whether these systems will serve as a creative asset, a place to brainstorm and source inspiration, or a growing threat to the unique minds possessed by us humans. Only time can tell how companies like OpenAI choose to develop AI models and how people will adapt.



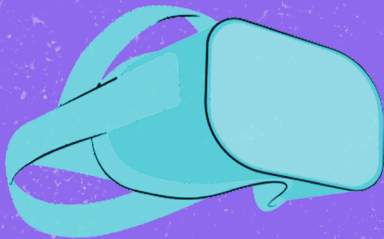
Picture made by Microsoft Designer's AI Image Generator that depicts a majestic lion staring directly into the camera.

Virtual Reality

By Pranaam Lobo

Since its initial inception in the 1980s, virtual reality (VR) has made tremendous improvements. VR is becoming more mainstream by the day, with about 170 million people owning a VR headset. Virtual reality has the potential to significantly impact our lives, and humanity is only just scratching the surface of VR's full potential.

However, virtual reality would not exist without the mechanisms used by VR headsets to let you view a 3D environment and VR controllers to allow interaction within the environment.



VR headsets project 2 separate images into your eyes to give an illusion of depth. They position themselves by using multiple cameras on the outside to view

the surroundings and estimate the distance to them. On controllers, there are multiple LEDs, when viewed by the cameras, they tell the orientations and positions. When all this combines, it virtualizes our world, leading us to see anything from 3D to 360°.

Seventh grader Alexander Kotcharian believes that his experience with his headset could improve by having more friends online on the VR headset. He said that games could improve with better graphics and a better community. Seventh grader Evan Toal said that games will become a bigger industry, because you will feel that you are actually in the game. He also believes that Mark Zuckerberg's plan is going to revolutionize this VR industry. This plan is the Metaverse.

Virtual reality has the potential to significantly impact our lives, and humanity is only just scratching the surface of VR's full potential.

The Metaverse is a theoretical universe that consists of ev-

erything that can be accessed through a VR device. The Metaverse consists of everything from entertainment to remote work, to social media. It is analogous to the Internet for a computer.

While in the Metaverse, one can play a game created by a developer halfway across the world with friends or just random people, as well as interact with various objects in the game. 360-degree videos viewed on a VR headset are much more immersive than those on computer screens. The Metaverse has grown so big that much of the content in it has been specifically made for VR devices and is not just an adaptation of a popular app.

The Metaverse has led to the VR gaming and entertainment industry, where it creates an immersive and interactive experience for users. While games compatible with computers, tablets, and phones have plenty of variety, VR will provide an experience that is impossible to replicate on a flat screen. People can feel like they are climbing a mountain, all from the comfort of their homes.

In the future, the Metaverse will help education, medicine, and much more. VR can provide more effective mental health treatments. According to the University of Southern California, Bravemind allows patients to gradually experience virtual environments similar to their trauma. VR can reproduce precise physical movements for exercises.

Education will also be changed in the future. VR could give teachers the ability to adapt learning to technology and improve the level of engagement that students have. For example, it could let Chinese teachers go to the Great Wall of China or let World History teacher go to

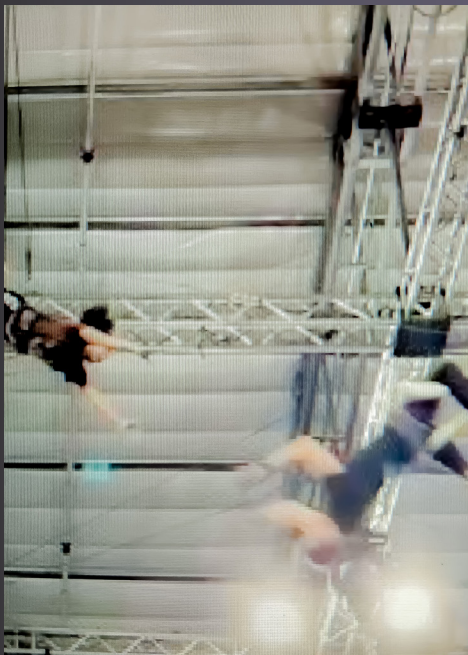
Ancient Rome.

These applications are some of VR's applications beyond the entertainment industry. The Metaverse has contributed to allowing VR games to be much more interactive, and VR games are also much more interactive than their 2D counterparts.

Health and Fitness

FLYING HIGH

By Athena Erbe



Seventh-grader Chloe Light reaches for her partner's hand. Light started trapeze when she was six years old.

Jumping off a 10-foot platform is a scary feat to most people, but to seventh-grader Chloe Light, it is a weekly sport. Every Saturday, Light practices trapeze at Sarasota's Sailor Circus and loves hanging out with the other people that do trapeze.

Light started trapeze when she was 6 years old because her mom wanted her to do some exercise and her neighbor at the time was doing trapeze.

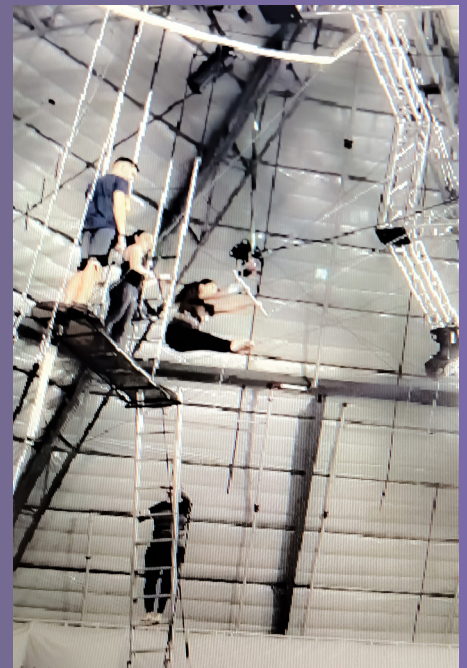
Taking this opportunity, Light loved the activity and has continued doing it since only taking a short break during Covid-19. "It

feels like you're so high above the world, which is good for me because I'm short. It's only like ten feet but it feels like you're falling from a great height, and I just love that feeling," Light said.

Light said that she isn't scared of trapeze since she also had done Tree Umph, a tree climbing activity, before and is not afraid of heights.

Some of her accomplishments are doing a full layout, a basic technique for aerial tricks, and a Gizelle which requires Light to swing out, hook one knee onto the bar and keep her other leg straight. Swinging back to the platform, releasing her hands and catching the bar.

Light recommends for people that want to do trapeze to let the more experienced people go first, she said it's not as tall as it seems. Currently, Light is going to trapeze every Saturday to learn new moves and enjoy her favorite hobby.



Every week, Light practices stunts that many wouldn't dare to do. Shows take place six times a year.

"Have somebody else who is more experienced go first, so you can get a feel for it, and even if it looks tall, it's not too tall from the ground."

-Chloe Light

A Champions Diet

By Kepler Hanzivasilis

After winning many Super Bowls, Tom Brady has maintained a healthy diet throughout his football career. He follows the 80/20 rule while eating. This diet consists of being 80% vegan and 20% carnivorous. This diet has allowed him to play in the NFL at the age of 44. Some nutritionists say that this diet is better than being fully vegan or fully carnivorous.

Tom Brady eats lots of healthy foods. For Breakfast, he will eat a smoothie, avocado and eggs. For Lunch, he eats a salad with nuts and fish. For dinner, he eats roasted vegetables and plain chicken. In between meals, he will snack on hummus, guacamole and mixed nuts. He also eats lots of fruit and vegetables. Tom Brady says that he likes to only eat things that come from nature.

Like everybody,

12

Tom Brady sometimes cheats on this diet

by eating pizza, bacon and other greasy foods. He doesn't feel as good when he eats these greasy foods as when he eats his regular healthy foods. Tom Brady says he plays the best when he

has been eating healthy for a long time.

Some students at Pine View also manage their diets for the sports they play. 7th grader Meyer Sachs is a rower at Sarasota Crew. He says that his diet is

a plant-based diet. He eats lots of protein and drinks lots of fluids to stay in shape.

Tom Brady has said that he likes to only eat things that come from nature, but he doesn't like to eat nightshades such as tomatoes, peppers, mushrooms, or eggplants.

Tom Brady drinks lots of liquid every day. He drinks anywhere between 12 to 25 glasses of water a day. He also drinks lots of recovery fluids and lots of electrolyte drinks like Gatorade.

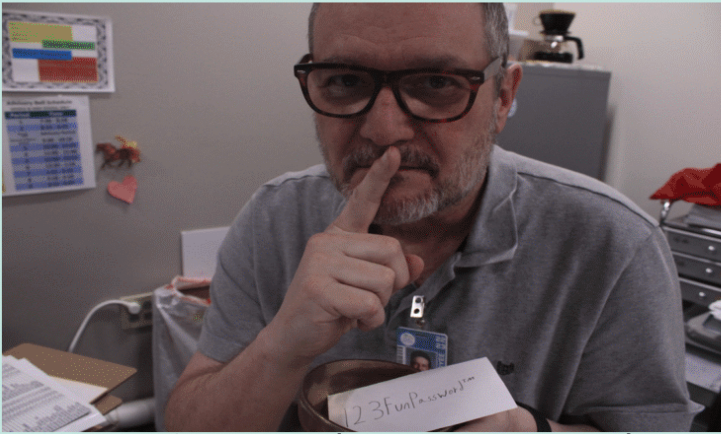
Tom Brady eats lots of healthy foods, and this is one of the reasons why he has been able to play in the NFL for so long.



Our Teachers Passwords Revealed

By Rugan Suresh

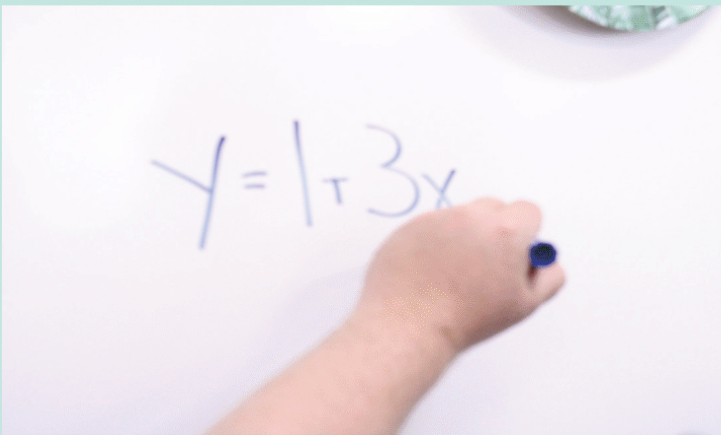
Pine View teachers have been getting crafty with their passwords, but through deep spy work, their secrets have been revealed.



Mr. Francis' password: 123FunPasswordTM



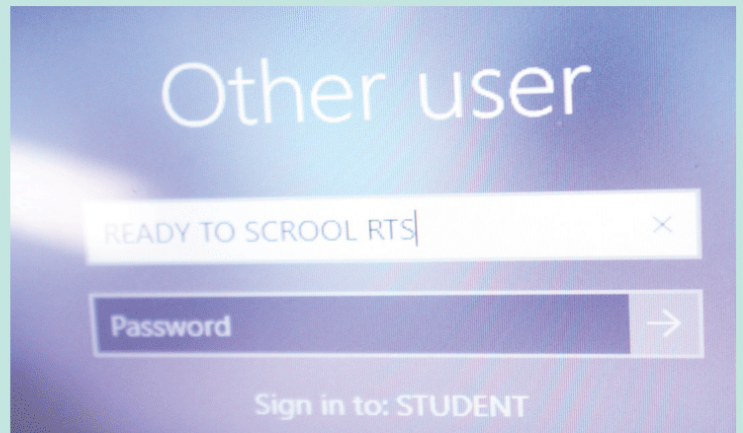
Ms Gannon's Password: Freespeech1N0search4



Mr. Mcombie's password: WhyEquals Won+3Axe



Ms. Grieg's Password: Français101



Mr. Stumpf's Password: Re@dy2ScrollRTS



Two Truths & A Lie

BY ANDREW FERA TAGA



Ms. Higgins

I almost went to work at the CIA.

I have a black belt in Kung Fu.

I speak 5 languages.



I was an aerialist with Nantahala Outdoor Center where I taught climbing.

I met the King of England.

I speak two languages fluently.



Ms. Condiotte

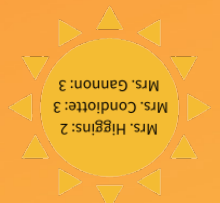


Ms. Gannon

I have played a disco queen and a dance-hall girl.

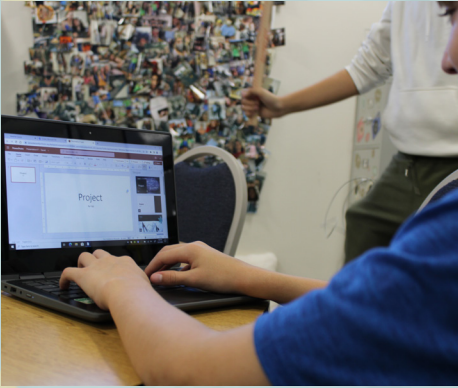
I ran to the top of the Eiffel Tower.

I was the president of my sorority at Michigan State University.



HOW TO MEET A DEADLINE

By Gigi Hilgenberg

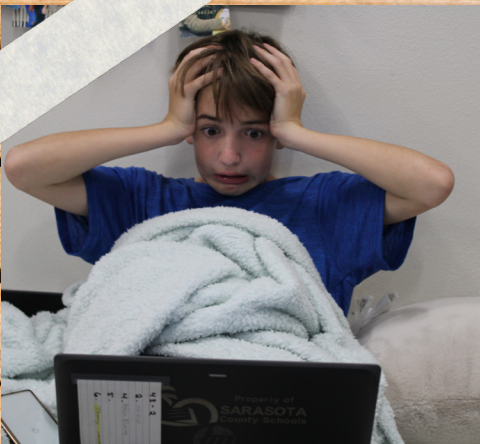


It's the night before a book report is due and you haven't even read the book. Frantically flipping through the book's pages, you try to absorb as much information as possible. While reading as fast as you can, the tiredness kicks in. In an attempt to stave off sleep, you reach for a nearby mug, its contents unknown to you. As you grab it, its overwhelming heat scalds your skin. By instinct, you drop it. Its target: the book. Paralyzed with fear, you sit immobilized, realizing the extent of your failure. One thought rings through your head: "How can I possibly meet this deadline?" Well, you're in luck. Here are steps to be able to meet a deadline.

Step 1: Create the title slide of your PowerPoint. Put the subject of the project and your name on the first slide. Then, go home and tell yourself that it needs to be worked on.



Step 2: ignore it and watch YouTube videos of someone teaching how to make a samurai sword. A few days go by, and the teacher warns you every day to work on the project. Instead of listening, you ignore her and proceed to learn stuff that is never going to be used. The realization that you should start working on the project pops in your head, so you go to the PowerPoint you made to create a new slide.



Step 3: When you are about to start working, turn on the music, and find an interesting video to watch instead. The next day, the teacher says that the projects are due tomorrow. Step 4: You have now moved into Panic Mode! If it is a book project, go to Spark Notes to make the project. If it is a foreign language project, just use Google Translate. Step 5: Work all night to get the project done, barely finishing in time. Present and after you finish, feel relieved for now, but you must do another one soon.



Avatar and the Future:

By Timothy Nesanelis

After surpassing fellow James Cameron movie “Titanic” and becoming the third highest grossing movie in history within three months, the intergalactic world of Pandora has captivated the world of cinema once again in the long-awaited sequel to the Avatar franchise with “Avatar: The Way of Water.” But how has the series changed in the thirteen years since the original’s release, and how will the Avatar movies of the future innovate again?

For a brief synopsis of the two films, the first film begins with our main character Jake Sully, a paralyzed marine, landing on the planet of Pandora, where the Na’vi people live. Due to the poisonous environment of the planet, human and Na’vi hybrids called Avatars must link to human minds to allow for free movement on Pandora. After Jake Sully falls in love with a Na’vi woman named Neytiri, he works to save the planet, with the help of Grace and Dr. Norm Spellman, from humans who plan to burn down the planet to find unobtainium under the Na’vi people’s home tree. In the end, Jake Sully defeats Colonel Miles Quaritch and permanently links to his Avatar body.

The second film begins with Jake Sully and Neytiri sixteen years after the human invasion of Pandora. Sully lives as chief of the Omatikaya clan, while raising his sons Neteyam and Lo’ak, his daughter Tuk, adopted daughter Kiri, who is Grace’s child, and adopted son Spider, who is Colonel Quaritch’s child. Knowing that his family is in danger, Sully leads the Navi to take refuge with the Metkayina clan, who gives them shelter. There, the family is taught the way of the water and how to live with the people of the reef, which ends with an epic rematch between the humans and the Na’vi.

Not only were both movies critically acclaimed on a cinematic scale, earning thirteen Academy Award nominations and three victories across both movies, but also on a technological scale. To create the Avatar films, Director James Cameron used motion capture technology to be able to get computers to animate the ten-foot tall Na’vi people. Motion capture uses dots all over an actor to digitally recreate their movements.



For the second film, which takes place in the presence of water for most of the movie, Cameron took it a step further and decided that the movie needed to be filmed underwater. He employed Sony to create a new camera that separated the IMAX camera into an underwater piece and a surface piece for new underwater filming techniques never seen before. Cameron also employed world famous free diver Kirk Krack to teach the actors how to act without breathing underwater, as the bubbles made underwater a mess with motion capture.

Wherever the third, fourth, and fifth Avatar films take us, it’s certain that James Cameron will create yet another cinematic experience for viewers to enjoy, and Jake Sully, Neytiri, their family, and Eywa will always find a way.



TAR

Avatar Inspired Products



The picture above shows an Avatar inspired lego set. The Lego set is called the Metkayina reef home building. The Lego Set shows where Jake Sully and his family settled in the Metkayina tribe.



The picture above shows an Avatar inspired make up set. The set has 12-pan eyeshadow palette, two glossy lip stains, a mini masking set, four gel eyeliners, two highlighters, a jasmine tea lip mask inspired by Uncle Iroh, and a compact mirror inspired by Appa. PHOTO BY BEAUTY VELLE



This is the AVTR Mercedes car. This car is also avatar inspired. When driving the flaps on the back will move and light up. The wheels also glow up when driving. The car is 4 wheel drive and is controlled with the palm of your hand. PHOTO BY WALLPAPER SAFARI

LEVEL UP

THE HISTORY OF MARIO

By Michael Tagle

It has been more than 40 years since the legendary Mario character made his first appearance. He became a famous game character in the late 20th century and has been ever since. The Super Mario Franchise has been recognized as one of the most famous characters in the video game industry, a pop culture icon, and a notable example of a retro game. Retro gaming is the playing of outdated video games, almost all of which have been lost to time due to the rise of more advanced and realistic games. Despite retro games being considered obsolete compared to recent video games, many gamers continue to go back and revisit them for simple nostalgia and preservation of the old-timey games. Some examples are Pac-Man, Tetris, and Street Fighter, all having inspired modern gaming one way or another. However, the Mario Franchise has adapted to momentous changes over the years such as improved FPS, graphics, and portable consoles, while keeping to a similar look to the original Mario games.

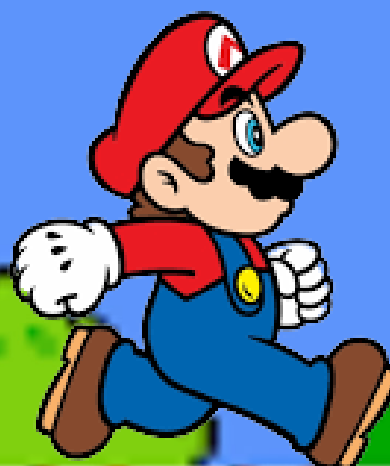
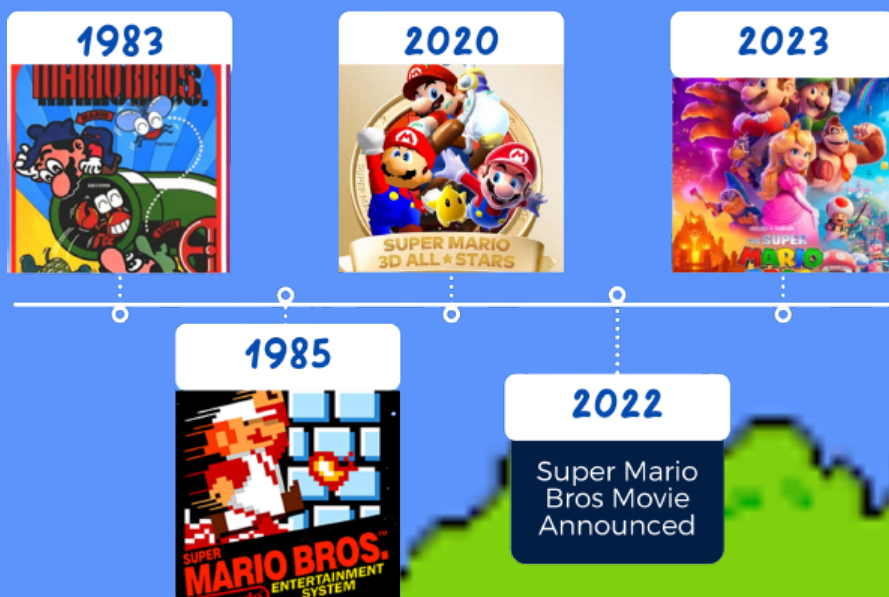
All the way back in 1983, the series' first installment was Mario Bros, which features two plumbers, Mario and Luigi, having to investigate the sewers of New York after sightings of strange creatures beneath the city. The main objective of the game is

to defeat all the enemies in each phase. At this time, the only mechanics of Mario Bros were running and jumping, but it still became massively popular, credited to its simple design and likeable characters.

After the second game released, called Super Mario Bros, where you rescue Princess Peach Toadstool from the antagonist Bowser to save Mushroom Kingdom, the new and promising Mario games began to branch off into different genres, such as puzzles, fighting, and racing games. The release of Mario games such as Super Mario Galaxy, Super Mario Odyssey, and Mario Kart have introduced new mechanics, open 3D worlds and new characters that you can play as. Even though the plot of the games has stayed the same, you as a plumber saving a princess from an evil force, gamers from all generations cannot get enough of the iconic Italian Plumber and his co-stars.

In the present day, the Mario Franchise has not been finished yet, with Super Mario 3D All-Stars released in 2020 and Super Mario Bros. 35 being released in 2022, and the highly anticipated Super Mario Bros Movie being announced back in 2021, trailers for the movie have been released late 2022, and the movie is to come out in April of

2023. Many hope that Nintendo, the owner of Mario, will continue to come out with more content for fans to watch and play.



Putting Yourself First

BY MAYA NOWAKOWSKI

The workload that comes with being a student at Pine View can sometimes be incredibly overwhelming. Students may be in a very stressful situation, battling their schoolwork and mental health. For eighth grader Carys Smith, when school gets overwhelming, and she feels stressed out, she will occasionally take a mental health day off school.

“[Sometimes,] I overwork myself and I feel very stressed out. I can tell when I start to procrastinate and put things off,” Smith said.

Smith uses her time off to catch up on work and do things she enjoys such as drawing and sketching, which helps her relax.

“I do things at my own pace. I chop up the workload and space it out more. I do things that I

like doing in between,” Smith said. From a survey of more than 1,000 American parents conducted by Verywell Mind and Parents, it was found that 56% of parents have let their child take a mental health day off from school, and 75% of those parents believe that letting their students take mental health days off of school is an effective tool in managing their child’s mental health.

Pine View offers monthly advisory periods, in which students go into depth learning about mental health issues and prevention. Smith finds these very useful.

“They are really enlightening, and they help me understand what other people are going through and what I could go through,” Smith said.

Advisory days focus on many issues that students could face and should learn about. These periods occur monthly for 40 minutes at the beginning of the day. In these periods, students go over different aspects of both physical and mental health. They teach about serious issues that may be relevant for many students. Florida is one of nine states that mandate mental health education for schools.



Graphic By Timothy Nesanelis

Spring Cleaning

By Joshua Kottler

Every spring, millions of people participate in Spring cleaning. Millions more choose to spend the time that others spend cleaning doing other things that they enjoy. There are many good reasons to do Spring cleaning, but there are also many reasons not to do Spring cleaning.

Spring cleaning is beneficial in many ways. Not only is having a clean house nice, but there are also mental health benefits. According to a study by Psychology Today, every hour spent cleaning leads to a 53% boost in happiness. Another study by Princeton Neuroscience Institute found that disorganized spaces lead to more stress, less productivity, and more distractions.

The physical side of Spring cleaning is also beneficial. Tasks like vacuuming involve real work being put in and can lead to burning 150 to 300 calories every hour.

There are some good arguments against Spring cleaning, however. Some people do not do Spring cleaning because their

houses are already clean enough in their opinion.

Another argument against Spring cleaning is that it is a waste of time. In spring, one of the most beautiful times of year, why spend time inside cleaning? Many people prefer to spend time outside, enjoying the amazing weather, animals, and blooming flowers. Some of these people spend the time inside in winter cleaning, or just clean regularly instead of just one or two big cleanings every year.

Yet another argument for not Spring cleaning is that it is not necessary anymore. Spring cleaning historically was performed at the end of the heating season. It was necessary to clean then because of the built-up ash and soot on the walls from burning wood during the winter to keep the house warm. Now we have better ways to warm a house and no longer need to burn wood. This eliminates one of the historical reasons to clean the home in spring.

Spring cleaning also is very hard to perform in the modern day. People must work or go to

school 8 hours a day and sleep for another 8 hours a day. People also eat for around 2 hours daily. This leaves little time for people to clean the house, let alone have any free time to do things they enjoy.

Student Voices: Do you take part in spring cleaning? Why?



"Yes, my mom just has us clean every spring." - Eliza Disz, (7)



"No, it doesn't mean anything to me." - Evan Toal, (7)



"Kind of, I'm moving so I have to." - Dominic Myers, (7)

Sharing Their Gifts Teacher Alumni

Name: Melody Elliot
Teaches: 4th grade ELA & science
Graduation date: 2013
Favorite part about teaching:
The students' love for learning



Name: Margaret Higgins
Teaches: 6th grade Spanish &
French & 7th grade Chinese
Graduation date: 2012
Favorite part about teaching:
Forming relations with students



Name: Rachel Lenerz
Teaches: 5th grade ELA & science
Graduation date: 1998
Favorite part about teaching:
Getting kids excited about
learning



Name: MacKenzie Fox
Teaches: 3rd grade; all subjects
Graduation date: 2016
Favorite part about teaching:
Instilling knowledge in the next
generation



Name: Jenna Molinaro
Teaches: 6th grade world history
Graduation date: 1992
Favorite part about teaching:
Being able to work with kids



Name: Alyssa Adamson
Teaches: 2nd-5th grade music &
7th/8th grade choir
Graduation date: 2009
Favorite part about teaching:
Developing kids' creativity



Name: Elizabeth Loyer
Teaches: 8th grade ELA, 9th-12th
grade AP statistics, & 11th/12th
grade AP research
Graduation date: 2011
Favorite part about teaching:
Watching student growth



Name: Jacquelyn Cetola
Teaches: High School AP Calculus BC & Calculus Honors
Graduation date: 2017
Favorite part about teaching:
Helping others understand
concepts



Name: Melissa Germanio
Teaches: 2nd grade; all subjects
Graduation date: 1987
Favorite part about teaching:
Freedom given to the kids



Name: Jay Skipper
Teaches: 9th grade AP chemistry
& 12th grade Chemistry 2 &
Organic Chemistry
Graduation date: 1998
Favorite part about
teaching:
The awesome kids

Alumni Spotlight: Jenna Molinaro

By Madelyn Bailey

Sitting inside her classroom, social studies teacher Jenna Molinaro reflects on her time as a student at Pine View. Molinaro attended Pine View from fourth grade until her graduation in 1992. When she was a student, Pine View was much smaller; there were only 65 students in her graduating class.

Pine View had some special events for the students and teachers that it does not offer anymore. One event, Python Day, involved all the students walking to Arlington Park where they would have a barbecue and play games. When they returned, the seniors competed with the teachers in an outdoor volleyball game.

The school had another event, advex, in which teachers could display their passions, like knitting, and teach the students about them. Students were able to sign up for whatever sparked the most interest. Advex was once a quarter.

There was a close connection between the teachers and students and Pine View when Molinaro attended. Her calculus teacher, who she is still friends with today, would invite students over to her house or the beach to help them study.

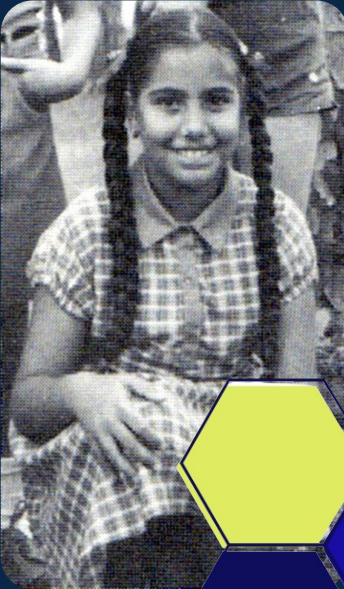
"The teachers at Pine View were very special and unique themselves. I think that it was very familial," Molinaro said.

The family-like atmosphere of Pine View was something that stood out because it was much smaller than it is today, and the students and teachers felt more connected with each other.

Molinaro learned many lessons while attending Pine View, but one of the most valuable lessons she said she learned from attending Pine View was about recognizing everyone's uniqueness.

"Everyone brings a different perspective, or a different gift or a talent," Molinaro said.

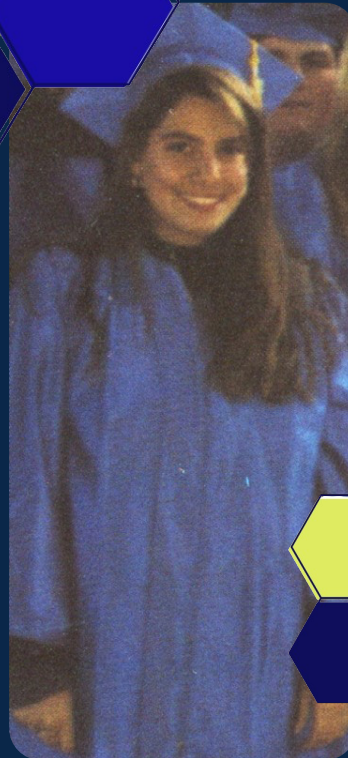
She said this lesson also helped her learn leadership skills by helping her recognize people's strengths and helping them use those strengths.



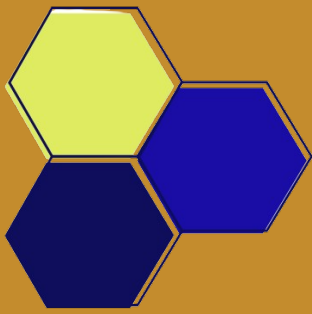
Left social studies teacher Jenna Molinaro in fourth grade.
Photo provided by Jenna Molinaro



Above, is Mrs Molinaro recently, now a 6th grade teacher.
Photo provided by Jenna Molinaro



Above Molinaro in cap and gown as a senior.
Photo provided by Jenna Molinaro



Alumni Spotlight:

Margaret Higgins

By Kai Deng

Sitting in her chair, Margaret Higgins still reminisces about her time here at Pine View, but not as a teacher. In her middle school to high school years, Higgins was a student here at Pine View School. She took Spanish from sixth grade through college and took up Chinese going into her high school years, taught by William Mancera and Kitty Wang, respectively.

Higgins said “I wanted to be a fashion designer, and if you are going to be a [designer], you need to get your clothes manufactured somewhere... so might as well take Chinese.”

She majored in Chinese in college and started learning French as well in her college years, which meant she was learning three world languages at the same time in college.

The teachers she had during her time here at Pine View greatly impacted her as well.

“Our teachers are very passionate about the languages... they cared so I cared.” she said.

Other than just teaching her how to speak another language, her teachers, Mancera and Wang, also impacted the way that

she teaches.

Higgins said that other teachers have said that they didn’t know what to expect being a classroom teacher.

Higgins previous experience being a student here at Pine View provided a great environment for her to experience examples of good teachers and good lessons.

“I saw good lessons and received good lessons... I know what they are supposed to look like... I know in general what elements they contain...” Higgins said.

Aside from teachers, Higgins also enjoyed the learning environment Pine View provided during her time as a student here.

“Everybody in the office knows who you are, your teachers know who you are... they don’t just know your name... they know

you as a person outside of class, she said”

When she was a high school student in Pine View, her class had around 120 students, with almost no new students joining each year, making the school a much smaller community. “The people stayed in

[classes] where they were, and there wasn’t too much switching, she said.”



Above Higgins in her sixth and seventh grade classroom decorated with K-Pop posters, one of her many passions.

Photo By: Yash Kakkad

Her classmates in classes stayed the same, so everyone was familiar with each other.

For Higgins, Pine View did not only serve as a school where she spent her middle and high school years, or as a workplace, but also as a place where she worked besides those who once were her mentors and a friendly community.



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