

JAG WIRE

Spring 2024 - Issue 6



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Lightning Speed

By: Hunter Hobbs

Percy Jackson, The Lightning Thief came to Jefferson Academy with an electric pulse! Many considered it amazingly, while parts of the cast were excited to share their experiences.

"I am double cast. So [basically] every other night we switch off casts and we have a double, and it helps with keeping our voices from



running out and letting more people have experience with getting big parts," shared Valyn Highley, a senior.

Highley explains how double casting works, and has a role herself! Highley plays Annabeth, her double cast being A.J., president of the Drama Club and a senior. That aside, Highley shares how she feels about her role!

"I love playing Annabeth. I think it's so fun to [just] perform and be able to be a different character like that, and sing solos, and get to interact with other really good actors and have a lot of fun on stage together," said Highley.



Most of the cast loves their role in the play, and Holton Wesler is no exception. Wesler, a sophomore, plays Mr. D, or Dionysus, the God of Wine.

Mr. D is an "angry person who doesn't want to be there, because he is forced to be there, and doesn't want to deal with half-blood [stuff]," as Wesler explained.

Though Mr. D is a grumpy guy who doesn't want to do anything other than drink, he can be a very entertaining character to play! "It's so fun! One thing I will say is, in Seussical, Horton is a very stationary character; he kind of just stands there and lets things happen to him, but Dionysus is such a fun character, I get to do a ton of things with my hands, walk around, be like AAAH! [and] that is so much more fun than a static character that

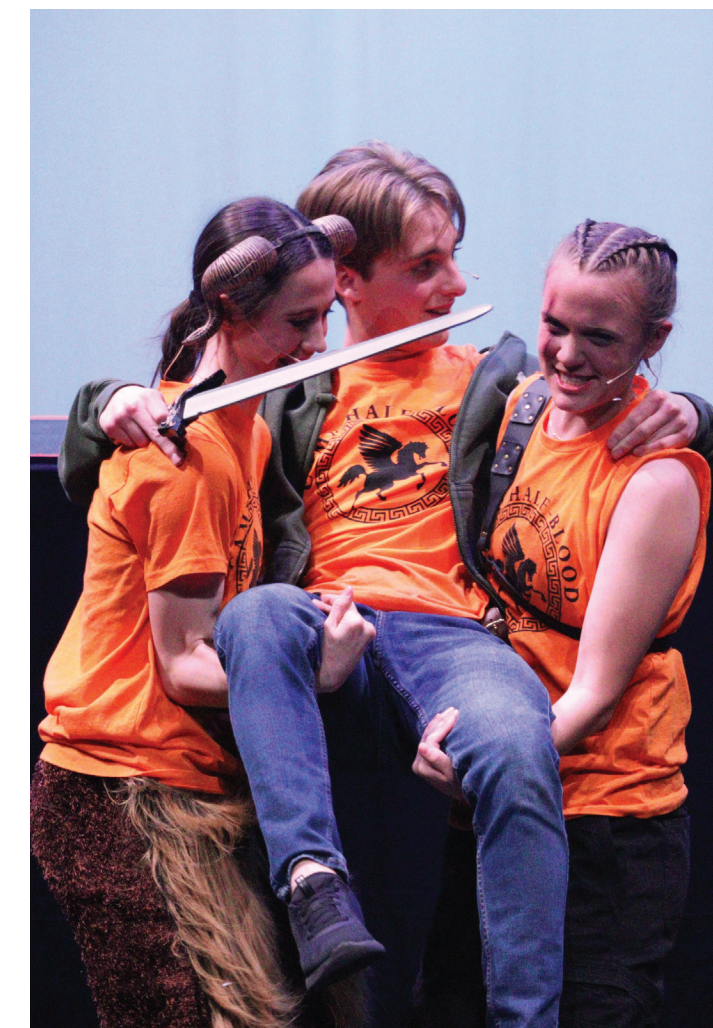
just stands there the whole time," commented Wesler.

Wesler has a ton of fun playing his character, and the whole cast joins him in that fun. Another person enjoying the play would be Valera Noland, a senior, who plays Grover, Percy Jackson's best friend.

"My favorite thing about playing Grover is his personality," continued Noland, "he's so funny and so exciting to be around, and I love playing energetic characters because they make me feel like I have more energy when I feel tired from doing all the shows."

Noland adores her character and the show, and with that, she has some of her most beloved songs throughout the musical.

"My favorite songs are when I play Grover and when I get to sing with Annabeth and Percy, like Killer Quest, or Lost, or Drive, or Bring on the Monsters; just any time when we have that comradery and just get to hang out with each other!" commented Noland.



Spring Plans

By: Jordan Leschuk

Where do you go over Spring break? Do you go out of the country? Go to the mountains? Or just stay at home? Spring break is a chance to get some sleep and to gain your energy back after a long quarter. Here are some of JA students' plans:

"I'm going to Cancún, Mexico, with some friends and family," shared freshman Riley Kaffine. "I'm looking forward to eating at all the restaurants, going to the beach, and wearing summer clothes."

One student's favorite part of spring break is the opportunity to ditch their coats and boots and trade them in for tank tops and sandals.

"I think summer clothes are more interesting than winter clothes," said Kaffine. "I like summer clothes."

Some students have plans to go to the beach, paddle board, and swim to make the most of the warm weather.

"I think it's fun trying not to fall in," Kaffine said when talking about her plans to paddle board on spring break. "My favorite memory of paddle boarding is probably when I pushed my sister off one."

Whether you are at a luxury hotel or your grandparents house, it's a change of pace from staying at your own house. Students enjoy changing their scenery by going to these places. "We go to Aruba every year," says freshman Michaela Godfrey, "and we have a timeshare at the Marriott on the beach. So we like to get as much out of it as possible."

People go to different places every year so each spring break is unique and holds a new adventure. This uniqueness is what causes spring break to be so highly anticipated.

"We're going to go to the hot springs, where we'll hang out and relax," mentioned freshman

Kenya Larsen, who's going to a different place this year compared to previous spring breaks. Spring break is the chance for us to get away from computers and to get outside, and to get away from the stress that comes with school.

"I get to spend some time with my family relaxing, and [don't have] to worry about school," shared Larsen.

It's fun to travel to many different places over break. "We usually go somewhere every spring break, but we go to different places every year. I've been to are Universal, New Orleans, Washington state, Colorado Springs, and Arizona in

the past few years," mentioned Larsen.

Swimming in the warm ocean of Florida, hanging in the bright sun and humidity, Reese Linton, a sophomore, is going to her grandparents house in Florida.

When you think of Florida you think of Disney and seeing Mickey and Minnie, but Linton is going to "Hang out at the beach and go to Disney Springs to have some fun."

She's been to Florida many times before, but it's special to her and her family.

"I haven't been to Florida in a really long time," said Linton. "I'm really excited to go again because I love the beach and I'm just so excited to spend time with my grandparents and family." Linton is most looking forward to "Seeing the [Disney] Springs because I love Sea World a lot. I'm looking forward to going to the beach, swimming, and going to the aquarium."

From Aruba to Florida, the mountains to the backyard, there are a ton of things you can do this spring break.

Kaffine shared, "The best part about spring break is not going to school!"



Paw Patrol

By: Sabrina Madruga

It's not just mom traffic that can make the parking lots a scary place before and after school, but also student drivers as they race through the driveways and blow through stop signs, knocking down cones in their path. After recent incidents in the parking lot jeopardized student and staff safety, the JA office and administration is enforcing school-wide parking tickets due to a district policy. This includes tickets for speeding and not filling out the proper permit forms, each of which paved the way for these potentially expensive parking lot changes.

"The ticket prices are crazy because you already paid for a sticker that was about \$125," stated sophomore Ella Fleming. "What if you have to drive to school but you don't have any money because you spent it all on the parking permit. That's not fair."

Going along with this train of thought, parents at JA are voicing their opinions about the ticketing system costs, and how it may have some faults.

"I don't think it's that sort of an issue where there needs to be fines admitted, giving that sort of authority to parking monitors,"

commented Fermin Morado, a parent of two JA students. "I don't see it as that much of a problem at this school, and I think enforcing the rule would be subjective to who is out and monitoring the parking lot because you get a lot of parents that start 'policing.'"

While the student and parent bodies may have different opinions on how the Paw Patrol should handle the parking lot endeavors, administration has their reasons as to why tickets might start becoming a more frequent part of the student

drivers' lives.

"The district is enforcing (parking tickets) throughout all the schools. We are trying to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to cars that are not registered in hopes of recognizing more cars," mentioned Mr. Cloonan. "We have seen an uptick in cars that are not registered in the school, and there have been incidents between our parking lot and the MKS parking lot across the street where there have been vehicles that have been broken into."

A warning ticket will be issued first, and after that a starting ticket price of \$10-\$25 will be imposed on JA students failing to adhere to the set traffic laws, which has the potential future benefit of creating more cautious drivers.

"Our drivers aren't as crazy as I have seen with other schools," declared Mr. Melville. "It's just a better population; I don't know if it's just that they are more cautious or if it's just a mature student body. I don't think you see as much of the craziness as you would see elsewhere."



Fine Dining

By: Cass Carpenter

It's lunchtime, the bell just rang, and the commons of Jefferson Academy quickly fills with friends as they figure out what to do for lunch. Chatter lines the halls with questions of where to head today.

There are tons of things to look forward to as you're leaving and deciding what sounds best, but students are always in a time crunch.

Senior Hudson Subach explains his routine and how he stays on time. "I leave as soon as the bell rings," Subach says. "I then get to my car, go to the place where I'm getting food as quickly as possible and eat and come back." Although times can vary due to things such as lines, traffic, or even just waiting on friends, this all determines if you eat at a place of your choosing or bring it back to school.

"It depends on how rushed I am during that specific day, really," Subach remarks. "It all depends on wait times, traffic, and other contributing factors."

Along with money you're spending on food, there are other expenses you have to keep in mind, such as gas. Nick Rocco, Junior and Subach share the same opinions, yet utilize it differently. "It probably isn't too worth it for me, but it's pretty hard to stop going everyday once you get into a rhythm of going every day all week," Subach states.

On the other hand, Rocco says, "I only go out once a week because I started spending too much money. So now I just go home because I don't live too far away, so it's cheaper on gas for me but that can also fluctuate depending on different situations that I'm in when I do decide to go out."

Having certain strains on budgets was a big topic with many students. If they don't have the

means to pay for gas to go home or pay for food, they will pack their own lunches. Senior John Sanborn elaborates on what he chooses to do when it comes to this type of situation.

"The strain on my budget has been like nothing I have ever experienced before in my life," Sanborn shares. "I have begun to refrain from spending money at my own convenience, and bringing a sack lunch that I usually pack in the morning before coming to school."

Behind all the stress, it's always a fun thing to get away from school and spend quality time with your closest friends. Junior Jonas Paulson explains what being able to go out for lunch means for him:

"Being able to get away from all the business and people at school makes it easier to handle lunch," Paulson reveals. "I like being out around lunch because it gives that sense of freedom as well, along with being able to be with my close friends."



Habitable Hobbies

By: Hunter Hobbs

Hobbies are a very intriguing thing to look at when you dig deep, and many people show this perfectly; people vary from weird to interesting hobbies, like collecting clothes or making many paper chains.

"I collect antique fashion, like 100-year-old clothing," said Abbi Goltz, a sophomore. "I [basically] go to antique stores and vintage stores in Denver, then I hunt down dresses and jackets and shirts and things like that, that I [basically] identify as 100-year-old clothing." Goltz collects vintage clothing, and wears it regularly! You can see Goltz wearing older clothing, and just about a week ago she wore her oldest piece of clothing, which was from the 1890's.

"There's this one jacket from about 1907 that I'll wear regularly, and recently I wore a blouse that was from 1890," stated Abbi, sharing her love of vintage clothing.

While Goltz has a unique hobby of collecting vintage clothing, there are lots of other interesting and weird hobbies that people have. For example, Eliza Eichelberger, a sophomore, creates lots of long paper chains for fun!

"It's kind of calming to cut out the little pieces and glue them all together and it's fun to collect, and I'm proud of myself when they get really long," mentioned Eichelberger, sharing her unique time-killer.

Eichelberger finds it entertaining to make these paper chains, so she makes a lot of them. You may think that she may just be wasting paper, but no, Eichelberger has found a permanent use for them, when the time is right.

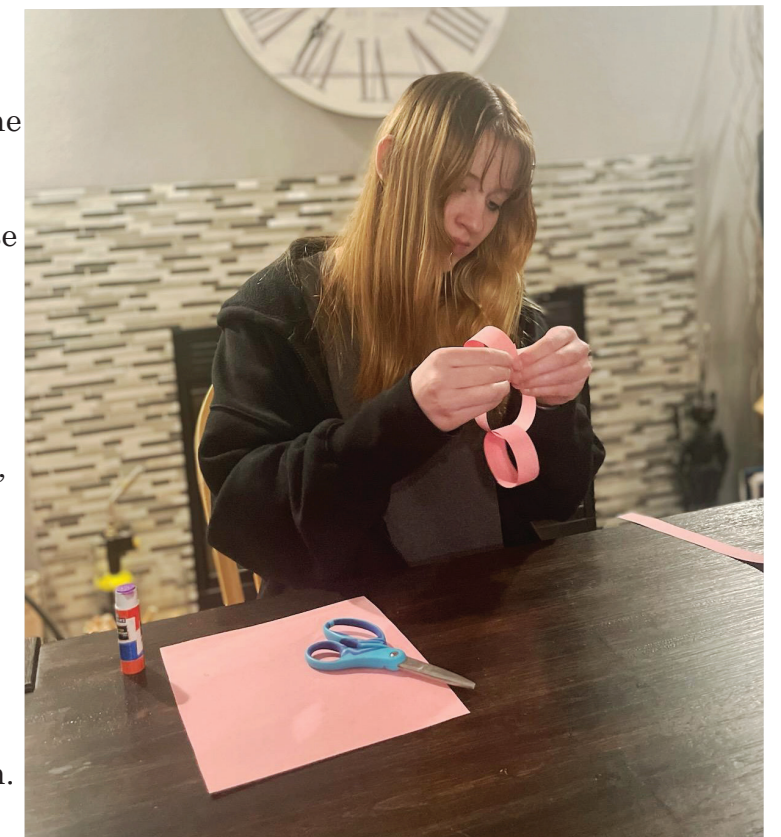
"I collect them in a bin," continued Eichelberger. "Well, I like to keep them in case I do need to count something but I never actually do, so I just keep them, and sometimes when I want to decorate things then I just take out the paper chains and then [boom], the decorations have already been made."

Many people have random things that entertain them, and Zach Lemanski also has an in-

teresting hobby: he flies R.C. planes, and has even co-piloted a plane!

"Charging the R.C. planes can be a pain, as you have to charge it through a car battery, and then the second part is taking it out to the field or wherever you're flying, and reassembling the plane so it's ready for flight," Lemanski explained.

Behind every person's hobby is a reason for why they pursue this hobby, and Lemanski's reason just happens to be through YouTube.



"There was a YouTube channel I watched that really piqued my interest, so I wanted to try it out," mentioned Lemanski. "Flying itself can be scary, but I don't enjoy it any less because of that; crashing is a part of the hobby."

Everyone needs a hobby to keep themselves busy, just like everyone in this story. Lemanski said, "I really believe that having a hobby and doing what you love makes life just that much better."



Winter Dancing

By: Hannah Strumpher

Lights scanning around the room, music vibrating your very bones, an ever-changing visual board, and the long line to the photo booth are all signs of a school dance. This year's Winter Formal was not one to forget. Winter Formal is one of the lesser-funded dances, only really starting to gain popularity in the more recent years.

Before the dance, sophomore Leyna Gibson said, "I don't know what it's going to be like this year, but last year I personally thought Winter Formal was better than Homecoming because the dance floor is a lot bigger because the Hoco dance floor is so small and you're all just right up next to each other. And I thought the music was better at Winter Formal last time."

Senior Chandler Kline was looking forward to another successful night of being DJ for the dance. He had been working over the years to improve everything he could to make his music a good experience for everyone, including upgrading the sound system and adding fog geysers, a visual wall, lights, and more.

"With each dance I try to improve one part of

my act or add something interesting to it," stated Kline. "For Winter Formal it became more about improving the music and really fine-tuning... So basically with each dance I just try to improve one aspect. And then along the way, I'm doing gigs at nightclubs and things like that. I'll just get progressively better at mixing and reading a crowd just through experience as well."

The Winter Formal is definitely one of the smaller dances, but that actually improves people's views on attending.

"Winter Formals, they're not Homecoming or Prom, but that sometimes makes them more fun because there's not as much pressure or anything around them because they're not as big of a deal," said senior Abby Jett. "It's a lot easier to just kind of go and have fun."

A big favorite for many was the photo booth, and it was almost never left alone.

"I always love the photo booth at all of the dances," commented Jett. "It's just so fun to take photos with all my friends and then they have the little printed out photo strips to keep."

Even though many people enjoyed the Win-

ter Formal itself, they also enjoyed preparing to get ready for the dance. "I like to buy new dresses because it's nice to go get them with my mom," mentioned Gibson. "Trying on fancy dresses is always fun."

When asked about which venue she liked best, the commons or the auditorium, Gibson responded saying that she preferred the dance floor in the auditorium because of the size.

"I think that's difficult because with the commons and outside there's more room, but the dance floor is always too small for my taste," said Gibson. "In the auditorium, the dance floor is just the whole auditorium and it's big enough, although it is nice to have a little off segment. I don't really know."

Since Winter Formal is becoming more popular, some were hoping that more funds would be allocated to that dance so that it could improve even more.

"I think we should be finding ways to push the boundaries for special effects," mentioned Kline. "I think that just the production of the music should be improved because at the end of the day, a couple lights hanging off the ceiling isn't going to make any difference to the dance, but if you add something that's cool and animated with the music display which is something for people to look at, I think that's more important."



Marvelous Mellott

By: Hannah Strumpher

In the classroom, students expect a normal day, but nothing is ever normal when they have Mr. Mellott, with his fun, energetic, and outgoing personality.

Mr. Mellott teaches AP Physics, STEAM, and Middle School Science, and he's unable to choose his favorite between them.

"Content-wise I love AP Physics," stated Mellott. "I love the rigor that it brings and...the work ethic and stuff and having kids that have to try very, very hard to do it. But the middle school kids are just goofy and it's just fun. I like having both."



Mr. Mellott loves getting involved with the students and knows that they are able to achieve anything they put their mind to.

"I think my favorite part is the students, nobody would be here without them," Mellott mentioned. "Behaviorally, they are relatively easy, and the corrections tend to last... And the kids genuinely want to do well, which makes my life so much easier, because we can work through other problems while still having this drive to really get to their end goal, whatever it may be."

Many of his students enjoy his eager teaching, and there is never a dull moment in the classroom.

"I think he's a real fun guy," said senior Valera Noland. "I really loved when he came into class

bald one day, it was really exciting and it made his class more interesting...I think he's a pretty great teacher."

Mr. Mellott is not only liked by his students, but also by his fellow teachers as well. Mr. Page, who lived with Mr. Mellott for about a year, was more than happy to share his opinion about his friend.

"I think he's a great guy," commented Page.

"He's super intelligent and he's a great teacher, very good friend. He's funny, and we happen to enjoy quite a lot of the same things and so that made living together pretty fun because we could kind of hang out and do stuff like that.

He's a great teacher, the kids love him, and he knows what he's doing, so I'm super proud of him and super happy for him."

Mrs. Thimsen, who had previously taught Mr. Mellott, shares similar views.

"It's great to have seen it come full circle, it's wonderful," said Mrs. Thimsen. "It's fun to see him come all the way around and to have him back in the building and he understands what JA is all about. [His teaching style] is good, he's very relaxed, but he knows his stuff."

Although Mr. Mellott is known for teaching one of the more difficult classes, AP Physics, he knows that his students have the potential to do well.

"I would say if you're willing to come in and work hard and you're willing to be uncomfortable, then this class is for you," stated Mellott. "You all know enough, you're smart enough. Come in with an open mind and willingness to be uncomfortable and you'll be just fine."

Mr. Mellott enjoys teaching and can't wait to learn more alongside his students:

"I'm honored. I think it's cool that the kids feel comfortable enough to see me in this way and sort of a thing and enjoy whatever it is that we do in these classes enough to honor me with it. It's personally rewarding because it shows that the kids are actually enjoying the class, but it's also professionally rewarding because that means my hard work is paying off."

My Kind of Class

By: Mackenzie Estep

From rigorous lectures that take the full ninety minutes to independent and group learning, there are many different class structures offered at JA.

These structures depend a lot on the teacher's preferences as well as the type of class that it is. Core classes with more content will have a more lecture-type class structure, whereas an art or an elective class will have a lot more independent work time.

Every student has a unique learning style and preferences on how they learn in a classroom environment.

When senior Kate Rock was asked what structure she learns best from, she responded, "I like a combination of lectures and group-based work. I think working with groups is better than individuals because it gives you different perspectives and helps you figure it out together."

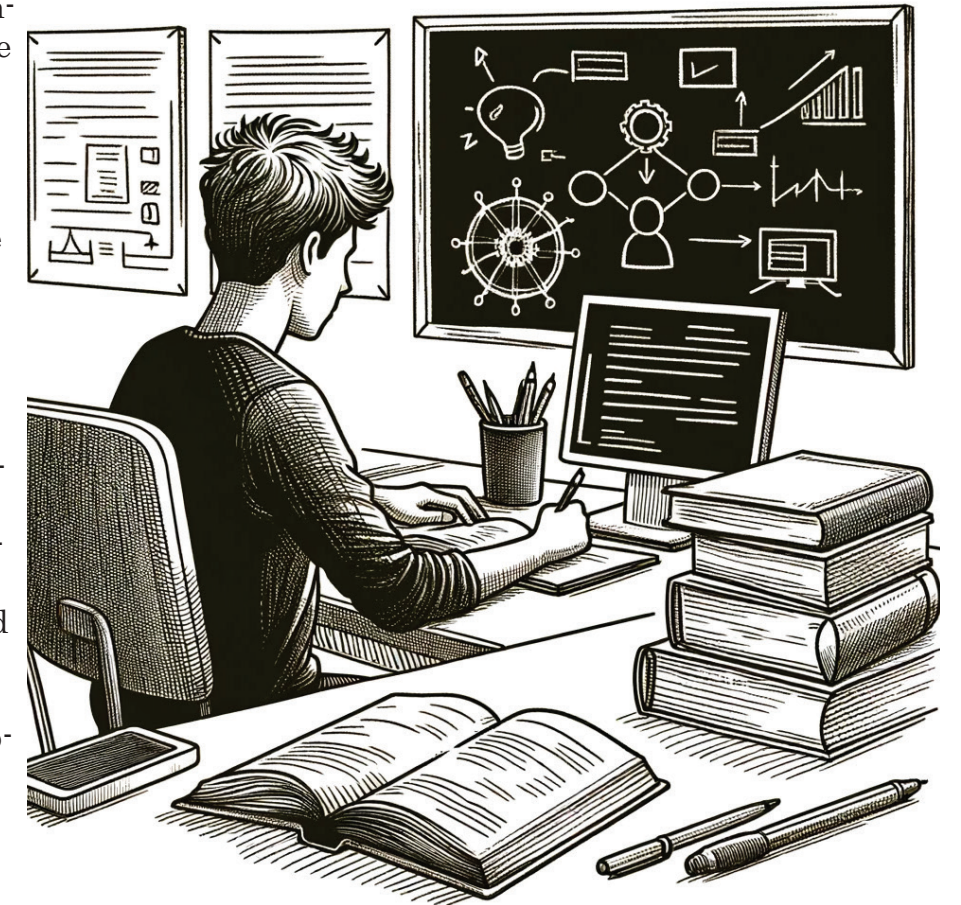
Fellow senior Madisyn Dechant had a more specific response, naming a teacher at JA she feels she has learned best from.

"I like Ketcham's classes because I like the way he does the lectures and keeps you engaged," Dechant says. "It's also helpful that we do activities and watch videos to help further our understanding."

Every student has a different learning style that allows them to thrive at their own personal level and incorporate their strengths into their learning.

"I like when we are given our own creative liberties with the assignments and we are able to explore our own thoughts without specific instructions from the teachers," says senior John Sanborn.

While there are favorite class types for the students, there are also many structures that they



find harder to learn from.

Dechant shares, "I really don't like those classes where you kinda have to teach yourself and just watch the video lectures, it's very unhelpful for my learning."

Whether you enjoy the long lectures or more specific interactive learning, every class structure is different and is going to result in different outcomes for each student. It is important for there to be a balance between the teacher's content, and how it molds to the students themselves.

Rock adds, "My least favorite is when teachers include a bunch of busy work that is not necessarily helpful. I understand that they may think it's helpful, but I don't really think it is. Or when they make you do your own learning and don't have lectures that cover all the material."

What is Success?

By: Madeline Scoggins

Students navigate the challenging paths and obstacles that come their way during high school, all while carefully determining what fits them well and how they'd like to be successful. High school success isn't under any specific definition. High school creates new expectations so there isn't a way of knowing what you're getting into; every student's idea of success is different. Some are setting themselves up for college early, and others are just trying to survive the 4 years.

"My definition of high school success is doing the best you can to achieve what makes you happy," states Samantha Trujillo. Finishing high school is more than just a goal. These four years can make or break what you decide to do in the future, but having fun is the most important part. A lot of students get so caught up in getting good grades and focusing on college that they forget to live. "Before I got into high school, I thought I immediately had to have the best grades possible, not have any fun, and only focus on school," says freshman Matylda Podlesny. "If I do that in the future, I realized when people ask me what my high school life was like, I wouldn't have anything to talk about. So I changed my mindset to still being future-focused but having a social life."

The experiences made in high school are memories you'll have to look back on forever. It's easy to lose sight of what really matters to you in the midst of things. Grades are important for your future, but it's necessary to find a good balance between focusing on your workload and having something to look back on when you're older.

"To be honest, I didn't really think about suc-

cess at the beginning of high school; I was just a kid looking to get good grades to make his parents proud and stay on their good side," states senior Chris Rock.

Success isn't the first thing that comes to mind when beginning high school. Students are either excited to experience new things or worried about the workload yet to come.

"Being the last graduating class affected by COVID, I think that definition for me has changed since then," says senior Emma Parker. "I've learned to not be so hard on myself, because I'm my worst critic. Success to me is about hard work and dedication."

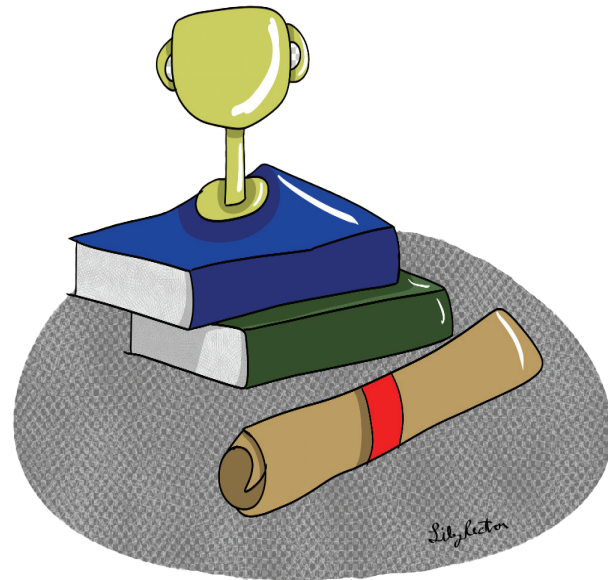
School takes a lot out of a person. Between balancing the work, sports, or extracurriculars, it's hard to focus on yourself. Learning to not be so hard on yourself is one of the biggest takeaways in high

school.

"I realized that you can't have such high standards for yourself when you are doing harder things. I make sure I find a balance between both sports and school," states Trujillo.

Success is about more than just achieving good grades and making it through the 4 years; it's about learning to balance the hard work to do the things you love. Pushing yourself to focus on school work can cause you to lose your motivation and create an unhealthy balance.

"The people around me have had a huge influence on why I'm successful," says Parker. "I have people to motivate me and help me grow as a player and a person off the court or field. I think a lot of success as an athlete and also who I am as a person comes from the individuals who inspire me and push me to be better in everything I do."



Hallway Madness

By: Abigail Stephens

Books, papers, and phone in hand, backpack on your back, the timer begins to count down as you endeavor to your next class. You rush down the hallway and swivel around kids with their eyes glued to their phones until you are suddenly cut off as a kid enters a classroom in front of you. You valiantly continue until you hit the next obstacle: a group of oblivious kids blocking the entire hallway. You mutter a small "excuse me," but they don't move. You try to catch their attention, being louder this time. Regardless of whether they're ignoring you on purpose or just completely wrapped up in their conversation, the bell rings again, and you're late... yikes.

While he was reluctant to answer at first, senior Daniel Baires explains the atrocities encountered in the hallways while students in the senior lounge cheer him on from behind. "It's when you try to get around [students in the way]," begins Baires, "and they just keep getting in your way!" He explains how on multiple occasions, he's had to say "excuse me" more than four times. "I had to continuously shove — not like, shove through — but kind of shove to get through. There are certain spots you need to make space for yourself in some way." To clarify, he 'worms' his way through the crowd, as many of us do.

"I feel like people use [the hallway] as a place to congregate," explains sophomore Mal Memon, "instead of a space to get from one place to another. Whenever I'm running late to a class, there's always this enormous friend group that thinks that they can just have a massive gossip session in the middle of the stairs and I just give them the dirtiest looks ever." While her experiences may have been irritating, she has never resorted to pushing, an admirable claim that not many of us can say. Sophomore Adonis Maldonado faces another issue, one that has died down since the beginning of the year but still exists. "I get irritated when people bodycheck me or when they stand in the way while I'm trying to get to class," Maldonado grumpily explains right as

someone jokingly bodychecks him. "I think I bodychecked a kid into a wall once... but I got to class on time so it worked." Many students have decided that a more aggressive approach is necessary when you are ignored for too long. "I have almost [resorted to pushing]," laughs senior Jackson Stillman, "if squeezing through [groups of people] and shoving them into a wall by just squeezing through them counts as pushing, then yes."

The final common question is if students should always walk on the right side of the hallway. Upperclassmen typically answer this question

with an emphatic yes. "[Walking on the right side of the hallway] would help," asserts sophomore Yangchen Gray. "It's easier and less chaotic to navigate the hallways

that way." It's a simple request, just do as cars do: stay to the right unless you have to change paths or enter a classroom.

Senior Elliot Waters also feels that kids should always walk on the right side of the hallway, stating that it "streamlines the process and makes sure we don't have people blocking everything." Elliot mentions his two pet peeves: "People who just stand there and do nothing" and "people who hold hands" (when it results in a blocked hallway). However, he has a solution. "[I have] resorted to pushing. I usually just walk through the hallway and [students] just go around me because they're scared of me," the senior grins mischievously. "It's great."



New School Spirit?

By: Benjamin Schumm

You're in the office, early in the morning. You're just sitting there, doing your work, when suddenly the lights start to flicker. While you might not have any idea what's happening, some people at the school say that it could be our school ghost! It lives in the office, flickering lights and moving things around. Nobody knows where the ghost came from or how it got into our school, but it's clear that it's here to stay.

In order to better understand this ghost, I got help from two of the people who know it best: Mr. Cloonan and Mrs. Angie in the office.

Like most ghosts, the office ghost is known to be mischievous, at least according to Mrs. Angie and Mr. Cloonan. They told me that it's been known to move things as little as pencils and as big as trash cans.

"Yeah, it's crazy! The trash can will be in its spot at night, but in the morning it's scooted a few inches. I just know it's a ghost," Mrs. Angie eagerly told me, describing how it moves the trash cans just enough that both she and Mr. Cloonan notice.

It doesn't just move trash cans, they told me that the ghost goes as far as flickering the lights in the office.

"I'll just be sitting there and the lights will start flickering. It's the strangest thing!" Mr. Cloonan exclaimed.

Oddly enough, Mr. Cloonan told me that the ghost was mainly active in the mornings. This

seemed interesting, as ghosts are usually said to be active at night.

"I usually notice it in the mornings," said Cloonan. "I'll just be coming in to work, and the lights will start flickering or I'll notice a trash can has moved a bit."

The office staff aren't the only people who have noticed a ghost, sophomore Erick Nguyen has also noticed suspicious activities around the building.

"I've noticed some weird things around the school," commented Nguyen. "Sometimes, when I'm in the bathroom, the lights will flicker on and off for a few seconds."

The scary part is, this parallels almost exactly what Mr. Cloonan and Mrs. Angie said. The similarity is almost uncanny.

"The weird thing is, it only happens when I'm alone," said Nguyen. "Every time it happens, I notice that I'm the only one in the bathroom."

This makes it even more likely that it's a ghost that goes around playing tricks on all the students and staff of the school.

At the end of the day, who knows if the ghost is real? There are plenty of ways people could try to deny it. Take the evidence however you will, but it seems like there are plenty of people who believe we have a spirit haunting Jefferson Academy.

(Advisor's Note: This story is meant as more of a spoof and is written with levity intended.)

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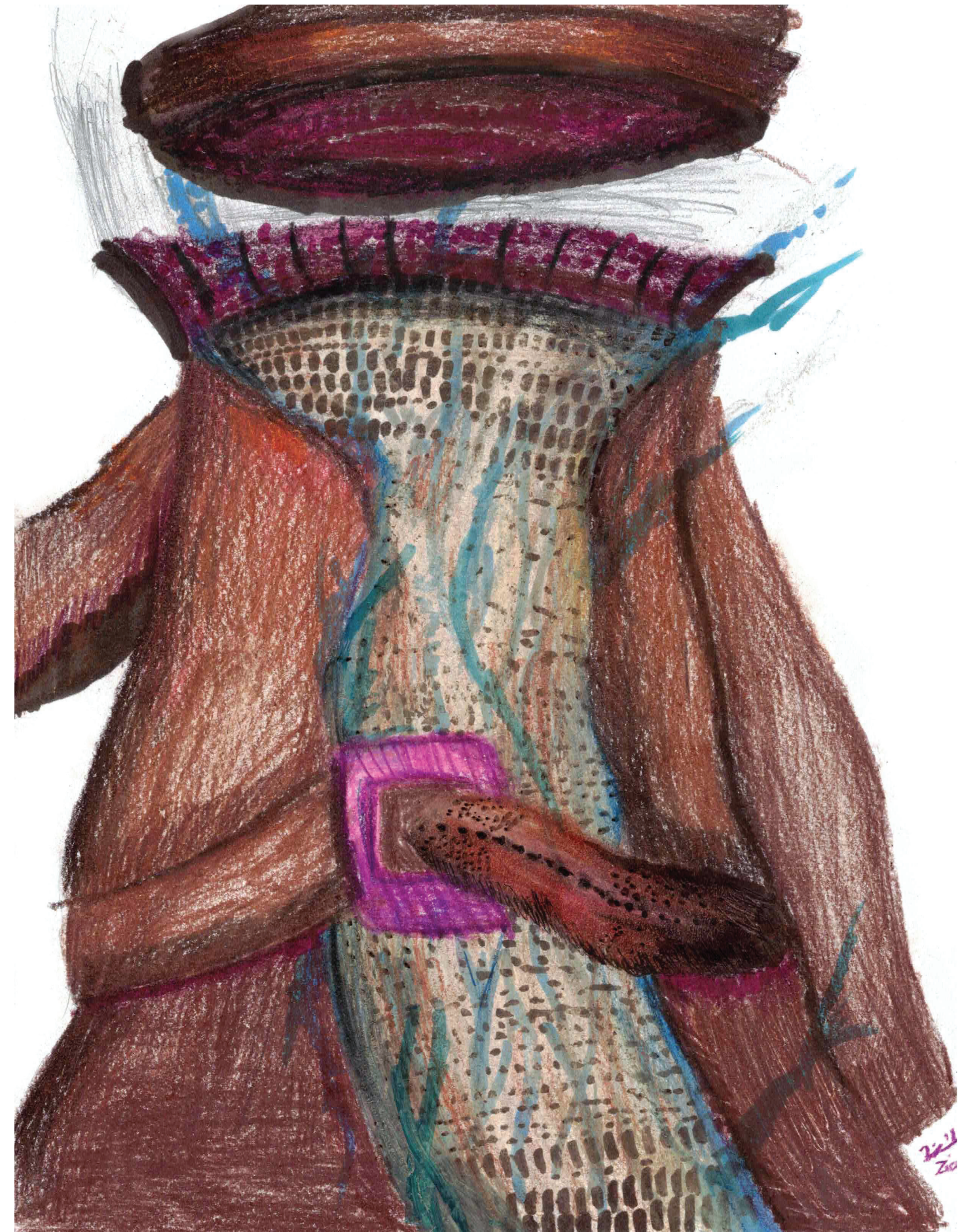
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The JagWire is Jefferson Academy's completely student-produced newspaper. The JagWire covers issues and events of interest to the JA community, and its students, faculty, and staff. The paper is reported, edited, and laid out by students. The JagWire is published by JA, as a part of classwork for the Publication Production Newspaper class.

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Yuda Best

By: Rylan Mills

Bracelets come in many shapes and sizes, some are stylish and others are monotone and subtle. While most bracelets have little to no meaning, Yuda Bands are able to give students from third world countries the ability to obtain a good education. Jefferson Academy's Key Club has partnered with fellow students from Zimbabwe in order to give bracelets a new meaning.

Key Club partnered with Yuda Bands in order to provide kids with a better education in third world countries like Zimbabwe; "I had

Key Club sold these bracelets in order to pay for Zimbabwe school girl Moreblessing Rusere's education. Moreblessing is a 14-year-old girl from Zimbabwe and her parents are hard workers. Despite both of her parents working, Moreblessing's family consists of herself, her two younger sisters, and her parents, who don't have enough money to pay for necessities like food, rent, and an education. Therefore, Key Club has partnered with Yuda Bands to help Moreblessing get these necessities.

"The goal of selling these bracelets was to raise



done this project once before through Yuda Bands five years ago so I was already aware of the company, but the first time I worked with them I found them simply through researching different service projects," noted senior Kate Rock, who proposed that Key Club begin selling the Yuda Bands.

money for the education of a girl named Moreblessing in Zimbabwe," Key Club president Valyn Highley explained. "We made \$795 from selling Yuda Bands, and all of the money is going to Moreblessing's education."

Key Club sold these Yuda Bands in the lunchroom during high school lunch. Students paid \$10 for each bracelet in order to give students like Moreblessing and her two sisters a chance to receive food, clothes, and a good education to help her family in the future.

"I think students enjoyed the bracelets," said Ms. DeFiore, the teacher ambassador for Key Club. "I think the middle school students were more keen on them than the high

school students."

In the future, Key Club will be doing many more fundraisers/donations, including a diaper and wipe drive in order to help Hope House. The drive starts soon and Key Club is hoping for students to donate and help the Hope House.

A Little Color

By: Kristen Kientz

Paint splatters across the room as JA's finest artists customize shoes for their fellow classmates; meanwhile, cans of food pile up from donations as students enter a raffle in hopes of winning a free pair of unique footwear.

This month, National Art Honor Society (NAHS) is accepting customization requests on new shoes. Club members are hand-painting desired designs onto different styles of Vans as a way to raise money for the organization while adding some color to the school!

"We're running this sale where people pay \$50 or \$60 for shoes that the club designs and paints," NAHS junior Sofia Meyer explained. "I'm helping with sketching on the shoes, and then there's designs that people can choose from like floral, landscape, ocean, Colorado, and JA. I'm pretty good with ocean, floral, and landscape designs because they have more rhythm than geometric patterns."

On top of raising money for the club, NAHS is running a food drive alongside the shoe effort. Students and staff can bring in canned goods to donate, and every five items wins them a hand-drawn sticker as well as an entry into a raffle to win a free pair of shoes.

"We wanted to partner with this group called Conscious Alliance," club advisor Mrs. Garcia shared. "It's called 'art that feeds'—they go to concerts and music festivals and also run food drives. They have artists create concert posters... It's all centered around music and visual arts. I can't make any promises that this is going to happen, though."

Despite the grand plans that have been devised, the club has been slow to act. Senior Leo Brunkow is one of the two club members that are leading the project; he is very passionate about the shoe idea, although he does have concerns regarding the overall success of the fundraiser.

"Anna [Brenneman] and I have been wanting to do this fundraiser for a while now," Brunkow revealed. "The plan was originally to sell and paint 30 shoes, but we weren't able to buy them cheap enough to make the prices low enough

for broke high school students and it didn't really go as planned. I was in charge of the group working on posters and advertisements, though, and that has worked a little bit—we went from one sale to five."

Despite the rough start, most NAHS members remain optimistic. Since the shoes are quite expensive to buy, getting just a few sales will help the club immensely.

"Since we have sold a few pairs now, we'll most likely make a profit on this fundraiser," Brunkow mentioned. "We're planning to do a little club vacation and go look at some art around Denver. Last year we went to Chicago, so we wanted to do something like that but cheaper this year."

With the slight success that advertising has had recently, club members are excited to begin work and paint on new surfaces.

"I think it's super cool because usually people paint on canvases," Meyer explained, "but painting on shoes lets your designs be shown off more when people wear them around. So, I think it's really cool and people should do it. Buy the shoes!"



A Hot Date

By: Hayley Smith

The Student Library Advisory Board, known as SLAB, is a popular club throughout the school that focuses on exposing students to literary materials and encouraging students to read. Anna Brenneman is a senior member of the club. She explained, “SLAB does a bunch of things to get people to come into the library and do a bit of reading. We try our best, and we have traditions that we do.”

One of those traditions that SLAB follows every year is Speed Date a Book. This year this event happened on February 14th — Valentine’s Day. During this event, SLAB and Gaming Club hosted activities where students got to pick what they wanted to do.

Brenneman explained, “I first learned about Speed Date a Book in junior high, and this year it was cool because I got to run the event. All the SLAB members chose one of their favorite books or a book that they have been reading, and they brought it to the library.”

Additionally, Brenneman explained that the members laid out the books so that when peo-

ple came into the library, the SLAB members could explain their books. “We call it Speed Date a Book because you are ‘dating’ all of these books in a short period. It’s just a really fun way to see if there are any books you are interested in reading.”

Lizzy Gould, a member of SLAB, talked about the books *Icebreaker* and *Catching Jordan* — two of her favorite books.

“We like to expose people to more books, and it’s a lot of fun,” Gould says. “I enjoyed it. I think it was a successful event overall. A lot of people enjoyed it too, especially if you are a book lover, you get to be exposed to different genres that you may not read as much.”

Despite Speed Date a Book being hosted in the library in partnership with SLAB, Gaming Club hosted this event. Jayden Bilby, a member of Gaming Club, explained that his table and the overall event did a good job of including everybody.

“We played a few board games like *Town of Salem* and *Villainous*, which included a lot of people that were either in the club or just showed up,” Bilby states.

When asked about the significance of Gaming Club and why it is hosted, Bilby commented that “as a whole, Gaming Club is a group of people that are all different in their own ways, but all come together to do one thing in particular, which is to play board games of all kinds. We host Gaming Club because people want to play board games, and not everyone has that group. This is how you find that group and find games to play.”



Atomic Clubs

By: Hunter Hobbs

New clubs are popping up everywhere at JA, and the new Science National Honors Society is no exception.

“The Science National Honor Society focuses on engaging the school with science-based activities,” states junior Sarvesh Satheesh Kumar. “I started planning for it in October.” Satheesh Kumar started the club along with math teacher Ms. Ferb, and senior Jackson Stillman. Satheesh Kumar was the president of the Math and Science Club, but that club changed into what is now Science Honor Society. This changed the club in a great aspect.

“Ben Braecklein made me the president of the Math and Science Club last year as he was graduating,” Satheesh Kumar explains. “I decided to morph the Math and Science Club into the Science National Honor Society so that the club’s focus was broader.”

With the club changing into a broader version of itself, many new possibilities arise and new events are created.

“My long-term goal is that we do a lot of in-club science opportunities,” Satheesh Kumar says. “I want to compete in some local Science Olympiads and competitions. I also want to go on science-based field trips. Short term, a few friends suggested we could do some small projects like egg drops or such ... My main goal is to provide fun, science-based opportunities to the student body.”

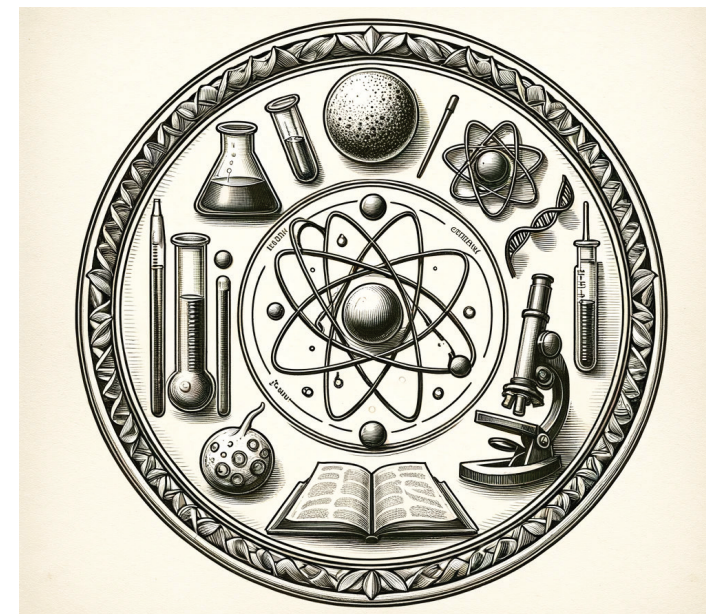
With goals in mind, the Science National Honor Society starts with a long stride to achieve its overall goal.

“I wanted to provide more science-related opportunities in school,” the president elaborates. “I had learned that some other schools had some impressive opportunities such as Science Olympiad teams and engineering clubs, and I thought it would be cool if JA could have such opportunities. So, I created the club as a catalyst to provide multiple opportunities.”

The school now has the opportunity to dive deeper into the world of science in many different ways. The more people who participate, the

more the map of science exploration becomes larger for the school. Now, many people don’t enjoy science, and find it “nerdy,” but there are many ways for it to be fun.

“SNHS interests me because of how much we can do in the club,” one club member remarks. “We can participate in local science fairs and robotics competitions, we can do in-club competitions, and take field trips. Other people are interested because of the opportunities to



innovate in this club.”

Ms. Ferb, the teacher sponsor of the club, was originally the sponsor for the Math and Science Club until it was re-made into this.

“We’ve had Math and Science Club for a long time, and Sarvesh just wanted to do something with more of a science focus and that was nationally recognized,” Ferb explains.

On top of that, the Science Honors Society is looking to get competitions in place, guest speakers to attend JA, and more!

“We’re just starting,” Ferb cautions, “but we’re looking at doing competitions, getting guest speakers, doing tours of a place, and you know people who are interested in science careers whether it’s a medical component or engineering component.”

The Winning Shot

By: Lucia Mott

Voices echo through the gym as proud parents and excited students look upon the senior players. Senior night can be very emotional for the players, reminding them that it is their last season of high school basketball.

“Playing basketball for the last time has made me thankful for the time that I have on and off the court,” says Senior Sarah Welsch.

While on the court with the team for the last time, Welsch was reminiscing about her basketball career, saying, “I have great memories with this sport. I believe basketball has made a positive impact on me and has taught me a lot of lessons; having a positive attitude in basketball is necessary to succeed.”

The seniors aren’t the only ones who get emotional when facing the end of the season. Sydney Murphy, a sophomore who swung for the senior night is excited to see what future seasons have to offer her.

“I’m super excited for the season and I can’t wait to see what the team has coming!” said Murphy.

The team will consist of different people next season so it can be stressful for the new varsity players to feel like they can live up to the current seniors.

“I believe the team I’m leaving behind has great talent. We have a lot of young girls who can fill their shoes and I feel confident in my team for next year,” explains Welsch.

Murphy adds, “I am unbelievably upset that the team won’t have the seniors’ talent but we have many other amazing players that can do anything they put their minds to.”

This season was very successful, as the Jags were ranked the highest girls’ basketball team in JA history.

“We had a lot of competition this year but we played very well against those great teams who are currently in the final four,” said Welsch.

Even though the girls didn’t make it to the final four, this season is one to cherish.

“Senior night was a night to remember. The game went great because everybody scored and the seniors were enjoying their last time on the

court together,” said Welsch.

Home games lead to many advantages for the players as the presence of many cheering JA students helps the team’s performance.

“This game the energy was very high and the student section was hyped which I appreciated. I love games with high energy and this game definitely provided that,” said Welsch.

While the games are always fun to watch, as is cheering on the team, the players can feel high stress levels at times.

“Basketball can be such an intense environment but the coaches are a great support system. All the coaches, especially Coach Sharpley and Coach Neely, are great,” said Welsch.

Out of all the girls’ basketball seasons, the 2024 season was one to remember.

“My last game at JA was a BANG and I will never forget it,” said Welsch.

