

October 2025

WY-NEWS



The student newspaper of Roosevelt High School, Wyandotte, MI



October 2025

Band Sweetheart: Pg 10-11



Fall Festivities: Pg 13



October

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From the Editor...

Slowing down in a fast-paced fall

Eleanor Grant, Editor-in-Chief

Now that October is here, it finally feels like the school year is in full swing. Classes are steady, events are constant, and most people have settled into a routine.

For me, that routine has meant finding a balance between school-work, Newspaper, and finishing out my cross country season strong. It's a very busy time, but it feels quite rewarding to be accomplishing things, especially at the beginning of the year.

Even though I don't have an independent study hour to work on Newspaper or Yearbook, I've found ways to stay caught up. When preparing to publish the last issue I spent my lunch in the newsroom editing pages and making sure that everything is ready to be published.

One of the best things about the newspaper staff is that there are always people willing to help. This is even more important in the fall with the beginning of year chaos that can become really stressful.

Fall has always been my favorite season. Between practices, races, and weekend hikes with my family, I spend a lot of time outside. Those moments outside allow me to clear my head.

It's easy to get caught up in the busyness of school, but having something that allows you to pause and breathe makes a huge difference. Getting to spend that time with people I'm close to, whether it's my family or the cross country team, makes it even more fun.

That's something I think every student needs to find: whatever it is that helps you reset. For some

people, it's sports; for others, it's reading, drawing, going for a walk, or hanging out with friends. School can get stressful, and it's important to take time to do the things that make you happy and help you refocus.

That same kind of balance shows up in our newsroom, too. The new staff have done an incredible job learning the process and asking questions along the way, and many returning members have stepped up to guide them.

It's been rewarding to see how quickly the new members have picked up on the elements of Newspaper. However, we always have room to grow: to make articles stronger, layout better, and take better pictures.

This issue covers a wide variety of stories, from fall sports and clubs to Halloween events and the government shutdown. It also marks the first time our editors are sharing their own voices through personal columns. Monica, Ainslea, and Emmalee each wrote about topics that matter to them, and Dominic created a cartoon strip to show what's happening in sports.

To work on the staff's feature writing, everyone sat down together and interviewed English and Social Studies teacher David Trusewicz. Then, they each wrote a feature on him covering slightly different angles. And we read through all of them and decided on one to publish in this issue.

As the semester moves forward, we are continuing to find our pace as a staff. Each article brings new



Photo: Eleanor Grant

lessons and challenges, but also provides the staff with opportunities to experiment and improve on what they've previously done.

This time of year always reminds me how important it is to pause and take things in. As a senior, I've felt this more than ever. My final cross country season is coming to an end, and even though it's bittersweet, it's also made me appreciate every practice, meet, and moment with my team.

That realization stretches beyond running. Whether it's a sport, club, or simply spending time with friends, taking time to enjoy those things helps slow life down and make it meaningful.

I hope this issue encourages readers to do the same: to take a breath, appreciate the season, and make time for what you enjoy. Let flipping through these pages be a moment of relaxation, and to see the effort the Wy-News staff has put into this issue.

The Wy-News 2025-2026 Staff

The Wy-News is Roosevelt High School's student produced newspaper. Editorials and bylines columns reflect the opinions of individual columnists and not the Wy-News staff, it's advisor, the RHS administration, or student body.

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Government Shutdowns and Senate Standstills

Weeks-long shutdown leaves over 750,000 without pay

Savjoah Paul-Laucer, Reporter

Just after midnight, on October 1st, 2025, the U.S. government began its third longest shutdown in American history due to disagreements on budgeting.

“We should be able to wrap things up this week, if [republicans] will sit down and have a negotiation with us,” Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona said during an interview on CBS News.

The end of the fiscal year, September 30th, serves as a deadline for Congress and the president to agree on and pass budgets for government spending for programs such as Medicaid and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). If there is no approved budget by midnight, the government goes into a shutdown, effectively halting operations until a budget is passed.

During a shutdown, government employees are either furloughed (temporarily suspended from work), or required to work without pay. Over 750,000 workers have been furloughed currently, and the number is set to increase as funding runs out. Organizations like USPS and Medicare are still operating, as their main source of

funding does not come from the yearly appropriations process.

Small business owners and people that receive Social Security benefits might experience delays or disruption in service, but historically have not been put on hold or terminated; households that rely on SNAP will have their benefits put on hold for the month of November. Furthermore, these programs may be at risk.

“We are closing up Democrat programs that we disagree with, and they’re never going to open again,” President Donald Trump said during a cabinet meeting at the White House. “The Democrats are getting killed, and, we’re going to have a list of them on Friday, closing up some of the most egregious socialist semi-communist [programs].”

While there isn’t significant impact a shutdown creates on the economy, Trump is using the shutdown as an opportunity to eliminate thousands of government jobs and programs, which can slow economic growth more than it already has. Since government employ-

ees aren’t being paid until the shutdown is over, there is less consumer spending overall, particularly in areas like Virginia and Washington D.C. and there are many people who are conserving their remaining SNAP and Social Security benefits.

“I, myself, have a back-up plan [in case I am fired during the shutdown], but I know most people don’t,” Jessica Sweet, a Social Security claims specialist and union member said during an interview with PBS News. “The one thing this administration has taught me is that nothing is ever for certain, even if it’s codified into law.”

There have been ten bills as of October 16th that were proposed that would end the shutdown, but have died in the Senate. Democrats in the Senate want to extend a tax break for those who receive healthcare under the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare, and reinstate funding to medicare to reverse changes made under the “Big Beautiful Bill.” While Republicans have agreed to a temporary solution, Democrats refuse to pass a bill that doesn’t address the issue directly.

President Trump during a 2019 veterans’ day parade in Manhattan. Hundreds of thousands of veterans are losing or have lost their benefits due to the shutdown.



Photo: National Archives and Records Administration via Flickr



People marching in the rain for the No Kings protest in Manhattan, New York this past June.

Opinion

Hear it from Harper

Line between defense and dominance starting to look blurry

Ainslea Harper, Copy Editor



Photo: Ainslea Harper

When I think military, I think war. Fighting, guns, bombs. So when I heard the president was sending the National Guard into American cities, I couldn’t help but feel uneasy.

The National Guard is a branch of the military that is usually deployed to help cities going through national disasters or other emergencies, including hurricanes, floods, or violent riots.

President Trump has claimed that his deployment of the national guard is a response to high crime rates and illegal immigration that needs to be solved. However, to many people it seems like Trump is targeting democratic led cities.

The first deployment of the National Guard was to Los Angeles in June 2025 as a response to protests against immigration raids. In August, the National Guard was sent to Washington D.C. In September, they were deployed in Memphis.

While the president claims that the deployment of the National Guard is purely to fight high crime rates, that just doesn’t make sense. If crime statistics show low crime rates in D.C. for the past 30 years, why would he send the National Guard there? Additionally, the protests in Los Angeles were relatively peaceful, especially compared to past protests to which the National Guard has been sent, so it seems like any problems that were occurring could have been handled locally, and not with the National Guard.

On September 6, Trump posted an AI generated image of him in front of a burning city with the words “Chipocalypse Now.” He captioned the photo, “Chicago is going to find out why we call it the department of war.” At the beginning of

October, Trump authorized the deployment of troops to Chicago.

This message is threatening. Is he trying to protect Chicago or is he trying to attack Chicago?

Luckily, judge April M. Perry issued a restraining order against the deployment of National Guard on October 9 because she agreed that there was no imminent danger in the city of Chicago, but Trump has said that he’s going to continue trying to get troops in the city and he has future plans to send troops to other cities.

So, is this really about safety? Deploying military force to cities who are protesting policies and fighting back against the Trump administration feels like intimidation more than protection.

And yet another thing that doesn’t make sense; How can the government afford to send military forces all over the country amid the government shutdown?

The money being used to pay military personnel is eight billion dollars in pre-existing research and development funds that the government had saved. Since this has to cover payroll along with transportation and gear for the National Guard, I think that there are better ways to use this money that would benefit America a lot more during the government shutdown.

After all of the protests that have happened in the first 10 months of this presidency, including the “No Kings” protests and Anti-ICE protests, this is just a blatant attempt to take away free speech from people who don’t agree with MAGA ideas.

Bears in the Wild

Superintendent finds way for RHS alumni to connect with community

Kiera Byrne, Reporter

Hearing other people's stories can change a life. With a lot of stories in Wyandotte, there was a need for a way for them to be shared.

"There are some pretty cool things people have done," Superintendent Dr. James Anderson said. "I wanted people to start hearing good things because all they ever hear is bad."

"Bears in the Wild" is a new opportunity for the voices of alumni to be heard. This is a section in Ander-

son's weekly newsletter that features Roosevelt alumni and their journeys after high school.

"We have about 300 to 400 kids that graduate every school year, take that times 100 (the school's 100 years old), that's a lot of people," Anderson said. "And so there's a lot of good stories out there."

Anderson hopes that by providing these people's experiences and stories, students and families will be

inspired by more than just a career path.

"I think success has a lot of different forms," Anderson said. "It's not always about how much money you make. It's not always about what kind of job you have."

Wendy Greener, an RHS parent and frequent reader of the newsletters, stresses how fascinating it is to learn about the growth of some of these alumni.

"It's amazing to see how accomplished some of the Roosevelt Alumni are today," Greener said. "Students should read these inspiring stories because they can help them achieve their goals."

Reaching alumni with just a weekly newsletter is limited, so Anderson encourages people to share this spotlight through family and social media.

"I'm asking people to take the link and share it," Anderson said.

"There are a lot of people who loved their time at Wyandotte who usually don't comment."

Superintendent Dr. James Anderson sends out weekly newsletter with new spotlight "Bears in the Wild." This feature highlights the current lives of Roosevelt alumni who fill out the application.

Bears in the Wild:

Wyandotte Public Schools (WPS) helped shape who you are today, and now is your chance to share your journey! "Bears in the Wild" is an opportunity for WPS alumni to reconnect and let the community know about the successes you've achieved since graduation. Whether you're making waves in science, business, the arts, public service, or any field in between, we want to hear your story. Tell us what you've accomplished and, more importantly, how your time in Wyandotte's schools positively influenced your path. Submissions should be concise—no more than 300 words—to allow us to celebrate the diverse achievements of our graduates. Share your pride and inspire the next generation of Bears!

BEARS IN THE WILD

Name: Carol Wagner (L'Heureux)

Graduation Year: 2008

Lasting Impact Wyandotte Public Schools had on your life and career: Wyandotte Public Schools played a pivotal role in shaping the foundation of my career in healthcare and workers' compensation. As a student, enrolling in the Health Occupations class sparked my passion for the medical field. It gave me hands-on exposure to healthcare concepts, terminology, and patient care—knowledge that became the cornerstone of my professional journey.

Participating in Orchestra also gave me a unique skill set: discipline, focus, and the ability to collaborate with others. These qualities have proven invaluable throughout my career, especially in high-pressure environments where attention to detail and teamwork are essential.

After graduation, I began my journey as a Home Health Aide, providing compassionate care to patients in their homes. I then became a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), followed by roles in Hospice Care and as a Medical Assistant. Each step deepened my understanding of patient needs, medical documentation, and the importance of empathy in healthcare.

Today, as a Workers' Compensation Claims Adjuster, I draw on all those experiences to advocate for injured workers and ensure they receive appropriate care and support. The foundation laid by Wyandotte Public Schools gave me the confidence and knowledge to grow in this field. I'm proud of the journey and grateful for the start I received in Wyandotte.

Name: Megan Jalbert (Maiani)

Graduation Year: 2005

Lasting Impact Wyandotte Public Schools had on your life and career: WPD shaped me from the age of 5 in Mrs. Blaskiewicz's class at Taft all the way to 18 in Mr. Mitroka's class at RHS. Every teacher I had personalized my education and made sure all of us were getting what we needed. I distinctly remember every single teacher I had and can recall memories in each class. Even as a 38 year old, I still am in contact with teachers that I had throughout my schooling. One of my teachers, Mrs Krohn even gifted me a quilt for my wedding and two son's births. The teachers' care and concern for my education was more than that, they cared about me as a person. That quality has helped me to use it to develop character traits to be able to serve my community from the moment I stepped out of RHS as a coach, teacher, nurse, and city council member. I may not remember all the academic things they taught me, but I sit here with tears in my eyes and remember them seeing us for who we are as humans and encouraging us to care and serve.

Photo Illustration: Kiera Byrne

Link Crew Meetup

A once-per-year event for betterment towards the future

Samuel Martinez, Reporter

The Brownstown School District in Woodhaven hosted a meetup for Link Crew students in the Downriver area and beyond.

"This trip was almost like a professional development for them [Link Crew students] to become better human beings," one of the four Link Crew coordinators Steven Durant said. "It's just meant to give these kids a reenergizing."

Schools like Henry Ford Academy, Belleville, and Crestwood attended to meet other Link Crew leaders to talk about common struggles and how to solve them, further improving their school's Link Crew program.

"We're going to steal some of the ideas that some of the people said," Durant said. "Like, for example, we're using a 'Linksgiving' program to help communication between members of Link Crew and what-not."

Despite the varying issues among schools, the meetup also became an outlet for some individuals to voice their school's issues in a supportive environment.

"We all have, like, very separate issues. Like, some schools didn't even have working bathrooms," Link Crew member and Durant's independent study Gavin Smith said. "But it was a very positive and supportive environment to be a part of."

Funding in our school and other schools was a common struggle discussed amongst the individuals in the meeting.

"I think just fundraising was one of the goals we all wanted to meet," Link Crew member Violet Micket said. "This trip gave us more ideas for, like, what to do in those tough situations."

While the purpose of the meeting was to improve everyone's school

in some way or another, it always gave the members an outlet to meet other students with the same goals as them.

"It was just really fun," Micket said. "Meeting others really taught me how to be a proper leader and

how to uplift others."

Overall, the experience was something that everyone agreed was not only beneficial for the school's environment, but also for the leader's state of mind for the rest of the school year.



Photo Courtesy: Erin Polk

Roosevelt Link Crew poses for picture at Downriver Link Crew meetup at Woodhaven High School. The event was held on Friday, October 24, 2025 with all the Downriver League schools coming together to share ideas.

Festive Fun Fridays

Roosevelt reintroduces Fun Fridays during lunches with new changes

Jolie Greener, Reporter

Fun Fridays are student-run events, hosted by Student Council, featuring games, food, and activities for students during lunches on the last Friday of each month, with October's falling on Halloween.

"It's basically an activity that the Student Council runs, where we try to do something fun in the cafeteria for all grades," Student Council President Lydia Blonski said, "for free, for students to try and boost school spirits."

With this month's Fun Friday happening on Halloween, festive activities have been planned for students, with a bigger push for free items and more frequently occurring Fun Fridays.

Last year, a hot chocolate bar was one of Fun Friday's main events, with a charge of \$1.

This year, the student council has decided to use fundraiser money to make hot chocolate free for all students.

"Powder Puff was our (Student Council's) biggest fundraiser," Blonski said. "We're going with the funds for that."

Link Crew, a club for upperclassmen in Roosevelt made to guide and help freshmen, has partnered with the Student Council to make Halloween at school even more exciting.

"We're going to team up with Link Crew," Student Council supervisor and math teacher Kristina Justice said. "They're going to do their kind of trunk or treat; they do it every year."

In the hallways during lunch, decorated boxes with candy will be available for students and will be managed by Link Crew members.

While free candy is passed out in the halls, inside the cafeteria will have games, more candy, and activities.

"We're going to have a candy corn shuffleboard...those little tiny cones like we had in gym class, we're going to decorate those like candy corn," Blonski said. "Then we're going to take a hockey puck...and people can just play shuffleboard."

As well as Halloween shuffleboard, a student costume contest will be held with prizes and voters.

"What we're going to do is have



Photo: Lydia Blonski

Roosevelt Student Council Executive Board plans for their upcoming Fun Friday at the Downriver League with other student council teams at Lincoln Park Highschool.

a table set up where people can submit their costumes and upload it to the Google Drive," Blonski said. "Basically, when it's all uploaded there, we're going to post it out to everyone."

After students have chosen and voted on costumes, prizes will be given for the top three costumes chosen after all three lunches.

"The top three costumes get a gift card to the place of their choice," Blonski said.

Pushing for more student-body participation, the student council has met and decided on some activities that will bring Roosevelt together.

With the addition of making all activities free, they hope to build a way for students to get involved.

"Going forward, we want everything to be free," Justice said. "We just want to give them (students) a lot of fun, and we want to build a community."

Key Club Fall Rally

Recent Candyland-themed Key Club Fall Rally held in Kalamazoo

Riley Hodges, Reporter

The Michigan District of Key Club International held their annual Fall Rally for Key Club members all over Michigan, to explore new roles in leadership at Comstock High School, located in Kalamazoo, on October 25.

"It's a great way to learn more about your community and the organization," senior Ashley Flores said.

Flores is a Division Ten Lieutenant Governor and helps be a liaison between the District and Club level to Riverview High School, Gabriel Richard Catholic High School, Roosevelt High School, Ida High School, and Grosse Ile High School.

She worked alongside the District Board running workshops and help-

ing setting up decorations.

Fall Rally is a day-long service event for Key Club members. Throughout the day participants attended workshops to learn about leadership opportunities within Key Club, participate in service projects, and hear about opportunities in the service year ahead.

"This is our largest Fall Rally. This year we had 557 people attend and over 55 different workshops," RHS Key Club President and Michigan District's Event Co-chair, senior Brooke Wicker said.

Members participated in event workshops and community service opportunities, such as using plarn (yarn made from plastic) to create blankets that can be given to the homeless, making dog toys for the animal shelter, and making birdhouses for neighborhoods in Kalamazoo. During the event attendees were also able to hear from guest presenters during workshop sessions.

"My Co-Chair Maddy Langlous and I have been working on planning

this event since February so we are really excited about how it came together. It has been fun getting to make all of the decorations and plan the workshops," Wicker said.

Attending the event largely benefited members by getting experience with community service and working with different Key Club partners such as UNICEF, a non-profit organization that gives children in Zambia the right start to life, or Erika's Lighthouse, a non-profit organization that educates students on youth depression.

"Erika's lighthouse is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting positive mental health, especially among teenagers," Flores said.

Key Club works with four partners Erika's Lighthouse, Schoolhouse, Thirst Project, and UNICEF to provide service and charity to the community.

Fall Rally is all about completing service projects, introducing new Key Club initiatives, and networking with members from around Michigan.



Photo: Jillian Koveshki

Senior Gisele Morris and junior Allyanne Flores work at stations to create the Mikey Key Club Mascot at the annual Fall Rally held in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Forms, Fees, and *Futures*

Common App and FAFSA season is here, are you ready?

Dominic Gray, Design Editor

College application season is creeping in, and for seniors planning on extending their education further than high school, two things should be on their minds: Common App and the FAFSA. Both are essential in the process of going to college and starting early can make that process a whole lot smoother.

"We connect applicants and those who support them to a wide array of public and private colleges and universities across all 50 U.S. states and 18 countries," Commonapp.org said.

The Common App is one of the most popular options for seniors who are applying to college, allowing them to submit applications to multiple schools through the same platform. It is designed to streamline the process, but that doesn't mean that it isn't necessary to pay close attention and prepare properly.

"Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling are essential," Big Future, also known as College Board, said. "Proofread several times after you've finished."

Upon creating an account in Common App, it may seem a little

overwhelming at first, but there isn't anything to worry about. There are six main sections where you fill in information about yourself and your family, the easiest way to go through this is with a parent or guardian so they can help you when needed.

"Colleges may need to contact you during the application process, so be mindful of the email address you choose. Sometimes, your high school email address may filter out these emails, so consider using a personal email address instead," commonapp.org said.

Another thing that should be included but is not a part of the six main sections is your college list, where you can add up to 20 schools that you are interested in applying to.

During this time it is good to start working on the essay that may be required for certain colleges like Michigan State University or University of Michigan.

"Each college that you apply to can either require a response or leave it as an optional writing prompt for you," commonapp.org said. "Navigate

to the Personal Essay section in the Writing section to see which schools require the essay and which schools leave it as an optional writing prompt."

One more thing to check are college deadlines. Some colleges may require you to apply before a certain date for the maximum scholarship and acceptance consideration. For example, University of Michigan, Michigan State, and Ohio State all have deadlines of November 1st and MSU says on their website that it automatically gives maximum scholarship consideration. This will also be visible in the calendar on the Common App website once they are added to your list.

"I have had Mr. Blake and Mr. Diroff so far that filled out recommendations for me, also Mrs. Polk is supposed to do it for me too," senior Maddox Richardson said.

Some colleges may also require letters of recommendation from a teacher, which can be done very easily right through the website itself.

Just make sure to talk to any teachers you have

sent it to so they know if they need to do it.

"I talked to Mr. Blake in person last year, and then I sent him the common app request and he filled it out," Richardson said.

So, make sure to have everything in before you submit your application, including your essay, any recommendations from teachers, and all of the sections of your information filled out.

Another thing to check is if there are any deadlines for any colleges that you are applying to.

"To meet an application deadline, you must submit your application materials by 11:59 pm on the deadline date posted for the college," commonapp.org said.

Before you submit your application, check with the counselor's office for any waiver fees for any applications.

There are some that everyone can get and some that people can get if they reach certain requirements and fill out the free and reduced lunch forms found at the secretary's desk as you walk in the school.

Understanding FAFSA for Financial Aid Success

"Any student, regardless of income, who wants to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs [should complete the FAFSA form]," studentaid.gov said.

The second thing that should be done around this time is filling out and submitting your FAFSA forms. This should also be done with a parent or guardian because there is a lot of sensitive information, like your social security number, that they have to help you fill out, but also complete another separate section that they also have to directly do.

"I'll probably get one of my parents to help me with FAFSA, and then we'll probably, like, watch a YouTube video on it," Richardson said.

The FAFSA form also consists of six sections that all ask about either you, your family, or colleges that you want to apply to.

Make sure to answer all of the questions truthfully and as accurately as possible because it helps determine how much money in financial aid and student loans you can get.

"Colleges and career schools use the FAFSA form to determine how much financial aid you're eligible to receive, which could include grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and

loans," studentaid.gov said. "You must apply for aid every year, but with the right information in hand, it's easy."

Every section is very important but one thing that should be kept in mind is that when completing the college list section, make sure to add any college that you intend on adding or have already added to your Common App account.

This ensures that any important financial aid or scholarship information will be sent to your chosen college.

"A school aid offer (sometimes called an award letter) tells you what financial aid you can receive at a particular college or career school," studentaid.gov said. "If you've applied to several schools, be sure to compare aid offers to see which school will be the most affordable."

Once you fill out your section of the application, it will prompt you to have the form sent to a parent or guardian through their email.

Once it is sent to them, they will also have to fill out four sections of the application.

"How you'll get your aid depends on the type of aid you accepted," studentaid.gov said. "Typically, the school first applies your grant or loan money toward your tuition,

fees, and (if you live on campus) room and board. Any money left over is paid to you directly for other education expenses."

After all of the FAFSA is filled out by you and the parent or guardian you sent it to, it will be submitted then it will take at least a few days to process, and an email will be sent once it is completed.

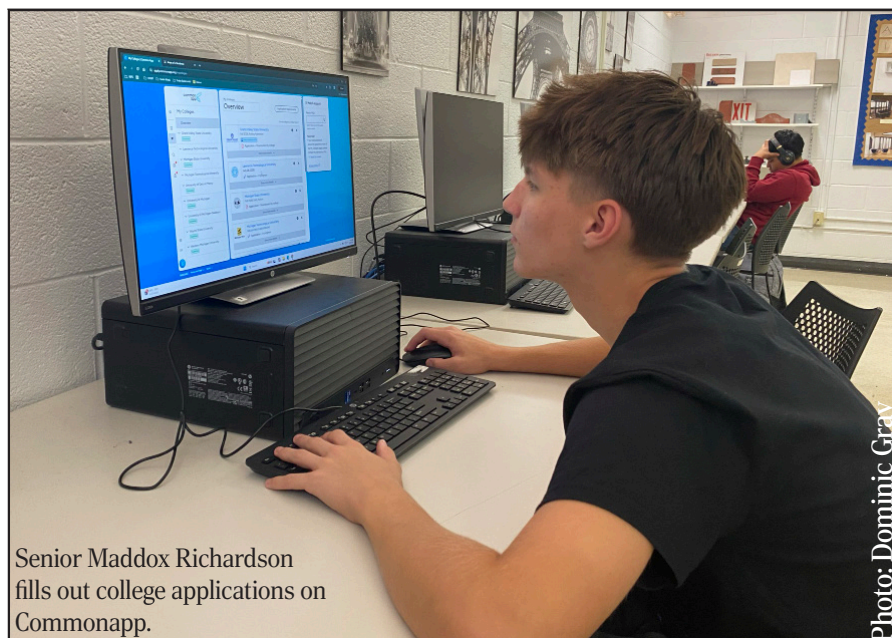
This means that you can see your estimated amount of money in aid and loans that you can get.

"The college(s) or career/trade

school(s) you list on your FAFSA form will have access to your FAFSA data electronically within a day after it is processed," studentaid.gov said.

Finally, after everything is reviewed, completed, and submitted, keep an eye on the email that is associated with the accounts for FAFSA and Common App.

Important information and any communications from colleges, that includes application portal setup and admwssion decisions, will be sent here.



Senior Maddox Richardson fills out college applications on Commonapp.

Guided toward the future

How do college visits *actually* help seniors?

Ainslea Harper, Copy Editor

Every year, representatives from a handful of Michigan colleges come to Roosevelt and talk to students about applications, financial aid, and other important things seniors should know about their school.

“During the college visits they would talk about how important it is to tour their college campus first to see if we like it, and then they would talk about all the opportunities they have, usually clubs and sports, as well as financial aid and the different types of scholarships they offer,” RHS alumni Valentina Medina-Peralta said.

The admissions counselors that visit the school are able to provide all kinds of information to appeal to students who are interested in that school.

“I remember the people who came were extremely prepared and were able to answer every question that was thrown their way, even the odd ones,” RHS alumni Alexandra Puckett said.

A big part of these visits are to provide students with information they

need in order to submit their college applications. Competitive colleges like University of Michigan focus mainly on application requirements, while less competitive colleges focus their visits on campus life and opportunities.

“They made it really easy to apply to the college you’re visiting, at the end of their presentation they usually ask if you need help with the application process which was very helpful,” Medina-Peralta said.

Additionally, going to these visits and getting information can help narrow down which colleges to apply to.

“I didn’t submit... some of my applications, until maybe after my second visit. That way I could get a gist on what the colleges are like, [what they are] offering and everything,” Senior Ashley Flores said.

Flores has been to as many college visits as she can, including the visits for Eastern, Northwood, Grand Valley, The University of Michigan Ann Arbor, and Michigan State University.

“I’m just trying to see what my

options are, like the best like college to go to [and] hearing from another person what their college is all about is different from looking on a website or just checking the different like resources they have...[they] explain what scholarship opportunities they offer, or the different housing plans or educational plans,” Flores said. “It really helps play into where I want to go to college, and I’m just accumulating all this knowledge to help narrow down what college I really want to go to.”

Another pro to going to the college visits is how much easier it is to get information directly from a college representative than online.

“[The visits] were more one on one, and it was easier to talk to someone about it (questions about the college) rather than struggle to find it online,” Puckett said.

While the college visits are generally very informative, sometimes the presenters’ attitude can turn students away from applying there.

“Something that stood out to me was how some of the college visit

presenters really didn’t have a good vibe,” Medina-Peralta said. “I felt like some just went because they had to, not really to convince students why their college is the best option for them.”

Even though some of the presenters are not up to par, seniors still recommend going to these visits for college-bound students.

“I would recommend going to these visits because they’re very informative, and you can ask questions that may not be found on their website and everything. That’s why I spend a lot of time [going to the visits],” Flores said. “My interest is mostly afterwards, when they...give you time [for] a Q and A, because all of the questions that I previously had or that were sparked during the visit really get answered.”

While it may seem like a waste of time, going to the college visits offered is a good idea for college bound seniors to better understand the colleges they’re interested in and narrow down their options to make the best decision for their future.

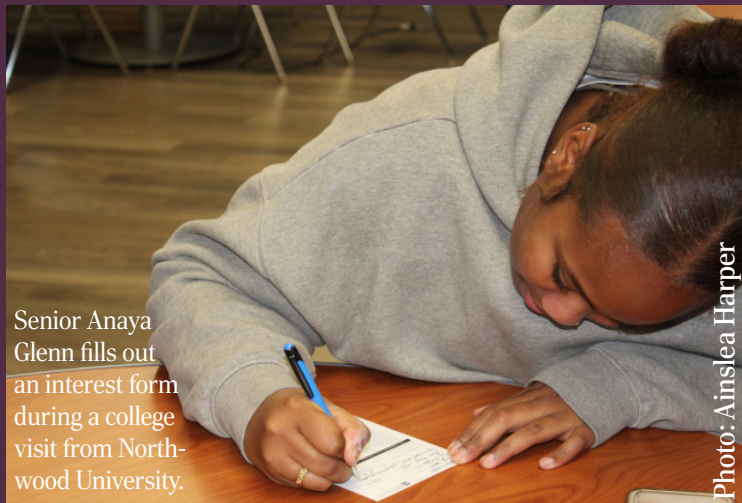
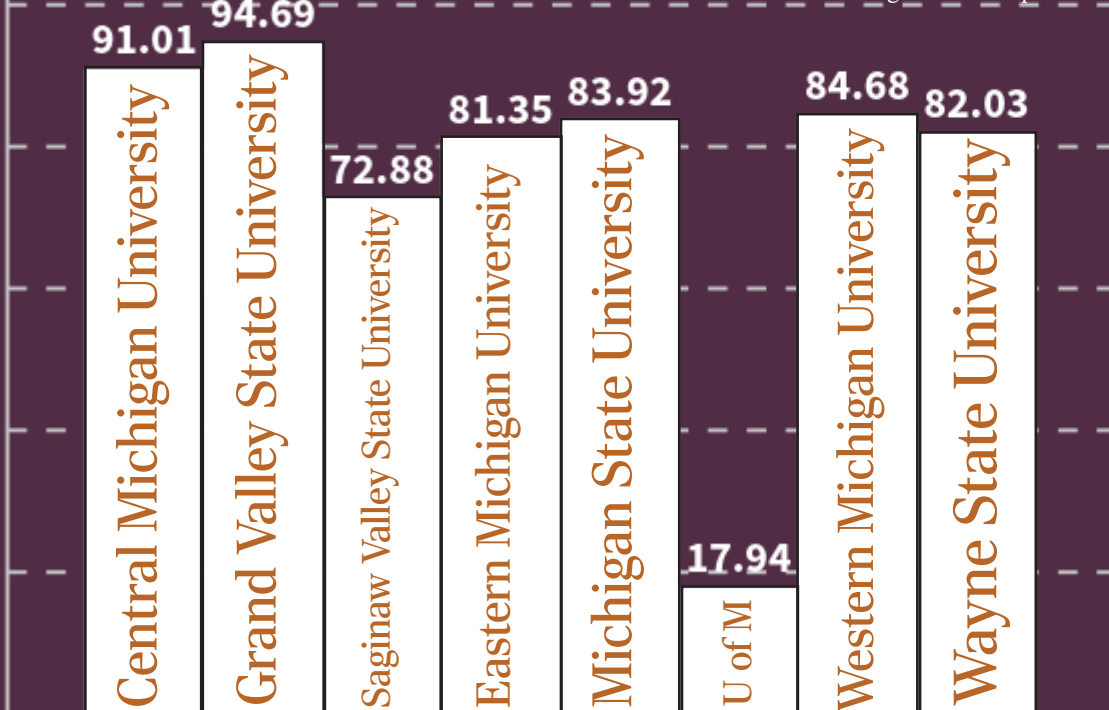
Applications at a Glance

2024-25 applicants in Michigan increase 1% from 23-24 season, national average of 6% increase

Source: commonapp.org

Popular Michigan College’s 2024 Acceptance rates (%)

Source: Collegetuitioncompare.com



Senior Anaya Glenn fills out an interest form during a college visit from Northwood University.

Photo: Ainslea Harper

Important dates to know:

- FAFSA due June 30, 2026
*financial aid is given on a first come first serve basis, so fill out ASAP!
Source: studentaid.gov
- Wyandotte Scholarship foundation opens applications in January-February 2026
- June 2026- Application deadlines for colleges with rolling admission: Most of the popular colleges in MI have rolling admission.

Graphic: Ainslea Harper

Opinion

Monica's Monocle



Wyandotte runs on Coffee

Monica Patterson, Assistant Editor

The minute you walk into school at 8:00am every morning, you're likely to see people with cups from Dunkin, Starbucks, or Tim Hortons in hand. I myself am guilty of a weekly Dunkin drink before school.

I don't blame my fellow students; coffee before school gives me something to look forward to and boosts my spirit for the day. However, the same three coffee shop cups flood our hallways.

Luckily in Wyandotte, we have a downtown area with multiple small businesses. Why don't we stop and support one of our local coffee shops for a change instead of being another pawn in the system of corporate demolition?

The main problem I've noticed is convenience. Starbucks, Dunkin, and Tim Hortons have drive-thrus that result in a quick stop-and-go. Almost no extra time is required to get up in the morning for a simple coffee. Our smaller shops, including The Coffee Lounge, James Oliver, and Kekoa Brew Co. are all go-in-to-grab places.

This convenience comes with a cost. The more purchases from big corporations, the less business is given to smaller shops. In AP Lang, we discuss the book *Fast Food Nation*, which highlights the truth behind the rise of fast food corporations. Many small businesses have to close because of the lack of business, and the people behind making a sweet coffee everyday get taken advantage of through low pay and gross working conditions.

Let's face it; nobody really cares. I still stop at Dunkin for my coffee instead of locally owned mom-and-pop shops. However, with my newly acquired knowledge from reading that book, I'm certainly going to rethink my coffee stop locations.

The Coffee Lounge in downtown Wyandotte provides higher-quality coffee

than I thought it would. It has a beautiful cafe and eating area, despite the location being relatively small. Whilst waiting for a drink or sipping on a cold brew, the seating area is stacked with cards and board games for patrons to enjoy with friends.

James Oliver only has three locations, all in Downriver Michigan. Unfortunately, they aren't open before school, but they serve up way more variety than just a morning coffee. When I visited the James Oliver establishment in Wyandotte, close to their fresh opening, I took note of the items they serve. Some things that stood out to me ranged from pizza bagels to ice cream, as well as different pastries and even Mexican Coke.

Kekoa Brew Co. has two locations, one in Wyandotte and one Woodhaven. Their location is cute, but modern and simple with pastel colors and greenery. Throughout their store, you'll notice many waves and checkered patterns, and fall decor for the season. Kekoa also opens directly at 8 a.m., but their creative drinks such as iced oatmeal cookie lattes or banana pudding drinks make it worthy of an after-school visit before they close at 4 p.m.

Kekoa Brew Co.'s story hits the hearts of many, as co-owner Alyssa Shensky has been brain cancer free for nine years.

Kekoa means "brave" in Hawaiian, which was also the name of an endangered whale shark Shensky and her husband and co-owner, Tyler Shensky saw whilst snorkeling in Hawaii. The coincidence combined with A. Shensky's story with her tumor inspired the couple, thus creating Kekoa Brew Co.

The company proves that every small-town business owner has a story. Maybe you should consider someone else's before buying that \$7 venti iced-shaken espresso.

Small shops take on Downriver coffee scene

Monica Patterson, Assistant Editor

While chain coffee shops dominate many corners of Downriver, local cafes such as Kekoa Brew Co, James Oliver, and the Coffee Lounge strive for a more community-driven atmosphere.

After years of success with two other Detroit locations, company James Oliver Coffee Co. opened their doors to Wyandotte in July 2025. Originating in New Hampshire in 1995, James and Annie Oliver founded the first coffee shop under the brand. In 2019, J. Oliver passed the responsibility to his daughter, Miranda Clark, and her husband, David Shock.

"I was kind of excited it was opening at first, because there's one in Detroit," junior Ella Martinez said. "I went there with my family. I just thought it was really cute, and I really liked their food options."

Another shop that started small and has grown in popularity, resulting in expansion, takes place at Kekoa Brew Co, a small shop located off of Eureka and Third Street in Wyandotte that expanded to Woodhaven.

"We roast our own coffee and make our own syrups," Lead Kekoa Brew Co. Barista Emily Trader said. Trader has worked at Kekoa for over a year and values her responsibilities, communicating with the owners and fellow baristas.

Beyond the drinks, Kekoa Brew Co. has become a gathering place for meaningful and honest conversations, hosting monthly "sip and chat" events for the LGBTQ+ community.

"Every month we host our sip and chat," Trader said. "It's for 18 and older LGBTQ

community members to come in and hang out and have an open space to talk about what they're going through."

The shop has proved to provide not only a sense of belonging, but is actively resulting in growing friendships and connections.

"I have people that come in here every morning, then over time, other regulars come in then all of a sudden they're sitting at a table together," Trader said.

Kekoa Brew Co. isn't the only shop aiming for comfort amongst their customers. The Coffee Lounge on Oak Street values a relaxing atmosphere.

"We're very laid back with everything," Coffee Lounge Barista Trevor Senterfit said. "I worked at Biggy for about a year or two, and they're usually very corporate."

Walking into the cafe, the first thing often noticed is the dimly lit scene, accompanied by board games and dog treats in an attempt to make the place feel a lot more like home.

"We just have a little game area because it just gives a different level of 'Let's just hang out,'" Senterfit said. "We'd like to do a little bit more with the gaming area... I do think it helps a lot, enough to where I think it's noticeable if we don't have it."

The shop's main value is to create a space where customers want to stay and relax, whether it's to study, catch up with friends, or just hang out.

"I don't want customers to feel like it's a very corporate kind of thing," Senterfit said. "My sisters, along with other kids I see, come here and do work after school."

Being a downriver location, the store recog-

nizes the efforts of some different types of businesses Downtown as well.

"We are very friendly with the owners of District 142 and Jeremy at Joe's Hamburgers," Senterfit said.

Despite these local shops filling every cup with care and meaning, students and others around Wyandotte frequently visit corporate chain stores for their daily coffee.

"It's (Dunkin' is) kind of more convenient because it's right next to the school," senior Autumn Henry said. "I think I just like the flavor of their refreshers better."

Others also choose bigger chains because of their ability to get free drinks from rewards systems.

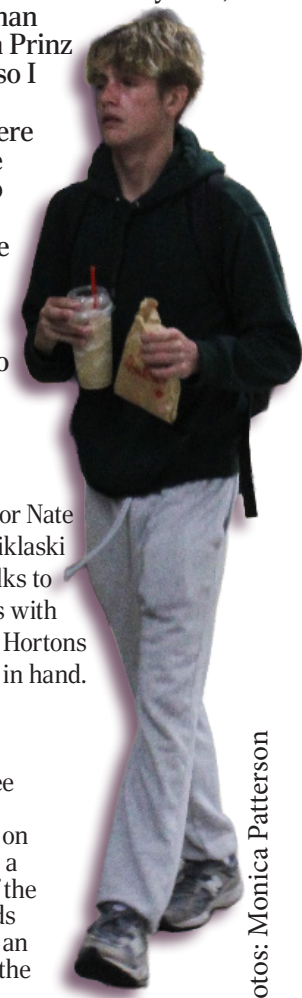
"I have over 2000 points at Dunkin', so I get free stuff all the time," junior Shaelynn Mack said.

Big coffee chains have recently had an increase in sales, from Dunkin's remodeled store and a new Starbucks located on Biddle.

"I don't have to drive to Riverview or somewhere else to get Starbucks anymore, which is really cool,"

freshman Emma Prinz said, "so I think kids here will be able to get it more so they don't have to wait."

Senior Nate Miklaski walks to class with Tim Hortons in hand.



1. At The Coffee Lounge, two customers sip on their drinks in a cozy corner of the shop. 2. Friends sit and chat in an open space at the front of Kekoa Brew Co.'s store.

Photos: Monica Patterson

Applying, Waiting, Waiting...

High school students face struggles in job market

Eleanor Grant, Editor-in-Chief

For many high school students, securing a job proves more difficult than anticipated, even when businesses advertise openings. Teens report submitting numerous applications, often with little to no response.

"I've been trying to find a job since the summer, like since last year," junior Maxwell Gray said. "I'd say I've applied to over 40 places."

Despite the volume of applications, responses are not guaranteed. Many businesses require individuals to have prior experience, which is hard for a first job.

"I applied at the Dunkin' in Wyandotte, and they said I needed a year in fast-food experience. But I need to get a job to get experience," Gray said.

Nationally, youth unemployment remains a challenge. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, only about half of 16 to 24-year-olds were employed in July 2024.

"The unemployment rate in July 2025 for those ages 16 to 24, at 10.8 percent, was higher than the prior summer (9.8 percent)," the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Some students, however, report having an easier time when they bring prior skills or experience. Senior Christian Goodell has years of hands-on work in Auto Shop, which has helped him greatly.

"Employers are more willing to listen and contact you back since they don't have to educate you as much," Goodell said. "They already know you have knowledge. They know that you've done it before, so they'll go for you first before someone who's completely inexperienced."

Goodell doesn't currently work at an auto shop but finds work on his own.

"I've done auto shop for three years. I've been working on cars since I was probably around eight," Goodell said.

"And I've had a bunch of small jobs, family, friends. I do small gigs on the side like a mobile mechanic."

Those applying to more general jobs find the application process frustrating and unresponsive. Sophomore Akira Clark-Cooper applied to four local businesses: Tim Hortons, Kroger, Meijer, and McDonald's.

"[The only place] I heard back from was Kroger, and I actually went there in person," Clark-Cooper

said. "They said that they would give me a call back, or even, like an email. And I never got that."

There are two main ways to apply for a job: online through either the business's website or apps like Indeed, or by going in person and getting a paper application.

"Mainly, I just applied to all of it online through the career thing that they have on their websites," Clark-Cooper said.

Some employers seem hesitant to hire younger teens because of perceived inability to do certain tasks.

"I think it's just because some teenagers are not, they can't do work correctly, or stuff like that," Clark-Cooper said. "So I think jobs, they don't want to really hire younger teenagers."

More specifically, employers seem to prefer older high school students instead of having a general concern with teen employees.

"My friends, they haven't really gotten anything back either," Clark-Cooper said. "But I do see some people that aren't in my grade, they're maybe a year older, and they do have jobs."

The problem of teens being unable to join the workforce at a young age spirals into a lack of experience and credibility when joining future careers.

"[Needing to have experience] obviously that's hard," Clark-Cooper said. "You have to do the job in order to get the experience."

A few Roosevelt students noted that they have been able to get jobs through friends who already work at the location they are applying to.

"My friends, it's like they get recruited, they're always like, yeah, my friend works here, and I got a job, and I'm like, oh," Gray said. "But other friends haven't really gotten anything back either."

Some students have found work quickly. Sophomore Lyndsey Domzalski has been working at Tim Hortons since school started.

"It took only a few days to hear back from Tim

Hortons, and the application process involved picking up a paper application at the desk," Domzalski said.

Even with her positive experience in the job market, Domzalski sees many of her friends struggling to get hired.

"I've heard that a lot of people have said that so many places are so desperate," Domzalski said, "but others have said that even though they're applying to all these places, they're not hearing back about anything."

Experts say this pattern isn't unique to local students. A Business Insider report highlights a disconnect between Gen Z job seekers and hiring managers.

Only 2% of Gen Z respondents identified the values employers most prioritize, contributing to hiring challenges in a competitive labor market. Employers seek reliability, availability, and work-readiness, which many young teens can't offer.

"[My prior experience] gives me a leg up because I already know what some other applicants don't," Goodell said.

Even with these advantages, the frustration of unanswered applications can affect students emotionally.

"When I continually don't hear back from places," Gray said, "it makes me mad, and then I just go ask my parents for money."

The struggles of teen employment reflect a larger issue of how younger workers are integrated into the workforce.

Experts at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics say that employers often prefer older teens or those with prior skills, leaving younger students or first-time applicants at a disadvantage.

"[Teenagers are] not really credible," Gray said. "Also, a lot of teenagers are bums."

The reality is that teen employment is often about timing, persistence, and prior experience. While some, like Goodell and Domzalski, navigate the job market successfully, others continue to face obstacles that discourage them from seeking work.



Photo: Eleanor Grant

Junior Maxwell Gray checks his application on Indeed. Gray applied to many places both online and in person.

Sound tra

An unexpected direction

The journey that led to being Roosevelt High School band director

Kiera Byrne and Lydia Blonski, Reporters

This year, RHS has a new band director, Brian Wieczorek, alumnus of the class of 2015, who has decided to return to RHS.

"I always wanted to come back here," Wieczorek said. "This is where I really found my love for music and my passion for teaching."

He graduated from Wayne State with a bachelor's in instrumental music and began teaching at Taylor High School in the fall of 2021, where he directed the band for four years.

"There's a lot of people who want me to

succeed and do well. Not that I didn't have that at Taylor, but it's a different type, because I went here," Wieczorek said.

His start to RHS music dates back to Wilson Middle School, where he was a trombone player under his music teacher Mike Noble's guidance.

"I wanted to be a percussionist, and Mr. Noble didn't let me be a percussionist, and he made me be a trombone player because I had long arms," Wieczorek said. "I was going to quit band after sixth grade... Mr. Noble, who was the middle school director at the time, he convinced me to stay."

He continued his journey through the band throughout his high school career, sticking with it because of Noble, but it wasn't until he joined

the marching band that his heart was truly in it.

"I didn't want to continue band going into high school," Wieczorek said. "Mr. Noble called again and said, 'Don't let him quit, he's got some potential.' So I stuck it out and I tried marching band. As soon as I joined, I was hooked."

Although he's a band director now, that was not in his vision growing up.

"I wanted to be a pharmacist," Wieczorek said. "so I was going to go to a school for pharmacy."

Although music has been a constant in Wieczorek's life since he was young, he never thought of it in an intense way. It wasn't until sophomore year of high school that he started taking it seriously.

"I didn't know really how to play my instrument that well," Wieczorek said. "I didn't know how to read music... I was kind of a kid that flew under the radar in middle school and early in high school," Wieczorek said, "I would play the trombone. So it was really easy to look at someone else's slide and just match it and

then copy what they did."

The ability for him to just skate by changed when he was called upon to play a solo for a band performance and he didn't know how to play it. Having to admit to his section leader that he didn't know how to play his instrument sparked a new motivation within him...

"He was like, 'you're about to be a junior in high school, and you haven't learned how to play your instrument,'" Wieczorek said.

From there, he began to take band more seriously and excelled in ways that didn't go unnoticed.

"He was always one of the best, even as a freshman," coworker and fellow RHS alumnus David Trusewicz said. "You knew that he was going to be a leader since his freshman year."

Trusewicz and Wieczorek both graduated in the class of 2015 and attended Wayne State University together. They are rather close friends, along with being colleagues.

"He's over my house once or twice a week, watching football. So yeah, we stay connected," Trusewicz said.

Along with his connection to Trusewicz, he remained connected to his former band instructor, Mark D'Angelo, who got Wieczorek thinking about pursuing a career in music.

"I talked to Mr. D'Angelo in the band room during my senior year," Wieczorek said, "and he was like 'well, you'd make a pretty good band director.'"

After that experience, Wieczorek started to really consider what he wanted his future to look like. He started at Wayne State majoring in pharmacy like he planned, but it only made him realize that instead of sitting at a cubicle, he wanted to do something that he would be happy with; that's where the idea of music came back into the picture.

"He reached out to me and said 'you know, I think I might have made a mistake,'" D'Angelo said. "Is it too late for me to switch over?"

Throughout his pursuit of music, Wieczorek and D'Angelo continued to stay in touch, and now that Wieczorek works in the same district, they

are even closer. In fact, Wieczorek assists D'Angelo with the band at the middle school in the mornings.

"It's a unique experience teaching with your former teacher now, like now you're colleagues," Wieczorek said.

Since Wieczorek has previous experience directing band, this isn't his first rodeo. But there is a difference that lifts some weight off his shoulders; more staff members.

"It's super helpful to have a lot more staff members that help out," Wieczorek said. "Almost every section has an instructor who helps them, and that makes my job easier."

As for the band, Wieczorek has led them into a successful first year with the show "Get Happy: The Joy of Marching." So far, the band placed in the top three in their Plymouth competition, and the colorguard has won first place in multiple competitions.

"We've gotten better every competition we've done," Wieczorek said.

As for the future of the band, this year's show theme was not decided by him, but he already has ideas in the work for next year's performance.

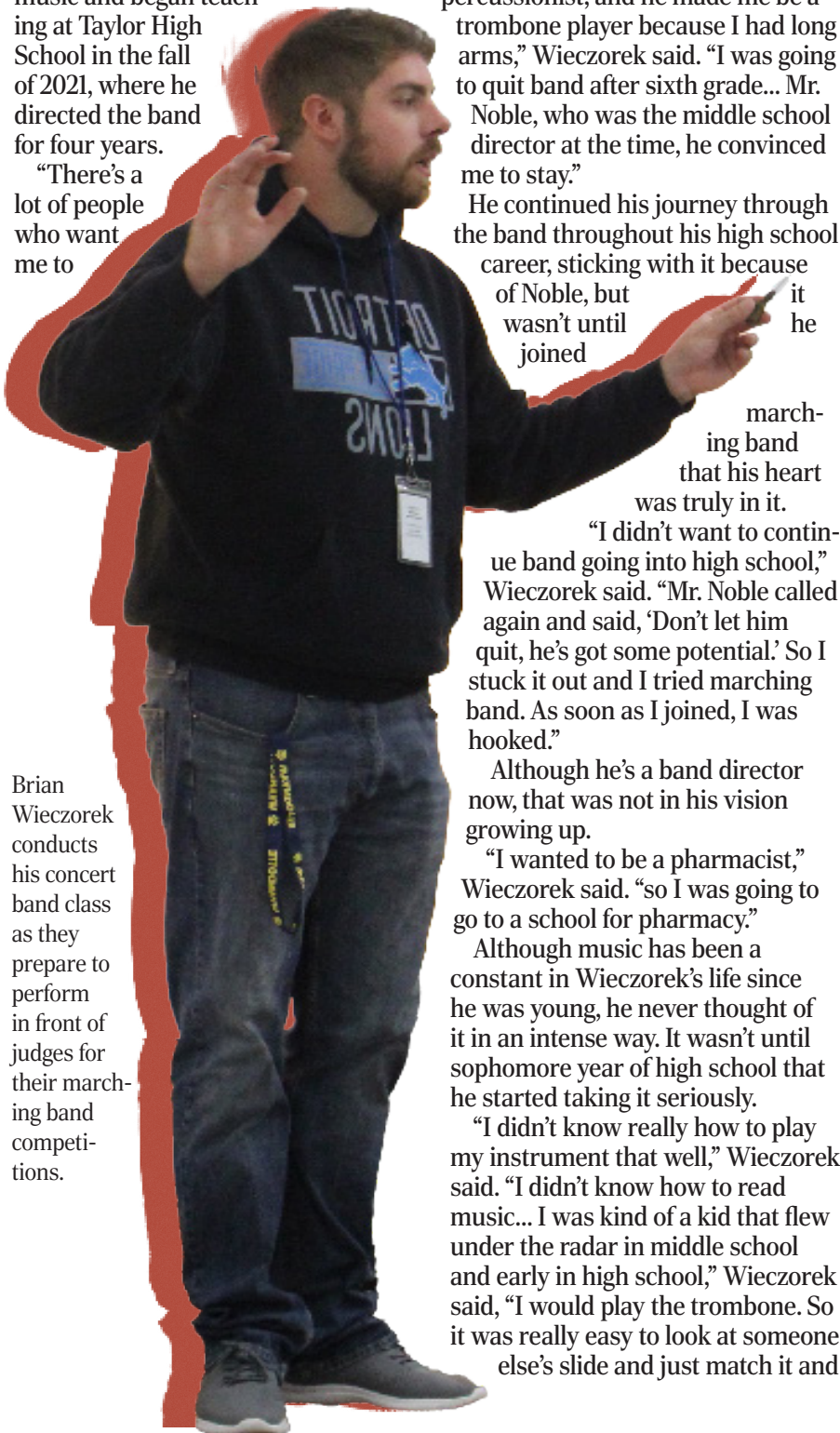
Like any good teacher, Wieczorek wants his students to excel. The direction he wants to take in not just marching band, but also the various bands at RHS, is different from previous shows and performances. He's determined to help the kids grow by taking them out of their comfort zone and doing something different from upbeat themes of the past.

"I'd like to do something not dark, but... gutwrenching," Wieczorek said. "We've done this happy stuff... so next year, I want to maybe flip through the other side and maybe something darker."

Trusted by D'Angelo, the band will be taken care of by Wieczorek with such an infectious passion for the art with the hope that the band crescendos to new heights.

"I always try to keep this in mind when I'm teaching, is, you know, the next band director of Roosevelt High School could be in one of those seats," Wieczorek said.

Brian Wieczorek conducts his concert band class as they prepare to perform in front of judges for their marching band competitions.



ck of RHS

Band Sweetheart

Band Cutie



Band Sweetheart



1. Emery Barnes and Yale Melo walk down the football field as their names and achievements are read out for the friends and family to hear. 2. Estaban Delgado and Alayna Balderrama joyfully stroll down the middle of the 50 yard line as Alayna smiles at the audience and Esteban blows a kiss to them. 3. After twirling each other down the middle of the field, Alessio Vitale and Ainslea Harper stand proudly smiling at the crowd as they are honored for their roles within the marching band. 4. Yale Melo rejoices as he is crowned Band Cutie. 5. Band Sweetheart is crowned to Alayna Balderrama as she stands in shock with a smile stretching ear to ear across her face.

Harmony through the years

RHS A Cappella Choir reconnects through performance

Lydia Blonski, Reporters

On October 21, RHS hosted its annual Alumni concert, where A Cappella Choirs' alumni got a chance to reconnect with their old love for choir.

"I just loved it," A Cappella Choir Alumnus Lori Stevenson said. "I've done as many of the alumni concerts as I could."

Head of RHS's Choir Gerald Hymer reaches out to the former members through Facebook to ask if they want to come back and sing, never really knowing who will respond.

"It's kind of random every year," Hymer said. "I don't get the same people every time."

During the show's final songs, the Alumni got a chance to sing the music they know so dearly: the "Wyandotte Fight Song," "Wyandotte Color Song," and "Battle Hymn of the Republic." These songs date back all the way to the early days of the school to represent how intertwined they are with RHS, just as the alumni are with the choir.

"I think these songs, most of the songs we sang with them, were songs that they sang when they were here," current A Cappella member Fallon Predhome-Decker said.

The alumni members who came back to sing these old songs span across decades, from 2025 graduates to alumni from the 1970s. Some members are even related.

"I love singing in the alumni concert with my daughter, who graduated in 2006," A Capella alumnus Lori Stevenson said. "It's just really a special feeling."

The old songs played at the end are not the only songs the choir sang. The Beginners' choirs sang, "I Dare You." The RoVaSi Choir continued the show by performing multiple dance numbers. Then, this year's A Cappella choir came out and sang their own performance before calling up the alumni to join them.

"So, there's not a whole lot of popular music for this one: the fall is a little weird," Hymer said. "I'm learning how each ensemble works, what they sound like."

As generations come and go through the choir's program, they all stay connected with the Alumni Concert, providing evidence of how strong that connection is.

"I'm hoping that these kids get to experience it 53 years from now like I did, and feel that specialness," Stevenson said. "It's such a community."

Keeping The Fire Burning

David Trusewicz's family history and his continuation of the passion

Riley Hodges, Reporter

For three generations, the Trusewicz family has resided in Wyandotte. Shirley Manore, the clan's first generation, has still managed to keep her sentiment for the city and values burning through her grandchildren; one of them being social studies teacher David Trusewicz.

D. Trusewicz and his brother Matthew Trusewicz reflected the same opinions on their beloved grandmother, Shirley, who taught her family to have strong values and to strive to be the people that the world lacks today.

"I feel like she instilled kindness into us, and that's something that this world really lacks," M. Trusewicz said. "We would not be the same person who we are today without her."

The Trusewicz family has managed to build a large history with Wyandotte. Both their parents have worked within the city; his mother as a nurse at Wyandotte Hospital and his father as a police officer in the city of Wyandotte for over twenty-five years. D. Trusewicz and his siblings all went to Wyandotte

schools and graduated from Roosevelt.

Both D. Trusewicz and his brother decided on the path of education and currently work here, at Roosevelt. D. Trusewicz was recently an interim assistant principal but is currently teaching history, English and is the varsity coach for the girls swim team. M. Trusewicz works as an aid for students enrolled in the Special Education Department.

"I think it just kind of runs in the family too, like me, my brother, and sister have all had a history of working with kids; in a way, it just comes natural," D. Trusewicz said.

Given this history with Wyandotte, D. Trusewicz still shares and wishes to pass along values that he learned from his grandmother.

His passion for teaching was ignited by teachers he previously had such as English teacher Kelly Lomas.

"I felt like, and I even hate admitting this, but I felt like he was a co-worker. That graduating class had their eye on the prize, you know?" Lomas said.

During his college years, D. Trusewicz's wife Lizz Trusewicz, also a teacher, was a huge helping factor towards his career as well.

"She's the best teacher I know. She really cares, and everyday I just want to be like her," D. Trusewicz said.

L. Trusewicz was by his side through college, helping him every step of the way. Her work ethic eventually sprung onto him which fueled his fire even more.

"I always wanted to be like her, she inspired me," D. Trusewicz said.

At this current moment, David doesn't wish to be in a higher position, but would likely be interested in the future.

He believes that the city has a lot to offer, which is part of the reason he decided to stay in Wyandotte. With its variety of parks, businesses, and sentiment to him there seems to be no reason to leave.

"Am I gonna sit here and say it's perfect? No, there are some things that need to improve here and there," D. Trusewicz said.

Though in the future, if ever taking

up a higher position, D. Trusewicz wishes to build a better sense of community in Wyandotte.

"People are always gathering downtown. You look at the playgrounds and parks and where, you know, kids will always go and just drive around seeing sporting events going on. I do feel like as a city, though, we need to work towards being more inclusive to all groups," D. Trusewicz said.

David wishes to mend lingering inequalities within the city and form a stronger community for everyone. For instance, during the Black Lives Matter movement, the backlash that resulted from protests held in downtown Wyandotte opened his eyes to the lack of inclusivity in the community.

He wishes to foster more common understanding and even develop more opportunities for people even if it's just building better parks for children.

"He's always seen people as people. I've never known Mr. Trusewicz to be unkind to anybody," Lomas said.



Photo: Samuel Martinez

A Wyandotte Love Story

RHS teacher has generational loyalty for the city

Miliany Zapata, Reporter

Although love is known to be patient, it may not always be kind, and for English and history teacher David Trusewicz, it turned out to be a rollercoaster.

"My wife and I met in second grade... she broke up with me for a kid that was faster than me and we didn't talk for a couple of years," Trusewicz said.

This was just the beginning of an ongoing story for Trusewicz. Although the connection between him and his wife wasn't strong then, that didn't stop his generational loyalty for Wyandotte.

Ultimately, Trusewicz has always been a very important part of Wyandotte along with his wife Lizz Trusewicz. Who he eventually rekindled with.

Throughout high school, they were in the same friend group and even went to prom together.

"Prom was right around the corner. I didn't have a date, she didn't have a date so we went as friends.

We had the same classes and shared interests," D. Trusewicz said.

L. Trusewicz also went into education and took a job teaching in Southwest Detroit during covid, helping D. Trusewicz prepare for job interviews and look for jobs.

"She's the best teacher that I know. She really cares, and every day I want to be just like her," D. Trusewicz said.

L. Trusewicz now teaches at Trenton and has been alongside D. Trusewicz since the second grade at Washington Elementary school in Mr. Stanley's classroom.

"Marrying my wife has been my biggest accomplishment," D. Trusewicz said.

David Trusewicz and his wife Lizz Trusewicz at Universal Studios in 2024. Universal is one of their favorite places to go together.



Photo courtesy: David Trusewicz

Trusewicz's proposal at MSU Botanical Gardens, 2021.

Is Halloween losing its spark?

Does the season of events take away from the day of fun?

Emmalee Eskin, Managing Editor

There's nothing scarier on Halloween than having no trick-or-treaters come to your door. With the rise of candy prices, trunk-or-treats, and safety concerns, parents are not taking their kids out trick-or-treating as much as they have in the past.

"There's less people passing out [candy] in my neighborhood, and less people coming to my house," Wyandotte parent Nick Lofton said.

Parents, specifically in the Wyandotte community, have noticed fewer people passing out candy. This could be due to a rise in candy prices.

"[A reason that fewer people are passing out candy is] the price of candy, that's part of it," Lofton said.

At Walmart, a thirty-piece bag of candy costs around \$6. This may not seem like a lot, but households can get anywhere from 25-100 kids for trick-or-treating. If you give every child three pieces of candy, that is ten bags of candy you will have to buy, which will run about \$60. It is safe to say that Halloween candy is not cheap, and you are not even guaranteed a number of trick-or-treaters.

A survey conducted by the National Retail Federation estimated

that Americans will spend \$3.9 billion on Halloween candy this year. In 2024, Americans spent \$3.5 billion, and in 2018 \$2.6 billion.

Another Wyandotte parent, Melissa Yates, participates in multiple trunk-or-treats a year.

"I feel like there's a lot less people actually out trick-or-treating, opposed to doing the trunk-or-treating," Yates said.

There are so many trunk-or-treat options in the Wyandotte community. Many families choose to go to these over going out on Halloween to trick-or-treat.

"A lot of parents think it's safer to have them (their children) in one area instead of going through neighborhoods," Yates said.

A huge concern for parents is the safety of their children. Trunk-or-treats are a better option for some because they are contained in one area; this way, the parent knows exactly where their child is at all times.

Travis Collins, another Wyandotte parent, also participates in multiple trunk-or-treat events a year. Although Collins and his family attend and pass out candy at trunk-or-treats, he still takes his kids out on Halloween to trick-or-treat.

"I think less people trick-or-treat now than when I was a kid," Collins said. "Everyone got really into it when I was younger."

Wyandotte parents have noticed a major decrease in children going out on Halloween to trick-or-treat, but Roosevelt students have not. One of the main reasons that less people are trick-or-treating is because there are less people in the age range of trick-or-treating.

In the 2018 census, there were 55.5 million kids aged 5-14. In the 2024 census, there were 27.8 million kids in the same age group. That is almost half the number of kids in 2018 compared to 2024.

"I think they (high schoolers) do other stuff," freshman Valencia Pitchford said. "They probably think it's lame, and they'd rather be home and play on their phones."

It may seem like a lot of high schoolers do not go trick-or-treating anymore, but 89% of students who were surveyed said they still go trick-or-treating.

"I don't think [age] matters [when going trick-or-treating]. You should just be able to do whatever you want," senior Will Brock said. "I think it's mainly because we're really afraid of being embarrassed."

Even though it seems like trick-or-treat is dying, there are still many families and high schoolers keeping the Halloween spirit alive, and taking advantage of free candy.



1. Photos: Emmalee Eskin



2.

1. Holding open his bag, a Garfield student collects candy from a table at a Trunk-or-Treat. Every year Garfield Elementary School hosts a Trunk-or-Treat where parents and community

members can set up a booth. 2. A parent reaches over her table to place candy into a student's bag. The trunk or treat is usually held outside, but this year it was inside due to the weather

3. Senior Emma Jordan picks a pumpkin from Wiard's Orchard. At Wiard's, you can pick your own pumpkin from a patch, or purchase one from a store.

Falling for Fun

Activities to keep busy, enjoy the fall weather

Emmalee Eskin, Managing Editor

Since the peak of fall is right around the corner, people want to enjoy the weather as much as they can. If going out places isn't for you, then simply sitting outside is the perfect way to soak up all that fall has to offer. A survey was sent to students to find out what their favorite things are to do in fall. Many enjoy sitting outside with a book and coffee. Some other ways to get the most of the fall weather is by going on walks, bike rides, or raking leaves. Students who play sports, such as football or tennis, enjoy playing these outside while the weather permits. There are countless activities to do in the fall, but most Roosevelt students believe their favorite thing to do is visit an apple orchard and go to haunted houses.

Visit an apple orchard

A great way to get out during the fall is to visit a pumpkin patch or an apple orchard with friends or family. Wiard's Orchard, located in Washington, MI, and Apple Charlie's, in New Boston, MI, are popular spots with many fun fall activities. Both orchards offer apple and pumpkin picking, corn mazes, hay rides, and of course, cider and donuts. Wiard's Orchards has a set price for admission into the orchard, which will give you access to everything they have to offer. The only thing that will cost extra is picking apples or pumpkins. Admission for a weekday costs \$18, but the price for a weekend ticket goes up to \$26. At Apple Charlie's, some activities like the hay rides or corn maze have their own separate cost. Hayrides cost \$5, the Corn Maze is \$8, and apple picking costs \$30.

Go to a Haunted House

If you're interested in paying to be scared by people, then haunted houses are the perfect activity for you in the fall. There are many local haunted houses, car washes, or forests that will provide a spooky experience. Fast Splash Car Wash, located on Fort St in Wyandotte, runs a haunted car wash from 7pm-11pm every weekend in October for \$20 per vehicle. In a haunted car wash, you sit in the car and leave the doors unlocked. The scare actors will jump out in front of your windows and even sit in the car next to you. On top of this, you will also be getting a car wash. One of the most popular Haunted Houses is Eloise Asylum located in Westland, MI. Admission on weekdays starts at \$25, but goes up to \$45 per person on Fridays and the weekends.

Photo: Fair Use



Photos: Emmalee Eskin

Dia De Los Muertos at RHS

Traditional differences in America vs. Mexico for Day of the Dead

Miliany Zapata, Reporter

Dia De Los Muertos has its roots in indigenous traditions, but here in Wyandotte, the holiday which falls the day after Halloween is celebrated differently, considering how times have changed and traditions have vanished.

“During this day, my family and I make tamales, we pray for our family that has passed away, and we talk to the pictures of our loved ones so that they can come and visit us from above,” senior Isabella Alarcon said.

Day of the Dead originated in Mexico during the 18th century. This tradition was not meant to be spooky or sad, but to celebrate deceased loved ones. Around the world, many people create altars called ofrendas (offerings) with their favorite foods, decorating graves and creating sugar skulls in order to honor.

“We set up pictures and set up their favorite foods and clothes, but I wish to go to Mexico one day and have the whole experience with my family,” senior Esteban Delgado said.

Dia De Los Muertos is typically celebrated on November 1st and 2nd, but it differs depending on the locality.

“In America... I feel like the holiday is very cut back, because in Mexico my family goes to the graveyard and here it’s just the pictures and foods,” Delgado said.

In Mexico, deep cleaning rituals are done and candles are lit in order to let spirits inside the house, which is known to bless the house, and it is a form of reconnecting with ancestors. In America, Dia De Los Muertos has lost some of its importance because of Halloween. This holiday was brought to America through the Irish back in the early 1900s.

“Due to Halloween being close to this day, it takes the focus away from us,” sophomore Maili Vazquez said.

Food is a big part of this holiday as well. Some people make Pan de Muertos, which is usually baked in a round shape with a pair of crossed bones to represent the dead.

“My mom makes really good Mexican bread and I can’t wait to try it,” Alarcon said.

Although Mexicans are notorious for celebrating this holiday, it is also celebrated widely by some Brazilian families and anybody who wants to celebrate.



The altar created by senior Valeria Hernandez and her family for Día de los Muertos. Altars typically include photos of deceased family members and loved ones.

Sweet Solutions to Extra Candy

Creative ways to turn Halloween candy into something new

Jolie Greener, Reporter

After a long Halloween night, many students discover they have leftover candy. Whether it’s forgotten about, the worst candy is left at the end of the bag, or there’s more candy than expected—there are multiple options to put extra candy to a better use.

Consuming it in a new way.

“Halloween Candy Cookies are a perfect way to use up all that leftover candy!” Food Network said.

Cookies can be made with the addition of tasty Halloween chocolates and treats. Some popular examples include using M&M’s, Snickers, Oreo pieces, or Candy corn. When baking cookies, an easy option is using store-bought frozen cookie packages that only require baking in an oven, where you can add candy or chocolate pieces on top of the dough.

Another way to make festive cookies is starting from scratch, where you can add elements like pumpkin or peanut butter, along with other candies, to create a tasty, festive dessert.



A dessert called “Candy Bag Brownies.” In this recipe, many types of chocolate are used in it.

Donating it.

With Halloween being the start of the holiday season, donation options are also available nearby.

“While eating it is always the most tasty option, it’s not always the best,” Little Guide Detroit said. “There are multiple drop-off sites throughout the Metro-Detroit area.”

Places like the Copeland Recreation Senior Center in Wyandotte accept candy donations for Senior Citizens to experience treats with games. Another local organization is the Downriver Foster Closet, which donates clothes, food, and seasonal candy to foster children. They are located at 1753 Ford Avenue in Wyandotte.

Additional options include food pantries found throughout Wyandotte, and other options downriver include Fish and Loaves Community food pantry. They accept donations of candy that can be given to families that need assistance. They are located on Taylor at 25670, Northline Road.



A photo of the William R. Copeland Center, one of the many places accepting candy donations.

Upcycle it into something new.

When dealing with old, potentially expired candy, why not turn it into a craft?

“Looking for fun craft ideas involving Halloween candy?” The Craft at Home Family said. “Transform your lollipops into adorable ghosts, pumpkins, monsters, vampires, spiders, witches and bats in just a few simple steps! So easy and cute!”

Some options can consist of using lollipops to create festive figures, such as a ghost. Wrapping white tissue paper or regular paper around the top of a lollipop, then tying ribbon around the bottom of the candy, creates the outline of a ghost. To add details, use a black marker to add eyes and a mouth, making an adorable, but spooky craft.

When doing a craft like this, there are many ways you can customize the look. Another idea could be making a spider, or a witch: using another color of paper or ribbon, and drawing other faces on the lollipop can make a completely different craft.



A ghost made of a sucker, tissue paper, and a rubber band,

Photo: Jolie Greener

Critics Versus Classes

How RHS students' reactions to Halloween hits stack against critics.

Dominic Gray, Design Editor



Critics

"The best that can be said about the acting by the witches is that it is, well, **bizarre**, and **rarely funny**." - Steve Rhodes

Critic's rating



1.25/5 Stars
Critic's rating

"Goofy witches and things that bump all over the place, including Midler...**fair family fun**." - Steve Crum



3/5 Stars

Students

"My mom plays this movie so much to the point **I hate it**."
- Sophomore Kylee Trent

"It was **good** just **kinda underwhelming**." - Junior Brenna Callan

Average rating



3.58/5 Stars

"**I LOVE HOCUS POCUS THE SONGS ARE ALWAYS STUCK IN MY HEAD.**" - Freshman London Mitchell

Ghostbusters (1984)

Critics

"It's almost **impossible not to smile** while watching it." - Scott Nash

Critic's rating



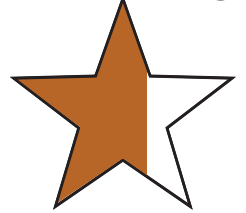
5/5 Stars

Students

"Its **interesting**, but not my favorite."
- Senior Marwa Al-Samir
"It's an alright movie, albeit a **little overrated**."
- Freshman Romeo Roldan

"I love the paranormal and the theme song is **heaven**."
- Junior Lily Vaughn

Critic's rating



3.43/5 Stars



Critics

"This is the movie puts the **'oooh'** back in **'boo'**." - Terry Lawson

Critic's rating



5/5 Stars

Students

"The plot is **entertaining** and **pulling**." - Senior Alayna Balderrama

Average rating



3.96/5 Stars

"It's the **best**. Simple as that."
- Junior Kaylee Luttrell

Beetlejuice (1988)

Critics

"Undeniably **silly**, but **satisfying** and effective all the same."
- Bill Brownstein

Critic's rating



3.5/5 Stars

Students

"I think this is a **classic** movie and **very funny**."
- Freshman Madison Woody

Average rating



3.61/5 Stars



Photos: Fair Use Illustrations: Dominic Gray
Reviews: Rotten Tomatoes

Diving into a Generation

Breaking diving record latest achievement for swimming

Marcus Pizzo, Reporter

Senior Joanna Micura has recently made waves with her diving score of 375.95.

"I went to Southgate, that's where the downriver classic is held... and I broke the 11 dive record," Micura said. "My coaches always told me it's like 90% mental and 10% power."

It's no surprise that Micura is a successful diver. She's been a part of swimming for a long time; after taking swimming lessons at a young age, she joined the swim team and eventually the dive team.

"I started at a very young age, and I kept on swimming, and I just fell out of the passion for it... So I did some softball for a couple years, and then I started diving, because my mom was a diver," Micura said.

For Micura, diving isn't just about the dive; it's about strengthening the mind and being focused enough to make the perfect dive.

"It pushes me to my limits both mentally and physically... because I'm clearly strong enough to be able to do all these big dives, but you have to be confident in yourself or you will not make those dives," Micura said.

Micura's family has been swimming for generations.

The family views swimming as a useful sport that a person can take into their life.

It's not just Micura following in her parents' footsteps; her younger brother, sophomore Brendan Micura, is a part of the swim team as well and shares many of J. Micura's views on it.

"They're (family members are) always there, encouraging each other, trying to critique what we're doing," B. Micura said.

Of course, no sport is free of difficulties, and for J. Micura, this rings true, with one of the hardest parts of diving being the injuries sustained.

With the mental and physical tolls being so severe, J. Micura has decided to pursue something else for college.

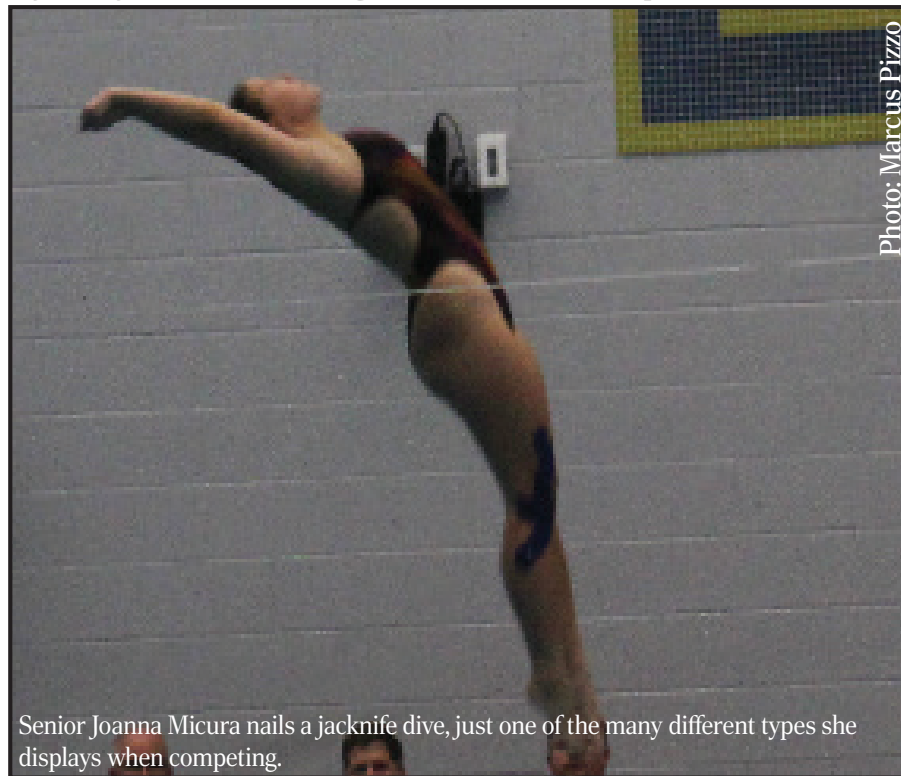
"I think as I've gotten more into my senior season, I've gotten more injuries with my knees, and I'm kind of just burnt out...I'd rather just focus all my time and effort on my studies," J. Micura said.

Even with the struggles paired with diving, Micura still manages to

stay headstrong and grow from what she faces.

"Some people will allow the fear of a new dive or the fear of a hard dive to stop them, whereas Joanna says, 'okay, I need that dive to get to

the next level of competition,'" Head Dive Coach Chris Petty said. "She uses that strength to help get her through what would otherwise mentally prevent somebody from getting to that next step."



Senior Joanna Micura nails a jackknife dive, just one of the many different types she displays when competing.

Photo: Marcus Pizzo

Balancing Lifestyles

How the Volleyball team's defensive anchor turns pressure into composure

Samuel Martinez, Reporter

Fresh out of a Catholic middle school her 8th grade year, Stella Sobush quickly began to gain notoriety in her high school career for her above-average offense and defense skills on the volleyball court.

Being put on the Varsity Volleyball team because of her skills, now meant she needed to stick with a specific position. When she began training for a position she was required to play, however, her heart deep down and wasn't quite in it.

"They originally wanted to train me as a setter, but it didn't work out," Sobush said, "but I did get a lot of set training for Libero, and during that time I found out I was much better at defense."

Sobush became the Varsity Volleyball team's Libero - the defensive specialist position placed in the back row - which overall enhances the team's ball control and strategic decisions. While it was the position she truly dreamed of, the mental tax it puts on someone may be difficult

to handle at times.

"Having a bad mentality means you will be playing bad overall," Sobush said. "If you don't think you're going to do well, you're not going to do well."

Taking criticism with an open mind is another factor that improves the outcome of a game.

Any varsity coach has to be harsh on their players once and a while to show they have high expectations, wanting the absolute best for all of them.

"I think I've learned from her (Sobush) to stay motivated no matter what our coach says," teammate Ashlynn Abshire said. "He (Coach Al) can be a little bit harsh with what he says, but she always plays tough, and I feel like it's made me become that person too."

Even something as simple as "flipping the switch" mentally can be a factor. Leaving behind regular emotions or distractions and becoming game-ready shows others

that a player is fully dedicated to competing and playing hard.

"I've learned from her (Sobush) that you have to kind of disconnect who you are with playing sometimes," teammate Annie Zieger said. "When she steps on the court, it's like she's a whole new person. I've learned that I need to kind of do that too."

While all of these factors help, sometimes it isn't enough. Everyone, once in a while, uses some personal techniques to calm themselves in different situations.

"I sing to myself and pray before every game," Sobush said. "I just think, if I believe in myself, then that's all that matters. Nobody else truly needs to believe in me."

The position of Libero is something only a small group of people could accomplish, and Sobush seems to be thriving.



Junior Stella Sobush rebounds a ball aimed for the back of the court back towards the center.

Photo: Eleanor Grant

Mental Balance

Senior athlete takes on two sports during one season

Brooke Wicker, Reporter

Many seniors take advantage of the relaxed schedules and breezy first semester of their last year of high school, but senior Jaden Haugabook had other plans.

Haugabook has been involved with sports in the Wyandotte District since seventh grade, when he started running track.

Moving into high school, he picked up a tennis racket and joined Roosevelt's varsity tennis team beginning his sophomore year.

From an early age Haugabook has been put into challenging situations that have built him mentally.

In 2019 Haugabook moved to Michigan following his mother's passing.

"In June of 2019 my mom became sick... I moved to Wyandotte with my Aunt and Uncle and they became our legal guardians," said Haugabook.

Dealing with this tragedy led Haugabook to do "... counseling. I talk to people about what happened," said Haugabook. He turned to methods to help him build mental toughness and work through all he has been through including, working with counselors.

Going into his senior year he went into his senior year with intention, leading him to becoming a dual-sport athlete during the fall season, playing tennis and for the first time, running cross country.

"I kind of wanted to get in more conditioning because I don't do much in the fall during tennis season," said Haugabook, "I feel like during tennis I don't usually get in much, so that's when I told my cross country coach I wanted to join."

For many students being a dual-sport athlete during the same season would be mentally too over-

whelming. However Haugabook is able to use his mentality to push him through the long days.

Outside of tennis and cross country, Haugabook has continued to compete in track and field since seventh grade.

Haugabook is hoping to continue running track throughout college, and in order to do so he needs to intentionally train throughout the fall before the season begins.

"I wanted to get into better conditioning habits for the track season coming up in March, so that was my motivation," said Haugabook.

Playing two sports through the entire year is no easy feat, let alone during the same season, and this is something Haugabook didn't even think twice about.

"[The idea of two sports felt like] nothing. I knew cross country was going to be tougher because you're running longer distances but I got used to it pretty quickly," said Haugabook. "Balancing two sports at first was kind of crazy but I got used to it."

A typical day for Haugabook starts by heading to school. "After school, I have tennis practice from three to five. I go home and change, and then I have to go run cross country," said Haugabook.

Although cross country and tennis practices overlap after school, the team helps Haugabook complete his runs outside of practice using the app Strava which allows runners to share runs, maps, and the pace they were going.

Being a dual-sport athlete would be difficult to do without the support of other teammates and coaches. Lucky for Haugabook, senior Sean Hickey has been on the tennis team

since sophomore year and has been very helpful.

Working with teammates like Hickey has helped form memories like the tennis league tournament.

"I would say when we played Southgate, they were the best in the league and getting to watch him have a really good, close match with them, and getting to see him win was amazing," Hickey said.

In one year of cross country Haugabook has already made great strides to help the team.

"I'm not sure that we would have gotten second at our second league meet if it weren't for Jaden on the team, he has been a huge help to us," boys cross country coach James Gedris said.

Balancing both sports comes with hard work and dedication, which Haugabook has been described to have.

"He is a very hard working and consistent worker, and is probably one of the most talented athletes in the school as well," cross country coach James Gedris said, "Jaden is willing to run after tennis, after his two hour practice he will still go out and run four or five miles."

The time involved in sports at Roosevelt Haugabook has also made his leadership and kindness known throughout the teams he's been on.

"He provides good leadership and shows a good example to the younger kids," Hickey said. "He shows how much better you can get in a

short amount of time if you really put in the hard work.

Of course he is also super respectful and kind to underclassmen."



Senior Jaden Haugabook plays a winning tennis match against Lincon Park.

Photo: Brooke Wicker
Illustration: Lydia Blonski

Strides of Success

Boys Cross Country wraps up strong season

Brooke Wicker, Reporter

The boys' cross country team worked hard to improve their team's dynamic on and off the course this year. The team had many second-place finishes throughout the season.

The Bears had a strong season, with their best meet on October 11th, 2025 during the 41st Father Gabriel Richard XC Invitational. During the meet, 11 boys broke their personal records.

Junior Noah Amori has been working hard towards the goal of breaking the school record of 15:34.6, which has stood for over 20

years. His current personal record is 16:04 which he ran during the 41st Father Gabriel Richard XC Invitational. In order to achieve this goal by the end of his high school career, Amori has been working to develop a plan for off-season training.

"[Outside of the season] I usually bike 10-20 miles in the morning, and then after school run and do any miscellaneous workouts our coach gives us," said Amori. "During off-season, it's important to run more to stay in shape."

Zach Greene has worked his way to be one of the top runners as a

sophomore. He has achieved multiple goals this season, including his main goal of breaking 17 minutes. He accomplished that at the Father Gabriel Richard XC Invitational, where he raced his fastest time of 16:43.

"My main goal was to break 17 minutes during a race," said Greene, "my other goal is to break the sophomore record at 16:18 by the end of the season."

Outside of runs, both boys and girls cross country participate in a range of team bonding activities, from trips to Olive Garden to participating in park games, and even

home-cooked team dinners. Events like these help the team grow closer and work better together.

"We have a lot of fun together at team dinners, and always have a good time bonding outside of practice," Greene said.

The boys cross country team finished in fourth place as a team at regionals on Saturday October 16th, 2025 and junior Noah Amori took tenth place and qualified for states on Saturday, October 25th, 2025 which will be held at the Michigan International Speedway on November 1st.

Heart of the Team

Matthew Hileman steps on field in final game

Eleanor Grant, Editor-in-Chief

For the football team, this season was about more than just the game: it was about heart, teamwork, and the bond between players. One of the most inspiring figures on the sideline was sophomore Matthew Hileman who showed up every day to support his team.

“He brings a lot of humor and fun towards the team,” Head Varsity Football Coach Jakob Zanski said. “We had a rough season, at times, and him being around on the sideline within games, practices, he’s just brought some fun and joy to the team.”

Hileman’s presence went beyond just cheering; despite having disabilities, he showed up consistently, ready to participate in any way he could.

“For him to come out every single day, whether he practices or sits on the bench or does some drills, it just shows everyone that we can all do these things,” Zanski said.

That attitude made Hileman a source of motivation for the whole team.

“It’s not easy by any means for anyone,” Zanski said, “but him being out there and being a morale booster for the guys, and just trying to hype up the guys and howling and doing all the supportive things he does is fun.”

Hileman asked if he would be able to join the football team at the end of last season, and throughout this whole season everyone wondered if he might get a chance to play.

“We thought for the whole season, when is Matthew gonna play? Or does he even want to play?” Zanski said.

The moment came during the team’s final game against Edsel Ford.

“Matthew wasn’t even dressed the first half, and I talked to him during the second quarter. I told him at halftime, if he wanted to dress he could,” Zanski said. “He was definitely nervous and questioning it, but the guys pumped him up and he got dressed.”

Even with Hileman’s hesitance at first, the team came together to encourage him to get out on the field.

“I was like, I gotta go to the bathroom,” Hileman said. “I mostly felt nervous, but when the guys came in they encouraged me to get into the gear, and then I got in the gear.”

What happened next was an unforgettable moment for the whole team.

“You should have heard the locker room. Everyone was cheering, the coaches were cheering,” Zanski said. “He is kind of a quiet kid, too, and just nervous, so he didn’t really know how to react. But, it was loud

when he started putting on the helmet and shoulder pads.”

Over the season, Hileman has earned a nickname from the football team and other students in the school.

“Everyone was saying that they wanted ‘Dagger’ which is me, they also say ‘Dagger Wolf’ and I like that nickname,” Hileman said.

When Hileman stepped onto the field after halftime, the stands erupted with noise. The student section began chanting “Dagger.”

“It was a cool moment overall for us,” Zanski said. “We weren’t sure if he was gonna play so when he did, it meant a lot to us, and more so for him, just to show that we had his back, and show him that he can play this game. So it was a cool moment for everyone.”

While it did take until the last game of the season for Hileman to play, he had hopes of getting on the field competitively earlier on.

“I only did two plays...but I’m hoping to play more next year,” Hileman said. “The beginning of the season I was hoping Carlson would be my first game, but then I got sick and was out for a couple weeks.”

The bond between the



Senior Luke Hurliman walks sophomore Matthew Hileman off the field after his plays.

players is what holds them together through tough games and makes them want to get better.

“[The other players] are my very best friends, we love each other like brothers,” Hileman said.

“We are better than bad, but our team can be better. I want to try more, to get better because it isn’t always very good. I want to be a good

defensive lineman so I can do my part.”



Standing ready on defense, sophomore Matthew Hileman crouches down to wait for the start of the play.

Photo: Eleanor Grant

Road to improvement

Roosevelt Bears crawl their way to better season

Kiera Byrne, Reporter

Bears football has had a bumpy season, but not without triumph. Their overall record is 3-6, which may not seem like a victory, but compared to the previous year’s of 1-8, it is an improvement.

They beat Taylor, Edsel Ford, and, in a neck-and-neck game, Southgate.

“Even though we’re not getting a lot of wins, we’re having a good time,” junior Brayden Javahirian said. “We take advantage of the experience because we’re never going to get it back.”

Their most nail-biting game of

the season was the Southgate game, where the Bears won 21-20, ending with defense putting it away in overtime.

“I think it put a couple people into tears, including me,” Javahirian said. “It was just one I’m never gonna forget.”

The team opened their season with a strong showing against the league leader, Gibraltar Carlson, only losing 42-21. By week 3, they got their first win against Taylor in a defensive battle that ended 7-0, which was immediately followed by their

Southgate victory.

“As a team, I feel like we just need to work on better practice, but as a person, I think I need to be a better leader and hype up my team,” Javahirian said.

However, the Bears suffered four losses before turning it around in their final game against Edsel Ford, winning 42-8.

“We have to get stronger, kind of increase the IQ of football,” head coach Jakob Zanski said. “If we do all those things, we’ll have a successful season next year.”



Running back, senior Devin Lucas runs the ball up the field.



While on offense, the team huddles together. Quarter Back, number junior Cole Cline is in charge of relaying information from the coaches to the other players.

Photos: Kiera Byrne

Girls cross country team makes strides

Brooke Wicker, Reporter

This year Roosevelt girls' cross country team had a season that made strides for future years. The girls' season contained personal records and steps towards athletes accomplishing their personal goals.

The girls had their top meet at the 41st Annual Jefferson HS - Cross Country Invitational on September 20th, 2025, finishing in second place.

This meet stood out for them as they rarely made it in the top three. Additionally, at this meet, many girls reached new personal records during the race. Another stand out meet for the girls cross team was the 41st Father Gabriel Richard XC Invitational where an outstanding number of girls reached new personal records.

Senior Eleanor Grant's performance has been outstanding this year. Grant's favorite race was at the 41st Father Gabriel Richard XC Invitational, where she met her goal

for the season.

"[This was a race] we've never gone to before. It was a different course and new teams. Everything about it was different, and all the girls ran really fast and did really well," Grant said. "It was also a fun course; there was a part through the woods. I finally broke 19 minutes and got a PR. So it was just overall a really exciting day."

Grant has considered continuing her passion for running in college, but for now, she wants to leave a strong legacy of being encouraging towards teammates.

"I hope that people remember me as someone who is encouraging towards everyone on the team, whether it's through team bondings, or just being a space for people to talk to if they had a bad race, if they wanted to complain, or just wanted to be encouraged," Grant said.

This season, freshman Emma

Puscas has had a surprisingly strong first year of cross country. Going into her first season, her only other experience of running was as a sprinter in middle school.

One of her favorite team memories was meeting new faces on the team.

"I liked getting to meet new people and hanging out with the team," Puscas said.

Looking forward, Puscas plans to continue her training for future seasons through off-season training and pushing herself during the season.

"I have to keep working towards my goals, because you never know what could happen. So, I just need to keep working to get better and keep improving," Puscas said.

The Bears had a strong finish during leagues, placing third overall, with individual placements by Grant in third and Puscas in 13th.

They finished in sixth place at regionals and Eleanor Grant (9th

place) and Emma Puscas (22nd) qualified for states which will be on November 1st at the Michigan International Speedway.



Photo: Brooke Wicker

Senior Eleanor Grant pushes through her race before making it to 3rd place at the Downriver League Championship. Shortly after this race, Grant was named to the Downriver All League.

Soccer season in review

Riley Hodges, Reporter

The Wyandotte Roosevelt soccer team has carried out a very strong and successful season with majority wins and continues to strive for victory and improvement.

"Our best game that we [played] probably would have been when we beat Woodhaven," Captain, senior Caleb Andzelik said.

Both Andzelik and fellow teammate sophomore Bradey McLaughlin reflected on their shock for beating Woodhaven, 3-2.

"We never would have thought of beating them and when we did it was like a big thing for everyone," Andzelik said.

Andzelik highlighted McLaughlin for having a successful season and always putting in the effort.

"He's always been good, but his improvement this year from last year is big and he's become even better," Andzelik said.

McLaughlin has had an extremely successful season managing to beat the Roosevelt High School sophomores scoring goal. This is also his second year playing for varsity and being a captain, which is a huge accomplishment, especially for

an underclassmen.

Another fellow teammate, senior Alexander Moya, got his first penalty this season. Even with difficulties such as penalties the RHS soccer team has kept their head up and their drive for victory just the same. This drive led them not only to beat Woodhaven but to beat other teams such as the Taylor Griffins by 9-1.

The boys had a strong season with a final record of 7-12-2 and even stronger bonds.



Photo: Emur Eskin

Sophomore Bradey McLaughlin fights for a goal up against his Trenton opponent.

Tennis season finishes strong

Riley Hodges, Reporter

With multiple top finishers at the league tournament, the boys' tennis team ended their season on a positive note.

Two singles, senior Ryder Chavez, and four singles, senior Nate Miklaszki finished first, while senior Jayden Haugabook placed second at three singles. The team finished third overall in the league.

"The best event was winning one of the tournaments we haven't won in a while," Chavez said.

Senior Sean Hickey played at one singles this year for the team, taking on the toughest opponents from every school.

"I mean, I think the season went well. We were like nine and two," Hickey said.

The team had a lot of positivity this season. Notably, according to Chavez, from junior John Kazmierski.

"My favorite part of tennis is just being with John Kazmierski," Chavez said.

Multiple of Kazmierski's teammates shared assets of their friendships with him.

"He's like the glue guy, everybody loves him," Hickey said.

Kazmierski is one of the many glue-like components to the tennis team this season, keeping them in check and brightening up the team.

"We're like a really tight-knit group, and just playing tennis makes you come out of your shell. There's so many inside jokes, and we just have a good time together," Kazmierski said.

The team finished nine and two overall and had a successful and positive close to the season.



Photo: Monica Patterson

Senior Ryder Chavez sets up for a backhand as he swings for a ball against his opponent, Carlson.

Eskin's Escapes

Diving into the world of entertainment

My take on

The new Taylor Swift album, *The Life of a Showgirl*

Emmalee Eskin, Managing Editor

I have always been a huge Taylor Swift fan. I fell in love with her music when my mom would play her albums in the car and my sister and I would dance and sing along.

My love for her music continued to grow as I got older and more mature. I really felt more connected to her music. I was able to relate most to the albums *Folklore* and *Evermore*.

This era of Swift's music was not only when I started to feel more connected to her music, I started to feel connected to other artists and their music. I would say that Taylor Swift opened me to the world of music, and allowed me to understand and appreciate an artist and what they do.

Knowing my prior experience with Taylor Swift, I think anyone could predict that I was very excited for her new album, *The Life of the Showgirl*.

Right from the announcement of the album I knew it was going to be like nothing she had done before, and I was right. This album, in my opinion, is a masterpiece and it does not deserve all of the hate it has been receiving.

The first track "The Fate of Ophelia" is one of my favorites. The concept of the song and how Swift came up with the idea is very interesting as well. Swift took inspiration from the story of Ophelia from Shakespeare and made it her own. The lyric "Saved my heart from the fate of Ophelia," is Swift changing the story.

What I take away from this song is

that Swift was in a tragic state, similar to Ophelia, but someone came and rescued her so her fate would not end up the same. Obviously, her story is vastly different from Ophelia, but this was just the connection I made because her previous album, *The Tortured Poets Department*, was very lyric-heavy and a more somber album.

Another song that stood out to me on the album was "Opalite." I relate to this song so much, and I think it is my top song on the album. It is very upbeat and the perfect song to dance and sing along to.

The concept of this song is also fascinating. Opalite is a man-made glass of crystal that resembles natural opal. The actual object of Opalite is very connected to the concept of the song. This song is about choosing your own happiness and not waiting for it to fall into place. So the concept of choosing your own happiness instead of waiting for it to happen naturally resembles what Opalite actually is, self-created happiness.

This song is such an inspiration because it reminds people, and myself, that you don't have to wait around for something to happen to you. If you want it to happen, you are allowed to take action to make it happen. You are allowed to create your own happiness.

The last song that was one of my favorites from the album was "Wi\$h Li\$t." Not only is the actual song itself, the beat and the lyrics amazing, the meaning behind this one is once

again fascinating. It's about how everyone has their own unique wishes and desires for life, and it is personal to everyone.

I love this concept for a song because it is cool to see what everyone else wants in life but also understanding that what you want may be different, and you should be allowed to show what you want. I also think this song is so fitting for Swift's life.

For years, people have tried to tell Swift how to live her life, but this song is her way of saying that what she wants is different from what other people want or have in life.

This album is just pure art. It is so unique and different from anything Swift has done before, and I love it.

She has gotten a lot of hate from the fans and just the world because they don't like the album, but it isn't their choice to decide what music Swift produces.

Yes, the album is not as sad and emotional as her others, but I think that is the point. Swift is at one of the happiest times in her life; she just finished the biggest tour in the world and is newly engaged, of course her music is going to resemble her happiness right now.

What I have gained from *The Life of a Showgirl* is that this is Swift's way of showing everyone that she doesn't care what people think of her and her music anymore.

I think that's where a lot of people missed the mark. Instead of focusing on the bigger picture and meaning behind the album, they were too

worried about the "cringy" lyrics. But, the cringy lyrics fit perfectly into Swift's mindset of not caring about what others think of her music.

Finally, this album feels like the end of a journey. The title is *The Life of a Showgirl*, and Swift in some way has been a show girl her whole life. So, just from the title alone, I am sensing the vibe that this is supposed to wrap up her life being in the spotlight. She has constantly been in the spotlight, and this album seems like the end of this era in her life.

The last song on the album is titled "The Life of a Showgirl," and Sabrina Carpenter is featured on it, who Swift stated is an epitome of a showgirl. From what I gained, Swift is passing on the "showgirl" torch to the new and upcoming artists.

Everyone is going to have their opinions on this album, but I am in love with it. I am constantly listening to the album, and I knew all of the words by the first week it was out. Thank you, Taylor Swift, for producing another masterpiece for your fans and for yourself.



Senior Emmalee Eskin and her sister Graceann Eskin pose with feather fans in front of a backdrop to celebrate *The Life of a Showgirl*.

Photo: Emmalee Eskin

My Top Taylor Swift Albums Ranked

Fearless

Fearless is one of those albums where I can put it on and instantly be dancing and singing.



5

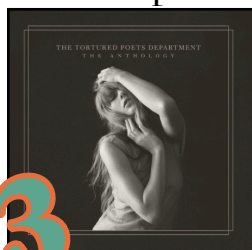
Evermore



This is the perfect album for fall, it fits the vibe so well and is a lyrically masterpiece.

4

The Tortured Poets Department



I was obsessed with this album when it came out. The songs hit different every time I listen to them.

3

Speak Now



When *Speak Now* (Taylor's Version) came out I was beyond excited. *Speak Now* was always one of my top albums, but the new tracks made it become higher on my list.

2

Folklore



This is my all time favorite album, nothing can top the lyrics, artsy, and storytelling in this album. Absolute perfection, no notes.

1