

# The Update

Volume 49, Issue 1



**Seating charts: good or bad?**  
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September 26, 2025

## Budget delays cause uncertainty

### Free school lunch for all students may leave MPS starting Oct. 1

Julia Lacher  
managing sports



photos by Julia Lacher

**WONDERFUL WRAPS:** *Sophomore Abel Hinson types in his student number at the cafeteria checkout to receive free school lunch on Tuesday, Sept. 9. Many students like to create their own custom subs in the sub line. "I really like [the school's] wraps," Hinson said.*

Starting Oct. 1, school lunch at schools in MPS will no longer be free for all students. The reason behind this decision mostly has to do with the fact that this year's budget has not yet been agreed upon by the state government. Each year, the state of Michigan needs to decide on a budget that will take effect on Oct. 1. Because the budget has yet to be decided, all programs funded by the state are in question as to whether or not they will continue to be funded, and if so, how much funding they will receive. Because federally funded programs are not affected by the state's funding, they will not be affected by the Oct. 1 budget.

Earlier this year, President Donald Trump put forth "The One Big Beautiful Bill" Act, which included large cuts to the state budget. The state now needs to determine how to reallocate the remaining resources that they have. The House, the Senate and the governor are in disagreement, and they have not yet agreed on where to place the remaining budget money. At this point, the Democratic Party believes there is more money to go around than there actually is, creating discrepancy. Government teacher Jeffrey Richards explained the role of the state government in the decision to cut free school lunch.

"The Senate is controlled by one vote right now," Richards said. "The Democrats control it, so the Democrats and the Senate haven't agreed to this. However, if the budget goes through Oct. 1, [school lunch going away is] the thing that was cut out."

The state government needs to decide

on the budget before Oct. 1, or many of the current state government funded programs will be shut down due to the lack of financial resources being distributed at all.

Because the discrepancy with the budget is within the state, all federally funded programs will continue to run as usual. Free school lunch is funded by the state, which means that it will no longer be funded if the budget is not decided on. Despite this, two schools in MPS will still provide lunch free for all students.

"It is important to note that this change will not affect Plymouth Elementary and Central Park Elementary," Associate Superintendent of Facilities, Finance and Operations Anna Wamack said. "Both schools qualify for all students to eat free under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a federal program that is not dependent on the state budget."

CEP is a federally funded program, so it will remain active.

In 2023, shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic, the state decided that free school lunch for all students should be prioritized and thus, created a law dictating free school lunch for all students,

regardless of income. Now, the state is considering retracting this law. There will be more clarity on the status of this law when the state releases their budget on or before Oct. 1.

Should the budget not be decided by Oct. 1, or if the budget doesn't include funding for school lunch, then the district will revert back to its previous lunch program. The previous school lunch program supports lower-income students through either free

or reduced-priced school lunches. Students under the "paid" status category will have to purchase lunches at full price. Should a student fall into the "reduced lunch" status category as defined by the state, MPS will pay for them to get free lunch.

"I know everybody wants to support students as much as they possibly can," Principal Scott Cochran said.

Because of the district's desire to be able to support students, they decided that all MPS students will also continue to have access to free breakfasts, which will be paid for by MPS.

With this possible change, thousands of MPS students will be affected. Head Chef Jonathan Morsello said that last school year, more than 500 people used free school lunch at DHS per day. MPS Food Service Director Tina Malzahn said that during the 2025-26 school year, 3,642 MPS students got school lunch daily, and 644,680 lunches were given out in total that year.

For some families, access to free school lunch is important to them financially. Access to free school lunch is also convenient for students. Senior Amaya Leach has been getting school lunch for the past several years.

"It's just one less step in the morning, and I don't have to buy stuff for my lunches," Leach said. "It's just supplied for me. I understand why they have to do it, but I'm gonna miss it, and I'm kind of sad that they're doing it."

Students can sign up to be able to receive free or reduced-priced lunches via this form: <https://midland.familyportal.cloud/>



**SCRUMPTIOUS SALAD:** *Sophomore Leyah Reed scoops out some salad for herself. She enjoyed the variety of foods the school had to offer. "I like how many options I can choose from," Reed said.*

## The Feed

### Cookies now on sale Tuesday, Thursday

Gabe Nix  
managing news

The Charger Shoppe now sells cookies on Tuesdays and Thursdays instead of Wednesdays, which was when cookies were sold during the 2024-25 school year. Sales Management teacher Mark Baczewski said the change would help increase profits. Baczewski learned that MHS sells cookies in their store twice a week and that their profits were notably high, so Baczewski thought it made sense to do the same at the Charger Shoppe.

The money generated by The Charger Shoppe is reinvested into the Shoppe and other school activities, such as DECA.

"It makes sense to do it twice a week when you can and just to have more profits to be able to have a bigger benefit to our students," Baczewski said.

Baczewski also said that he can already see the increase in profit with this new change. The profits aren't the only positive. Baczewski thinks students and staff alike are showing an even greater amount of joy than before.

"People are very optimistic and excited about it, and I look forward to coming in twice a week now, versus just the one day a week," Baczewski said.



photo by Julia Lacher

**DELICIOUS COOKIES:** *Sophomore Sullivan Ladd serves fresh hot cookies on Thursday, Sept. 18. The Charger Shoppe recently started selling cookies on both Tuesdays and Thursdays in lieu of Wednesdays. "I think it's great," Ladd said. "The more cookies the better."*

### Students plan games during lunch throughout Homecoming week

Kaiden Lijewski  
staff writer

Today marks the final day of games during lunch, and one of these games is Family Feud. Students can play to win prizes during first and second lunch right outside the main entrance of the cafeteria. There is a chance for students to win stickers, snacks, candy, and even free Homecoming tickets. Student Leadership 2 is hosting the games.

One of the students helping out with the games is sophomore Mya Pfenninger. She said the Leadership students looked for game ideas online and then eventually narrowed their ideas down.

"We want to try and get to some more school spirit during Homecoming week," Pfenninger said.

All that students need to do to participate is to show up to one of the tables during lunch, and hosts will guide students through each game.

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## Club Briefs

Tanner Witzke & Tyler Witzke  
managing design & managing copy

### Japanese Club: spreading culture

Japanese Club is a returning club to DHS and is being run by presidents Sachi Togashi and Viktor Pangburn. The club focuses on educating others on Japan's alphabet, foods, games and more. Some games the club plans on playing this year include Taketombo and Hanetsuki.

The club also hosts events throughout the year. Past events include a sushi making and traveling to a traditional Japanese tea house.

"The purpose [of Japanese Club] is to spread the culture and food or just knowledge about Japanese culture to students at Dow," senior Togashi said.

The club meets every other Monday in room 304, Samantha Nelson's Room.

### Go Green: helping better the community

Go Green, run by senior Angelina Chen, is a group centered around informing students about global warming and helping keep Midland eco-friendly.

"Go Green is a club focused on sustainability and raising awareness about climate change, especially within our community and in our school," Chen said.

The club works towards its goal by hosting meetings every Monday, recycling every Tuesday, and t-shirt bag making every other Thursday. The club meets in the media center in Section D for meetings and t-shirt bag making. They meet by the sharing shelves for recycling.

### Dear Asian Youth: empowering identity

Dear Asian Youth focuses on empowering Asian youth and celebrating Asian culture, regardless of nation or race. The club, run by president Angelina Chen and vice president Hyunseo Sung, celebrates Asian culture through cultural presentations, eating exotic foods and attending conferences.

"We're gonna have cultural presentations where we get to represent our cultures and introduce new people," Sung said.

The club meets once a month on Thursdays after sixth and seventh hour in room 306, Jeffrey Richards' room.

### Red Cross: blood drives that save lives

Red Cross is a program dedicated to providing community service. The DHS chapter is led by president Amy Casipit and vice president Vera Roberson. They are looking forward to upcoming events that will help Midland with humanitarian needs.

"We're trying to set up a blood drive this year, hopefully interlinked with NHS," Roberson said.

While the blood drive is a big event for Red Cross, there are also plans for a bake sale, and collaboration with bracelet company Pura Vida.

The club meets bi-weekly on Tuesdays in Leigha Worden's room, room 346, after both sixth and seventh hour. Their next meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

# Shifted classroom

## Campbell changes how she delivers content for Geometry A

Kelly Daoud  
co-business editor

Most students are used to a typical way of teaching, where lessons are taught in class and homework is done at home. However, math teacher Katie Campbell is trying something new this year. She has her Geometry A students work on homework in class and watch video lessons that teach the curriculum at home.

An advantage this system is that it gives Campbell the ability to keep track of which students are actually watching the lessons. The next day after a lesson is assigned, she gives them questions in class that they would know how to do, if they watched the video with their full attention. The students' opinions of the change, according to Campbell, are half and half right now, some appreciating this new way of teaching, and others more hesitant to embrace it.

"I think more kids are maybe coming around to it, but I think it's a completely different method of teaching," Campbell said. "And so I think they were a little reluctant at first, but I think as we keep moving, they'll see the benefit of it."

She has it set up in a way that students can watch the videos at their own pace, and replay whatever part they may not understand. Doing the homework in class offers the ability to work with the teacher and encourages the students to complete the work.

Campbell records the lesson and videos could range from 25 to 40 minutes. The following day, students are required to answer up to four questions relating to the lesson they were assigned to watch.

"I have three or four questions that relate to the video that they watched and examples that I went through, and so it's just for me to gauge are they understanding what they're doing," Campbell said. "And it's for me to go over specific things that I want them to know before they get to their homework and before a quiz. So I'll highlight specific things just as a reminder. And then they work on essentially their homework in class."

Students can work together and figure out answers collectively. If Campbell notices any struggle or confusion, she will be there to help.

"I think the group that I have is very willing to talk and help each other through the assignment, and then, if their whole table is confused, that allows me to know I can go over to this whole table and talk to them at the same time," Campbell said.

Campbell also said that there are mixed emotions from her students about this new teaching style.

"The first time, they were like, 'I don't know how this is gonna go,' and I don't think they liked it the first couple of lessons," Campbell said.

With time, students are getting used to this flipped method and understanding its benefits.

"I think it is a big adjustment," Campbell said. "I mean, for a lot of kids, this is the first time they're being asked

to do a lecture at home, essentially, and then coming into class to do the work."

One of her students expressed her point of views on Campbell's learning style.

"I was kind of weirded out because I've never had any teacher do that," freshman Violet Etnyre said.

"But now I think that I like it, because it's a lot easier to watch the lesson and take notes at home, than doing the homework at home and having questions and not being able to have them answered."

Some of her students would agree on this and sophomore Ava Bauschatz shared her opinion with the same idea.

"At first, I was not happy about it because I didn't want to do 40 minutes worth of it because I knew homework would take less time," Bauschatz said. "But now that I'm doing it, I like it better because I can ask her questions during my homework that I wouldn't be able to usually, and I'm more focused while I'm watching the video, because usually, I'd be distracted if I was just doing my homework."

With time Bauschatz opinion changed and she adjusted well with the whole flip.

"In class, you can obviously talk to other people about the questions, but instead of having questions at home, you can also ask Ms. Campbell yourself during class to help you with a certain problem," Etnyre said.

Etnyre also discussed what she does when she is struggling with the notes at home and can't ask Campbell about it with a direct response.

"Sometimes I'll look a question up, but she also says to write down the question in your notes and then ask her the next day so that you can get it

answered fully," Etnyre said.

This new system doesn't only help the students but also Campbell.

"The real reason for that is so they have support from me, instead of trying

to do their homework on their own where they might not get the help that they need," Campbell said. "Or they might copy someone else's answers just to get the assignment done rather than truly understanding it."

Math teacher Terry Schwartzkopf also shared his opinion regarding the flipped system.

"I would say the concept has been around for a while, and we learned about it back when I did my master's, but I'm so old-school that to apply that concept is difficult for me," Schwartzkopf said. "So since she is from the new generation, I think it's cool. She's trying it to see how it works. I think every kid learns differently."

He also discussed how this might help students in the future when

school is more technology-centered, and less with paper and pencil.

"I think definitely, as time goes on, kids are more wired with electronics and such, so it might work out better," Schwartzkopf said. "I'm curious to see how it's gonna go down."

Schwartzkopf mentioned another advantage he sees in her switch.

"I have access to the video now when I'm absent, so my kids don't fall behind," Schwartzkopf said.

Campbell had experience with this system from years ago and used it to benefit her and her students.

"I've done this before, especially when COVID happened," Campbell said. "I've made my videos like this before, so I had some knowledge of how to do it beforehand so that made it a little bit easier for me to kind of step into it."

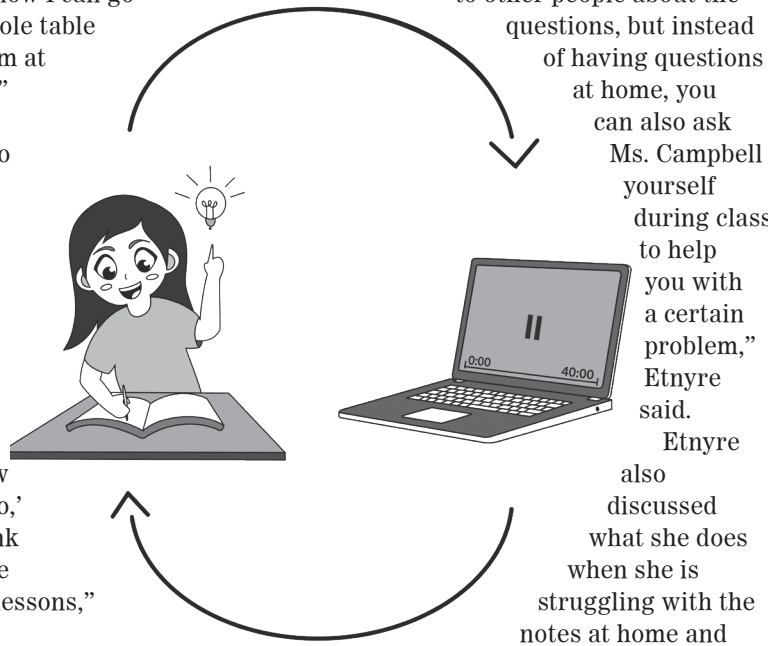
Campbell shared that teaching math for upwards of 50 minutes can be challenging for both her and the students. As a teacher, her goal is to get to know her students better and this flip in teaching style is allowing her to embrace and enhance that connection.

"I feel like I'm not only able to help students more on their homework, but I'm also able to connect more with my students because if I'm just up at the front of the room, I'm just talking for the entire hour; instead of making sure they're understanding what we're going through," Campbell said.

“The real reason for that is so that they have support from me, instead of trying to do their homework on their own where they might not get the help that they need.”

Katie Campbell  
Math teacher

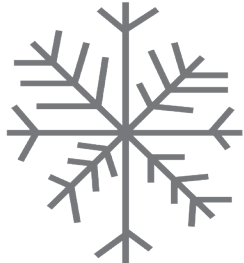
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## TAKE a NUMBER

Isabelle Hetherington  
managing photo

**0%**  
Chance of MPS having a snow day on Monday



**495**  
Number of parking spots

**22**  
Icebreakers done on the first day of school  
based on survey of teachers given out the week of Sept. 8

**318**  
Number of seats in the cafeteria


**27**  
Number of students that co-op

**87**  
Number of students that dual enroll

**1,284**  
Number of students at DHS

**73**  
Number of students that participate in the Early Middle College program

**700**  
Number of lockers at DHS  
graphics by Isabelle Hetherington



**Mission Statement**  
As a public forum for student expression, The Update will honor the H. H. Dow High community and the journalism profession by placing truth, accuracy and objectivity first and encouraging all sides to voice their opinion.

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**Distribution**  
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**Staff Editorial**  
The staff editorial is the managing editors' response to current news events. The staff editorial reflects the opinion of the Editorial Board. The final draft is subject to a vote by the Editorial Board. A majority vote is required for the document to achieve publication.

Letters are encouraged. They will be screened for libel, defamation, and/or obscenity and may be edited for length. All letters must be signed, although the Editorial Board will consider withholding names upon request. Letters may be rejected due to limited space, untimely material, or unbalanced representation. A full editorial policy is on file in room 218.

**Open Column**  
The 'My Turn' column is open to the whole school. Columns will undergo the same screening process as letters. All columns should be turned in to room 218 and should include the author's name.

**Membership/Awards**  
The Update is a member of the NSPA, CSPA, and MIPA. The Update was a CSPA Gold Crown Winner in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, and 2019. It was a Silver Crown Winner in 2006, 2009, 2016 and 2017. It was an NSPA Pacemaker winner in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011, and a finalist in 2001, and 2003. In 1989, 1999, 2000, 2004, and 2005 The Update won Best of Show in NSPA competition. It won second place Best of Show in 2006, eighth place Best of Show in 2007, and third place in Best of Show in 2008. The Update has won 27 MIPA Spartan Awards since 1989 and was inducted into the MIPA Hall of Fame in 2004.

# Should seating charts exist?

## CON: Seating charts limit creativity, flexibility of students

Madalyn Blohm  
*managing feature*

One thing that most students can agree on is that school is better when spending time with friends. Even if students are lucky enough to have a class with their friends, it's not always certain that they can spend time together. There's one thing that can turn a dream class into a complete and utter nightmare. Seating charts.

The wording nightmare might be an exaggeration, although the feeling of excitement to finally have a friend in class only to find out you can't sit next to them, is unmatched. It's safe to say that most students heavily dislike seating charts, but is it only because they can't sit next to their friends?

"I would prefer to not have a seating chart to sit around people because if I'm working on an essay, I can discuss and I can get feedback from people, and still kind of have a good time," senior Carston Broderick said.

In a survey sent out to DHS, more than half responded that they're against seating charts. Their reasoning why they are against the seating charts was something along the lines of comfortability.

"I understand the frustration teachers feel when students choose seats by their friend, but in my opinion it can be more

beneficial," junior McKenna Backus wrote. "If someone has a question it is easier to ask your friend who is next to you rather than the teacher or someone you don't know."

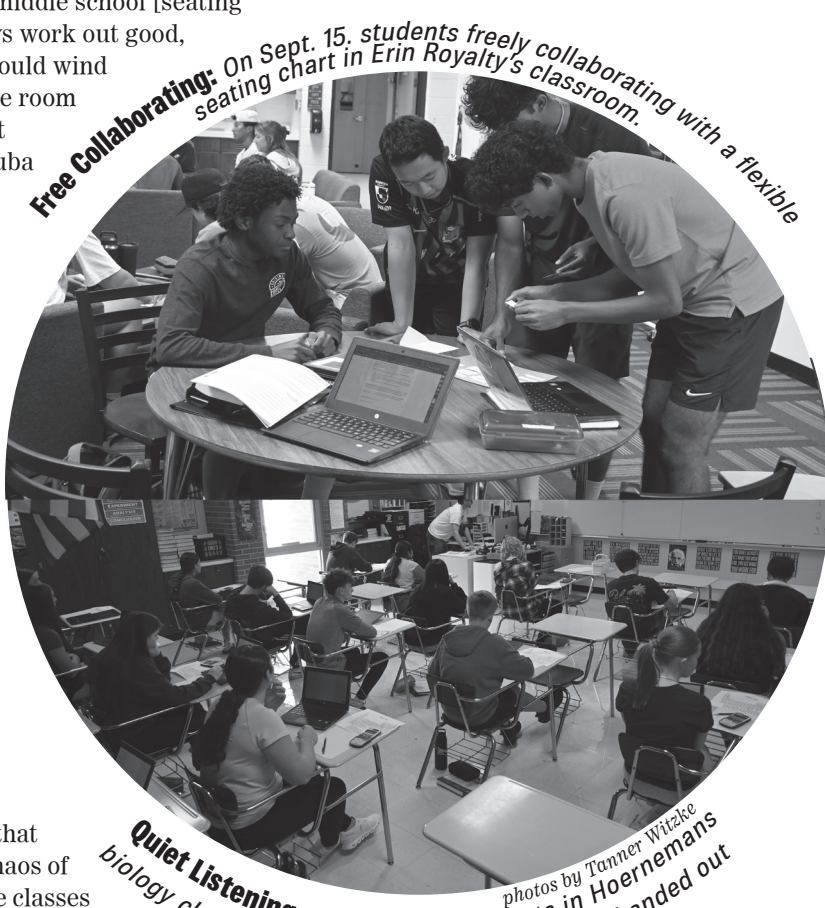
A common rebuttal for those who believe that seating charts are a good thing, is that they enable many to meet new people. For some, this is how they've met some of their closest friends. However, it can be difficult and uncomfortable to start speaking to people they have never met before. Plus, in some cases, students don't even abide by the seating charts.

"When I taught middle school [seating charts] didn't always work out good, because students would wind up yelling across the room to their friends," art teacher Sarah Votruba said. "And I think it was louder, actually, because they wanted to still talk with their friends and or they'd get out of their seat

to go to their friend to talk to them. So that, I think it was a little bit more chaotic when I did have a planned out one, because they went to their friends anyway."

If a seating chart is still not enough to handle chaos, what is the solution? Most students, if given the option, would prefer to not have seating charts.

"As a teacher, I think I would let my students choose their seats until it became a problem," Broderick said. "And based on what I've seen in classes without seating charts, normally, it's not too much of a problem."



## PRO: Seating charts motivate in-class discussions

Tanner Witzke  
*managing design*

As school starts most students dread one thing: seating charts. Seating charts can determine whether a class makes someone feel at home or in the trenches. Either way, seating arrangements can help someone build confidence and take new risks. Meeting others can help someone create friendships and construct a sense of belonging. Seating charts can help diversify someone's social group through meeting different people.

While some may dread meeting new people, others may be excited at the thought of sitting next to someone brand new. In high school, group work is to be expected in many classes and situations, such as English class. Seating charts can help students get to know one another and take pressure off of going up to strangers without a cause. Discussion is important for developing critical thinking skills, showing new perspectives, etc., and a seating chart can encourage these factors. Only sitting with friends in class may limit

chances to expand people's mindset.

Another positive of seating charts is that they can limit the chaos of the classroom. Some classes are filled to the brim with students, making it difficult for both students and teachers to focus on work.

"Seating charts generally keep students on task and listening to the teacher," junior Robert Gill said.

Seating charts can create order through setting up a routine, helping teachers learn students' names, and separating students who can be disruptive.

While seating charts are intended to promote conversations and create order, not all seating charts limit chaos and encourage discussions. This is when changes can be made in a seating chart. No seating chart is perfect, and changes can be made by talking with the teacher.

"When there's a negative energy in the classroom, you try to do everything in your power to change it up, to turn it into a positive one," English teacher Andrew Frye said.

On the opposing side, many view seating charts negatively for a multitude of reasons. These reasons include wanting to sit next to friends, wanting the freedom to sit anywhere, not wanting to talk to strangers, etc. Although seating charts can be irksome, proper changes and a positive attitude can build new diverse friendships. Even though it may be easier to sit next to old friends, life is an adventure and sitting next to someone new is a part of it.

## Chronic absenteeism: Michigan's biggest education problem

staff editorial

COVID-19 hit schools like a tidal wave. The global pandemic washed away all normal activities and routines. Ever since then, school has never been the same. Attendance rates have dropped dramatically. An article by chalkbeat.org states that after COVID-19, Michigan's attendance rates hit a whopping 30% of students missing 18+ days of school a year.

However, since the pandemic, attendance rates have gradually risen. Additionally, chalkbeat.org found that around 29.5% of students are still chronically absent from school. The exact reason for the cause of chronic absenteeism is unknown, even so, many studies have a few ideas.

Some might say that there is something about school that doesn't feel the same as it once was before lockdown. Whether it's mental health, financial, physical, or social struggles, many students around the country feel deeply disconnected with school. While some may call this disconnect a lack of

motivation, after taking a deeper look at student engagement it was revealed that having a poor connection to the teachers, the subjects taught, or school itself plays a major role in students skipping school regularly.

Student mental health is talked about more and more after the global pandemic, studies even found that it was once a big cause of chronic absenteeism. Now though, one of the biggest reasons Gen Z'ers are skipping school more than previous generations is because a majority of school work doesn't require students to actually be in class. In the past few years, school work has been shifted to being able to be done mostly online.

In a similar manner, it feels like more and more assignments are becoming filler work, or that class is a study hour for students to catch up on other assignments. Students having little to no motivation or reason to come to class, plays a huge role in chronic absenteeism.

That being said, students aren't looking for more work when it comes to school. They're looking for a reason to be there. Having numerous work days a week is not beneficial to the students, same goes for filler work. Students go to school to receive an education, in order to be prepared for the future. If they spend most of their day doing work that could be done at home, it's natural that they wouldn't feel the need to be at school. If work can only be submitted by being in the classroom, then it gives students a reason they need to be there, both for themselves and for their education.

After all, most students want to do good in school and have successful careers. But, if their day is spent staring at a computer, it is unlikely for them to be motivated to come to school. Providing students with a growing education that is constantly seeking the students' connection and involvement should be made a priority, rather than just passing the class time or whipping up a five minute presentation.

# The Thumb Index

Kelly Daoud  
*co-business editor*



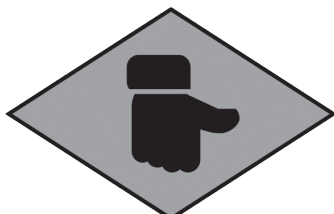
### Chronic Stress

Constant stress can kill brain cells and negatively affect cognition.



### Fast Food

Eating fast food at least once a week is unhealthy for the body, and could lead to health problems.



### Getting Enough Sleep

Seven hours of sleep is crucial for teenagers' brain development but can be difficult to achieve.



### Staying Hydrated

Drinking 7 or 8 cups of water a day is important because water makes up 70% of the body.



### Working Out

Helps people stay in shape and improves mental, physical, and emotional health.

# Not all ads wear well

## When celebrity endorsements fit product, when they don't

Jocelyn Larson & Tyler Witzke  
managing social media & managing copy

The lyrics “My milkshake brings all the boys to the yard” don’t seem very appropriate for a commercial. Yet, the GAP ‘better in denim’ ad featuring global girl group “Katseye” went viral, promoting the jeans spectacularly. This ad showed the jeans being so functional for dancing that they seemed made for it. As a result of this ad’s success, a trend of dancing to Kelis’ “Milkshake” song surfaced, and was loved by all. But the American Eagle ad featuring Sydney Sweeney has a completely different tone.

“I really like Katseye,” senior Abby White said. “But I’m not a big fan of Sweeney and her ad. I don’t like how it portrays some jeans.”

Unlike the GAP ad, an American Eagle jeans commercial received some serious backlash, leaving viewers thinking it was very hypersexualized, and that both Sweeney and American Eagle deserved to be “canceled”. There are numerous ways that the ad could have portrayed Sweeney in a better light that focused less on her and more on the product. There was absolutely no valid reason for Sweeney to have such an over sexualized manner in an ad for jeans.

“My first impression of the American Eagle commercial was that it was cleverly worded, although a bit over the top, I mean, they’re just jeans,” marketing teacher Erin Royalty said in an email interview.

Some famous TikTokers and celebrities have made some mocking comments and videos in regard to Sweeney’s ad. The infamous line from Sweeney’s ad, “genes are passed down from parents to offspring” has been mocked by various celebrities, including Doja Cat. If there was one word to describe the ad, it would be controversial.

Using a celebrity to promote products can be a smart decision, but sometimes it can backfire. It is all about finding the right person that will capture the attention of the audience and portray the right message for that ad. Sweeney’s ad can be seen as being intentionally alluring and seductive to gather an audience.

“The trend in advertising now is hyper-personalization,” Royalty said. “Targeting ads directly to a person’s preferences and likes based on their personal data has changed how companies spread their message.”

Timing is extremely important when it comes to ads and with the rising controversy of women’s rights and their image. Some might say that Sweeney’s ad does not help the cause at all. But, over sexualization is not a new trend in ads.

“I feel like it’s always been like a long time thing,” White said. “If you go back 50 years, women have always been sexualized in the male gaze. Even like in magazines and stuff. So I feel like it’s always been a thing.”

This is not just a micro-trend. Women being put on a pedestal has been seen and heard around the world of commercials and advertisements. Royalty also agrees that this is an ongoing trend in advertising.

“In the ‘90s Brooke Shields had a similar jeans ad for Calvin Klein,” Royalty said. “Using sex appeal to advertise and get attention is nothing new. The ability for these ads to ‘go viral’ and be seen by a wider audience is what has changed.”

This issue is not just with these two jean ads. Matt Rife, a well-known comedian on social media, did an Elf Cosmetics commercial that portrayed him as a drag queen promoting Elf’s products in an oddly uncomfortable way. The commercial’s content and Matt Rife had no correlation whatsoever. It was difficult to understand the point of the ad after watching it. This is a prime example of the use of another pretty face to showcase makeup products. The use of a specific and fitting celebrity can boost an ad’s popularity to new levels. It’s just about finding that right person for the target customers. Matt Rife was clearly not the right person for a makeup ad.

“Think about an ad with LaBron James drinking Gatorade,” Royalty said. “People see

him as a successful athlete, he drinks Gatorade, so then it must be good for athletes.”

With all of these ads, the trend of using celebrities that fit the typical beauty standard to endorse a product is clear. There should be more inclusion in the search for models that fit the role of the ad, rather than just picking a conventionally attractive person.

“No one is immune to the influence of marketing and advertising,” Royalty said.

“We are literally inundated by it all day long everywhere we go.”

When society sees so many conventionally attractive people, such as Sydney Sweeney and Katseye in ads, it is difficult for the world to accept any other advertising that doesn’t use someone who fits the generic beauty standards. This might not seem all that prominent on the

surface level, but going deeper shows just how far beauty standards go. Using someone so well known can have its benefits and consequences.

“Society has gotten way too comfortable publicly criticizing each other,” Royalty said.

There is no doubt that ads have influenced everyday life. Advertisements are constantly all up in viewer’s faces, and whether people like it or not, Sweeney’s ad caught the attention of everyone. It did exactly what an advertisement is supposed to do. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion but that doesn’t give anyone an excuse to bully someone. People should be accepted in the world of advertisements even if they go against the traditional beauty standards.



photos by Jocelyn Larson



“Am I doing enough? Should I be doing more? I need to get ahead. What happens if I’m not prepared? What have I gotten myself into?” These are the questions that I often ask myself, and I am left with the insatiable pull that I need to keep doing more.

In high school, I believe that students are constantly pressured to go, go, go and get ahead. High school can become very busy, and when it does, it starts to feel like I am being quantified, not by my worth, but by how much I can fit into a day.

High school has this push that makes me feel like I must constantly be moving forward. ‘What if I stop for just one moment? If I’m not going forward I must be going backwards.’ At least that’s what my brain tells me. But then, I reason with myself. I tell myself that breaks are okay and necessary. In fact, after taking a step back from being overwhelmed, I tend to work better.

During these breaks, I realize, ‘What’s the rush?’ I understand that it’s important to have goals and aspirations. In fact, I believe it is necessary to succeed. Everyone needs something to work towards. However, it’s too easy to get caught up in what else we could be doing and convince ourselves we aren’t doing enough. High school can be an overwhelming time, and I have definitely gone through the highs and lows of it. For the first time in our lives, we make choices that can directly impact our future, so how can it not be stressful? But through all the stress, it is also one of the most exciting times of our lives.

High schoolers should take time to slow down and stop rushing, even during difficult times. Taking time with friends and family is important because, let’s face it, high school is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Our schooling is free, we aren’t struck down with responsibilities other than ourselves, and every day we have a chance to get out of bed to create our own futures. High school only lasts four years. We should be grateful for what we have and be appreciative for all of the opportunities offered to us.

I’m going to continue to work towards meeting those goals that seem a touch out of reach, while being mindful of my time. Instead of trying to do every extracurricular activity around the sun, I’ll choose the ones I’m passionate about. In those extracurriculars I care about, I will take leadership positions. We shouldn’t get lost in what a college wants to see, but instead we should be asking the question: ‘Who do I want to be?’ High school is an opportunity to figure out our identities. It’s a gift to fight for and a place to shape our future.

photos by Maddie Oliver



photos by Jocelyn Larson

## STUDENT REACTIONS

Maddie Oliver  
managing opinion

**Girls Golf Schedule**



“I think it can definitely affect them academically, because if you have six classes a day you can fall behind really quickly.”

**Avery Leigeb, senior**

**Ad Controversy**



“The point that it’s come to with those ads is that they have to put attractive women in those scenarios to be able to sell products.”

**Elyana Remy, junior**

**Pro/Con Seating Chart**



“[Seating charts] probably make me more tired and less engaged.”

**Joseph Flint, freshman**


**No Free School Lunch**



“I feel like it’s unfair, because it’s the schools responsibility to provide lunch.”

**Leah Balawender, freshman**


**Flipped Classroom**



“You could just do all your work there. It’s got to look less stressful.”

**Wesley Gulliford, sophomore**

**AI vs. Reality**



“I think that the couple of generations coming up won’t know any different than AI.”

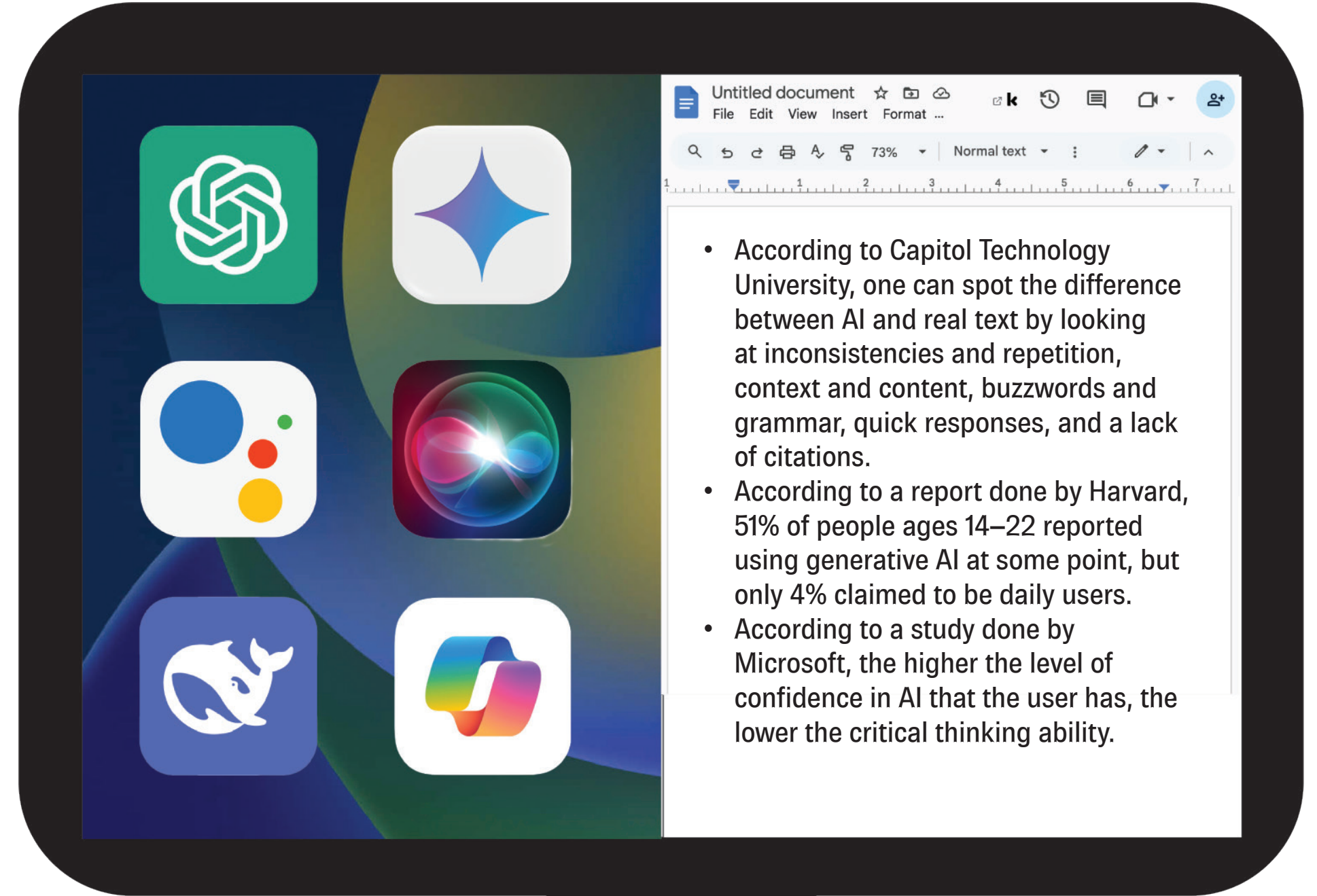
**Grace Keagle, junior**

photos by Maddie Oliver

# Artificial agenda rising

## AI gains popularity, students' ability to analytically think decreases

Addyson French  
co-business editor



- According to Capitol Technology University, one can spot the difference between AI and real text by looking at inconsistencies and repetition, context and content, buzzwords and grammar, quick responses, and a lack of citations.
- According to a report done by Harvard, 51% of people ages 14–22 reported using generative AI at some point, but only 4% claimed to be daily users.
- According to a study done by Microsoft, the higher the level of confidence in AI that the user has, the lower the critical thinking ability.

graphic by Gillian Smith and Addyson French

Artificial Intelligence (AI), has gained rapid popularity over the past year in the media. Most people who are on social media are familiar with AI images. The image quality AI can produce has been improving as time goes on, making it even harder to tell what's real and what's not.

"I think it's funny when I see an AI generated thing, and everyone's like, 'how did that happen?'" IB Coordinator Sarah Pancost said. "And other people are saying, 'that's AI of course this didn't happen,' so I find it kind of funny."

According to the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, AI, in a couple of years, will most likely have a large impact on journalism. AI is able to do automated reporting, data analysis, personalized content, fact-checking and verification, language translation, audience engagement, and more, all being responsibilities journalists often have. While AI can be useful, it can take away from the ability to analytically think.

AI has been taking social media by storm, often appearing on Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook, and other sites. Whether it's videos, images or captions, creators constantly exploit AI for content. Many movies and productions use AI, such as M3GAN, Star Wars, WALL-E and others. According to forbes.com, movie producers use AI for script writing, visual effects, post production, sound design, etc.

According to Microsoft, AI has also made advancements in scientific research, improving natural sciences,

sustainable materials, drug discovery and human health. This means that AI is being trained to find preexisting research and data sets that can be applied to unresolved scientific questions.

"I think it's kind of weird how fast [AI has] been going," senior Gretchen Snyder said. "And it doesn't seem to be letting up anytime soon."

According to a Massachusetts Institute of Technology review, experts say a huge advancement AI is making is called "reasoning." The new AI models are trained to work through their answers step by step. They do this by breaking down tricky problems into a series of simpler ones, and when one approach isn't working, they are trained to go back to the drawing board and try another one.

"I usually [identify] AI by the words, but sometimes the image, it's very hard though, it's very sophisticated," Snyder said. "It used to be much easier, like their hand would be all disformed, but now I think anyone who claims they can differentiate AI from reality I don't believe that, I think it's too hard. I don't even try to waste my time trying to figure out something's AI or not, usually, I just look for the hallmarks of good or bad journalism."

According to research done by Northwestern University, one can tell if an image is AI generated by looking to see if there are distorted subjects, abnormal facial features or lighting.

Even though AI is commonly used for photos, it's also

exploited for ideas. There are many different ways to tell whether someone is using AI for writing or cheating.

"I just find that my students almost seem like, scared or embarrassed, or like, I'm accusing them of cheating," IB Lang and Lit teacher Samantha Nelson said. "But I'm actually just asking, like, 'How did you go about with getting this info? How can we do it in the best way?'"

A good way a student could use AI might be to workshop an existing topic or research question. If students copy AI word for word, they are not thinking for themselves, and that's when AI becomes a problem.

"I think that they're using it more and more, but they're not using it in the way that it's intended," Pancost said. "I think of it kind of as like a super charged Google search engine, because it just takes information from different parts of the internet and, like, spits it back out to you."

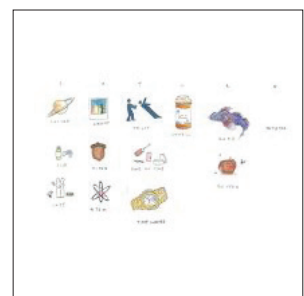
Instead of using AI to think for oneself, students can use AI to help brainstorm ideas, which can be expanded on by the student.

Most people who use AI struggle with problem solving skills. If one continues to search things up and copy it word for word, over time, it will result in a large decrease in critical thinking skills.

"I think, then again, it really is that partnership of teachers and students and working through it together," Pancost said. "Teachers can model the use of AI in a way that increases one's critical thinking instead of lessening it."

## DOW Wrapped Top Songs of September

Addyson French  
co-business editor



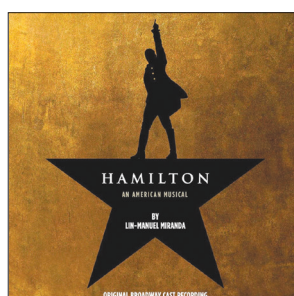
"Saturn,"  
SZA

Meha Shivakumar, Grade 12



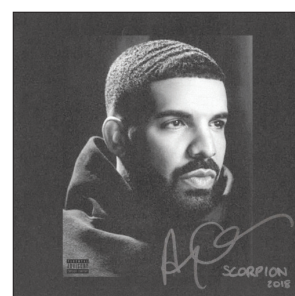
"War,"  
Big Ro6

Jermaine Gilliland, Grade 11



"Alexander Hamilton," Original  
Broadway Cast of Hamilton

Madelyn Leslie, Grade 9



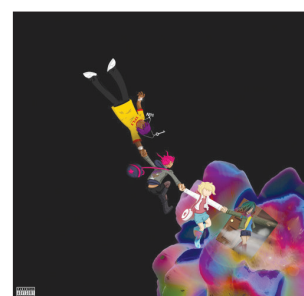
"Don't Matter To Me,"  
Drake, Michael Jackson

Macy Sabourin, Grade 10



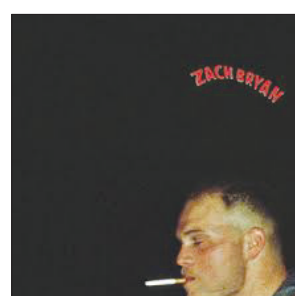
"Hello Juliet,"  
Clarion

Collin Brown, Grade 11



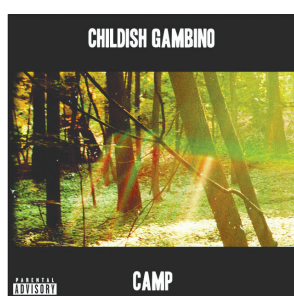
"Do What I Want,"  
Lil Uzi Vert

Carlos Krapohl, Grade 12



"Fear and Friday's,"  
Zach Bryan

Maggie Salogar, Grade 12



"Les,"  
Childish Gambino

Bailey Kirkman, Grade 12



"Shake It Out,"  
Florence + The Machine

Shae Boverhof, Grade 11



"Pompeii,"  
Bastille

Ezekiel Wolfe, Grade 9

screenshots from Spotify

# Student Leadership builds hype

## Classes works to create, manage school assemblies for students

Selah-Rose Tonk  
assistant sports editor

When students pack into the gym for assemblies, all the cheers, games and band music seem effortless. But the polished product is the result of weeks of brainstorming, planning and teamwork from the Student Leadership classes.

"It's not normally just us, the Executive Board, who comes up with the themes," Student Leadership Executive Board member and senior Keira Hillman said. "A lot of times we do it as a class. We brainstorm on Google Slides, then narrow [ideas] down to what is affordable and actually doable."

Executive Board member and senior Jackson Jones explains how tradition plays a big role in the themes of each assembly.

"For Homecoming, the theme is Homecoming, but it's also the freshmen's first assembly," Jones said. "It's about welcoming them to DHS. For Midland, the theme is 'Beat Midland.' The senior assembly always goes back to celebrating seniors. Some themes just never change."

Just like some themes for assemblies never change, the same goes for the roles each class has for assemblies. Student Leadership divides responsibilities by class so each class has a clear role.

"Games always go to Student Leadership 2," Hillman said. "The Executive Board plans the script in detail, splits up emails to cheer, pom and the drum majors, and makes sure everything runs smoothly so nothing falls through the cracks."

Although most assemblies go as planned, Student Leadership will sometimes face last-minute changes that can be stressful. These challenges test the group's ability to stay calm and adapt. Student Leadership members have to think quickly, rely on each other and stay flexible.

"Last year we had a teacher who wasn't able to speak during their part, and we had to go on the spot and find someone else," Hillman said. "You just have to be efficient."

Moments like these highlight how much pressure Student Leadership can be under when unexpected problems come up. Even small changes can feel overwhelming, because everything has to stay on schedule and look

smooth to the audience. Both students said the most stressful moment comes just before the assembly starts.

"Definitely when everyone is walking in, because you're like, oh shoot, this is actually happening," Hillman said. "Also right before I'm about to speak I always think that I'm gonna forget what I'm actually saying, and I just have a moment where I'm like, repeating my line in my head over and over again, even though I know for a fact that I do actually know what I'm saying. So I'd say for me it's definitely either right before I have to speak, or when everyone's coming in there and you are scared that something might go wrong."

Both Hillman and Jones agreed that problem-solving skills are critical to keeping assemblies from falling apart when unexpected situations arise. If a game ends too quickly or a speech runs longer than planned, the team has to make quick adjustments on the spot.

"Problem solving skills are really important because we have an exact time deadline, and sometimes things do not run smoothly," Hillman said.

"Whether it's something like a game goes too fast, or someone talks too long, and we have to, on the spot, kind of figure out how we're gonna make sure that we end up still keeping the same time frame."

Adviser Chelsea Berg provides guidance while allowing the students to lead themselves.

"Mrs. Berg really lets us do what we're gonna do," Jones said. "And then we go to her if we have any

questions and then, once we decide what we want to do, we go to her, and she tells us what will actually work. So she likes to just let us plan it and then steps in and helps us after, but she doesn't like to do what she wants. She just lets us do our thing. And once it comes time, she helps us, or helps us solve any problems that come across."

Preparation doesn't stop when students leave the classroom. Planning assemblies often require students to dedicate time beyond the normal school day.

"Sometimes it's a huge time commitment, we will even have to meet after school because we are not all in the same hour," Hillman said. "Finding a time where everyone can meet proves to be one of the biggest challenges, since each student has a different schedule filled with classes and other activities."

The process doesn't end with planning, either. Students work together weeks before the assemblies to make sure they will run smoothly. Then, comes the day of the assembly.

"The hour before, we rehearse, check the sound system, pull out the bleachers and run through performances," Jones said. "We even leave class early to make sure everything is set up."

Student Leadership is not only organizing the flow of the assembly

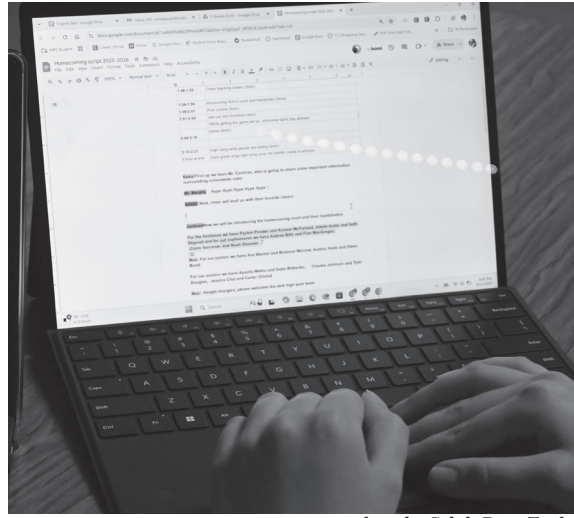


photo by Selah-Rose Tonk

**Getting ready:** Senior Kristy Daoud works on the script for the Homecoming assembly with the Executive Board in Chelsea Berg's classroom on Friday, Sept. 12 during 3rd hour.

but also ensuring all the technology works correctly. But before the assembly begins, the plan must be reviewed by administrators. The plan first goes through a brainstorming stage where the class pitches different ideas, but only some make it through to the final version.

"We sit in with Mr. Cochran and go through everything," Hillman said. "He makes sure none of it breaks rules and that it's all doable."

Principal Scott Cochran checks not only the safety of the production but also the cost. Budget limitations often play a big role in deciding which ideas can happen and which can't. For example, with the Midland-Dow assembly, Student Leadership makes sure that the events get the students hyped. They also work to ensure the people involved in the assemblies are safe while not going over budget. Some events bring extra energy compared to others, especially when sports rivalries are involved.

"The Midland-Dow is definitely more hype just because it's our rival game," Hillman said. "You have to make sure the school is excited about it."

Building the excitement means decorating hallways, promoting spirit week themes and getting students involved long before the assembly begins. Other assemblies require unique preparation, like the annual basketball game at the end of the year. Unlike a typical assembly, this event pulls together athletes, coaches and teachers.

"We start by getting a list of names of people interested, from basketball players to the helpers," Hillman said. "Then we plan it like other assemblies, set a timeline, find volunteers for scoreboard and refs, order t-shirts and make sure the gym is set up."

Hillman explained that communication is key during this stage. If one piece of the puzzle doesn't come together, the whole event can be affected. For example, Student Leadership has to find volunteers for not only the scoreboard, but also to help the athletes during the game.

For both Hillman and Jones, the hard work is worth it once they hear the school buzzing afterward. All the stressful moments don't matter anymore after seeing the thrilled students during the assemblies.

"When you hear people afterwards saying how great the assembly was, or they're talking about the game, it is so rewarding," Hillman said. "You really brought people together, and they all enjoyed it."

The experience is a reminder to Student Leadership of their impact on students and their involvement with the school.

“*The hour before, we rehearse, check the sound system, pull out the bleachers and run through performances.*”

Jackson Jones  
Executive Board  
Member

”



Photo by Sarah Charles-Anaele

**Getting hype:** Class of '25 seniors Lukus Studebaker and McKenna Seymour get pumped up at the Midland-Dow assembly on October 25.



The most underrated character ever

Creed. Who is the first person you think of when you see that name? Do you think of the rock band, Creed? Or are you like me, and you think of the most underrated character in the history of television, Creed from, the one and only, "The Office."

Creed Bratton is known as the sneaky, strange old guy in "The Office." He originally started as a background character. He only had a speaking line every so often. Thankfully, the writers must've asked the same question we all are thinking: "who is this guy?" As the show continued on, Creed's role adapted from a background role to a supporting character. As the series went on, that question, "Who is Creed Bratton?" was continuously asked. In fact, even after nine seasons and 184 episodes, the question never got answered. I don't think even the writers know who Creed Bratton is, and does Creed, himself, know?

"The Office" cast has a few characters that the episode's storylines consistently follow. This show also has quite a few supporting cast members that aren't seen as much. People love to say that characters like Ryan who aren't seen as much, are underrated, but I beg to differ, and would say that he is overrated. It's always Ryan this, Ryan that. Maybe it's because the boss in The Office, Michael, is always talking about Ryan. But the point is, out of the numerous characters in the supporting cast, Creed is always the one who is overlooked. He's sneaky and adds dark humor to the show. In fact, the thing we see Creed do the most is add a sense of randomness. Not random in the same way as Michael, like him burning his foot on a grill. But in the sense that you never know when to expect him in a scene.

I think out of all the methods used to make jokes, being random is, by far, the best type of comedy. Creed delivers this time after time. "The Office" is an easily quoted series, so let's take a look at one of Creed's best lines.

In season six, episode one, Creed says, "If I can't scuba, then what's this all been about?" This quote shows exactly what I mean when I say Creeds humor is being random. This episode is called, "Gossip." As the title suggests, this episode consists of a series of "fake rumors" that Michael spread. The rumor spread about Creed is that he has asthma, where he promptly says the quote from above.

What more is there to say about Creed Bratton? "The Office" is an easily loveable show, and having characters like Creed makes it a million times better. Thank you, Creed.

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Jocelyn's Journal  
with  
Jocelyn Larson

Managing mental health

I wake up at 5:45 a.m., shower and get ready for school. But it's game day so I have to wear my uniform. It's time to do my 30-minute curly hair routine and my makeup. I can't forget to eat breakfast, too.

I cram in some last minute studying for my quizzes at school. 'Did I remember to do this? Did I forget that at home?' I am thinking about how the game will go tonight, how my performance will go. Will I let my team down? Will I start daydreaming and forget the routine?

There are so many things I need to do in the future, but I don't know if I'll have time to do them with my job. I'm finally on the field, band playing, sun setting, heart beating. Not a single thought is in my head except how surreal this moment is.

Managing time between sports, school, mental health, jobs and chores can seem like a dark rain cloud above your head. But learning how to control and deal with all the important stuff is crucial, especially as we grow older.

Thoughts and corrections about my performance during games and practices are recurring thoughts for me. Striving to be the best you can be at what you love is so important, but sometimes it can get to be too much with everything else in your life.

It's hard to maintain a positive mindset and give it your all at practice when you're having a bad day. Not only do you not want to let your team down, but you can't let yourself down either. Once you start doubting yourself, it's all downhill from there. That's why communication with your teammates and coaches is crucial. Having a big support group helps to keep the team on the same page as you.

It is imperative to take a step back and breathe when you get discouraged at practice or in a game. Being stressed and overstimulated has no benefit at all. During practice when I feel like I am getting upset, my teammates always know and try to help me. Establishing a strong friendship foundation is the best thing you can do. I love knowing that I have my best friends on my side when I get agitated. Whether it's that I can't hit the move right, or get on my spot in time, my teammates are always there.

Keeping good grades is also a difficult task while being on a varsity team. In some sports you can't stay on the team if your GPA is too low. But, sometimes it's hard to go to practice, then come home and do all your homework. This is where time management comes in handy. It is key to learn how to make time for the important things so you can keep doing what you love.

Time management, a positive attitude, inclusion, communication, and deep breaths are all you need to keep cool and have fun under those Friday night lights.

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# Sports superhero

## Athletic trainer Kayla Phillips helps with injuries, beyond

Gabe Nix  
managing news

More than 3.5 million sports-related injuries occur each year in the US, according to Johns Hopkins Medicine. To help any athletes struggling with aches or pains, there is someone specially trained at DHS: Athletic Trainer Kayla Phillips.

Phillips earned her bachelor's degree at Central Michigan University, and is now in her third year of working at DHS. Her desire for a sports-medicine centered job started at a young age.

"I grew up playing a lot of sports and also had various injuries," Phillips said. "Also, I really liked the human body, so I just felt like this job hits all of those things."

Though Phillips' availability changes based on the season, she is always in her office during sixth hour. While reaching out to her ahead of time through email is best, walk-ins are always welcome. However, Phillips is on duty much longer than just during sixth hour. After getting water ready for the day's sporting events and helping any athletes who need attention, she attends home games and practices. She is always prepared to help with any injuries that may arise during these events. She usually doesn't leave school until sometime between 7-10 p.m., exemplifying her dedication.

If Phillips isn't on site when an injury occurs, she recommends coming to her as soon as possible, since she can help an athlete at any point in the recovery process. When an athlete does come to her, getting background information is the first step.

"A big part of it is getting the history: what they did, how long it's been hurting, what does it feel like, have they ever been hurt before, and then you kind of go to the evaluation portion of looking at them and doing certain tests, range of motion [and] strength," Phillips said.

Phillips says shin splints and ankle sprains are the main injuries that she deals with. The treatments for these injuries usually involve manual therapy, such as stretching and flexibility improvement. Minor sprains, strains, wounds and bleeding are some other problems she can deal with herself.

Another responsibility Phillips has besides helping with preexisting injuries is injury prevention.

"We can kind of help create programs to mitigate the injuries that people have," Phillips said.

Giving referrals for other doctors who specialize in what needs fixing is another way Phillips helps out.

"They are able to rely on our expertise [on] if you should go to the doctor or not, so I can save people money and or time," Phillips said.

Providing emergency care, such as CPR and helping with rehabilitation are even more ways Phillips can assist others. With these many roles and responsibilities, an athletic trainer cannot be taken for granted. Because an athletic trainer is such a valuable resource, Phillips tries to make her presence known, especially by attending parent meetings. Varsity football coach Matthew Peterson can attest to Phillips being a valuable resource.

"Obviously, if there's injuries, she's a professional; us coaches are not, so she's gonna diagnose anything and let them know if they're good to continue to go or [if] she needs to send them to the hospital," Peterson said. "She does a good job of diagnosing things and taking that off of the plate of the coaches."

However, having the help of an athletic trainer isn't a luxury all teams have.

"We're super blessed to have athletic training staff," Peterson said. "There's a lot of schools that don't have them, so the kids should feel super fortunate that they have the training staff, and the coaches are very appreciative."

Sophomore and cross country runner Leyah Reed is also thankful for Phillips. Recently, Reed visited Phillips because of a nagging pain in her leg that

wouldn't go away.

"She's very helpful, and she knows her stuff," Reed said.

After doing preliminary testing for a knee injury, Phillips determined it would be best to send Reed to physical therapy, which is a solution that is proving to be effective for Reed.

"I eventually learned that I had an inflamed IT band, which with the right precautions and correct stretches, thankfully, I'm getting over it," Reed said.

Reed advises others to visit Phillips as well, if they think that they are injured.

"My coaches, they're able to trust her enough to send their athletes to her without blinking an eye," Reed said.

Senior Kyle Letts, who is on the football team, also received help from Phillips recently. During a scrimmage,

Letts' hand was injured, causing him to seek help from Phillips. After

Phillips felt the area where the injury was, she decided to send Letts to the hospital for x-rays to ensure he could receive further treatment.

Now in the recovery process, Letts is glad he went to see Phillips and advises others to do the same.

"Most certainly go to the trainer if you get hurt or injured," Letts said.

Another part of Phillips' job is getting to mentor Central Michigan University (CMU) students in the fall, who are currently in the process of earning their athletic training degrees. The students work alongside Phillips and are able to provide extra help to students, which she appreciates with how busy football makes her schedule in the fall.

Zachary Perry, a CMU student currently working with Phillips, is in the last year of earning his master's degree in athletic training.

"It's important because an athletic trainer is everything for a student because they might not have the people around them to support them," Perry said.

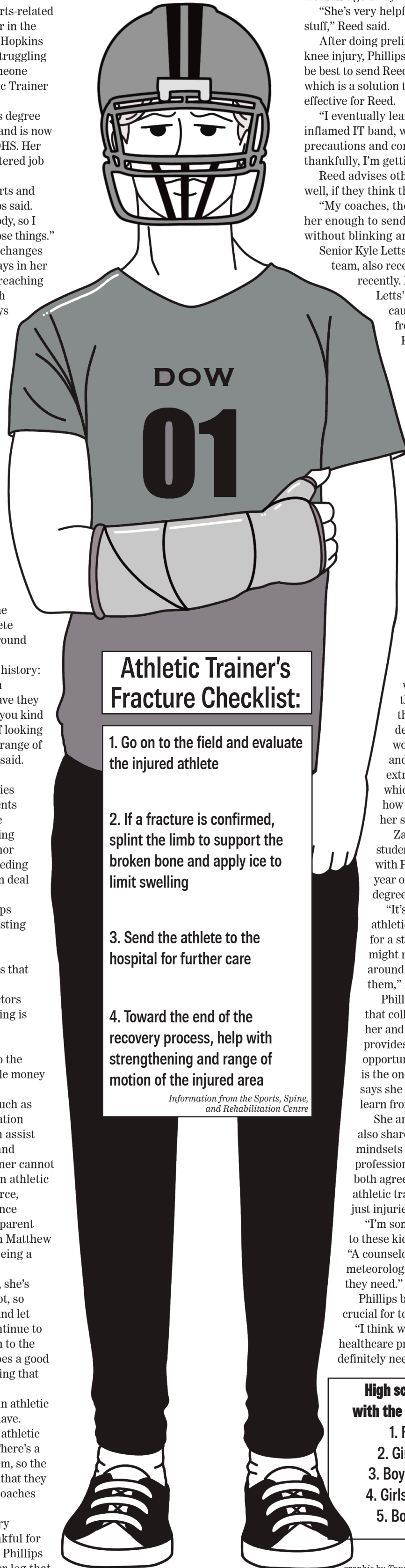
Phillips also believes that collaboration between her and her [CMU] students provides valuable learning opportunities. Even though she is the one mentoring, Phillips says she and the students often learn from each other.

She and her students also share some of the same mindsets related to the profession. Perry and Phillips both agree that the role of an athletic trainer stems beyond just injuries.

"I'm sometimes a mother to these kids," Phillips said. "A counselor, a friend, [a] meteorologist at times- whatever they need."

Phillips believes her role is crucial for today's athletes.

"I think we're all around healthcare professionals that are definitely needed," Phillips said.



### Athletic Trainer's Fracture Checklist:

1. Go on to the field and evaluate the injured athlete
2. If a fracture is confirmed, splint the limb to support the broken bone and apply ice to limit swelling
3. Send the athlete to the hospital for further care
4. Toward the end of the recovery process, help with strengthening and range of motion of the injured area

*Information from the Sports, Spine, and Rehabilitation Centre*

### High school sports with the most injuries:

1. Football
2. Girls soccer
3. Boys wrestling
4. Girls basketball
5. Boys soccer

*Information from the NIH*

graphic by Tanner Witzke

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**SCOREBOARD**

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# Hole in their schedule

## Girls golf deals with conflicting schedules during school day

Isabelle Hetherington  
managing photo

### GIRLS SWIM

The girls swim team competed at their first home meet on Sept. 11, swimming against Mount Pleasant and Davison. They took first place overall.

"I'm really excited, we have a much smaller team this year, but I think that quality over quantity will definitely pull through," junior Amy Casipit said. "And I think all of the girls are really passionate about swimming, and they really are putting in the work."

The team will travel to Fenton on Sept. 30, for their next meet.

### BOYS SOCCER

The boys soccer team is almost done with their season and have a 10-4 record. The team is currently in second place in the SVL. The team is led by senior and captain Nico Scorsone.

"I think the team this year is shaping up better because communication overall is way better, and the morale is way higher than last year," Scorsone said. "We worked together about it as a team and we're not all individuals. We're all a team."

The team's next game is away against Power Catholic at the SVL Cup.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The girls varsity volleyball team won their first tournament of the season against Oxford High School with a score of 3-1. They lost a match against Roscommon with a score of 15-25. They won against Flushing, Heritage and Bay City Western with respective scores of 5-1, 3-1 and 3-0. Senior Karis Galus plays as an outside hitter. For her, the team's chemistry has contributed to their success.

"I think our team chemistry is definitely the best part about our team," Galus said. "There's no drama. We all clash great."

### BOYS TENNIS

The boys varsity tennis team started off the season with a quad in East Lansing. They won 21-2. DHS won three other quads this season, with respective scores of 21-2, 21-3, and 23-3. Junior tennis player Ethan Clarke is in his first year on the team.

"The atmosphere is really good when we're playing matches," Clarke said. "Everybody's always really loud, and it really does help. And the hard work and the history that our team has really does help with winning matches."

DHS will play next at the Saginaw Valley League Tournament.

### FOOTBALL

The varsity football team has started their season with a 3-1 record. They beat Fenton 38-6 and Heritage 35-27. After a tough fight against Mount Pleasant, the football team took their first loss of the season with a score of 63-39. The team is led by senior captain Jay Stevens.

"I think it's really the best I've ever seen. The atmosphere is awesome," Stevens said. "I go into practice, we're all fired up, and if we're not all fired up, we're all on good terms, and even if we do get into arguments, it's not because we don't like each other, it's just how competitive we are."

The team will take on Traverse City Central at home on Sept. 26.

### GIRLS AND BOYS XC

The girls and boys cross country team kicked off their season with the Night Light Invitational on Aug. 22, both teams took second place, girls with a score of 69 and boys with a score of 77.

"[Team dynamics] are really good. We all have a really good connection and kind of just motivate each other," captain Tessa Swier said. "It's kind of like if one of us does super well in a race, it's kind of an accomplishment for everyone."

The team took third place in the Oiler Invite, third in the Northwood Invite, third in the SVL North Jamboree and first at the Holly-Duane Raffin Festival. Their next meet is on Sept. 20, at the Veterans Serving Veterans Invite.



“Golf has really helped me with my time management and getting my stuff done when it needs to be done with the less amount of time. It's definitely helped me be more efficient with my time especially when I'm really busy. Ashtin Boverhof Freshman”

photos by Ben Birney



**PUTT S'MORE:** Sophomore Delaney DeBoer and junior Kennedy Williams finish up a hole as DeBoer putts her final shot during a practice scrimmage against MHS at Currie Golf Course on Sept. 10.



**TEERING OFF:** Sophomore Joss Whitlow tees off during a practice scrimmage at Currie on Sept. 10, against MHS.

**PITCH PERFECT:** Sophomores Delaney DeBoer and Ellie Treblecock swing during a scrimmage against MHS at Currie Golf course on Sept. 10.

A majority of student athletes will, at some point, miss school for their sport. It's common for games to be scheduled during school hours, or be so far away that the team has to leave early in order to arrive on time.

Girls golf will have 13 matches this fall season, all of which will happen during school. Eleven of them will occupy the entire school day.

"It's been so much these past two weeks," sophomore Evie Samocki said. "Last year I did not know, I was a freshman, so, yeah, it was all new to me. I guess this year I know a little bit more, but this year [I know] so much more which is good, because we're pushing ourselves, but yeah, it's a lot of school."

Missing school for an entire day or even a few hours can cause students to fall behind. They can miss lessons that are crucial for understanding a topic. In addition, not having dedicated time to work on assignments can lead to having an overload of work.

"I just try to balance [work] after my tournaments," Samocki said. "I just do all my work. Usually teachers

post online and stuff. So I just organize that. Yeah, it's easy that way, but sometimes I have to watch videos and it's a little harder."

Communication with teachers about being absent helps students with responsibility and organization. Many students have trouble with this skill due to anxiety or because it might be their first time doing it. According to a study done by CollegeVine, attending classes in high school is a pivotal part of development for teenagers before they become young adults.

"They always do a nice job," girls golf coach Doug Bradford said. "The girls do a great job of taking care of their schoolwork and making sure teachers know. In fact, I just had a teacher tell me today, when I was in the building, how good they are about turning their work in and stuff."

"[Missing school is] annoying, but it's manageable," junior Charlotte Burr said. "It's just tests and quizzes are a little bit harder because you have to figure out when you're gonna take them, other than that, it's really, it's easy. I didn't realize how much I'd be missing,

because even then I was missing sixth hour regularly, which is annoying because it's at the beginning of the year when you're meeting everyone.

But no, I did not know, initially, how much school I'd be missing, especially on varsity."

While golfers may miss out on time to socialize with peers in class, they're given the chance to better their bond with teammates. The long trips to matches give students ample amounts of time to spend with their team. Many teams also have a dinner to bond even more. The golf team, however, goes above and beyond by eating dinner together at least once a week.

It's possible that the amount of school athletes miss ends up stressing them out or creating more work for them during the beginning of their season. Even so, many deem the experience they get from playing the sport worth all of the stress, not even consider quitting.

"It's a lot to balance, especially when doing two sports and taking honors classes," Samocki said. "But right now, I don't think about quitting because I love the team so much."