



AAPS educators picket for fair contracts

MEDHA SANGI
WEBSITE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The dismissal bell at Clague Middle School usually signals the end of the day, but on Feb. 3, the exit of students marked the beginning of a different kind of lesson. Light blue pins were placed on winter coats as staff swapped their lesson plans for picket signs. As the students rushed to leave the building, the sidewalk transformed into a physical demonstration representing the Ann Arbor Education Association and their supporters.

Their goal: to educate the community around the frustration with the Ann Arbor Public School “gold standard” reputation being held up by people who can no longer afford to live in the community they serve.

“It is getting a lot more difficult for teachers to afford to be teachers, even though we love our jobs,” Clague social worker Chelsea Knight said.

At Clague, the most significant transitions are happening within the classrooms. A trend of large-scale staffing challenges has swept the nation in the past year, leaving long-term substitute teachers the only available option to teach a large percentage of core classes and



Educators and community members picketing outside of Clague on Feb. 3. The teachers have been working without a contract since the start of this school year.

PHOTOS COURTESY ALLISON JEETER

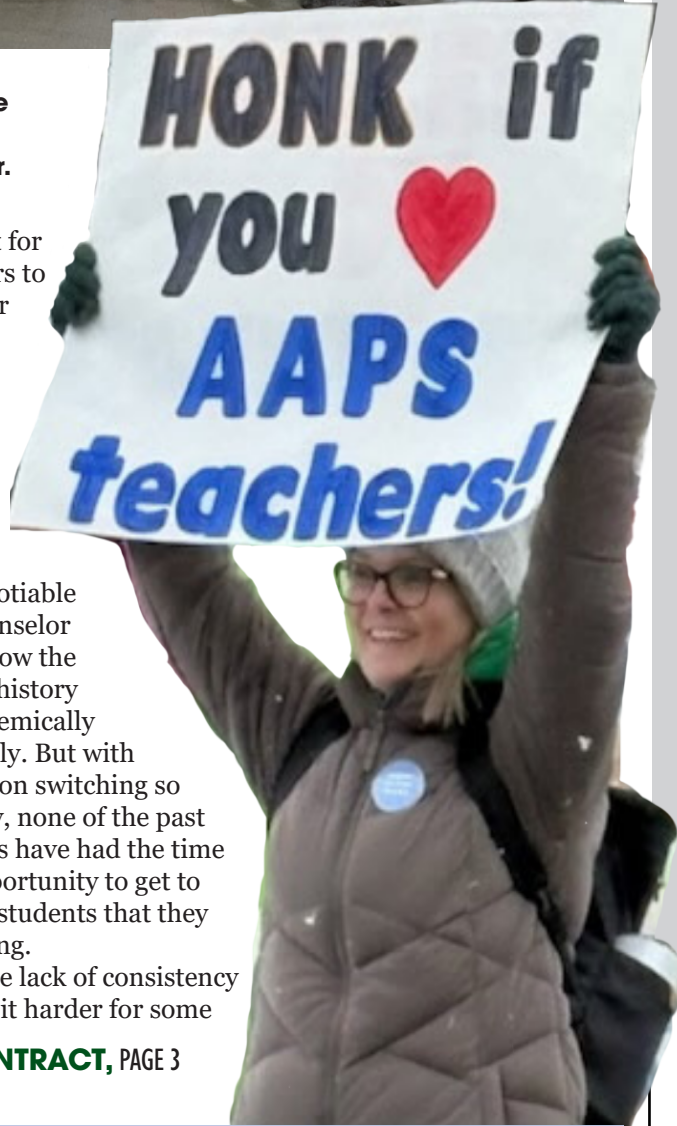
electives. According to Knight, 20% of Clague teachers have already left in the past year and a half. This past week, the eighth grade resource teacher, Amy Creten, announced her departure from AAPS, increasing the number of teacher vacancies to three resource teachers and one science teacher.

This instability does not stop at the front of the classroom; at Clague, it has reached the vital support systems in place for middle school students. The seventh grade counselor position has become a clear example of this pattern. Over the past 1.5 years, this position has been filled four times. It is

important for all teachers to know their students’ academic history in order to better support them, but it is nonnegotiable that a counselor should know the students’ history both academically and socially. But with this position switching so frequently, none of the past counselors have had the time or the opportunity to get to know the students that they are advising.

“The lack of consistency can make it harder for some

See **CONTRACT**, PAGE 3



20%
Of Clague teachers have left in the past 1.5 year

Seventh graders participate in book bowl

ANNABELLE YANG
DESIGN EDITOR

Each year Book Bowl is hosted by Clague librarian Kim McLean. The 7th-grade book bowl has just recently ended. The two teams for seventh grade were The Dragons Girls, and The Thieves of the Ghost Pearl. The Dragon Girls consisted of five seventh graders, Simone Amjadi-Klass, Natalie Hutton, Phoebe Jiang, Nora Zong, and Cora Martinson. They were coached by eighth-grader Anna Wang. The Thieves of the Ghost Pearl also consisted of five seventh graders, Nino Zhou, Bryan Doherty, Margarita Ziazina, Austin Lin, and Melody Mei. They had two eighth-grade coaches, Anya Raman and Maelle Bautista Alvarez.

“I enjoyed book bowl because of getting to hang out with my friends who have the same opinions as me, and the friendly competition at the end. The pizza party after the competition was also really fun,” seventh grader Phoebe Jiang said.

The books this year were “Dragon Pearl,” “Ghost,” and “The Thief Lord.” Teams met during advisory once a week, where they discussed and quizzed each other on parts of the book they read throughout the week. Both



SEVENTH GRADERS SIMONE AMDJI KLASS, NATALIE HUTTON, CORA MARTINSON AND PHEOBE JIANG

teams had three months to read and prepare for the competition that happened in December of 2025. During competitions, both teams meet up in the library as they answer questions for points. Whichever team has the most points wins.

“Everyone was so nice and the coaches helped us a lot,” Seventh grader Melody Mei said. This year’s competition was exciting and nail-biting as competing for points.

Initially, The Dragons Girls appeared to be winning as they kept racking up

more and more points. It wasn’t until the jeopardy round that The Thieves of the Ghost Pearl decided to bet all their points. In the end, The Thieves of the Ghost Pearl won after correctly answering the jeopardy question.

“Book bowl is a creative way to connect students who love to read,” eighth grade book bowl coach, Grace Kim said.

While the seventh grade book bowl has ended, the sixth grade book bowl is already starting to prepare for the competition that will be held in March, with over 30 kids ready to attend, the next competition is sure to be just as exciting as the last.



briefs

FRANCIS BADALAMENTE
STAFF WRITER

Construction continues on the new Logan Elementary. Utility work has not taken a break and one thing that has been going on is the water main work which is around 75% done. The structural steel is being wrapped up this month; it’s basically the foundation for the new school building. According to the Bond update website: “Students and staff at Logan will have an opportunity to sign the final beam, leading up to a “Topping Out” milestone when the final and highest beam is raised into place at the new Logan Elementary.”

Other updates are: The masonry is also still ongoing and the cross laminate timer (CLT) installation. The heating, cooling & ventilation continues and is expected to take around 1-2 months to complete.

The drilling crews typically operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, within the city of Ann Arbor noise ordinance.

OPINION
PAGE 3
WHAT IS THE CLAGUE DISCORD SERVER?



SPORTS
PAGE 8
CLAGUE VS CLAGUE VOLLEYBALL



OPINION
PAGE 12
SWEET TREATS FROM ABROAD



Mystery Boxes fundraiser for eighth grade field trip

MEDHA SANGI
WEBSITE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Each year the eighth graders take an end of year field trip to Traverse City. “Although we are many months away from May, the ball is rolling on the 8th Grade Trip!” Ms. Fluker said in a recent newsletter. “We are headed to Traverse City on Thursday May 21st, returning Friday May 22nd. We will be visiting the Sleeping Bear Dunes and the Boardman River and Nature Center. We will be lodging at Great Wolf Lodge (students will

have access to the Waterpark and Arcade) and utilizing a chartered bus company for our travels.”

To fundraise scholarships for this trip, Clague fundraising committees have been urging its community to participate in fundraisers, the most recent of which being mystery boxes.

Mystery boxes are small bags that were on sale in the cafeteria from early to mid January for \$5 each. Each bag contained toys and pencils with a small chance of winning a Amazon gift card. There were also larger \$20

bags that included plushies, Starbucks gift cards and more. These fundraisers can help eighth graders build memories with other students they will cherish for years to come.

“I am [excited] because I get to spend time with my friends and make memories with them before high school,” eighth grader Minha Kim said.

The eighth grade trip planning committee stuffed mystery boxes for a fundraiser. Photo courtesy of Cheyenne Taylor



February PTSO meeting recap

MEDHA SANGI
WEBSITE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, the PTSO met over Zoom to discuss funds, committee reports and field trips. The meeting ran from 6-7 pm and was led by Betsy McCarty.

Principal report:

In the past year and a half, 20 % of Clague teachers have left. Since Jan. 1, 2026, AAPS teachers have been working without a contract.

“We are working on filling positions that are currently not covered,” Fluker said. “We are currently missing one science teacher and three resource teachers.”

In response, Betsy McCarty urged families to send a short email to the board.

“We can’t do this without our teachers, so a quick email would be great,” McCarty said.

Treasurer’s report:

In total, Clague has raised a gross profit of \$19,993.96. For donations specifically, Clague raised \$6,459 for general donations and \$110.20 for the employee donation match. Fun night raised a total of \$3,301.05. The winter market was another huge success, raising a total of \$530. The

profit made raised talk about a similar fundraiser happening in the spring. The PTSO thrift shop raised \$5,968. Spirit wear raised \$372.31.

Clague also held multiple grocery fundraisers at Bush’s and Kroger. These raised \$865.24, as well as \$677.93 raised from restaurant fundraisers. \$1,680 was raised for winter giving, which was then donated to families in need at Clague.

Expenses included \$2,183.62 for fun night, \$297.98 for the winter market. \$1,109 for dues and subscriptions, \$58.59 for bank charges, \$403.62 for insurance.

Non-profit licenses costed \$20, registration expenses was \$311. Teacher appreciation cost \$4,486.26, the village fund was depleted due to the winter giving initiative, with a total cost of \$1,700. The Cougar Star Newspaper website fees were \$500. Teacher grants were \$3,404, and the principal discretionary fund costed \$535.55.

Families can donate with cash or a check at the front office. You can also donate online at the Clague PTSO Chedder Up account. Other

ways to donate are linking grocery cards and through Employer Donation Match Programs.

The suggested donation is \$50-\$70 per child, but any amount is appreciated. Clague is also in need of Kleenex/tissues. You can donate boxes at the main office.

Volunteers needed:

Volunteers are needed for a Winter fun night of Feb. 20., International Night on Friday, April 24, teacher appreciation week in May, and the eighth grade field trip committee for the class of 2031.

Dance-a-thon:

To replace the fun run, Clague is planning to hold a Dance-a-thon. The dance will take place on March 11, 12 or 18th. The event will cost \$750. The PTSO is aiming to raise approximately \$50 per student or \$35,000. Grade incentives such as Kona Ice Trucks, homework passes, and free snack bar credit were discussed.

Eighth grade field trip updates:

The next PTSO meeting will be on March 11, 6-7 p.m., in person at Clague.

Celebrating Black History Month through books

JESSIE JUO
DIGITAL MEDIA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

February is celebrated as Black History Month to honor Black voices, heritage, and contributions they have made.

In the Clague Library, books written by Black authors from different genres are featured to celebrate and acknowledge this month.

Here are five of many books presented.

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon: A Jamaican-American author, who wrote the book *Everything, Everything* about a fast-paced romance novel of a girl, Maddy,

17-year-old with a severe and rare illness (SCID) that makes her allergic to the outside world and forces her to stay at home. She had never left the home until a new neighbor, Olly, moved in. She fell in love with him, which led her to risk all her safety for the chance of love.

Opposite of Always by Justin Reynolds: Cleveland-Based Young Adult Author, who wrote a fantasy tale, bittersweet, about a black senior boy called Jack Ellison King who gets caught in a time loop from the day he meets his girlfriend and the day she dies 4 months later. The book focuses on the “what if” when time-jumping has consequences for Jack, and outlines the overcoming of navigating a time-loop to stop the demisful fate.

Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson: American-teaching Artist writes about a protagonist named Jade,

a 16-year-old scholarship student and an artist who navigates life between a low-income neighborhood and a wealthy private school. She feels seen as an ‘at-risk’ student and unsupported, which leads her to finding her voice, defining her own worth, and creating opportunities for herself in a world that disregards her.

Nic Blake and the Remarkables; The Manifestor Prophecy by Angie Thomas:

Former Teen Rapper and now young adult American Author, Thomas writes and themes the importance of heritage and cultural identity. In the book, a 12-year-old Nic, is a ‘remarkable’ with dormant magical powers

in the ‘unremarkable’ (human) world. When her father is framed for a crime, she and her friends embark on a journey in search for a magical tool that can save him. Along the way, she discovers hidden secrets about her family, heritage and the magical community.

Ikenga by Nnedi Okorafor: Nigerian-American Writer writes a middle-grade fantasy novel, categorized specifically as African-based speculative fiction. The book speaks of a 12-year-old Nigerian boy, Nnamdi, who gains superhuman powers from a magical object called the Ikenga after his chief police father died. The book leads through his feelings of grief, justice and being torn between using his powers for good or vengeance. The book was nominated for the 2021 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile.



Poster of Black Voices Month books PHOTO BY JESSIE GUO

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Clague student starts new Discord server

SANA SUBBU ARUMUGAM
STAFF WRITER

Founded by Kensei Higashi (seventh grade) and Kenneth Wang (seventh grade), the Clague Middle School Discord Server has grown into a server with over 50+ students who can chat, study, and build friendships outside of school. It allows students to come together even after the end of the day. “I joined because I wanted a way to talk to my friends outside of school,” seventh grader Percy Ngyuen said. One of the best parts of the server is being able to ask for help with schoolwork.

Students can work together on difficult projects or to ask questions about homework. “The server is helpful when you’re stuck on a problem and need help from a friend in class,” eighth grader Lenaya Lee said. “Sometimes a classmate explains stuff way easier.” Besides school, the server brings together students from 7th, 8th, and 9th grade to bond over similar things. These include gaming, music, cubing, and other hobbies. “It helps students talk to people they wouldn’t usually be friends with, and for people to develop new friendships,” seventh grader Alexander Lu

said. Because the server is student-run, it constantly changes and becomes better based on the student’s suggestions. Students are encouraged to suggest new channels or activities through polls. “Every day, we pick out the Quote of the Day from the ones students suggest,” seventh grader Kensei Higashi said. Even though the server is for having fun, the founders make sure it stays positive through a set of guidelines. They want everyone to feel welcome. “The guidelines make



Image of Clague Middle School Discord Hangout Logo
GRAPHIC COURTESY OF KENSEI HIGASHI

sure everyone is nice to each other,” eighth grader Ella Tang said. Whether it’s for a study session or a long conversation with friends, the server has become a great way to talk

with friends outside of school. “The more people we get to join, the more helpful and fun it will be for everyone,” Higashi said.

CONTRACT, FROM PAGE 1

students to build strong relationships and trust with their counselor,” counselor Derick Hallman said. “For middle school students, especially in seventh grade, consistency is important, as many are still adjusting socially and emotionally.”

While substitutes provide a vital service to the community, the sheer number of staffing changes, midyear position changes, administrative reassignments and a lack of funds in the AAPS district has sparked debate on whether the unstable teaching positions are affecting students’ learning and the overall school environment.

“I think long term subs are fine as long as they actually know the subject and can teach,” seventh grader Olivia Yim said. “If they don’t know the subject, it might affect students’ learning and grade.”

This all stems from the AAPS announcement in March of 2024 AAPS of a \$25 million deficit in the budget. This led to budget cuts, including the removal of elementary school language programs, causing the layoffs of all elementary language teachers as well as many other positions.

By the start of the most recent school year, AAPS had reduced overall budgeted positions by approximately 15% (350 jobs) since 2023. Current leadership is mainly attempting to “right size” the staff to student ratio by waiting for teachers to resign or retire and choosing not to refill their positions. This method is called attrition and is seen as a gentler way to reduce the staff body compared to mass layoffs.

Attrition can lead to involuntary transfers to a new grade or school for teachers due to the inconsistent student to teacher ratio, adding stress to an already difficult job. For Clague social studies teacher Chelsea Brooks, this was exactly the case.

It was the second to last day of school in the 24-25 school year when Brooks found out about her involuntary transfer due to the budget cuts.

“I received an email that I had to have a meeting with the principal,” Brooks said. “I was super nervous because this was at a time when the district was firing lots of teachers because of the budget crisis. When I went to the meeting, the principal told me that I would be moved to Clague Middle School. I was relieved but also worried about moving to a grade level I have never taught before.”

Standing on the picket line, Knight described a growing divide between the school’s prestige and the financial reality facing its staff.

“Our district is telling us that

they cannot increase our pay without us making concessions,” Knight said. “Now this is very different from the message that they gave us last school year, which was that we would come back to the table and improve the financial offers. And this is hard for teachers, because the cost of living has gone up dramatically over the past five years, while our wages have stayed about the same.”

While teachers typically work under multi-year contracts that ensure predictable raises, AAPS has shifted toward single year agreements. This lack of long term security led to the disagreement; as of Jan. 1, 2026, for the first time in decades, teachers have been working without a contract in response to mixed messages from the administration.

Teachers from all over the district and state were facing the same situation. Although Brooks never considered leaving AAPS, she knew other teachers who chose to move to a new school district.

“Middle school has grown on me a lot,” Brooks said. “I am happy to

have had this experience. My students are overall very friendly and enjoy learning. Life gives us many challenges and changes. I was upset at first, stressed and felt overwhelmed. Though I have transitioned well here at Clague, and really enjoy being here.”

The union argues that the lack of competitive salaries is driving veteran teachers to leave AAPS in search of higher paying jobs. All of these factors combined lead to a high number of midyear resignations and retirements that will be difficult to find immediate and stable replacements for. During the last academic school year, nearly 8,000 teachers left Michigan, while only 7,900 entered teaching.

“We’re going to fight for livable wages because we want to stay here,” Knight said. “We want to be here for all the students, and we want all of our students to have a quality education.” In her recent update to the community, principal Crystal Fluker addressed the concerns.

“We appreciate your patience as we work diligently to fill all vacancies,” Fluker wrote. “As parents and administrators, we aim to find caring, highly qualified professionals to join our staff to educate our Cougar scholars.”

Fluker is a recent addition to the Clague community after the recent departure of Kyron Harvell who left Clague to join the staff at Henry Ford Community College. While the district continues to navigate these huge changes, individual stories of commitment give hope of a stable future. Last year, Michael Hoffman joined Clague as a long term substitute (for Mrs. Inaba’s class) during a period of high uncertainty for veteran teachers. Rather than moving on, he chose to stay, transitioning this year into a permanent staff member.

“I’m really grateful for this opportunity,” Hoffman said. “I think teaching is a collaboration between students and teachers, so I really appreciate how welcoming all the students and staff have been.”

With the school’s support, he is now working toward his official science teaching certification. His journey from a temporary sub to a dedicated, soon to be licensed educator shows that even during a budget crisis, Clague can still grow and keep teachers. While 2026 remains a year of transitions, stories like his prove that the community is still finding ways to build a stable future for its students.



GRAPHIC BY MEDHA SANGI

Staff Editorial: Continued Construction

Construction near Clague has been going on at a steady pace for a while with hopes of a new Logan to be finished by 2027. With the new addition this meant removing the track field and the tennis court, leaving Clague students without any outdoor equipment to use.

It is inconvenient for students who want to go outside during lunch or advisory. The only area students can go outside now is the main entrance and car loop, which is small and has no equipment either. This has caused many teachers and students to avoid going outside in general which could make students feel restless or fidgety without a place to release their energy.

This has not only affected the fields and courts though, traffic routes have also changed for buses and parent drop off or pick ups. This is inconvenient as some say it takes longer to get to school.

On a positive note, Clague Middle School is said to be able to share an outdoor area with Logan once it is finished being built. AAPS has even said that they may be able to finish earlier than expected. The Cougar Star staff is excited that the construction could end earlier, as problems including going outside and traffic would be resolved sooner too.

Building another school this close could also bring more problems in the future, such as crowded mornings or disruptions caused by the other school. Sharing an outdoor space may also cause conflict between them, and school events, such as concerts or sports games may need to be coordinated for them to run smoothly.

These are all problems that we may encounter but understands that this is likely a necessary step that will accomodate a new buidling.

The Percy Jackson Series: A book review

SANA SUBBU ARUMUGAN
STAFF WRITER

Percy Jackson & the Olympians is an incredible fantasy book series written by Rick Riordan. The main series is made up of five books: The Lightning Thief, The Sea of Monsters, The Titan's Curse, The Battle of the Labyrinth, and The Last Olympian. It was first published in 2005 and combines ancient Greek mythology with the modern world.

The story takes place in the current day United States and follows Percy Jackson, the son of Poseidon. Percy transforms his life of ADHD and dyslexia into a journey. In my opinion, I love how the author takes Percy's disabilities as superpowers in the battlefield. It inspires kids around the world to see their differences not as limitations. Percy travels around the U.S. with his best friends, Annabeth and Grover, to find Zeus's bolt. Ultimately, he uncovers that Kronos is the main antagonist of the story, realizing that through teamwork, Percy and his friends must work together to outsmart and defeat Kronos to save the world.

As the series progresses, Kronos's (the leader of the gods) army of monsters become more powerful. They threaten to destroy Mount Olympus (located at the top of the Empire State Building)

where all the gods are located. Percy and his friends face mythological creatures, navigate the risky Labyrinth (a maze), and deal with the drama of their parents/gods. Throughout the series, each character learns significant lessons. Percy learns what it truly means to be a hero. One thing I really liked about Percy Jackson is how Rick Riordan takes something as ancient as Greek mythology and modernizes it to fit the current world. The show on Disney+ portrayed the various settings really well. The director definitely made the world more immersive, making you feel like you're right there.

However, in my opinion, one thing I didn't like about the series is that it felt a bit repetitive. Each story often follows a similar pattern of receiving a quest, traveling across the country, and facing a series of monsters before the final showdown.

Overall, I would give the Percy Jackson series a 9 out of 10. I think Percy Jackson and the Olympians is an incredible fantasy series. The book is full of suspense and almost forces me to turn the page. The Disney+ show just completed its Season 2 in January 2026, and Season 3 is coming out later this year. I recommend this series and the show for readers who enjoy humor, action, and mythology.



Percy Jackson is a book series along with a hit TV show. The five book series was written by Rick Riordan.
PHOTO BY: SANA SUBBU ARUMUGAN

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POLICIES

The Cougar Star staff meets on Mondays after school. All students are welcome to join the club at the start of each school year.

The Cougar Star is a member of The Michigan Interscholastic Press Association, Columbia Scholastic Press Association and The National Scholastic Press Association.

2025: CSPA:
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Letters to the editor can be sent to badalamentes@aaps.k12.mi.us

How Kids2Kids started: Featuring Caleb Samulak

OLIVIA YIM
STAFF WRITER

For around 10 years, Clague seventh grader Caleb Samulak has been running a YouTube channel, Kids2Kids. The channel is mostly based around monster trucks and teaching kids how to play.

The Kids2Kids journey first started when Samulak and his family sat down and watched a similar video of a monster truck when he was young.

“I watched a YouTube channel about monster trucks, and my dad said that we could do better,” he said. “So we started it for that reason, [but] also because I like monster trucks, and because we wanted to help kids and [have them] play along with us,” Samulak said.

Samulak’s purpose of this channel was to have younger kids like him also have something to watch when they are home.

“When they’re home, and their parents can’t play with them, [they can] just turn on a show,” Samulak said. “I think it’s very cool how parents trust our channel with their kids.”

Samulak’s favorite part of being a creator is the community.

“I really like the community and that some of them have been with us for a very long time, and that they care so



Caleb Samulak holding his gold play button. PHOTO COURTESY OF CALEB SAMULAK

much about the channel,” Samulak said.

At Monster Jam, they hold meet and greet events, and he has had up to 500 people waiting in his line to see him, demonstrating the reach and impact of his channel. In these moments, Caleb always feels joy in his job when he sees his fans lined up to see him.

“So we are very grateful for all of our fans who watch us and like sometimes we get recognized in public, but when we do, like meet and greets at Monster Jam, sometimes there’s like 100 people in line waiting for us,” Samulak said. “Sometimes it’s more. One time we had 500, but this just shows how many people care about our channel

and watch us.”

His proudest moment as a creator is hitting 100,000 subscribers.

“When we hit 100,000 subscribers, that was really big,” he said. “And yesterday [Jan 28, 2026], we hit a million subscribers, and that was really cool. And then we did our first live stream yesterday in the car, when we

were at 999,950 subscribers,” Samulak said.

One of Caleb’s most memorable moments was going to London.

“There was a kid who was sick with a disease called leukemia and his one wish was to see us,” Samulak said. “And we got to travel all the way to London, and we stayed with him for a week, and we did some pretty cool things with him, and it meant a lot to us and our family that someone all the way from London watches us.”

When Caleb grows up, he wants to continue this job.

“I would love to continue this job, but it might be a little bit harder, because I’ll be 20 or something,” Samulak said. “If I have a kid of my own, I could continue the channel, and he could be the star, and I could do the editing.”

On Samulak’s YouTube channel, it’s not just him; his siblings make an appearance in every single video.

Caleb’s mission with this channel is to keep creating chances for kids to relax, connect, and hang out with him.

“I feel like my goal for the future is just, I don’t really have any goals,” Samulak said. “Hitting a million subscribers is cool, but I’m just grateful that we give kids a chance to hang out with me.”

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Detroit Sports: A successful year in 2025 for all Detroit teams



A picture of the Detroit Lions playing football PHOTO COURTESY SARA SERFOZO

season and lost in the Division Series (second round) of the playoffs. They started off the season with two straight months of 19 wins each, at one point reaching a record of 54-39, which is 25 games over .500, becoming the first team to reach 50 wins this past season. The Tigers were on pace for an all-time year for the franchise, but a 7-17 month of September dropped them severely in the American League and to second in their division. In the first round of the playoffs, they defeated the Boston Red Sox two games to one in a best out of three series. In the Division Series, they played the Seattle Mariners in a best-of-five game series, losing three games to two, ending a roller coaster of a season and solidifying their spot as one of the worst falfoffs in MLB history. This past season was a disappointment to most Tigers fans, but only because of the amazing first half of the season.

[READ THE FULL STORY ON THECOUGARSTAR.COM](https://www.thecougarstar.com)

MAX FINE
MANAGING EDITOR

15-2. 44-38. 39-35-8. 87-75. Those are the records of the Detroit sports teams from their 2025 seasons. This is the first time since 1991 that all 4 Detroit teams have posted a winning record in the same season. Even though the Red Wings didn't make the playoffs and no teams made it to the semifinals or championships, it was still one of the best overall years in

Detroit sports history. The Detroit Red Wings are the NHL (National Hockey League) team in Detroit, and they are the only NHL team in Michigan. This year, they had a record of 39-35-8 (Wins-Losses-Ties). Unfortunately, they missed the playoffs, extending their drought to a ninth straight season, finishing sixth in the Atlantic Division and tenth in the Eastern Conference. Alex DeBrincat, a winger for

the Wings, led the team with 39 goals, and fellow winger Lucas Raymond led the team in assists (53) and total points (80). Their best month of regular season play was January, going 10-3-1, and their worst month was March, going 4-10-0. The Red Wings were eliminated from the playoffs on April 12th with a record at the time of 37-35-7, after the Montreal Canadians lost to the Toronto Maple Leafs. This was yet another

disappointing season for the Red Wings, especially because of the talent acquisitions they made over the offseason, most prominently that of Patrick Kane, a three-time Stanley Cup champion and nine-time NHL All-Star. While the Red Wings extended their playoff drought in 2025, the Detroit Tigers, Michigan's only MLB team, extended their playoff streak to two years in a row. They had a record of 87-75 this

Clague vs Clague: Rivalry with respect in Rec and Ed volleyball

AEDA BAANG
WEBSITE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Dec. 13, 2025, the two rec and ed volleyball Clague teams went against each other.

They always cheered each other on during games and became closer because of volleyball. During this game, they also cheered each other on and the game was a very friendly one. At the end they would say "Good game!" and "Nice job!" to

each other not caring about who won or lost but about teamwork, sportsmanship, and friendship.

"Often we would show up at Slauson and the other team was in a game so our team would cheer for them and some of the girls would stay after to cheer us on," said Sharon Weiner, volleyball parent.

Shayla Ly, the coach for the winning team has really enjoyed this season because of the teamwork the two Clague

teams had shown each other.

"I am so proud of all my girls for how hard they worked in practices and their teamwork on the court," Ly said.

The girls in the two volleyball teams have known each other since elementary school.

"This game was super exciting, it was super thrilling to save the other Clague team to be our last opponent of the season," Ly said



A group picture of one of the volleyball teams coached by Shayla Ly. PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON WEINER

Season 3 sports game schedule: Men's basketball and cheerleading

February 2026

10: Clague vs Tappan at 4:30 p.m. home (White team then green team at 5:30 p.m.)	19: Clague vs Ann Arbor Open at 4:30 p.m. home (White team only)	26: Clague vs Slauson at 4:30 p.m. home (White team then green team at 5:30 p.m.)
3: Clague vs Scarlett at 4:30 p.m. home (White team then green team at 5:30 p.m.)	12: Clague vs Forsythe at 4:30 p.m. away (White team then green team at 5:30 p.m.)	16: Clague vs Ann Arbor Steam at 4:30 p.m. away (White team then green team at 5:30 p.m.)

March 2026



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Cougars crush the Tappan Trojans



1



2



3



5

ANNABELLE YANG
DESIGN EDITOR

1. Looking to pass to an open teammate is seventh grader Shane Moore. The Cougars took on the Tappan Trojans on Feb. 10. In the 42-19 win for Clague, Moore played for the A-Team and finished the game with 22 points.
 2. Seventh grader Taym Shamma dribbling to his right to get past a defender.
 3. Going up to get a rebound is eighth grader Adonis Frye. Frye finished with two points in the A-Team match-up against Tappan.
 4. Attacking the basket on a fast break opportunity is seventh grader Charlie Anderson. Anderson finished the game with six points in the B-Team game against Tappan.
 5. Seventh grader Cole Bostwick trying a floater over a Tappan defender. Bostwick finished the game with 10 points in a 42-23 B-Team win over Tappan.
- PHOTOS BY: Pricilla Pralav, Anaya Spero Maloney
CAPTIONS BY: Max Fine



4

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Checking out POTOBOX: Photo booth in Ann Arbor

OLIVIA YIM
STAFF WRITER

Potobox is a photo booth located at 619 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. It is open from Sunday through Thursday from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 11 p.m. Their prices typically range from \$8-\$10 for two films. In each film, there are 1, 2, 4, 6, or 8 cuts. The store is empty except for you and other customers. You pay with a little machine inside the booths.

"I like how no one is in the building, so they don't watch everything," sixth grader Juha Kim said.

Potobox allows you to download the pictures you take in one of their booths onto your phone and a video, allowing you to look through the memories you made there when you scroll through your camera roll. They also have a claw machine and pens, so you could sign the film. They also provide sunglasses, headbands, fake wigs, and many other props you can pose with to make it extra fun.

"I love Potobox because it's so fun to choose what items to use, and it always gives so many good memories,"

seventh grader Stella Lee said.

There are only 10 seconds between every picture, so people hurry to change their props and get into their poses. One can look at their camera roll in the day and see how rushed they were.

"Potobox is great because there are a lot of accessories and props you and your friends can use," eighth grader Maelle Bautista Alvarez said. "And the panic between pictures makes everything funnier because everyone just ends up in funny positions."

There are six photo booths total; four normal versions where the cameras are straight in front of you. The colors for the normal booths are white, lavender, pink, and blue. There are also two high-angle versions where the camera is on top, and it looks down on you. The colors for the high-angle version are red and blue. You can also edit the outside layer of your films and add filters to your pictures, such as making it warm or monochrome.

"I think it's one way to make good memories with the people who you love!" eighth grader Grace Kim said.



1. Located at 619 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. It is open from Sunday through Thursday from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 11 p.m. this is the building of Potobox. Photo courtesy of Olivia Yim 2. Seventh graders Jessie Guo, Angela Oh, and Olivia Yim using the

red high-angle films. 3. There is a claw machine located on the left side of the store. They have trendy things like Labubus or Cry Babies. 4. Headbands and funny wigs are located in the middle. There are also Christmas-themed wigs right now. Photo Courtesy of Olivia Yim 5. Stuffed animals

and animal hats zone. 6. A place where you can touch up your makeup, hair and take pictures. 7. Machine that you pay for, take pictures, and choose the cuts and films on. PHOTOS BY OLIVIA YIM



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Picture perfect pastries: a global photo tour

MEDHA SANGI
WEB EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tous Les Jours



1. Tous Les Jours is a French influenced bakery with a wide variety of sweets. PHOTO BY SOPHIA LOUTTS

2. Popular menu items include iced matcha latte, matcha cream donut and taro cream bread. PHOTO BY SOPHIA LOUTTS

3. This photo shows a variety of cream donuts including matcha. PHOTO BY SOPHIA LOUTTS

4. This display shows many flavors of filled croissants, cookies and tarts. PHOTO BY SOPHIA LOUTTS

Shatila Bakery



1. Shatila Bakery bring the classic flavors of the Middle East while adding a modern French twist.

PHOTO BY MEDHA SANGI

2. Many varieties of baklava filled with different nuts. PHOTO BY MEDHA SANGI

3. The photo shows many pastries stuffed with a sweet or savory filling . PHOTO BY MEDHA SANGI

4. Shatila Bakery also makes beautiful cakes for any occasion. In the photo you can see a cookies and cream cake along with small cakes like tiramisu. PHOTO BY MEDHA SANGI

Yoon's Bakery



1. Yoon's Bakery is a Korean inspired pastry shop that serves a variety of sweet and savory foods. PHOTO BY MEDHA SANGI

2. Shown in this photo is a selection of sweets including red bean buns, cream soboros and many others. PHOTO BY MEDHA SANGI

3. One of my personal favorite foods at Yoon is the sand bread. Although the name doesn't make it sound very appetizing, this bread is extremely soft with the cream inside coming in three different flavors; matcha, regular and hazelnut. PHOTO BY MEDHA SANGI

4. Along with small snacks, Yoon also makes cakes. Unlike regular cakes, the cakes at yoon have a lighter texture and a softer, whipped cream like frosting. PHOTO BY MEDHA SANGI