

# THE CHALLENGER

HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL

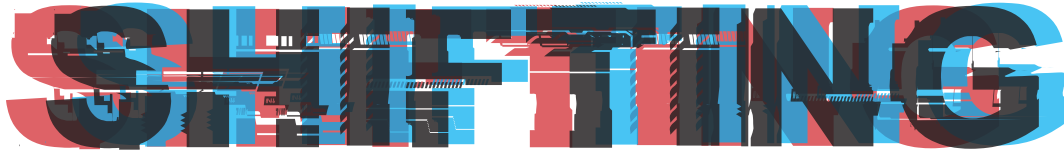
# SHIFTING



HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL

# THE CHALLENGER

4800 AURORA AVENUE DES MOINES, IA 50310 515.242.7313  
www.hooverchallenger.com Volume 52, Issue 1 Fall issue



## EDITORIAL BOARD

Eylse Hiskey  
Rylie Meyer  
Melissa Pardock  
Arabia Parkey  
Cynthia Renes

## PHOTO EDITOR

Amber Hagler

## MEDIA EDITORS

Jada Poindexter  
Joel Segura

## SECRETARY

Jamiean Camps

## STAFF

Kaveon Brooks  
Asante Gordon  
Sage Johnson  
Rusty Kemp  
Osman Memic  
Skylar Middle  
Ripley Miller  
Alex Ramirez  
Ethan Rogers

## Contents:

Opinion 3

News 4-17

Lifestyle 18-23

Sports 24-27

Back Page 28

The Challenger is published by the newspaper staff of Herbert Hoover High School, and exists to serve as an open forum for the students, faculty, staff, administration and community.

All state and federal laws regarding the publication of student materials shall apply, and the Challenger will not publish materials which also fall under the guidelines established by the Des Moines Public School system, and are deemed libelous, obscene or a material and substantial disruption to normal classroom activities.

The views expressed are not those of Des Moines Public Schools, faculty, staff or administration.

All articles are researched, written, edited and designed by the staff, and are the result of editorial decisions made by the entire staff.

Any student, faculty, staff, or community member wishing to contribute materials will need to submit copy within deadline restrictions; however, final publication is at the discretion of staff. Letters to the editor are encouraged, and must be 255 words or less in length and signed; letters may be edited for length, grammar, spelling, etc. Every attempt will be made to verify the authenticity of the author, and no anonymous letters will be published.

Advertising will be accepted for all products or services that are legal for minors to possess or utilize.

Advertisers wishing to reserve publication space should call (515)242-7313 and leave a message.

## 2019-2020 Publication Dates:

Fall: September/October

Winter: November/ December

Spring: Febuary/March

Summer: April/May

## 2019-20 AD RATES

1/16 page (2.5" x 2.75") \$25

1/8 page (5" x 2.75") \$45

1/4 page (5" x 5.75") \$75

1/2 page (10" x 5.75") \$125

Full page (10" x 11.75") \$250

## Cover Credits:

Design: Rylie Meyer

Photo: Arabia Parkey

# The Grieving Process

The story of losing my aunt and the grief it came with.

March 6th, 2019, I lost someone who meant so much to me most people wouldn't understand. It was an ordinary day at school or so it seemed. My mom was blowing up my phone saying, "come home right after school!" I was really confused on why it seemed like she was freaking out. A call came to the classroom I was in and it was a call saying my mom was there to get me. I walked to the hall and saw her crying. My mind instantly went to something had happened to my grandpa, but then the words "Stephie died" came out of her mouth. It felt as if the world had stopped. I dropped to my knees and just cried. My aunt had this beautiful big smile and hair that was teased and sprayed to God. She was a counselor at Ankeny high school and she helped a lot of people but she couldn't get the courage to ask for help for herself. She had been in a dark place for

**YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH A HARD TIME ALONE. GET HELP!!!!**

awhile and no one knew because she didn't want to say anything.

Grief is the feeling of deep sorrow, especially that's caused by someone's death. I spoke with counselor Janet Stribling about some healthy coping mechanisms good and bad. She also discussed some ways to help those dealing with grief.

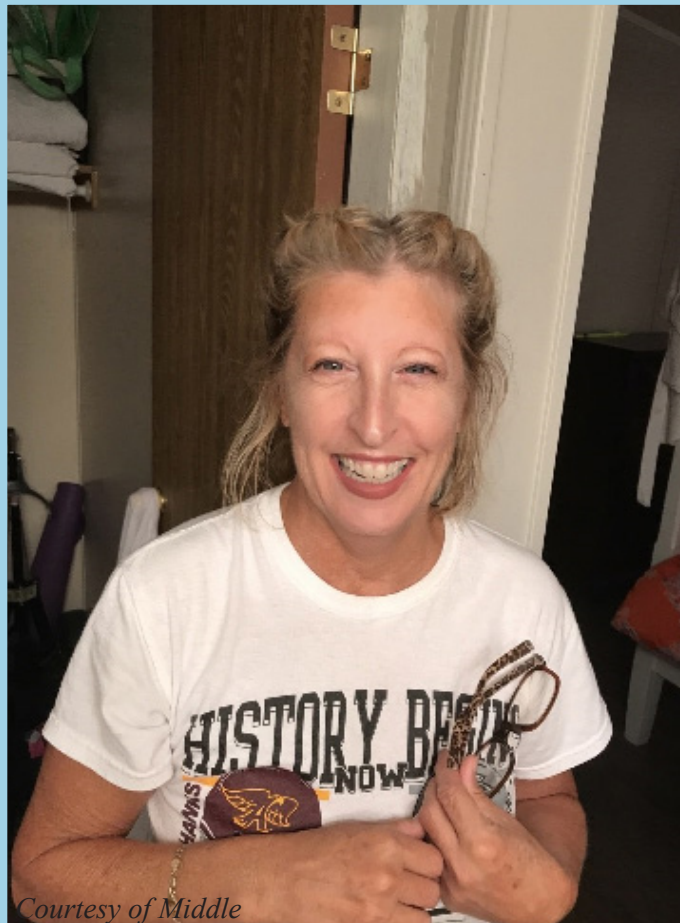
"Bad ways are holding it inside and not opening up. Good ways is talking to someone you trust and getting grief counseling or even finding a hobby," Stribling said. "It can be hard to see crying, withdrawal, and even anger. See if they will open-up to you, if they do make sure to be a good listener and be supportive."

If you notice they aren't getting better or they are showing signs of being suicidal be sure to get them help or tell someone who can help them. Just be a shoulder for them to cry on if they need.

After my aunt passed away, I didn't handle it very well. I sat in my room and would just lay there in the dark because I didn't feel like doing anything else. Some days I was perfectly fine but other days I had no energy to get out of bed and get ready. It almost felt as if I forgot about what happened to her sometimes, but then I would see something or sell some-

thing that made me think of her.

When I went back to school I decide that I should go and talk to Stribling. She told me what I was experiencing grief. I spent a lot of the days after she passed in Stribling's room just talking my feelings out. When I acknowledged the fact that her passing had happened, I was able to start moving on. Staying away from negative thoughts is how the grieving process got even better for me. I still miss her but I know she is in a better place.



*Courtesy of Middle*

**Stephanie Miller**

**June 13th, 1961 - March 6th, 2019**

**The Challenger | Opinion**

**3**

# NEW SCHEDULE

## What teachers think about it.

Another year, another schedule change.

Why you may ask? There were various reasons. The biggest reason being the loss of face to face time minutes with students on the old block schedule. Budget cuts also played a part in the change.

In his eighteenth-year teaching at Hoover, coach Jon Means does not have a problem with the new change and hopes to make the best of the current situation.

“There are always adjustments in preparation to changes and there are always weaknesses to strengths,” Means said.

The District has been speaking of a schedule change since around 2010. It was almost spoke into existence, but transportation was the barrier holding the district from moving forward with this change. This problem has been adjusted and fixed, resulting in the district to move forward with the change.

You would think that changing the schedule would result in students being upset, but no. Students and teachers like the 45-minute classes. Many students say that the 45-minute classes make it feel like the day is going by faster and really the only negative thus far with this new change is the busing for students that attend Central Campus.

“I think students are reacting well to it. They like the change up of classes and it makes the day go faster. We like it as administrators because once students are in class, they stay there, which is awesome,” principal Sherry Poole said.

So far, this recent schedule change hasn’t been much of an issue. Students like it; teachers like it. Finally, a successful change from DMPS.

**45**  
**MINUTE CLASS**  
**PERIODS?**

**90**  
**MINUTE ODD & EVEN**  
**DAYS?**

**TELL US WHICH**

**YOU LIKE @**

**HHS\_CHALLENGER**

# Poole takes it to the top

## Poole's first year as principal

Sherry Poole is in her second year principal. There were some things that she had to change to better the school, but that didn't stop her from making Hoover the school it is today.

"We had to overcome some high profile events and damage to the building after a hail storm, but overall the year went well. I loved getting to know all the students throughout the year," Poole said.

There are places where Poole would like to see improvement; one big one would be less drama with students. She would like to see less drama caused by social media as well as less students being tardy to class.

Throughout last year, Poole saw change with students behavior.

"The biggest change I saw over the course of the year was in behavior. After March of last year, we had very little behavior issues between students," Poole said.

Though the students need to change, Poole could use change and improvement. She wants to be more reflective and wants to live out the Hoover mission statement. These are the priorities she wants the students to accomplish around the school.

"I want to see students improve on absences and tardies, decrease behavior issues, improve test scores and create a community to reflect global citizens," Poole said.

Poole wants to have more of an impact in the community and that starts with the school. Coach Nick-Bush believes that Poole is doing a great job and is making her way towards the community goal.

"Mrs. Poole is willing to help kids with any area needed. She wants to make Hoover a safe and learning environment for the students. We are happy to have her as our principal; she's made it a great working

experience," Bush said.

Junior Deja Kelly believes Poole is a great principal but believes she could fix some things.

"I like Mrs. Poole. I just think she could make better decisions for the school. She's a great person," Kelly said.





# NEW YEAR, NEW A.D.

A warm welcoming to Hoover's new Activities Director.



*Activities director Jacob Burke.  
Photo courtesy of Mary Culp.*

**"I AM JUST VERY EXCITED TO BE HERE AND MOVE HOOVER IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION WITH ACTIVITIES AND ACADEMICS," BURKE SAID.**

This year Hoover has a new director of student activities and school equity, or more commonly known as A.D.- Jake Burke. Burke has already spoken at the fall athletics meeting this year. He has made it clear that he cares about getting student athletes to the next level. Students are looking forward to new improvements within our activities, school and Hoover community.

"I will be very focused on setting a high bar when it comes to attending class, behavior, good grades and being a good community member," Burke said.

Burke has set goals for this year and moving forward. Goals that involve the facilities at Hoover and student participation.

"One goal is to help with getting facilities up to speed and competitive with other schools. I am a big proponent in getting everybody involved in something," Burke said.

Students have already noticed Burke's hard work, drive and effort to make

Hoover activities better for everyone. They have also noticed his encouragement towards student athletes and activity participants to be more successful.

"I like how he is willing to make change and be different. He also is willing to put in work himself and not just have other people do everything. By getting his hands dirty it proves himself as a leader and someone that will create change," junior Jerad Fischer said.

The Hoover community would like to welcome Burke into our school and his new position as activities director.

"I just want to welcome him to Hoover. It's a school that has a long history and deep roots to our community and I am looking forward to working with him to continue to make Hoover a success," band director Ryan Rowley said.

# CHANGING TEMPOS

Our school's band has been making some major changes this year.

The Hoover Marching Huskies started this school year with a \$0 budget. Despite the lack of funding, the band has been working harder than ever before and making significant progress in order to strengthen a Beaverdale tradition.

"This year, we've made a few very big changes. We hired an instructor to assist the percussion section, we're working on building a color guard for next season, and the people who attended band camp got so much done, it was really surprising," band director Ryan Rowley said.

At the beginning of the 2016 school year, there was no marching band at our school. Since then, the band has been experiencing exponential growth every year - 2019 being no exception. Throughout this past summer and football season, the band has made more progress than they ever had in the past. There were marching formations on the field before the end of band camp, the size of the band increased slightly, and student leadership became more necessary and prevalent.

"We're still working on overcoming a few challenges, but it's important to build an environment that is inclusive, where people have their own voice and feel safe," Rowley said.



*Photo courtesy of Amber Hagler*

In addition to these changes, the band has increased its visibility around the school and surrounding neighborhood, as well as furthering the idea of how important a band can be to a community. In Beaverdale and within our school itself, the tradition of Hoover's band used to be something people took pride in, and it's slowly but surely becoming a proud tradition once again.

"I find band to be very important. It's something I wish I did as a kid. It encourages the student body and does wonderful things for students and their creativity. I love that it's a skill you can keep forever," activities director Jake Burke said.

Marching band is not only important to administrators and the community, but to the band members themselves.

"Band means a lot to me because it allows me to further my knowledge of music, and I like seeing the extremely positive reactions we get from the community," junior Claire Gordon said.



*Image Courtesy of Needpix.com*

# DROP THE JUUL,

How the ongoing vape epidemic is affecting our generation.

According to nih.gov, in the United States, there was nearly a 10% increase in the use of vaping devices among high school seniors from 2017 to 2018. A large portion of this increase comes from advertisements on social media and popular trends on the internet. The concerns are increasing due to several deaths and health issues stemming from vaping.

Junior Julicana Muñoz believes that vaping has become more of a generational issue among middle schoolers and high schoolers due to the amount of popularity of the trend on social media.

“As a generation, we have become very addicted and it’s becoming a problem within our age group. It’s really common to know someone with a juul. Most of our generation has some sort of social media, so you’ll see people posting videos on their Snapchat story or on Instagram and it starts to give the idea to other people that vaping is cool,” Muñoz said.

Many students that vape or use e-cigarette products are not even aware of the harm they are imposing on themselves and others around them.

**“THE TEENAGE BRAIN IS STILL DEVELOPING DURING YOUNG ADULTHOOD SO THE IMPULSIVITY, ALONG WITH PEER PRESSURE, IS HIGHER ALLOWING THE TEEN TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT WILL COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR HEALTH LATER,” MEREDITH SCHOOL NURSE KRISTINE JACKSON SAID.**



*Juul advertisement of the multiple flavors. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.*

“The teenage brain is still developing during young adulthood so the impulsivity, along with peer pressure, is higher allowing the teen to make decisions that could be detrimental to their health later,” Meredith school nurse Kristine Jackson said.

As a health care professional, Jackson has a lot of background with the dangers of vaping.

“Nicotine is the primary agent in both regular cigarettes and e-cigarettes, which is an addictive chemical. Electronic cigarettes are just as addictive as traditional ones. Research has shown that nicotine can be just as addictive as heroin and cocaine,” Jackson said.

As of October 3, there have been more than 1,000 possible cases of lung illness associated with using e-cigarettes reported to the CDC across 48 states and the US Virgin



# STAY IN SCHOOL

Islands. The numbers have been changing frequently, according to a CNN article.

A recent news story from CNN reported the twenty-first death in the United States from a vaping-related lung disease.

The popularity of vaping is so new that there is not enough information or research, which makes the issue even more dangerous. Stopping the vaping epidemic in our generation starts with educating people on this topic.

“Educate yourself and your friends about the dangers of vaping and why it’s not a great idea to start. Include as many people as you can and encourage others to want to take care of their bodies,” Jackson said.



*Man using an e-cigarette product. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.*

## VAPING STATISTICS:

**~ 7 OUT OF 10  
TEENS ARE EX-  
POSED TO E-CIGA-  
RETTE ADVERTIS-  
MENTS**

**~ 30.7 PERCENT  
OF E-CIG USERS  
STARTED SMOKING  
WITHIN 6 MONTHS  
OF USING VAPING  
PRODUCTS**

**~ ONE JUUL POD  
CONTAINS 20 CIGA-  
RETTES WORTH OF  
NICOTINE**

# HUSKY SPIRIT

Who was Best Dressed during Spirit Week?

*Photos courtesy of Amber Hagler & Jamieann Camps*



For one week out of the school year, Hoover is enforcing a school uniform. But not the typical khakis and polo shirts. This uniform is strictly Husky Pride. During Spirit Week, students are encouraged to bring out their face paint and camo pants and participate in the daily themes that promote student bonding. This year's overall theme for Homecoming was City of Stars.

Hawaiian shirts. Leis. Fanny packs. Bucket hats. Sunglasses. During day one of Spirit Week, the school was filled with tacky tourists on a tropical family vacation.

Senior Isaac Orozco showed up with his best tourist outfit and won the Best Dressed prize on Monday. His floral shirt and pink Polaroid camera set his look apart from the rest. To pick his award-winning outfit, he chose two colors and built an outfit around them.

Orozco's advice to students struggling to decide on what to wear for Spirit Week is simple, just have fun!

"I feel like they're usually just scared to dress up so just have fun with it," Orozco said.



*Orozco, sophomores Alyssa Hull and Lillian Johns as tourists.*



*Jessica Harrington, Sophia Hostetter, and Alice Johns for Dynamic Duo Day.*

The Powerpuff Girls and The Incredibles. Frat Boys and Vsco Girls. Winnie the Pooh and The Cat in the Hat. On day two of Spirit Week, twins, triplets and small groups brought out their best coordinated outfits for Dynamic Duo Day.

Although not a duo, but a trio, one of the best costumes for this day was the Powerpuff Girls. Sophomores Lillian Johns and Kadee Collier and junior Julia Shonka channeled their inner Cartoon Network to win Best Dressed.

To Shonka, dressing up for Spirit Week is an important way to boost anticipation of Homecoming.

"It really helps spread school spirit for the game Friday and get people excited for the dance on Saturday. It's



a really fun way to express people's creative side as well," Shonka said.

Day three of Spirit Week was captivating chaos. Freshmen were cosplaying Disney characters. Sophomores wore their pajamas. Juniors stepped straight out of the Space Jam movie and seniors paid tribute to Hercules in their togas.

Though there were multiple themes happening at once, there were many standout costumes. One of the highlight outfits was senior Charlotte Butoyi's breathtaking toga. Instead of the usual white-bedsheet-toga, Butoyi chose a bright blue to set herself apart.

"Deciding on what color toga was hard but I decided to pick a color that was different. For the headpiece I knew I



*Butoyi (middle) and seniors for Class Day.*



*Junior Arabia Parkey, Sophomore Gabby Ware, and Junior Rylie Meyer for Throwback Day.*

wanted flowers, so I DIY'd them onto the headband. And, for the makeup I was inspired by the makeup looks from Euphoria. I watched videos to get inspiration," Butoyi said.

Day four of Spirit Week was a blast from the past. Students stepped straight out of time machines and into school for Back to the Future day. From the '60s to the early 2000s, a wide range of decades were represented.

Junior Jerad Fischer had a very memorable outfit for this theme. Dressed as Marty McFly, Fischer took the Back to the Future theme to a whole different level.

To Fischer, it's important to keep the atmosphere

light during Spirit Week.

"Don't care about how good it is, just have fun and you have to be able to laugh at yourself a little bit," Fischer said.

Though there was no school on Friday, Husky Spirit was on full display. Stadium lights were bright. Energy was high. Students were decked out in their camo pants, face paint and Homecoming shirts in support of the football team.

Participating in Spirit Week is an important way to create anticipation for the Homecoming game and dance as well as bring students together as a form of bonding.

"[Spirit Week is] a great way to associate yourself with friends and just over all have a good time," senior Sophia Hostetter said.



*Freshmen competing for the spirit stick.*

# FROM HERE

Meet Hoover's 2019-2020

## *Cecilia Maggioni from Italy*

**Q: What's one thing you want people to know about your country?**

A: It's a small, beautiful country.

**Q: Are you excited to be here?**

A: Yes, but I'm quite homesick.

**Q: What's one main difference you've noticed between your country and America?**

A: How people interact with cars because you're always in your cars and doing everything with your cars.

## *Salomé Richaards from Suriname*

**Q: What's one thing you want people to know about your country?**

A: We are really nice, and we really like to celebrate, and we celebrate every culture and their days. We also really like to dance and sing. The culture is very Hispanic, and our food is great. Our country is also small with around 500,000 people.

**Q: Are you excited to be here?**

A: Yes. I've been to the fair and the market and that was really cool. This school is also very big and the volleyball team is really cool as well.

**Q: What's one main difference you've noticed between your country and America?**

A: The character of people in America. You keep to yourself more but in my country, you enter the classroom and give everyone a hug. In my country someone could start humming a song and then everyone else will start joining in and beat on desks and the teacher will start dancing.

## *Ali Ali from Bahrain*

**Q: What's one thing you want people to know about your country?**

A: It is an archipelago in the Persian Gulf (Arabian gulf) that is close to Saudi Arabia. It's a wonderful place-a spectacle of modernity and an unforgettable Arabian heritage!

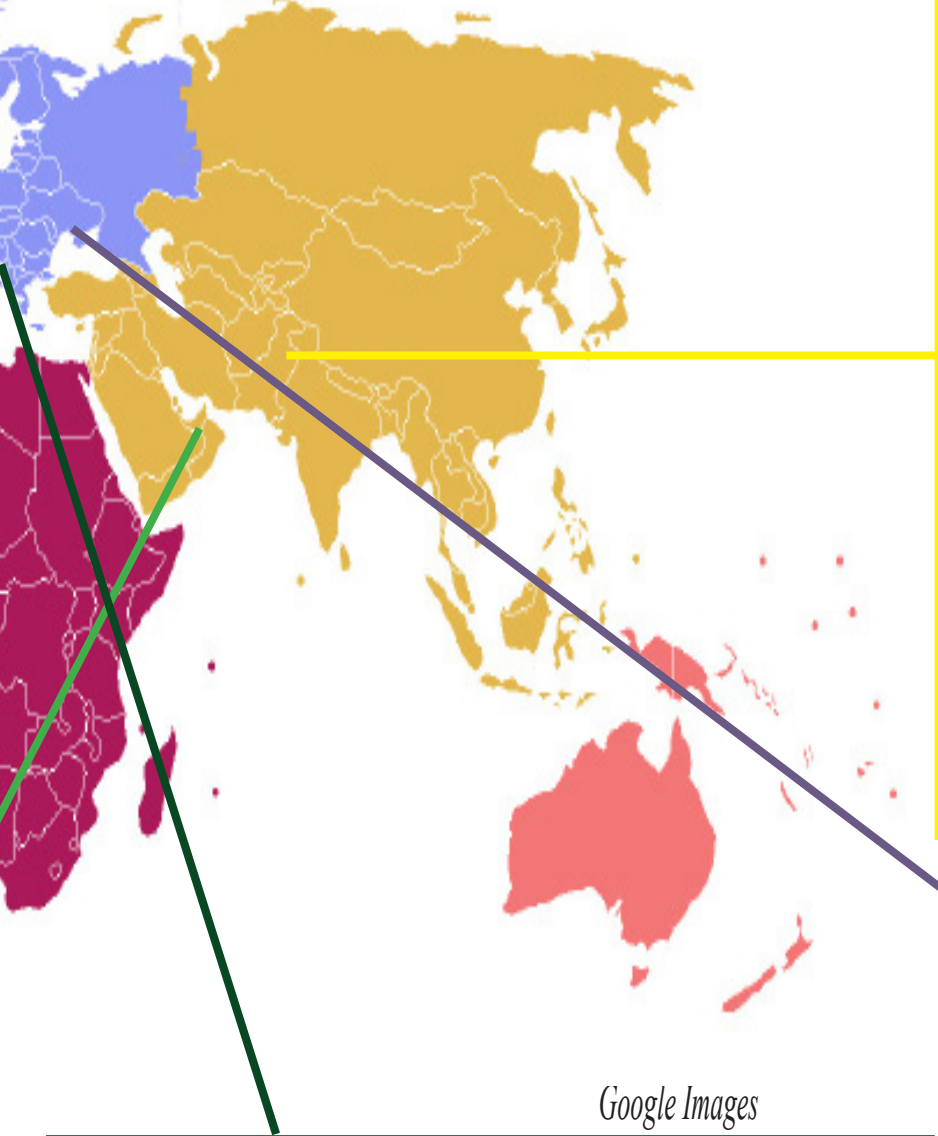
**Q: Are you excited to be here?**

A: Most certainly! It's a new experience after all. It's certainly remarkable and surprising, for I never imagined myself being able to live my life independently!



# TO THERE

## Foreign Exchange Students



Google Images

### *Syeda Asad from Pakistan*

**Q: What's one thing you want people to know about your country?**

A: Pakistan is a peaceful country and wants to help make this world a global village.

**Q: Are you excited to be here?**

A: Yes, this place is so nice. My experience so far cannot be described in words. The people here so nice and help whenever you ask. They are always smiling, and this makes us feel so good...and less homesick.

**Q: What's one main difference you've noticed between your country and America?**

A: The life of a high schooler is so different and the interaction with all the people.

### *Yura Khlidutyn from Ukraine*

**Q: What's one thing you want people to know about your country?**

A: We're not Russia because many people believe we are Russia.

**Q: Are you excited to be here?**

A: Yeah, absolutely. It's been a little embarrassing sometimes but overall everything's been great.

**Q: What's one main difference you've noticed between your country and America?**

A: Nobody walks the streets.

### *Amel Hasecic from Bosnia, South East Europe*

**Q: What's one thing you want people to know about your country?**

A: The food is really good.

**Q: Are you excited to be here?**

A: Yeah, it's been really good so far. The first day of school I had a headache because everything was so new and a lot to process but now, I have friends and it's easier.

**Q: What's one main difference you've noticed between your country and America?**

A: People even if you don't know them are very friendly with you.

# TREND

# VS.

What's the difference between a VSCO girl, Soft-Girl and E-Girl?

Everywhere you go in the world, there will be trends. From style to slang. Or hair to brands. You will be overcome with how you should dress and act. But it can become difficult to follow, especially when it's constantly changing. What are some of the biggest trends overflowing our halls now?

As most people know, there is a title for everything. The newest "type" of girls we have now are E-Girls, Soft-Girls and VSCO Girls. But what are they?

E-Girls and Soft Girls originated from the well-known social media platform Tik Tok. Tik Tok, formally known as Music.ly, is an app where people can go to make short music videos or short comedy pieces, according to Webwise.ie.

E-Girls are known to make edgy videos while flaunting their dark clothing and fun makeup. While Soft-Girls are just about the complete opposite. They tend to make cute videos with pastel clothes and colorful makeup.

But then, here comes the VSCO Girl! The biggest trend of them all. VSCO Cam is another social media platform where its users can take photos and edit them to their appeal. There are fun filters and no worry of like counts. VSCO Girls started off small while using the app to its potential, but then they started their own style and grew into an army. They started sayings and stole brands for themselves. With hydro flasks and metal straws in their hands, puka shell necklaces around their neck, Birkenstocks on their feet and t-shirts way too big for them, they control our current generation.



Followers of trends normally don't like to admit to the title, but sophomore Carlie Jeffries has no shame of her powerful appearance.

"I guess I am an E-Girl, but I don't necessarily have the personality of one. I just like the edgy and grunge look...I also get frequent comments on my outfits. Most of them are positive, like pointing out certain parts of my attire, chains and such, but others like to relate me to Billie Eilish and her fan base," Jeffries said.

But not all may have the confidence of Jeffries. Junior Julie Munoz has a unique style many admire, but does she fit under any of the new well-known titles?



# TREND

“I would like to think I’m not VSCO Girl, but that’s partly because I don’t want to fully admit myself as one. There’s a lot of strong opinion toward them and I don’t want any negativity. I also don’t think I’m annoying enough, because average VSCO Girls are all ‘sksksksk’ with and ‘I oop-’ which is just too much for me. If anything, I’m more a soft-girl. They are delicate, fragile and precious,” Munoz said.

Trends sometimes may be difficult to follow because of the reaction you may receive. Everybody has a different opinion on these latest styles.

“Personally, I don’t mind the style part of VSCO Girls. It’s just the typical personality that follows. They tend to show off that they take part in something popular, that they are ‘unique’. But in all realness, it doesn’t really separate them from the rest of the girls. They could easily take over the universe and none of us would see the difference other than the shortage in plastic straws,” junior Angel Martinez said.

Reactions vary, but the majority of reactions are very similar. They don’t necessarily like the new fashion choices.

“Both E-Girls and VSCO Girls are not that impactful on my daily life. It’s when I open literally any social media platform that they consume my being. Everywhere I look its ‘sksksksk’ this and ‘and I oop’ that. It used to be comical on the stupidity of this trend, but now it’s just annoying,” senior Anthony Garcia said.





# NEW TO SCHOOL

New year, new faces at Hoover

**Q: How long have you been teaching?**

A: "I have been teaching for four years."

**Q: Have you taught at any other schools, if so where?**

A: "Three years at Omaha Early Learning Center (Early Head Start) and one year at Moore Elementary School. From Hoover I love the unity between all staff and cultural diversity. Since I was in college, I had a lot of interest in teaching high school students and this year the District offered me this great opportunity. It is fascinating to see the cultural diversity among my students and how different their personalities are. I really enjoy teaching them my native language and I feel blessed knowing that they have my support in their process of acquiring a new language."

Shelia Hernández



Natasha Rochford  
Boettger

**Q: How long have you been teaching?**

A: "This is my eighth year teaching. I had a couple of other careers before I decided to become a teacher."

**Q: Have you taught at any other schools, if so where?**

A: "Before coming to Hoover, I taught social studies for seven years at North."

**Q: What do you like about Hoover so far?**

A: "I really love everything about it so far! My co-workers have been so helpful! This is the first time I have taught English, so I am asking a lot of questions. I really enjoy the students here as well. Hoover has a great community feeling."

**Q: Why did you come to Hoover?**

A: "I had been at North for seven years and was ready for a change. I like trying new things and when I saw there was an opening at Hoover, I applied for the job. I loved English classes when I was in high school and college, so I was excited when the opportunity came up. Also, the idea of teaching at an IB school was appealing."





BJ Van Vleet

**Q: How long have you been teaching?**

A: "15th year, my fifth year teaching at Hoover."

**Q: Have you taught at any other schools, if so where?**

A: "I have taught at Collins-Maxwell 2005-2008, the University of Iowa 2014-2016, Simpson College 2018-present (adjunct instructor), Drake University 2018-present (adjunct instructor), and Norwalk High School."

**Q: What do you like about Hoover so far?**

A: "I love the students and community at Hoover High School."

**Q: Why did you come to Hoover?**

A: "For a chance to help implement the IB Diploma Program for 11th and 12th graders. We are one of the many schools around the world that offer this amazing opportunity for students and I wanted to be a part of it!"

**Q: How long have you been teaching?**

A: "I started teaching in '98 when I was 20 -- now, it's easier for me to track how long I've been teaching by my age rather than by school years."

**Q: Have you taught at any other schools, if so where?**

A: "I've been part-time at Roosevelt for the past two years -- I really miss my students there because many of them I taught in both 9th and 10th grades. I've also worked in the Heartland AEA classrooms at Rosedale Shelter (Ames), Youth Emergency Services & Shelter (YESS; Des Moines), and Polk County Detention Center (Des Moines) for the past five years since I've moved back to Iowa. I spent one year in Ames CSD (that wasn't a good fit for me), and I have 15 years of teaching and leadership in Aldine ISD in Houston, TX, prior to that."

**Q: What do you like about Hoover so far?**

A: "I value Hoover's title as Most Diverse School in Iowa, and it's the closest fit yet to how I lived and worked in Houston. I love how Hoover's staff really care about students and their stories and are working together with them -- and with each other -- to support students' success in efficient and authentic ways. It may not always seem like there's a team of people working for you behind the scenes, but at Hoover, it really is happening."



Aymi Paradise  
Flores

# CREATING A

New Hoover administrators share a little bit of their background.

Who are our three new administrators? And what should you know about them? Learning about the administrators in the building is an important step in building relationships that can only help your experience at school be the best it can be. Boston Freiling, Tori Rabe and Willie Montgomery have each shared a little bit about themselves as a way to connect with the student body.

## Willie Montgomery:

**Q: Were you excited to start your new position?**

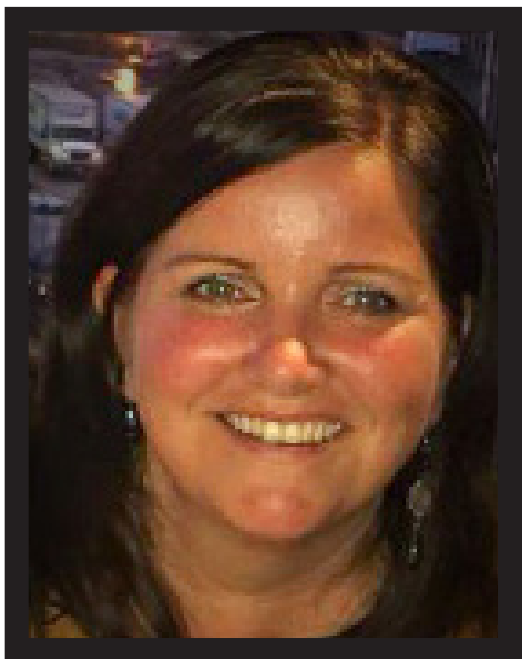
A: I was nervous, excited, geeked, shocked..... several emotions ran and are still running through my veins when I heard I would be moving to Hoover. I wake up every day excited about the gift of working at Hoover

**Q: What sport are you looking forward to supporting?**

A: Tough question. I am a huge basketball fan, however I love watching people compete. My goal is to make it out to every sport and activity students are involved in! Plus, I have friends that work at other Des Moines schools, so any opportunity to talk trash about how superior Hoover is to everyone else is perfect for me.



# NEW TEAM



## Tori Rabe:

**Q: What's your experience in administration?**

A: This is my third year as an administrator. I served two years as a school improvement leader at North before coming to Hoover to be an associate principal.

**Q: How do you feel about Hoover so far?**

A: I am enjoying my time at Hoover; the staff have been wonderful and I'm very impressed by the students.



## Boston Freiling:

**Q: Were you excited to start your new position?**

A: Yes, I was. I worked with Sherri Poole at East so I really respect her, her vision and her leadership. So, I was really excited to join her team here at Hoover.

**Q: Is there anything that you want students to know about you?**

A: If they ever need anything, my door is always open. I work with juniors and seniors mostly but I'm always there to be helpful if anyone has a question.



# MEYER'S FOOD CRITIQUE

The Challenger's hungriest editor takes  
on Des Moines restaurants.

People say that Des Moines has really good diversity for the small size of the city, so I took on the duty of trying some of these restaurants so the community of Hoover can know where to put their money.

## ZOMBIE BURGER. \$\$



*Photo courtesy of flickr.com*

300 E GRAND AVE, DES MOINES, IA

4  / 5 

Zombie Burger is a very popular gourmet burger restaurant. Known for their alternative aesthetic, original naming of their dishes, and inclusivity, Zombie Burger has placed themselves on the map as a must-eat.

When I ate there with my accomplice, Sanel Redzanovic, we got an appetizer, two main dishes and a dessert. I ordered the "Dead Moines" - a smoked gouda and ham sandwich with a patty substitute of a portobello mushroom. This sandwich was topped off with truffle mayo. Truffle mayo is basically a very salty ham and mayo mixture. I did not like the truffle mayo as it was way too salty for me. It took over the sandwich; I think it would have been better with normal mayo. We also ordered chili cheese fries which were underwhelming. The chili didn't have much flavor to it. It looked like it would have more flavor, so I was expecting really good chili. Sonic has better, more flavorful chili cheese fries. Also, the staff was very polite and personal with my accomplice and me. I would give this four Husky paws out of five.



## EL RODEO: \$

7420 DOUGLAS AVE, URBANDALE, IA

3  / 5 

El Rodeo is a fairly popular restaurant in Urbandale that many really like and some don't. Personally, if you want some cheap and reliable food, I'd say go to El Rodeo. You know what you're getting, and I personally love their enchiladas and cheese quesadillas. Their enchiladas have a perfect balance of sauce, cheese and meat ratios. Their red sauce is also not too spicy. Their quesadillas are, again, perfect ratios of cheese and tortilla. They put more cheese than tortilla but I am a big cheese fan. Their staff was polite but didn't wow me at all. I would give this three Husky paws out of five.



## THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY: \$\$\$

101 JORDAN CREEK PKWY, DES MOINES, IA

5  / 5 



The Cheesecake Factory is the best expensive place I've been to. Cheesecake has a special place in my heart, so I am very biased. The Cheesecake Factory is a chain restaurant at a higher price. This restaurant is known for their cheesecake and their variety of food. My accomplice and I tried the calamari appetizer and it was probably the worst calamari I have ever had. It wasn't too greasy; it was just bad. It was very gummy, so it was most likely over-cooked and it had no flavor. For my entrée I ordered a five-cheese pasta with chicken, and it was the best pasta I have ever had. It had a marinara sauce that was plentiful. There weren't too many noodles overpowering the sauce and cheese which was good. I'm usually a person who only likes baked pasta, but this wasn't baked and I really enjoyed it. It was oozing with cheese and it all mixed together perfectly to make a mouth-watering flavor. The chicken was also cooked to perfection. It wasn't mushy and it wasn't dry, it was perfect. I would give this five Husky paws out of five.

In conclusion out of all three of these, The Cheesecake Factory will be your most consistent. Zombie Burger will wow you and taste amazing and El Rodeo will satisfy your cravings for Latino food.

*Haven't signed up  
for the trip yet?*



*No prob-llama!*

**The deadline to sign up is October 31, 2019!**

**Easy ways to sign up**

- Online: [worldstrides.com/signup](https://worldstrides.com/signup)
- Phone: 800-468-5899



**Trip ID: 171201**

The more students who go on the trip, the more fun for everyone!

# GOING FROM A 5-SPEED TO A 1-SPEED

## The decline in manual transmissions over the past 20 years

For the car community, manuals are adored because of their history with racing. Since the decline of manuals, many iconic cars such as muscle cars and sports cars have slowly been transformed to automatic transmissions. For some people such as myself, this is an ongoing issue that needs to be resolved.

With automatic transmission, the driver is more focused on other things such as technology rather than on safe driving. With manual transmission, you are in control of the car more and have more fun while driving.

Car enthusiasts would choose manual rather than automatic because manuals are like a sacred item in the car community. As a car enthusiast, you look past making a car look good. You look at the “heart and organs” or the engine and transmission. They are the most important parts of making the car exceed expectations.

Our generation is growing up without manual transmissions which is more dangerous.

Senior Anthony Garcia is a car enthusiast. Garcia has been interested in cars for a large majority of his life. He still remembers getting his first matchbox car. Garcia loves his 2003 Volkswagen Corrado but there’s a few issues, such as it’s an automatic. When given the choice, Garcia prefers cars with manual transmission over automatic.

“Even if it was 10x slower it’s still more fun to drive; how a car enthusiast sees it is that it fun first speed second,” Garcia said.

If you grew up around cars, you more prone to liking cars when

you’re older.

My dad, Jeremy Rogers, has never been very interested in cars, but his dad was a mechanic and had a shop. So, as he grew up, he learned how to fix and work on cars and was around them a lot. He learned to drive manual when he was 16. He currently drives an automatic, but it is a sequential, so it has a manual mode with paddle shifters on the steering wheel. He drives a 2019 Ford Edge SEL.

“I support my sons’ interest in



Audi a5 6-speed manual transmission. Photo credit: Flickr.

cars because a lot of people don’t know the basics of cars and how to do maintenance. I’m glad he has a passion for cars because it gives him something to work for. He tells us about how he wants to work and save money so he can buy a car that he can make his own and be proud of because he worked hard for it and wasn’t given it by his parents. I wish I could teach him manual like I was taught but we have no cars that have a manual,” Rogers said.

Senior Zane Avila is one of the biggest car guys I know; our first conversation was about what our favorite car was. Ever since then we have always shared the same thoughts and passion for cars. Avila drives a 1996 EK coupe Honda Civic; it is a 5-speed manual and Avila loves it. His favorite part is the manual, it’s really smooth when it changes gears and it’s more rewarding to drive it then when he drives an automatic. Avila explained many times that driving a manual is really rewarding and you are so much more focused when driving.

“Driving a manual is great and it’s especially fun on twisty roads because of the downshifting and shifting up into gears. But manuals do have their disadvantages, such as you are limited to drive sometimes with one hand because you must use one hand to shift. But it also has advantages, such as you can’t really text and drive or be distracted because you have no free hands or legs because your hands are shifting and driving, and your feet are both working pedals,” Avila said.

Studies show that in 2016 there were 116 cars that were offered with a manual. This year those numbers have dropped to nearly 57 cars. At this rate, 2021 could be the first year that zero manuals are offered off the production line. We can only hope the numbers are wrong because 2021 is coming up fast and the community is not ready for this big of a change.



# THE GRIND DOESN'T STOP

What does it take to be a great athlete?

55.5% of high school students play a sport for their school according to usnews.com.

Many people focus on their athletic ability or their skill but very few people know about the hard work and sacrifice it takes to perform at such a high level.

People may find it difficult to balance school and sports. Sports may get in the way of homework or sometimes it might get in the way of your work schedule which may be stressful to some people. Graduate Michael Moore, who wrestled for North-Hoover his junior and senior year is now a freshman at Iowa Lakes Community College and says you need to find balance.

"The balance of school and workouts. You gotta put education first but still make your sport the main focus. I think waking up and doing a 6:00 a.m. workout then class at 8 or 9 takes a toll on a person," Moore said.

Many student athletes train all year even throughout the summer to either work on their game or to get stronger. Junior Alexander Ramirez has played many sports in his life including football, track and baseball and knows what it's like to have to practice or workout during the offseason.

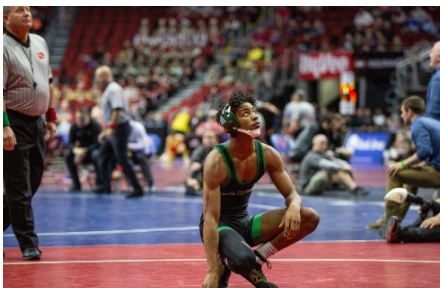


Photo Courtesy of DMPS Flickr

*"Working when others are asleep gives you the edge you need to win"*  
- Moore



Photo Courtesy of Dustin Hagler

There are many benefits to participating in high school sports. For starters, high school athletes are less likely to drop out of school. Competing in sports has also been proven to deliver higher grades. Student athletes are also 15% more likely to go to college after high school according to atyourownrisk.org.

"It's another reason to hold me accountable for the person I display. If I can't act right in class and pass my classes, I know I won't be given my game time," Mukiza said

Almost anyone can join a sport and consider themselves an athlete but to be successful it takes a lot more than just showing up to practice every day.

"Being dedicated, being determined and respecting your teammates and coaches," senior Temira Goods said

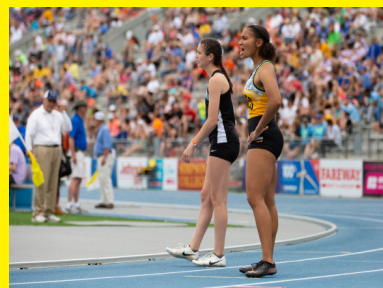


Photo Courtesy of DMPS Flickr

*"Being dedicated, being determined and respecting your teammates and coaches,"* - Goods



# PAR-TEE-ING IT UP

## Getting to know Hoover's boys golf team.

Although not very popular or known, the boys golf team is small, mighty and making progress. Many people don't even know that we have a team, but this is a team with only 10 players this season and three of those players are on JV.

"Hoover golf is a very fun and interactive experience; the best part is getting to meet new people from different schools," senior varsity boys golf player Brandon Barron said.

This is the first time in the golf team's history that they've made it second in conference.

"It's very rewarding because the team has never made it to second in conference. It took a lot of practice, hard work and dedication" junior Josh Barron said.

Coach Jared Cochran has been the boy's coach for nine years.

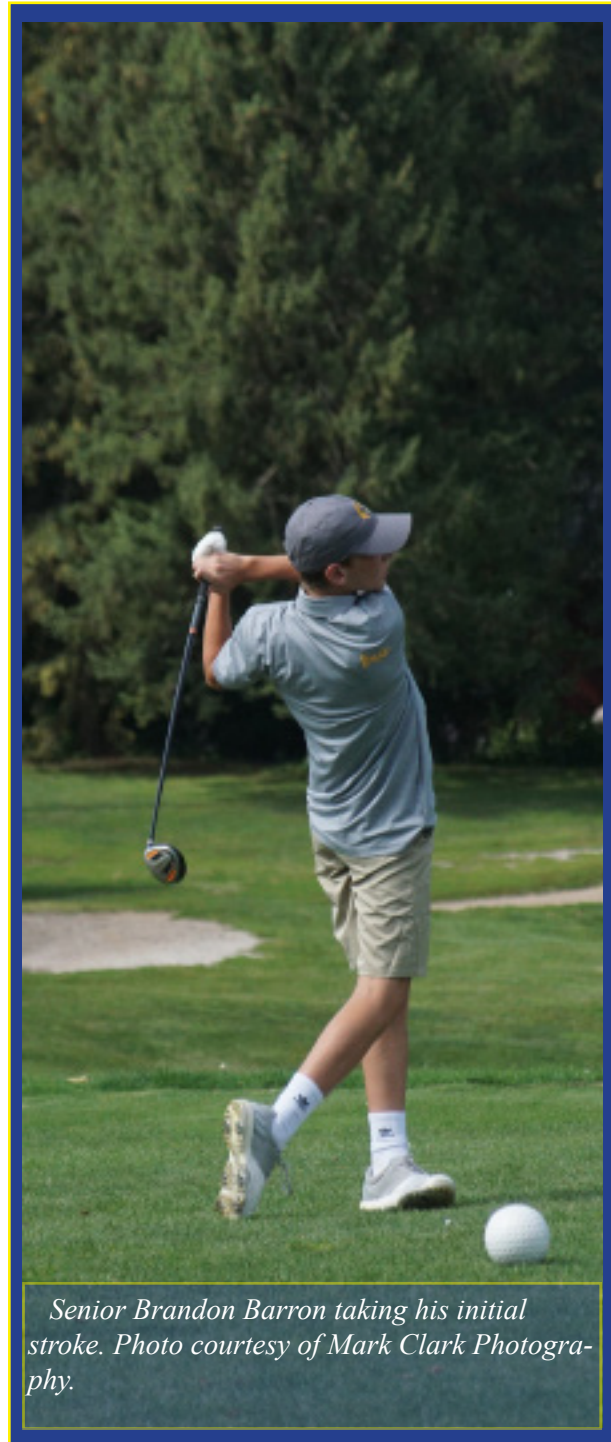
"I've always wanted to coach the Hoover boys golf team; it was my dream job as a coach. I coached middle school and high school wrestling, middle school basketball and middle school football, but golf was always my main thing. I wanted a shot to make the Hoover golf team the team I thought they could be," Cochran said.

Coaching the Hoover boy's golf team can be serious at most times but there are times when they have their laughs.

"I have a funny team right now. I get to play a little golf with them as well which is a lot of fun. I love showing them a few things rather than just tell them. There are not too many sports where a 42-year-old man can school a 16-year-old," Cochran said.

Golf can be frustrating and difficult at times, but in the end, it is always rewarding.

"Coaching is a very rewarding job. It can be very challenging and difficult as well as golf is a tough sport. We try to manage frustration; we try to manage the disappointment when we lose. It is all a learning process, a building process. We are trying to build for our future," Cochran said.



*Senior Brandon Barron taking his initial stroke. Photo courtesy of Mark Clark Photography.*

# HOOVER'S

Next year Hoover might drop to 3A due to lack of enrollment.

Next year Hoover might drop to a 3A division because student numbers are depleting combined with the school's socio-economic status. This could have a major impact on the athletics programs in the school.

Part of the reason the state is looking to drop the school to 3A is because of the school's socio-economic status as a whole. The socio-economic status is the economic class and income of our school.

The other reason for moving to 3A comes from previous season records. Football is not the only reason for the switch as all athletics programs are struggling to keep up with the competition, but football is the most well-known sport that is being looked at for the

biggest change in results.

"We do have to equate it to the access we have the top equipment, playing field, and other resources. If all things were equal, we could compete quite well. But things are not equal and that is the issue," principal Sherry Poole said.

"For football it would get us more aligned with numbers, resources and competition. I think everyone would be more successful," activities director Jacob Burke said.

Our sports teams haven't had the best season playing against bigger schools and the district believes dropping to 3A will help because they'll be playing schools similar to their size.

"It should have a positive impact to boost the kids' confidence and benefit them because the



*Photo courtesy of Dustin Hagler*

# DROP TO 3A



*photo courtesy of Dustin Hagler*

competition will still be steep, but match ups will be more even,” football Coach Will Siffin said.

Currently, it is unclear as to whether this is going to happen or not.

“I’ve heard a few things about it, and I believe that it will make our lack of depth have an impact during the game but there are schools in 3A that are large in numbers,” football coach Joe Salazar said.



1



2



# WHO DRESSED BEST?

TELL US @HHS\_CHALLENGER

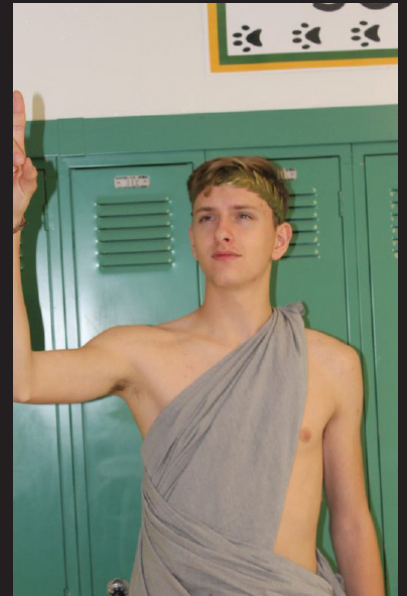
3



4



5



6



7

