

The Challenger



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TUNE IN

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STAY SAFE - STAY INFORMED

Times are tough and it's difficult to keep up, but you need to try.

I know you're tired of hearing about COVID everywhere you look, listen, and go. I know it's draining, possibly annoying, to hear and read about the same thing nonstop for over half a year. I know that it's everywhere. On every newscast, in every commercial and radio ad, on every poster and heard from the mouths of nearly everyone around you. It's tough. It brings you down. However, no matter how 'annoying' it may be to hear about this, it's important to stay informed.

Not to sound like a broken record, but it needs to be said: We are in a global pandemic. Never, in the entire recorded history of planet earth and humanity, has there been a sickness such as this. Humans have never been so uncertain, so scared, so vulnerable. There is no denying it. One may think or say that they know everything about COVID, as if they're the absolute authority on the subject, but there is no way that such a thing is possible. No doctor, no geneticist, no world leader could possibly know everything there is to know about this infection.

Which brings me to my point: stay informed. I realize that we have been surrounding ourselves with information about this topic and it weighs heavily upon each and every one of us, but this sickness is ever-changing and constantly evolving each time it spreads. You can't just ignore everything because you are tired of hearing it, because you're sick of being 'sad'.

Now is not the time to shut out information that could possibly save your life or save the life of someone you know; perhaps even the life of someone you don't know. It's okay to be tired of hearing about this everywhere, but it is not okay to begin to tune everything out. Stay safe, stay informed.

Quick COVID-19 facts via the World Health Organization

More than **7 Million** confirmed cases in the United States

More than **1 Million** confirmed COVID-19 related deaths worldwide

235 countries and territories with confirmed cases

On average, the worldwide COVID-19 case count increases by **8%** per day



Difficult Decisions

What do you get when you combine a pandemic with a marching band season?

Hoover high school's marching band performed once during this 2020 football season. Unlike years prior to this season, there were many changes put into place to make that performance happen.

In early July it was addressed that all of the school's extracurricular activities would solely be up for voluntarily participation, having to implement strict state health guidelines during practices and rehearsals. All of which would be held outside of the building.

The CDC had also issued strict guidelines surrounding safety concerns regarding COVID-19 and how people could avoid the spread prior to this fall's activities, many of which Iowa's state had required public functions to follow for people's wellbeing. Though, it was seen as more of a hindrance to the school's band rather than just precautions

"The obvious difference is the physical separation and the mask-usage. There are far more procedures and expectations than we've had in previous years," senior Bryce Bone said.

Despite being given the slim, uncertain window of time to practice, the band managed to perform during Senior Night on August 28.

"Every single student on that field put in more effort than they would have had to for a normal season and I'm very proud of how the show turned out," drumline instructor Hunter Grace said.

"Hopefully, this can be an opportunity that will help me better serve the students and families I work with," Rowley said.

There are a lot of things that happened over the course of this season. Many rules had to be put into place, the band found it important to make sure they took every opportunity to perform and rehearse as much as they could.



"Hopefully, this can be an opportunity that will help me better serve the students and families I work with," band director Ryan Rowley said.

After Senior Night, it was later revealed that Des Moines Public Schools' extracurricular activities would be postponed into the spring. The news threw a wrench into coaches and student's plans, but most importantly it affected the band because they had worked hard on putting a show together just for their season to be essentially canceled.

"I think it inspired us more than it set us back because the band worked extremely hard and we worked to make the one performance we got to be the best it could be," Bone said.

Even though the band was directly affected by changes, and started out completely different compared to the years before, it has truly shown their perseverance and brought them closer together.

Photo Credits: Ryan Rowley



KING OF DRAMA

Meet the new face of Hoover Drama - Ms. King!

The 2020-21 school year is unlike any other. Change seems to be surrounding everyone, including the Hoover staff. This year, the Hoover community welcomes a new face to the faculty. First-year teacher Morgan King jumps into the Hoover staff to help students explore theater arts and English.

Q: Where are you from and where did you go to school?

A: I am from Des Moines, IA. I attended Lincoln High School and I am a South Sider by heart. I went on to study theatre arts and secondary education at Simpson College.

Q: What made you want to become a drama teacher or just a teacher in general?

A: This is my first-year teaching and I absolutely LOVE theatre. I knew after watching my first play ever that I NEEDED to participate in theatre in any way, shape or form. When I was in undergrad, I realized my passion for education while helping with my school's Upward Bound and TRIO program. That's when my search for being a theatre arts/ English teacher began. Being the theatre teacher here at Hoover is my dream position. I was not sure I would ever get a position like this due to the lack of theatre arts positions out there, so I am thankful that I get the chance to combine both of my passions.

Q: Were you in drama in high school? If so, what is your favorite drama memory?

A: I LOVED my high school drama department!

The best memories were going to Perkins after opening night and experiencing the senior circle before each show.

Q: What are you most excited about for your first year at Hoover?

A: I am super excited to get to know all the students and to put on some AWESOME shows. I am also excited to introduce new people to the wonders of theatre arts.

Q: How did you prepare for this year?

A: This seems to be a loaded question... I don't know if anyone really knew how to prepare for this year, but I will say that meeting with admin and listening to other teachers and their strategies for this year really helped get me prepared. I also read some plays and made TONS of checklists.

Q: With school starting out virtually, how will the drama department work this year?

A: The drama club is going to meet every Tuesday and Thursday via TEAMS to check-in with one another and plan this upcoming season. We have a ton of ideas and lots of brilliant students who are going to put together





Image Courtesy of Wikimedia

a FANTASTIC season. Reach out to me through email if you are interested in attending - my email is morgan.king@dmschools.org.

Q: What are your hopes for the future of the department post-COVID?

A: My hopes for the department are to continue to grow these next couple of years and to offer new resources for students to use to be successful after high school. I also hope to create a network to offer help to students who are interested in pursuing theatre as a career.

Q: What is one thing you would like your students to know?

A: The theatre department is a welcoming environment which is open to any and all students who are interested in participating in theatre arts. No previous experience required.

Q: And just for fun, what is your favorite musical/play, and why?

A: I am very basic... But I love *Dear Evan Hansen*. Although some of the story is problematic, I believe that the music is beautiful, and the overall message is important.



STARRING
MS. KING



Photos courtesy of Morgan King.

New Year,

Round one of getting to know some of Hoover's newest teachers.



Photo courtesy of Brad Warner

**Brad Warner,
Math Teacher**

Q: How do you feel about teaching virtually?

A: "Teaching virtually is a great opportunity to see a different perspective of how we can connect using technology. Although, I truly miss the face to face interaction that students and teachers typically share."

Q: Why do you like to teach?

A: "I enjoy teaching because I struggled with the subject area that I teach now, which is math. So, I relate very well to my students who struggle and sympathize."

Q: What are some of your hobbies/interests?

A: "Some of my hobbies include skateboarding, snowboarding, golfing, basketball, and biking on trails."

Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?

A: "I would say a fun fact about myself is that I was born in Canada but moved to the states at a young age."



Photo courtesy of Cathryne Moore

**Cathryne Moore,
Science Teacher**

Q: How do you feel about teaching virtually?

A: "It is not my favorite, it is a lot harder to build relationships through a screen and a lot more difficult to motivate students who are struggling."

Q: Why do you like to teach?

A: "I love to build relationships with my students and challenge them to see the potential that I always see in them."

Q: What are some of your hobbies/interests?

A: "Singing, playing basketball and volleyball, and I love me some coffee."

Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?

A: "I am a wedding singer on the side."



New Teachers



Photo courtesy of Madeline Wagner

**Madeline Wagner,
History Teacher**

Describe your teaching style.

"Inclusive"

"Challenging"

"Encouraging"

"Understanding
of others"

Q: How do you feel about teaching virtually?

A: "I miss being able to have those in person interactions with students. However, I have been amazed by how well students have been able to adapt to this online environment. I think it's a great opportunity for us as a school to learn new skills."

Q: Why do you like to teach?

A: "I like to teach because I enjoy connecting with students. I want to be a part of them growing and want to help them reach their full potential through their education."

Q: What are some of your hobbies/interests?

A: "My hobbies include hanging out with family and friends, watching TV, going on walks, and eating."

Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?

A: "I am 17 years older than my youngest sibling."

Wake up, work, eat, sleep, repeat. Most of us have become very familiar with the exact same routine. With a new form of learning,

DMPS students have had to adapt to a school day outside of the classroom. This drastic change of routine may be difficult for students with new schedules and forms of connecting with their teachers. Having a routine can be very essential for navigating such a new learning experience.

According to headspace.com, "Routines also helps with stress ... Create a set schedule for doing chores, work tasks, meetings, exercise, paying bills, and all the usual things you need to do. Put these into your schedule. Once this becomes your normal routine, it's easier to accomplish everything, because it becomes habit."

- 8:00 am - Wake up and start my day.
- 8:30 - 9:00 am - Brush my teeth and hair, pick my outfit and try it on.
- 9:00 am - 9:30 - Eat breakfast. I usually just eat scrambled eggs with rice and some fruit.
- 9:45 am - Fix up and tidy room, if it is not already,.
- 10:00 am - 11:30 pm first class of the day
- 11:30 - 12:00 pm - Lunch time!
- 12:30 pm 2:00 pm - Second period
- Afterschool Work or hanging with friends.
- 8:30 - 11:00 pm - Homework until I get hungry and need a snack.
- 11:00 pm - Night routine - Shower, wash my face, brush my hair and teeth again.
- 12:00 am - Sleeppppp :)

What's your routine?

Sheena's Routine

Senior Sheena Tran has found that creating a routine has benefitted her in many ways.

"Keeping a tight schedule has made me motivated and much more aware of the things happening around me. Without it, I would be disorganized for lost in my own life." Tran said.

While some students find that having a routine helps keep them motivated, others are still working to find a perfect balance.

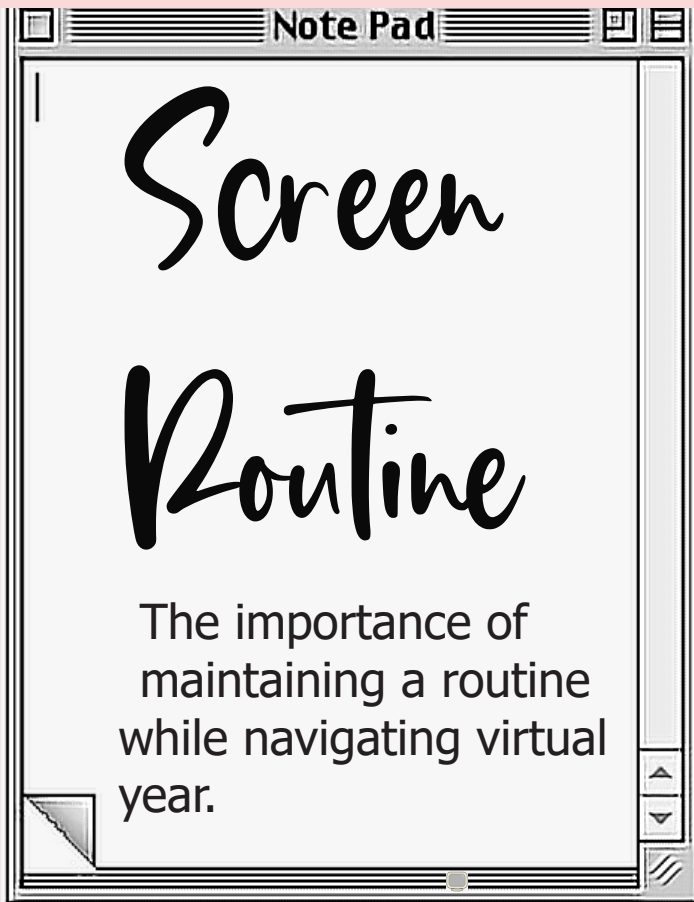
Senior Skylar Middle is still working to perfect a way to manage her daily tasks.

"I have set a plan which makes it easier to handle my night but at the same time I kind of dread doing my work after my school day is over." said Middle.

Tran and Middle have started to get the hang of a consistent personal schedule. With their new daily

"You need to consistently check in with yourself about what you're worrying about, then address it. Just as we create routines with exercise for our physical bodies, we should do the same for our mental health," according to headspace.com





With their new daily schedule, Middle and Tran have found that their routines have affected different aspects of their lives in what works best for them.

“My favorite part of my routine is eating whenever I can. I used to never eat breakfast, I would rarely eat school lunch, and I had big dinners to compensate for that. But now I eat healthier and more frequently.”

Tran said.

Some of these changes helped boost productivity for some.

“Getting Starbucks and food during my free block helps me stay motivated because I find that it’s a nice break from working in the middle of my day.” Middle said.

With online schools being new for a lot of us, finding the right routine that works best for you can be difficult. Curating the perfect schedule for you may take some time and thought, here are some tip on what can help you stay on track.

“It makes everything so much easier to have a plan, I would try to set aside a time to do your work at

Skylar's Routine

- 8:00 am - Wake up and start my day
- 8:15 am - Morning routine, shower and get ready
- 8:30 am - First class of the day
- 10:00 am - End of first period
- 10:10 am - Starbucks run!
- 11:00 am - Work on extra assignment
- 11:30 am - Grab lunch for my mom and me.
- 12:30 pm - 3rd period class
- 1:30 pm - Ocassional nap time
- 2:00 pm - Last class of the day, 4th period
- 3:00 pm - End of school day
- 3:30 pm - Hang out and unwind until dinner.
- 6:00 pm - Dinner
- 7:00 pm - Spend time with family
- 8:00 pm - Turn on a tv show to get the rest of my schoolwork started.
- 12:00 am - Going to bed

night, so you don’t procrastinate as much during the day.” Middle said.

Even mapping out and writing your daily tasks can make days feel more organized.

“You can never go wrong with having a planner, calendar, or even just some paper to write your plan on.” Tran said.

Finding a routine should be all about what works best for you and what helps you stay motivated. Creating a personal schedule can become a healthy habit in staying organized. It can help relieve stress from trying to take things all on at once, to planning when to complete tasks to stay on track. Adding other tasks besides your schoolwork can help keep you in a productive mindset for the day as well. Having a set schedule for chores, meetings, exercise, and other work can help you get into a habit of accomplishing what you need to for the day at your own pace without overwhelming yourself.

Balancing Act

Student shares the struggle of balancing school and work at the same time.

If you have not been able to tell, times are very much different and difficult nowadays. For everyone of course but how about for the students that are balancing working a full-time job and online school at the same time?

Junior Jahneasha Tracey works full time and balances online school. She believes that balancing both is sometimes stressful.

"I feel like managing a job that has the same hours as school is very overwhelming because I already have many things to turn in for school and I cannot miss any hours of work," Tracey said.

Tracey has been working there for two years now.

"I work at Tracey for Tots and it is a family business. I have always been around it and my position at work is a child-care provider," Tracey said.

At her job she works with toddlers and she loves it because to her being able to watch the children prosper and grow is a blessing. She feels as though it is giving her experience on how to deal with kids for future reasons. She also has a good relationship with most of her colleagues. And working a full-time job does not affect her and her schoolwork in any way.

"I have been doing it for so long that I know how to manage both without them getting in the way of each other," Tracey said.

Counselor Tracy Levang has been on this topic before when it comes to student who work full time and balance school.

"It is hard to gage how many students are working full time. I know many work part time which would mean they work less than 20 hours a week. The majority of those hours are worked over the weekend. If I had to guess, I would say 10-15% of students work full time," Levang said.

Levang does not think working full time while in school is a bad thing but she feels that it does cause lack of sleep and lack of interest in schoolwork depending on if the job allows them to also fit sleep into their schedule.

"Education is extremely important to me. My oldest two daughters were required to work part time when they turned 15 and I will make my son do the same. Working creates a new discipline that cannot be taught to children. I would never require or suggest someone to work full time while in High School. Again, it is all about balance and growing up. It is healthy to learn to depend on yourself," Levang said.



Advice from Counselor Tracy Levang

"Education is so, so important. Some families require a student to work fulltime due to health and financial reasons. If a student ever feels like they are in this dilemma, they should see their counselor to discuss opportunities to work full time and earn a high school diploma at the same time."

Tracey's and Levang's views are not that much different from each other. Levang has seen students balance it before and Tracey has been balancing it for two years. Even though school is now virtual and more hard/stressful, Tracey has found a way to make it work.

"Some families require a student to work full time due to health and financial reasons. If a student ever feels like they are in this dilemma, they should see their counselor to discuss opportunities to work full time and earn a high school diploma at the same time," Levang said.





Choosing your first car can be difficult so let me help you pick which car is best for you!

Finally, you get your license! Now comes the tough choice of which car you are going to drive. This can be a very tough decision for people who do not know a lot about cars. First, cars should be cheap and reliable that are also practical for the everyday student.

Some of the major brands to look at are Subaru, Mazda, Hyundai, Toyota, Volkswagen, Kia, Ford, Honda, and Chevy. They are all reliable, cheap and offer good first cars. Cars also come in all shapes and sizes. The main types you want to get as a first car are sedans, SUVs and hatchbacks/compact SUVs. They provide the best for reliability, safety, storage, and gas mileage. The best sedans, according to motorbiscuit.com, are the Chevy Malibu, Ford Fusion, Hyundai Sonata, Mazda 3, Mazda 6, and Volkswagen Jetta.

Senior Xander Lemus Munoz, had a 2003 Honda Civic as his first car.

"I would recommend this car because it's reliable, fun to drive, good on gas, and has good storage and room for passengers," Munoz said.

Choosing a first car in the Midwest is crucial because you want to choose a car that is good in all the crazy weather that happens.

"My car never got stuck in the snow or had any problems with bad weather," Lemus Munoz said.

Senior Logan Reel, who drives a 2002 Pontiac Grand Prix GT also drives a reliable car for teens.

"I recommend my car because it has a good engine, is reliable, fun and fast to drive and has a ton of space for storage and passengers," Reel said.

Sedans are a great option for first cars, but if you are looking for a bigger vehicle, I would suggest a compact or mid-size SUVs. They are great for storage and passengers and are safer but get less on gas mileage and aren't as fast or fun to drive. The best SUVs for teens, according to caranddriver.com, are the Subaru Legacy, Mazda 3 Hatchback, Mazda CX-5, GMC Terrain, Ford Escape, Hyundai Tucson, and the Subaru Legacy Hatchback. These are all great cars that you can find used under 10k. Since we live in the Midwest SUVs are great in the snow and bad weather and have great safety ratings so are perfect for new drivers.

If you are that person who wants a big vehicle, you can always look at getting a truck. Some great trucks are Fords F-150, Dodge Ram trucks, Chevy Silverado, Chevy Suburban's and Tahoe's, Cadillac Escalade, Toyota Tacoma's and Toyota 4-Runners, and Ford Rangers if you want a smaller sized truck. Trucks are great for hauling, towing, and are great in the bad weather. The only downside is that they don't get great gas mileage and aren't cheap.

Now what if you're the opposite and like those smaller and more fun to drive cars. Some options include older Mustangs and Camaros, Mazda Miata's, Nissan 350z, Honda Civic SI, Nissan Silvia's, Nissan 240 and 300 SX, Chevy Cobalt SS, Subaru WRX, BMW 335i, Audi A4 and many more. Those cars are great for the car nerds who love everything JDM or love American muscle. The only problem with these is finding ones that are still in good condition and not too expensive. These can be fun and fast cars but don't mod them too much, otherwise you will blow your engine or transmission.

This year's fall looks from outfits to décor.

Fall into

Fall. F-A-L-L. A season full of warm tones, long sleeve shirts and sweet smells. A rather good time I would say. You know what is better? Fall decorations and outfits! Personally, one of my favorite things about this time of year. Beautiful complementary colors are everywhere. Maroon, burnt orange, mustard yellow, leaf decorations and pumpkins!

First, I'll start off with outfits. From what I have noticed there's two types of feminine outfits: a cute sweater and some jeans or a sweatshirt and some leggings. Almost everyone veers to one side. I go towards a -what I like to call- spicy leggings and sweatshirt. This consists of a flannel and/or jean jacket- just something you can layer over something, a sweatshirt of any complementary color to your skin tone, black or navy leggings and a pair of nice sneakers- my choice is usually an Air Force 1.

"[I associate] Necklaces, earrings, or rings [with fall,]" sophomore Taysia Young said.

Accessorizing has been important to any good outfit since the start of fashion. Fall accessories change the entire game. Floppy beanies, Stylish scarfs, gold necklaces, rings and earrings. There's always a chance to accessorize too much so stay away from hats and glasses. It's too much at once in my opinion.

"I usually think of white, some tan browns, a



Feature | *The Challenger*

lot of yellow and orange as well. My favorite color is burnt orange,” senior Julie Munoz said.

Going into decorations, these colors are thrown everywhere and in many different ways. Decorations in fall are immaculate. They can go from being very adorable to very scary, but I will not be focusing on the scary part because I believe it’s ugly and dumb. Instead I will be focusing on the rather adorable little pumpkins and little fall leaf garlands.

“I started off my fall decorations by setting out all of my candles and getting fall scented wax for my candle warmer. I also like to change my bedding a little and add fall themed blankets and pillows. I like to add a lot of white and orange

to my room,” Munoz said.

Changing your room up for the seasons is very important to feel the “that time of the year,” feeling. Essentially, I add fall throw pillows, a little pumpkin blanket, candles and a pumpkin treat dish for candy. This year I really want to add leaf garlands around my room. Many people including myself love target and hobby lobby for fall decoration finds. Hobby Lobby has sales all the time and Target always have something in the \$1/\$5 section in the front of the store.

The only rule to fall fashion is no pastel colors. Any pastel colors are gross and off limits. Also stay away from anything with a pineapple on it. Any combination of summer and fall is not okay and should never happen.

your Fashion



Picture credit to Pinterest





VEGGIE THUMPER

Not your typical vegan.



Philly “cheesesteak”. BBQ “chick’n” & white bean nachos. Smoked cheddar mac n cheese. “Meatloaf”, mashed potatoes and gravy. This is not your typical vegan food and Veggie Thumper is not your typical food truck.

Veggie Thumper, a 35 foot colorful bus, is owned and operated by Lyssa Wade. Wade began making homemade natural health products in 2011, then eventually morphed her business into a vessel to provide conscious food to the Des Moines community. Some favorite meals from the bus include the BBQ “Chick’n” and White Bean Nachos, the Cajun Mac n Cheese, and the Frisco Melt.

“Veggie Thumper came along because I couldn’t find what I was looking for in the community. People told me I should cook for others. So, I decided if nobody else is going to make conscious vegan snacks for me, I’ll figure out a way to make it for all of us,” Wade said.

With a limited number of vegan and healthy food restaurants in Des Moines, Veggie Thumper provided exactly what the community needed. Wade brought her bus-load of fresh and healthy food directly to the oppressed communities that have less access to healthcare and the fresh foods needed to live with a

high quality of life.

According to Wade, many of the ailments that our loved ones often face could've been avoided or even healed by eating the right foods. So, having access to affordable food with natural ingredients is extremely important to the overall health and prosperity of a community.

"Veganism is already a privileged way of living, many lower income families don't have the accessibility or capability of having the same food that vegans do. By Veggie Thumper allowing vegan food to be accessible for all income backgrounds, it opens doors of how veganism can be brought to the next generation of vegans that don't need a lot of money or ingredients to make great vegan cuisine," senior Marelynn Navarro said.

Along with being a provider of conscious food, Veggie Thumper is also one of multiple Black woman owned business in Des Moines. With the recent protests for racial justice and police reform, there has been an increase in the popularity of buying from Black businesses, but at times it seems more like a trend than a normality. In order for the Black community to truly thrive, Black businesses need to be supported constantly, not just when it's convenient.

"Normalizing the support of Black businesses is normalizing the sustainability of Black dollars! Long story short, BUY BLACK! (There are Black businesses out there that can replace the ones you use now)," Hoover alum Linda Brown said.

In order to normalize the continuous support of Black lives and local Black businesses like Veggie Thumper, visit TheChallenger.com for a series of articles on Black businesses in Des Moines. Let us know which ones are your favorites through our Instagram or Twitter @hhs_challenger.

**FIND WHERE THE BUS IS
LOCATED NEXT!
VEGGIETHUMPER.COM
INSTA: @VEGGIETHUMPER
FACEBOOK:VEGGIE THUMPER**



**SEARED LION'S MANE WITH
REMOULADE**

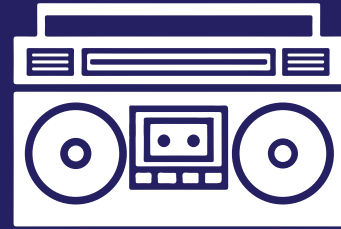


**CAULIFLOWER PICATTA
ON TOMATO BASIL**



JERK MAC N CHEESE

The Youth and Hip-Hop

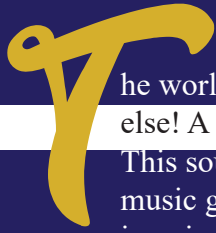


The Youth's reponse and need for Hip-Hop



"I haven't gone a day without listening to Hip-Hop since I was first introduced," senior Gabe Peterson said.

*Photo courtesy of
Needpix.com*



he world is being taken by storm, at an alarming rate. At a rate so fast, it is incomparable to anything else! A “sound” so infectious and vibrant, that everyone has at least heard or knows surely of it.

This sound is none other than Hip-Hop. Dethroning Pop and becoming the world’s most popular music genre in 2018 (playthetunes.com) Hip-Hop has continued to grow far beyond what was ever imaginable. The distinctive sound of Hip-Hop has caught the world’s attention and hasn’t let go since its creation.

The culture of Hip-Hop has grown exponentially due to the fact that Hip-Hop is more than a sound...It’s a lifestyle. Incorporating fashion, dance, rap, poetry, activism, and so much more. Hip-Hop is reflected and seen in every aspect of life, more than any other music genre in the world right now!

But arguably the most important part of Hip-Hop and what has taken the world over completely is rap. Although it has been given a negative and harmful contention by the media, political figures, and more, It is viewed differently by the youth.

At Hoover, it is crystal clear that Hip-Hop is the most popular genre of music. Hearing it between the halls, during sports games, and more.

It is easy to see, students love Hip-Hop as much as the rest of the world does. But then that brings up many questions. What is it about Hip-Hop that students enjoy so much? What does Hip-Hop do for them? And plenty of more questions were answered by students of the Hoover community.

“I haven’t gone a day without listening to Hip-Hop since I was first introduced,” senior Gabe Peterson said.

Peterson later said he listens to Hip-Hop roughly 14 hours a day. During every activity he does, he is constantly listening to rap. The student thoroughly expressed how they can listen to Hip-Hop no matter what they’re doing. From homework, to working out, to cleaning their rooms, or being with friends.

”Hip-Hop heavily affects the clothes I wear and the words I say,” said junior, Charles Walker.

That goes to show how extensive the genre of Hip-Hop is. With so many sub-genres within Rap, Hip-Hop can be played for any time and any mood.

Jerad Fischer said he really likes Kid Cudi, while Joshua Nichols and Gabe Peterson both share a liking for J.cole.

“My favorite artist is Kendrick Lamar,” Walker said while expressing his love for Hip-Hop.

The different selection of favorite artists throughout the Hoover community really highlights the diversity and creates a connection unlike any other. Although the students may all like different rappers ranging from Lil Baby to Kanye West, they all collectively enjoy Hip-Hop. The youth absolutely loves Hip-Hop and all that it provides.



Photo Courtesy of Bradley Stefert



Photo Courtesy of Jermaine Parkey

Starbucks

VS



Dunkin'

Picture credit to Pinterest

STARBUCKS VS.
DUNKIN'. WHAT'S
THE DIFFERENCE?



Dunkin' VS. Starbucks. Is there really a difference? Dunkin' formally known as Dunkin' Donuts has been a coffee and donut shop that has been a prime location in the U.S. for years among end. Many people go there everyday to enjoy some refreshing coffee, along with a breakfast sandwich and a sweet donut on the side. But many think Dunkin' is at competition with the well-known coffee station Starbucks. Almost everywhere you go, a clear cup with a green straw can be seen, as its many peoples go to for a good old-fashioned pick me up. But is there really a rivalry between the two? If so, which restaurant will come out on top?

Starbucks is mainly known for their wide variety of drinks. From strong espresso, frozen treats, to fruity surprises, the menu for this location definitely won't leave you bored. But is it the same for Dunkin'? "If I could change anything about Dunkin', I would make them have a wider variety of



Lifestyle | The Challenger

drinks,” senior Samantha Thorpe, staff member at Dunkin’, said. Proving, that if there truly is a rivalry against the shops, this is an aspect of how Dunkin’ could be falling behind. “I enjoy Dunkin’ iced coffee, probably more than Starbucks ice coffee, but that’s mainly it, Starbucks has a lot more options,” Starbucks shift manager, Olivia Proctor said.

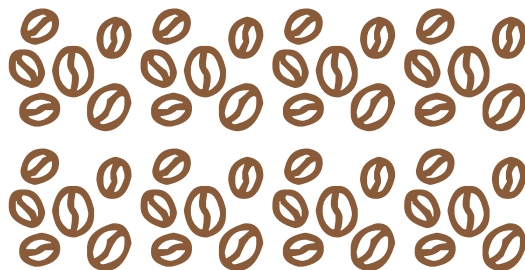
So far, Dunkin’ is falling behind on the track in the race to the top. But with variety, comes price. Many people enjoy the taste of Starbucks, but for most this taste can only be an occasional luxury. “Before I started even working at Dunkin’ I was a regular customer, not only because of the taste, but because of the pricing. Starbucks is expensive, and although it can be worth it, it can almost be overwhelming with how boujee it is,” Thorpe said. Having regular great tasting refreshments is important, but price can sometimes take over such feeling of that first sip. How much money did you just spend on that latte? “Compared to Dunkin’, I feel like we really overcharged on most of our items,” former Starbucks and former Dunkin’ employee, Dieudora Jean-Jules, said.

So far, we have only covered the cons of each establishment, but what are a few brighter aspects of each. Dunkin’ is not only known for the coffee and donuts but also for their day long breakfast sandwiches which are made by hand in the very store. “My favorite thing about Dunkin’ is their food.

Especially their croissants,” senior Rylie Meyer said. But Meyer switches things up a lot too and is often a daily costumer at Starbucks as well. “My go to is the strawberry acai lemonade with no berries,” Meyer said. “When I do go to Starbucks, I normally either get the pink drink or the dragon fruit refresher,” Thorpe said. It seems their customers sure do like those fruity drinks!

The line between the two barista stations are thin and are quite frankly too close to call from what we’ve seen today. So, I think the answer is up to you. Are you someone who keeps it simple? Or are you someone who likes to try something new every day? Which do you prefer?

Starbucks? Or Dunkin’?



Sarcasm entered the chat.

75



Opinion | *The Challenger*

Corona. Throw up. Cases per capita. Throw up. Social distancing. Throw up. Masks. Throw up. School isn't open. Throw up. Throw up. Throw up. Throw up. Throw up. Don't get me wrong.

Wear your mask and social distance please, but I'm sure I'm not the only person over hearing about it. In our unfortunate case, the c-word has arguably ruined everything. While 75 reasons are an over exaggeration, I will definitely give multiple overly opinionated reasons. Any and all sarcasm is appreciated.

My senior year literally vanished in 3 months.

Homecoming might be a drive-in. Let that sink in. A drive-in.

Do I even need to mention fall sports?

I do. FOOTBALL SEASON CONSISTED OF ONE GAME.

My class literally makes up roughly 60-70 percent of activities. The first and last football game's Senior Night lasted, I think, 20 minutes. That was some outrageous time because there are SO MANY SENIORS.

Homecoming week? Don't know her.

I could be in Florida at college right now. Not in Iowa doing all online school until maybe January.

Last year's Homecoming Week was a real Homecoming Week. You know, not at home, on the couch.

I literally buy food all the time since school has been all online.

If I graduated last year, I probably wouldn't have gained this much weight. I'm losing it though Teehee.

I wouldn't have dropped my laptop on the cement earlier this week.

I wouldn't have gotten obsessed with TikTok.

I wouldn't have to sit at my house to do school work. Or various coffee shops.

I'd probably have structure to my day.

I might be a tiny bit happier not having to worry about my senior year.

That's a good 20 reasons why I should have graduated last year. In conclusion, don't be a senior during a pandemic. It's fun. I give it a 10/10 - Don't recommend. I'd give it a good 0/10 on Yelp. If I had the chance to Corona and talk to it, I'd punch it in the face.

REASONS WHY I SHOULD HAVE GRADUATED LAST YEAR.

No sports or in person classes

The athletic seasons take a big hit by 100% classes online



As we all know right now, times are challenging. We are dealing with Covid-19, 100% online school, and no sports right now. Students lost their season due to the ruling of 100% online school. Not all students were in favor of the season being cut short, but the safety of the students is what's most important. While wearing masks and still social distancing in practices, the teams were still taking precautions. Senior Jerad Fischer says social distancing is important but makes bonding difficult.

"Our team was already being challenged before Covid-19 even hit. We got a new coach in March which is pretty late for a new coach to come in. Already being challenged by having a new coach, Covid made it even

harder. We weren't able to get together to meet our coaches and learn the offenses and defenses," Fischer said.

The 100% online school and no sports rule not only had an effect on the students, it impacted the others inside the school. Principal Sherry Poole also had conflicting emotions with the decision that was made.

"I was disappointed that the IHSAA and the IGHS AU made decisions based on an interpretation of a law prior to the Court's ruling. Even then, I believe that the job of the Athletic Unions is to support our kids and activities, not insert themselves into politics. So, with that, I am disappointed that there are no sports, no activities, nothing that connects students beyond academics to Hoover," Poole said

The football team wasn't the only team that welcomed new coaches in during these challenging times. The volleyball team welcomed new head and assistant coaches.

Junior Logan Kleese, the team captain for this year's volleyball team, said this season had a some big changes.

"Changes we faced as a team included getting a new head and assistant coach, but also dealing with covid. As a team we had to create a base for this coach and a family like environment, but with covid it gave us small challenges while preparing...I'm sad about the season being cut short. I'm also a soccer player and lost that season in the spring so it's been hard because playing sports is how I escape reality and focus on the game," Kleese said.

Poole said it was unfortunate that students were affected by the lack of activities.

"Students are greatly impacted by the lack of activities. When I talk with students, they are 'bored', 'upset', 'mad that other districts get to play' etc. This causes a further disconnect to Hoover and academics because as we know, the more connected you are to your school, the better your grades tend to be," Poole said.



Mark Clark Photos



The football team participated in a 7x7 game put together by teams in the district.



FUTURE OF SPORTS

What comes next in the sports world?

Covid-19 has added safety precautions to just about every activity. Much like the global pandemic, sports have a widespread effect on the world. A lot of human culture is around sporting activities. So, what do these new precautions mean for the future of athletics. Student athlete and senior Jerad Fischer has hopes for what is next.

Q: Would you consider yourself a big sports fan, and why?

A: I'm a big fan. I watch all of my favorite team's games as well as other team's games.

Q: What is your favorite sports team?

A: The Kansas City Chiefs for football and the Kansas City Royals for baseball.

Q: What sports do you play?

A: Baseball and Football

Q: How has this pandemic affected you sports wise?

A: This pandemic affected me by limiting both baseball and football seasons.

Q: Has the pandemic affected the way you watch games?

A: It affected baseball because opening day got pushed up and the season had a limited number of games. Also, there was no All-Star game and Home run derby to watch.

Q: What do you think sports will look like in the future?

A: I feel that sports should hopefully go back to normal in the future. I think all teams will do a better job monitoring players overall health and making sure no illnesses are being passed around the teams.

Q: Do you think you will ever see a game in person anytime soon?

A: I believe all teams want fans back. Not only because it's nice to have fans at games cheering on the team, and because teams make money off of ticket sales. As long as we are able to safely have fans, I hope to be back in a stadium soon.

Q: What changes to pro sports are you not looking forward to?

A: So far, there has not been any permanent changes that I am upset with. I feel this year was nice for baseball because of the shortened season and trying out new rules and I feel like they have not been terrible.



Senior Jerad Fischer in the first game vs North on August 28. Photo Courtesy of Flickr.

Winter Sports begin soon.

Practice for winter sports, which includes girls' and boys' basketball, girls' and boys' bowling, boys' swim, and wrestling, will be starting in early November. To sign up, please contact Mrs. Culp in the activities office. All participants must have a current physical on file as well as a signed Covid Release, Code of Conduct, and Concussion Management Form. If you are unsure about the status of your physical or these forms, Mrs. Culp can check that information for you. Her number is (515) 242-7311 and her email is mary.culp@dmschools.org.

HOW WILL YOUR ZODIAC SIGN DO 2ND TERM?

From the editor that knows N O T H I N G about the signs.

ARIES

Aries will LITERALLY do nothing until grades are due. Somehow the Aries will still have great grades at the end because they'll work under pressure.

TAURUS

Taurus will have good grades no matter what, but will be stressed and over work themselves. Yet, they will still come out on top with their grades.

GEMINI

Y'all Geminis will always get it together at the end, but start off on the wrong foot. Somehow, you will still get A's and B's.

CANCER

Cancers will not do anything for their classes and then cry about their grade being bad. Get to work baes.

LEO

Leos school work is always pretty okay but will always be screwed by that one class. Thats just awful for you guys.

VIRGO

Virgos work ethic is superior. They always do really well but then do bad in just one class. Send a F in the chat for Virgos.

LIBRA

Hit or miss. Either Libras do amazing or they just do not care. Normally they'll do better 2nd term. When they do bad, they won't take accountability for it.

SCORPIO

In general, the Scorpios are good students. The only catch is if they want it or not. You guys could have straight A's if you want. You guys have one throw away class though.

SAGITTARIUS

Sags... Everyday is a Sunday Funday for you guys. Only open those text books and study guides on test day. They just don't care, but don't get it twisted. They're living their best lives.

CAPRICORN

Round of applause for Capricorns. Perfect students only because of how much anxiety they get from school. Big RIP. They don't skip, but, if they do, it's once a semester.

AQUARIUS

They float through the year with no worries and A's. They work very hard under pressure. They're like Geminis, but make it organized.

PISCES

Either us Pisces are try hards or could not be bothered by their classes. We also tend to not get along with some of our teachers, which will contribute our bad grades. Overall, hardworking students when they care to.