

# THE CHALLENGER



**Volume 54**  
**Issue 2**  
**Winter Issue**  
**2021-2022**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Feature: 4-19**

**Opinion: 20-27**

**Sports: 28-31**

**Cover Design by: Callie Garcia**

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.

**COPY EDITOR IN CHIEF**

**SAGE JOHNSON**

**DESIGN EDITOR IN CHIEF**

**CALLIE GARCIA**

**SOCIAL MEDIA & FILM EDITOR**

**IN CHIEF**

**LILLY JOHNS**

**STAFF**

**ALYSSA HULL**

**ASHLEY RAMIREZ**

**CHEVELLE RUCHTI**

**CIRILA TORRES-RUBIO**

**SAVANNAH RODRIGUEZ**

**TANNER REEL**

**TERAN BATES**

**GIOVANNI ELLIS**

# Meeting

## Ms. Maggie

Introducing the new nurse



*Nurse Maggie Matijevich always has her hands full helping students. Photo courtesy of Jackie Rosas.*

**Q:** How was the transition from elementary to high school?

**A:** It's been challenging. I am a lot busier but in a different way. With elementary kids, it's a lot of stuff: skinned knees, runny noses, things like that. With high school kids, you're a little older, closer to being adults, so you have bigger health issues

**Q:** What are some tips to stay healthy during the winter?

My biggest tip is to get a flu shot and a Covid shot if you haven't gotten those already.

**A:** Another really big important thing is to get enough sleep at night. Teenagers should be going for between 8-10 hours of sleep a night and you should be trying your best to have that uninterrupted so if you're waking up and looking at your phone that could get in the way of your sleep.

**Q:** How has your experience been at Hoover High School been so far?

**A:** I love it. I love all the students. I think that our administration and our principal and assistant principals are amazing. I love the teachers; I am so happy here.

**Q:** What do think about face masks during this time and in school?

**A:** I think it's good. I think it is one of those extra measures we can do. I don't think they're perfect, but I think it helps. I think everything we can do to reduce spreading an illness right now is important.

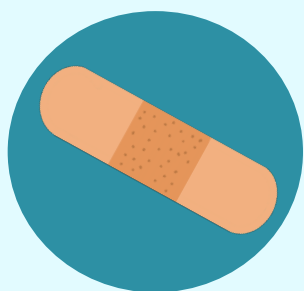
**Q:** What's something people may not know about you?

**A:** I have three dogs and two kids. I also work part time during the summer in off hours. I work as a forensic nurse so I respond to emergencies in hospitals so that's pretty cool.

# COVID-19

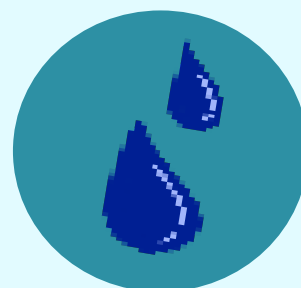
Health and safety tips

Wear a mask



Get vaccinated

Stay hydrated



Wash your hands

Stay rested





# Grounds for Celebration!



*Photo courtesy of Tanner Reel, and Grounds for Celebration.*

We are in the cold of winter! So, we must stay warm. Many people do this by enjoying coffee and breakfast early in the morning to stay warm and get them through the day. Grounds for Celebration is best known for its amazing espresso and great breakfast with a close community of people entering every day who help support it.

As we head into the winter months, Grounds for Celebration has been a coffee shop and breakfast shop in Beavertdale for many years. People go early in the morning to enjoy some filling food and steaming coffee to wake up and stay warm. Supporting small businesses is vital to the health of society and helps it thrive!

In many cities, small businesses drive the economy. Sure large corporations have a large impact, but there are many more small businesses.



*Photo Courtesy of Tanner Reel and Grounds for Celebration.*

Winter months are here! Stay warm with a steaming cup of coffee!

“Small businesses are quite important. They provide opportunities and create greater job satisfaction than positions with larger, traditional companies,” senior Jade Rodriguez said.

It’s important for places like Grounds to have regulars in the community to keep the door open. Without regular customers, you won’t have a steady income.

“I feel like Grounds would not have been open for as long as they have been without the community regulars that go in everyday and support us,” barista Josh Foley said.

“Small businesses are the backbone of this country. They are the ones who invent and create and invest in their communities,” principal Sherry Poole said.

During the last two years, places like Grounds have been at the frontlines of Covid. As a result, many have been forced to close their doors for good. According to PNAS.org who have been studying the impact of Covid-19 on local businesses surveyed 5,800 businesses in March of 2020, they found that 43% of the businesses temporarily closed their doors, and almost all were Covid related.

## Grounds for Celebration Location

2709 Beaver Ave, Des Moines, IA  
50310

(515) 255-2483

Monday- Friday: 6:30 Am -  
9:00 PM

Saturday: 7:00 AM - 9:00  
PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM - 5:00  
PM

Additionally, “The number of active business owners in the United States plummeted by 3.3 million or 22% over the crucial 2-month window from February to April 2020. The drop in active business owners was the largest on record, and losses to business activity were felt across nearly all industries.”

With Covid-19 still around, many people feel uncomfortable about going into a coffee shop with many people sitting at tables. Grounds has done a great job at keeping it clean and safe for its employees and customers

“If people feel uncomfortable going in, they can drive through to order. Plus, if you go into the shop, you will see all their sanitation efforts to keep things disinfected. Now more than ever we must support small businesses,” Poole said.

Grounds is a great place for those who wish to have great coffee and feel comfortable with the community, and the respect is shown to each customer

“Our best product is our espresso. The way we roast our espresso separates us from any large-scale chain,” Foley said. What also makes Grounds unique is that it treats its customers with respect and on a personal level.

In addition, people prefer small businesses like Grounds because of the high quality that comes with it, unlike chain shops.

“I would rather pay a little more, if need be, to support my community than a big business or places like Amazon,” Poole said.

From coffee to breakfast to great service, Grounds for Celebration has it all. Right now, it needs as much support as it can get in these difficult times. It was deeply affected by Covid-19 and now it is our turn to support our local businesses, they desperately need it right now!

## Coffee Menu

- Cappuccino
- Latte
- Mocha
- White Mocha
- Americano
- Breve

- Coffee
- Red Eye
- Black eye
- Cafe Au Lait
- Hot chocolate

- Chai Latte
- Mate Latte
- Tea
- Italian soda

- Fruit Frosties
- Java Frost
- Mocha Frosty
- Chai Frosty



Photo courtesy of Tanner Reel and Grounds for Celebration.



Photo courtesy of CoffeeGeek.

# Hola, soy Suarez

## An insight look at la vida de Señora Suarez.

Looking for help with Spanish, a friend, or someone to chismear and talk with? Look no further, Karina Suarez-Luna is here!

Over the six years she has been working at Hoover, she grew strong relationships with her students that made her become a student favorite teacher. She isn't just a Spanish teacher that can help you learn the language. She's also a friend that can help you out with school and life problems.

"The relationships I get to build with my students and being able to build curriculum—just being able to plan about things they would like to do especially the cultural days," Suarez said.

Suarez was born in Des Moines, Iowa with parents who originated from Mexico. She went to Johnston High School and went to Central College and obtained a degree in Spanish secondary education with a minor in linguistics and ELL. She's been a teacher since 2016 and was inspired to be a Spanish teacher because she has a love for language and has a big interest on working with kids.

"I love language for one and I've always liked working with children and kids. Also, being able to work with students and helping them grow. Overall, helping them learn Spanish and helping them grow with a new language", Suarez said.

As she grew up in a big family, they had a strong belief of education.

"I have a big family, oldest of five children total. My parents are from Mexico. My parents are still together and care about education. They push us to do as much as we could since education is very important and they're very hard-working people," Suarez said.

As teaching can be stressful at times, Suarez does many activities, so she doesn't burnout.

"I try to stay on top of my stuff, so I don't get as stressed. I work out that helps with my stress and I cook, bake, go on social media,

and do many other activities that help me out, so I don't get super stressed. I listen to music a lot too because music is the solution to everything," Suarez said.

Suarez is a big friend and family-oriented person and helps them whenever its

needed.

"I help my friends and family members with whatever needs like babysitting and dog sitting for them. I spend a lot of time with them due to not having much of that. I like making food for people like for my family and giving it to my mom," Suarez said.

She is a teacher that pushes her students to do their best and wants them to think outside the box learning Spanish.

"Something special about Ms. Suarez is that she wants students to experience how learning Spanish connects with life outside of the classroom. She has helped to coordinate numerous studies abroad trips for students that are undoubtedly unforgettable experiences," ELL teacher Ann Mincks said.

From not being close with Suarez to taking classes with her, students have built strong relationships with her as they walk in the classroom.

"I think for us it's kinda like, it was like best friends and it's getting to like a big sister relationship. She's been there for me with not only schoolwork but with my life problems too. At first, we weren't super close, it ended up being that I would be in her class and take

classes with her so then it ended up being that way," senior Logan Kleese said.

There have been some OG's in Suarez's teaching career. She saw them grow up ever since they first came through the doors of Hoover. Since their freshmen year, their relationship has grown stronger.

"I would say she's like a friend and a mother figure at the same time. It started out freshmen year cause my older brother was cool with her and would be with her all the time as well, so I started to hang out with her too," senior Josue Acosta said.

Her students say she's a fun and chill teacher to hang out with. She's more than a teacher to them, she's like a real friend to them as well.

"She's really understanding and if you respect her, she will respect you and by doing that you can really build a stronger bond with her other than a teacher and student bond. Doing this, it can be really fun and chill hanging out her and that's why they like her," senior Alec Martinez said.

Her old mentor says Suarez's fun personality is what makes students enjoy being with her and keep on learning from her.

"Ms. Suarez is the type of person that can light up a room—I think the students really enjoy her personality and her passion for making teaching interesting," Mincks said.



Photo courtesy of Cirila Torres.

*"I would say she's like a friend and a mother figure at the same time," Acosta said.*



Seniors Josue Acosta, Alec Martinez, and Logan Kleese posing with Karina Suarez. Photo courtesy of Cirila Torres.



During their high school experience, students made many memories with Suarez. Each student had a favorite memory with her. Those days were filled with joy and laughter as they put their schoolwork aside and focused on hanging out with each other and having a good time.

"I would say like the year we were virtual, and we came to visit her. One time we cooked atun with a whole bunch of food and a whole bunch of homies too. It felt like a little family, and she was really chill and cool at the same time to be with," Martinez said.

Acosta also agreed that hanging out with Suarez was like hanging out as a little family with all their friends. Their memories are always a time to remember.

"I would say the time we made atun was a good and fun day. Also, the last day of school last year, we went out to eat which was fun too because we spent time with her like a little family which was fun," Acosta said.

Memories weren't only made outside the classroom, but they were also made in the classroom as well.

"Making pinatas my sophomore year because it was something I've never done with her and got to see her artistic side of her which

was fun," Kleese said.

As these seniors soon leave the doors of Hoover, they have some advice for Suarez. They say to take risks and do what makes her happy. Do what's best for herself and remember to reevaluate certain situations as it can get overwhelming sometimes. Try to stay calm and do what's best for you and not for the money aspect as her mental health is important. They want to remind her to take the time needed as she continues her teaching career.

Suarez also has some words to say to those seniors who will be graduating soon. She wants them to not forget about her as she will never forget about them because they are like her babies. Get the full experiences and takes risks as life is too short. Remember to enjoy it and always try new things as fear can come in the way of doing it.

"To them for never to forget me and I'll never forget them. If they want to travel to do it. If they want to go volunteer and aren't sure of it to just do it. Get all the experiences you can since your young and life is too short. Always take risks. The world is in your hands. Never be afraid and put that fear away to try new things. And to never forget me because I will never forget you since you seniors are like my babies," Suarez said.



Photo courtesy of Cirila Torres

Suarez posing with teacher Ann Mincks. Photo courtesy of Fabian Ruiz.



Seniors posing with Karina Suarez. Photo courtesy of Karina Suarez.



Suarez's Family. Photo courtesy of Karina Suarez.

## Fun Facts

- Was in a pilot program in college to student teach in Mexico
- Received the teacher of promise award her second year
- Working on her Masters and should obtain it in 2023



HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM WINTER 2021

Take a trip 50 years into the past while we take a look at Hoover High School in the year 1972

**T**he year is 1972. The Watergate scandal is beginning to unfold, the space shuttle program is introduced to the world, Japan hosts the Winter Olympics, and the very last ground troops are removed from Vietnam. However, if we were to take a magnifying glass upon the Northwestern side of Des Moines, we could bear witness to a whole other story occurring at the very same time. On 4800 Aurora Ave, Des Moines, Iowa sits a school. More specifically, Hoover High School.

1972 was quite the dramatic year for Hoover High. Staff faced a year of delinquency, not commonly seen in the student body. This sparked a severe drop in school spirit and participation. From burning a desk in the library to smoking on school property, students and staff were having a standoff. The explanation offered by the '72 yearbook staff was one of adolescent distress in response to current world events. "Throughout the country, attitudes of youth and adults alike toward life have changed. Increased crime rates, poverty, military involvement, and economic crisis hovered in the minds of all as they attempted to carry

out their daily routines...Students are always hardest hit by the increased barrage of new social and moral values, new interest groups, climbing crime rates, and depressing future economic conditions. At Hoover, these feelings certainly prevail," the Hoover Yearbook in 1972 said. The new law passed allowed eighteen-year-olds to finally cast their vote and with 1972 being an election year, this new responsibility added more weight on the youth's shoulders. Hindsight being 2020, many current students of Hoover High School can attest to the looming stress of world events that show a tumultuous future. "Now as you get older through high school, you suddenly have all these other responsibilities and after Covid hit, we really had to restrict ourselves. We couldn't get the help we needed without putting ourselves or others at risk," junior Jaquelyn Rosas said. The struggle among the students didn't go unnoticed by administration. "I would say that some students may struggle with behavioral issues coming out of the Covid era. I think a large number of freshmen have been out of the learning environment for quite some time. In my humble opinion, the lack of peer interaction is the biggest impact students have had thus far," Associate Principal Willie Montgomery said. Similarly, to a post-



Covid world, the senior class of '72 began to see an influx in January graduates.

Student behavior aside, the Hoover that the 1972 students knew would look incredibly different to a current-day student. One jarring difference would be the lack of a freshman class in 1972. It would be a while before the fresh-faced fourteen-year-olds would flood the halls. Sports at Hoover boasted a much larger list of options. You won't see a hockey team, the famed Hooverettes, or a synchronized swim team anymore and those are just a few of the missing activities. *The Hoover Challenger*, then ran by Ruth McHone, ground out an astounding 17 editions. As '72 served as a tumultuous year for most, there was no shortage of stories to tell. It was also the year where colored photos made their first brief appearances throughout the yearbook along with green and gold end pages. Breaking gender norms was also on the docket for the '72 students, when staff were surprised to see girls swarming into shop classes and boys giving homemaking classes a try.

It's easy to look back at this year and only see the negatives, but it would be remiss to not acknowledge all the good that happened as well. A few students started a motion to take better care of the environment, overall collecting 1,491 pounds of trash. Both the senior banquet and prom had a record turnout. The girl's swim team was on a winning streak, claiming their 4th consecutive state title. This would be the first year girls track was offered at Hoover, yet girls' basketball would take a while longer. A group of students banded together to bring back a favorite campus location by volunteering to run the concession stand. A quote from the '72 yearbook reads: "School life is viewed through the eyes of an aware adult, wondering what his future will bring him. Life is viewed through the adolescents' eyes wondering what pleasure they can find in the next 15 minutes. High School is a rough experience felt by an adolescent tasting his first adult privileges. Times are good, and plenty of times are bad. But, in 10 or 15 years, high school will be looked back on by the present Hoover students as an unforgettable experience they wouldn't change. For life is made up of experience."

Even though the problems may be different, the teenagers of Hoover High School can't help but see something of themselves in the class of '72. No matter what decade, your adolescent years are one of unprecedented development. Similarly to our now 60-year-old counterparts, the years we spent in high school were littered with negativity. But perseverance must prevail. As a group, we all undoubtedly struggled through social isolation in online school or missed opportunities in canceled sports seasons. But just as we struggled, we also achieved as a group. Students gained a newfound appreciation for what Hoover represents to them. In the face of strife, Hoover has been the setting for all kinds of students from all walks of life to face those challenges and become better people because of it.

## Principal

'72



Donald Wetter

'22

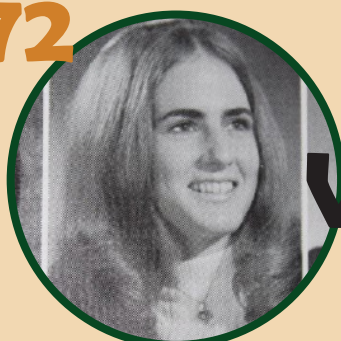


Sherry Poole

VS.

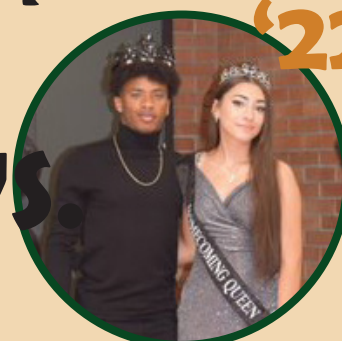
## HOCO Queen

'72



Sue Tarr

'22



Lejla Sinanovic

VS.

## Student Section

'72



'22



VS.

## Journalism Teacher

'72



Ruth McHone

'22



Sarah Hamilton

VS.

# The Weeb Life

A great guide to starting your anime journey

*Re:Zero, Rising of the shield, Fate series, Akame Ga Kill, Hajime no Ippo.*

These are all fan favored animes by Hoover High School students and, why you may ask?

Anime is a form of animation that comes from Japan and it's very different from American cartoons. As of now, anime is spreading quickly, gaining popularity in the U.S. with all age groups.

"People like to see the beautiful visuals, the interesting storytelling and getting to see character development from our favorite protagonist," Jay CD and Hobby employee Daniel Clarkson said.

There are many great anime titles out there like *Cowboy Bebop, Fullmetal Alchemist* and many more, but *Re:Zero* takes the lead in the competition.

"This is because it was one of the first animes I watched where the main character was really useless and didn't have any powers. He was just a normal human

being teleported to a world with magic," sophomore Alex Reyes said.

When it comes to anime, there could be good and bad animes. To avoid these mistakes, Clarkson suggest a few factors that can decide if an anime is acceptable.

"If there's nothing you hope to see that transpires or if the anime tries to be funny and it doesn't deliver that funniness. Another thing that would make an anime is if the show was created for fan service," Clarkson said.

Having a preference when it comes to anime is key to picking out an anime for you want to watch. Any genre your heart desires can be fulfilled just by looking at the diverse selection such as action, romance, slice of life and many more to choose from.

"One of the best genres for anime and personally my favorite is shounen. I like shounen because there's a lot of action and the fighting scenes are always the best

**#1 Genre in the anime community**

**"WHAT I LIKE ABOUT ISEKAI ANIMES IS THAT THE PROTAGONIST USUALLY DIES AND IS RE-INCARNATED AS SOMEONE ELSE TO A DIFFERENT WORLD AND USUALLY THEY HAVE COOL POWERS," MOO SAID.**

## Top websites for anime lovers

**FUNIMATION**

 **crunchyroll**

**NETFLIX**

**hulu**



part, also the male protagonist is always overpowered and likable,” sophomore Thein Moo said.

There’s a lot of unofficial genres created in the anime community and the most well-known genre is isekai. Isekai translates to “different world,” and this can be found the earliest in 1983, *Aura Battler Dunbine*, although the concept of isekai came from an old folk tale called *Urashima Taro* and this was made in 1918.

“What I like about isekai animes is that the protagonist usually dies and is reincarnated as someone else to a different

world and usually they have cool powers,” Moo said.

Starting this journey can be hard or difficult considering where on the spectrum you stand with anime, it’s either you hate it, love it or neutral. Following this guide will make it easier, so give anime a shot.

“It’s honestly up to them. They should watch anime to give it a try and see if they like it. A lot of people don’t like anime and I understand why they don’t, considering I wasn’t a huge fan either, but I would suggest newbies to start off with the *Fate* series,” Clarkson said.

# Top 3 Animes

## Fullmetal Alchemist



## Cowboy Bebop



## The Rising of The Shield Hero



# WEST SIDE STAR

How the reimaged take of a classic Broadway musical brings representation to the big screen

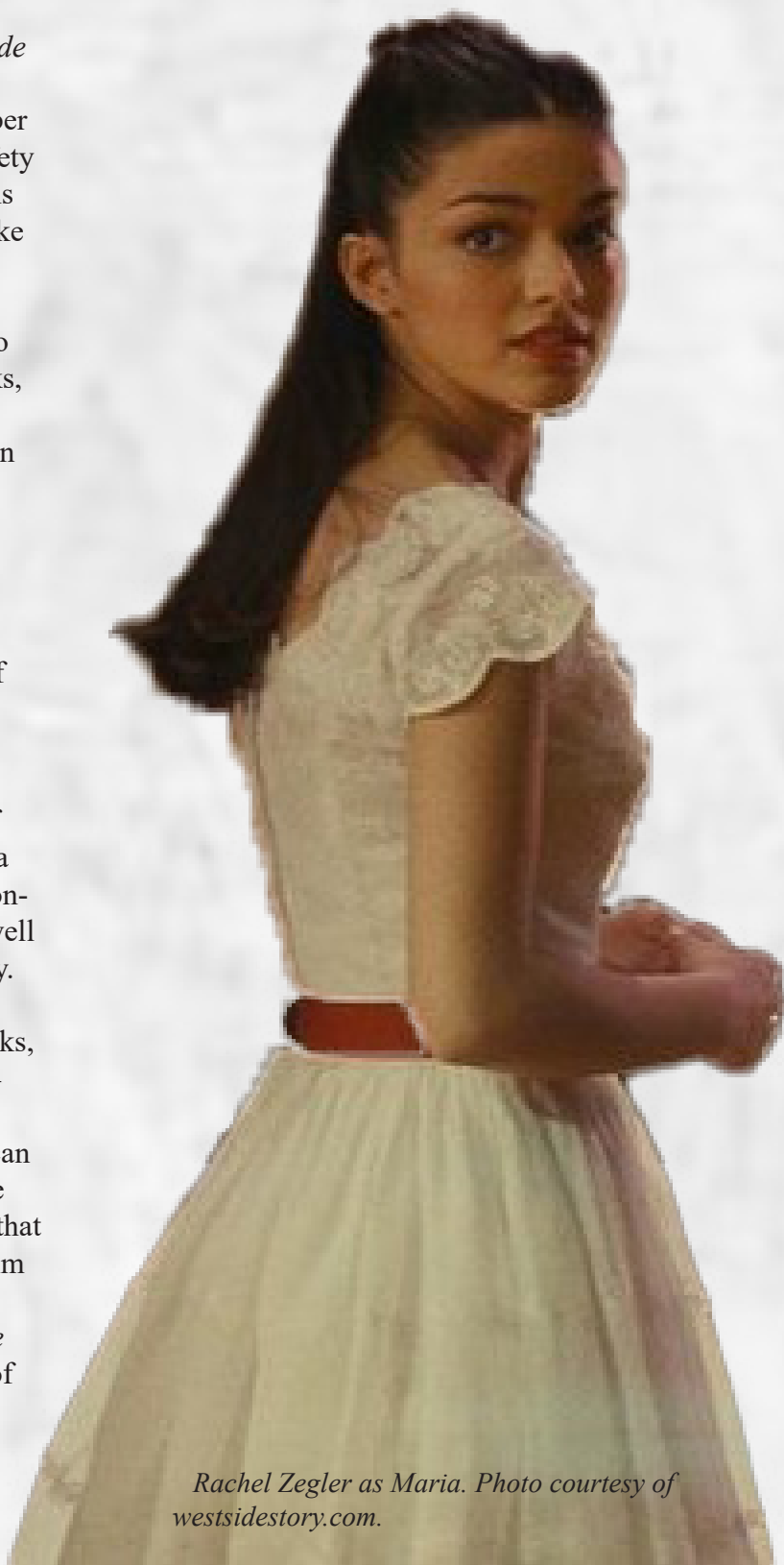
After much anticipation, Steven Spielberg's new adaption of *West Side Story* hit the screens this December. The original release date of December 2020 was pushed to 2021 due to safety with the pandemic, leaving many movie-musical fans waiting on the edge of their seats to view the new take on this classic musical.

For those unfamiliar with *West Side Story*, it is the musical twist on the classic romance of Romeo and Juliet, showcasing the rivalry between the Sharks, the Puerto Rican gang, and the Jets, the American gang. Tension builds as "Jet," Tony, and Puerto Rican Maria tell the story of a forbidden love. This take of Shakespeare's iconic love story showcases issues involving inequalities of race and class in America.

First published as a stage musical in 1958, actors were often not cast as the appropriate ethnic identity to showcase the importance of the themes of race within the production. This became especially apparent in the 1961 movie – the original film adaption. Controversy of the casting of the Sharks and Maria have been relevant in all conversations of whitewashing in the film industry. Whitewashing is a common casting choice of casting white actors as non-white characters, leading to false representation as well as lack of opportunity for BIPOC in the film industry.

Natalie Wood, the original Maria in the 1961 film, as well as many of the actors that play the Sharks, can be seen in 'brown face' as they play their roles – meaning the actor's makeup was much darker than their natural skin tone to 'fit the part' of a Puerto Rican character. Whitewashing, brown face, and black face are extremely harmful practices in the film industry that were normalized especially in 1961 when the first film was released.

The new and improved adaption of *West Side Story* ditches the brown face and racial stereotypes of



Rachel Zegler as Maria. Photo courtesy of [westsidestory.com](https://westsidestory.com).

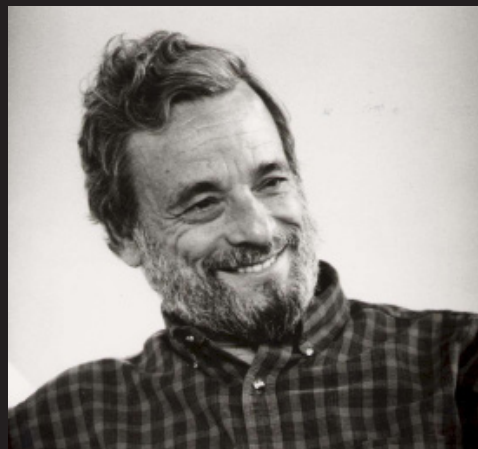
Puerto Ricans and showcases real diversity within Spielberg's casting. The film features a fresh face to the screen, 20-year-old Rachel Zegler, as Maria. Not only is it rare for a film as big as this to star a debut actor, but Zegler's casting is also a big step for representation in the industry. As a Colombian American woman, Zegler's Maria becomes one of the first of many productions of *West Side Story* to represent Hispanic heritage.

Casted at the ripe age of 16, Zegler's rise to fame came quickly. From a young musical loving girl from New Jersey to a recent Golden Globe winner at 20 years old, *West Side Story* became her passage to success. Not only does this film present fresh talent, but it also shines light onto many Hispanic performers that are underrepresented in the industry and the history of *West Side Story*.

Aside from Zegler, the film features supporting actress Ariana DeBose as Anita. As an Afro-Latina and original company member of Broadway's *Hamilton*, DeBose adds an additional layer of representation. To have trained Broadway professionals in movie musicals seems like an obvious casting choice, but it is often overlooked and directors are more likely to cast big Hollywood names rather than look for talent. DeBose's professional background and ethnic representation takes the adaption to a new level of inspiration for those watching.

Representation, no matter how big or small, can have an immense impact on viewers and performers alike in the entertainment industry. Thanks to Spielberg's reimagination, audiences across the world can see themselves on the big screen.

## STEPHEN SONDHEIM



Broadway legend and lyricist Stephen Sondheim passed away at the age of 91 on November 26, 2021. Sondheim's career kicked off when he wrote lyrics for the original version of *West Side Story* (1957). Praised for "reinventing the American musical," Sondheim went on to compose numerous well-known musicals such as *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Company*, *Into the Woods* and so much more. The words he wrote and the art that he created sparked inspiration for so many Broadway legends – past, present, and future. May his memory be a blessing.

*Photo courtesy of Flickr.*

HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM WINTER 2021

"AND WHAT WAS JUST  
A WORLD IS A STAR  
TONIGHT"



# WHAT MAKES

As videogames become more and more popular, it becomes harder to find what you like. It's always best to research a game or console before buying it. Here are some things to look out for.



*Photo courtesy: Creativecommons.org*

What makes a game click with people and what is recommended you should buy are sometimes hard to determine. Here are some things to keep in mind when you buy another game, console, or buy or build your own PC.

It is always important to find what interests you and keeps you engaged. There's no point in playing a game that doesn't interest you. When it comes to design and what console or PC you play, it is vital that you keep up to speed with games that are up and coming and what is already popular. Some people think it is creativity that keeps games popular.

"For someone who hasn't gamed, I'd recommend Minecraft as a game for creativity, because not only is it the most popular but it has the most possibilities. And if you enjoy certain aspects of that game, you can reach out to games more specific to what you enjoy," junior Tristan Stephen said.

Having a preference for what you play on is one of the core aspects of videogaming whether you prefer a controller or mouse or keyboard, it is up to you. What makes or breaks a game is how it handles when you play. Sometimes a game is meant for console, and

other times a game is meant for mouse and keyboard.

"The game genres that interests me are horror games, action, and strategy. The console I prefer is Xbox because I had an Xbox since I was a kid," junior Cameron Yin said.

Video games have many modes that are a great time. From multiplayer to single player, to arcade modes, how you play depends on what you prefer. Communication is key if you play online. Over the years, how you play has changed a lot. We now have many ways to play games. Who would want to play with a joystick anyways?

"Some features that are a must is a headset and mouse in order to communicate with your team. And a mouse is more effective than a controller," senior Hilary Jiménez said. Gaming has become more complicated as time went on with endless amounts of games to play.

Currently, around 2.6 billion people play video games, and according to PlayandGround.gg people spent a total of \$120 billion in 2019 on video games. As video games expand across the world, so does the number of ways to buy them. Most people used



*Photo courtesy: Pixabay*



# A GAME CLICK?

to buy them from stores like GameStop. Now with the widespread access of shipping and the internet, people can buy them digitally while still having access to normal stores.

"I would suggest buying them online and using discount codes to make it cheaper. It's always the smartest option, but GameStop and Target is never a bad idea either," Stephen said.

One of the best aspects of video games is the online multiplayer. To play effectively with your team it is best to have a headset and mic. It allows you to communicate with your team and have an overall better experience.

In this current day of screens and technology, the expansion of video games has been widespread and a popular trend of the day. Many people enjoy the immersion while others enjoy old fashioned fun. When it comes to video games, the opportunities and adventures are endless.

## CURRENT MOST POPULAR GAMES!

1. Call of Duty Modern warfare
2. NBA 2K20
3. Madden NFL 20
4. Borderlands 3
5. Mortal Kombat 11
6. Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order
7. Super Smash Bros
8. Kingdom Hearts 3
9. Tom Clancy's The Division 2
10. Mario Kart 8 Deluxe
11. Fortnite
12. Minecraft
13. Super Mario Odyssey
14. Grand Theft Auto V
15. Marvel's Spider-man
16. Rocket League
17. League of Legends
18. The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild
19. Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six: Siege
20. Rust
21. Dead by Daylight



# What's Trending 2021

Many different styles have become popular and unpopular throughout the years. Let's look at what was popular in 2021.

## January

Wide-legged pants and leggings. The 70's come-back started strong in 2021 with flared pants coming back into style. "I am a big fan of flared pants of all types," senior Lilly Johns said.



Photo Credit from Flickr

## February

Wool mittens and gloves. Memes about Bernie Sanders' gloves that he wore at President Joe Biden's Inauguration sparked a trend of upcycled wool mittens and gloves.



Photo Credit from pxhere.com

## March

Black face masks. In the middle of the pandemic, styling masks is an important part of an outfit. Black face masks go with everything and can complete any outfit.



Photo Credit from Flickr.com

## April

Monochrome. Spring has started and it brought pastel monochrome pants and matching tops with it. Whether it is a monochrome sweatpants and sweatshirt, or a matching skirt and top, monochrome outfits were very popular.



Photo Credit from pixabay.com

## May

Baggy jeans and belts. Baggy style mom jeans paired with a cute belt and crop top were a spring style.



Photo Credit from pixabay.com

## June

Cropped and oversized tops. Summer weather brings shorter tops for beating the heat. It also brings oversized graphic tees.



Photo Credit from Flickr.com

## July

Tennis skirts. Same with crop tops, summer weather brings shorter pants and tennis, and mini-skirts were a trend this summer.



Photo Credit from depositphotos.com

## August

Shirts under dresses. It seems that a common theme of fall 2021 is layers. "Layering was my favorite trend," senior Kadec Collier said.

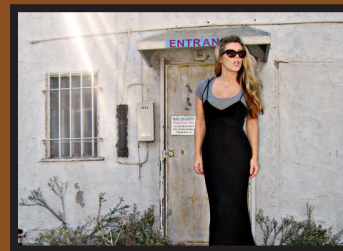


Photo Credit from commons.wikipedia.com

## September

Earth tones. Brown and neutral colors became a big trend at the beginning of fall. Along with other fall colors like a burnt orange or even burgundy.



Photo Credit from publicdomainvectors.org

## October

Oversized jackets. As the weather cools down, more layers become necessary and oversized jackets were cute and comfortable.

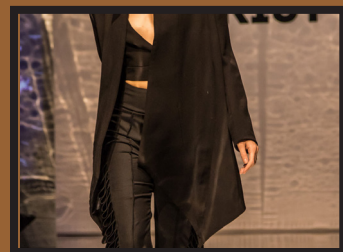


Photo Credit from threadsmagazine.com

## November

Flannel. As weather gets colder, people look for a way to stay warm and look cute and it seems that flannel was the way to do that. Bonus points if it is oversized as well.



Photo Credit from rawpixel.com

## December

Winter coats. Especially really puffy coats that are big and bulky. Staying warm and looking cute are priority in winter and these do both.



Photo Credit from snappygoat.com

## Accessories

Accessorizing was also a big part of fashion trends in 2021. In the summer, wearing statement sunglasses could bring a whole outfit together. Rings were also extremely popular this year, but not just wearing one or two at a time. The trend was wearing multiple rings on both hands. "I wear seven rings daily. They are also mixed metals and mixed stones. That's very important," Johns said. Layering necklaces also became popular. Wearing two or three simple necklaces is cute but doesn't take away from the outfit itself. I usually wear one plain chain necklace and another necklace with a simple design like a circle on it.

# #OBSESSED

## Society's obsession with celebrity pop culture and the ongoing use of social media

Whether you like it or not, I'm sure you have heard or seen at least one thing in the past week about a celebrity. It could be relationship gossip, a new Kardashian baby, or another movie star canceled for saying they don't take showers every day. Whatever it may be, current media cycles continuously create conversations centered around every instance of celebrities' lives.

Stepping into fame with high hopes of wealth and success also comes with the risk of your entire life being out in the open. As social media presence has become a constant part of our society, we as a collective group of 'average' people have become obsessed.

Checking Twitter or Tik Tok for the latest news about my favorite artists and influencers has become a part of my daily routine. While I couldn't care less about who Jennifer Lopez is currently dating, I could tell you right now that she broke the internet with the rekindling of her relationship with Ben Affleck. On the other hand, I could tell you every single detail about Taylor Swift's dating life because as a fan, I stay in the know. This is when it gets scary. My constant knowledge of pop culture references and celebrity updates tends to overpower my knowledge on information that I may actually need to know.

After just exposing myself for always being on social media, I can say that this problem does not only affect me. According to financeonline.com, "A more recent estimate showed that there were **4.2 billion social media users at the start of 2021**. The number of social media users has grown 31.4 percent

from 2018's 3.196 billion. It records a 332.99 percent growth from the 0.97 billion users in 2010." A Letterly article states that the average person spends 145 minutes on social media every day. More specifically, people aged 16-24 spend about three hours every day on social media. In those three hours, young social media users can easily get sucked into the lives and heavily influenced by people who have a platform.

Senior Mina Sanchez-Andrews is an active user of social media and she spends an estimated amount of five hours of social media use every day. Celebrities such as Jack Harlow, Paul Wesley, and Gina Rodriguez are just a few of the many celebrities that Sanchez-Andrews keeps up with. Just by following a celebrity on social media, she says their actions affect our daily lives.

"Jack Harlow is very attractive and a good artist. Paul Wesley and Gina Rodriguez are some of my favorite actors. They all influence my daily life because I watch their shows, listen to their music, and follow their feed on social media. Some celebrities that I follow give me inspiration on a lot of my skin care products and fashion choices," Sanchez-Andrews said.

Social media use also shifts from generation to generation. Millennial and social studies teacher Madison Greif's outlook on social media is a bit different. While Sanchez-Andrews uses social media as a way to keep up with her favorite celebrities, Greif isn't as active on social media.

"There are many celebrities that I like but I do not follow on social media. I don't often check up on what my friends and family are posting so

**4.2 BILLION  
SOCIAL MEDIA USERS  
AT THE START OF 2021**



I am definitely not adding any celebrities to fill up my newsfeed. The last time I posted [on social media] was in 2020 and I am following one celebrity, Leonardo DiCaprio,” Greif said.

Even though Greif’s only celebrity follow was gifted to famous actor Leonardo DiCaprio, she is still influenced by his social media presence.

“Leonardo is an incredibly talented actor and I like the work he is doing to protect our environment and fight climate change,” Greif said.

Celebrity influence is not just about fashion trends and makeup lines but also social change. Celebrities have the power of having a platform to spread their opinions and passions with fans that follow them. DiCaprio’s work on climate change is just one example of the good celebrities are doing with their media presence. That being said, celebrity influence on social media can also be harmful to the mental health of their followers.

“Celebrities and influencers tend to only post the positives of their life and show off a glamour lifestyle. They are portraying an impossible standard for people to live up to. Studies have proven some social media platforms have negative effects on our psychological health. There is nothing wrong with following or supporting celebrities on social media, however, I believe we need limit our time on social media and focus on our lives and friends more,” Greif said.

In a world that relies heavily on technology and social media, it can be easy to get sucked into the negativity and obsession of celebrity media. It is important, now more than ever, to take a moment away from the buzz of pop culture.

“Social media can increase dopamine – our brain’s reward and pleasure chemical levels in our brain that can cause us to become addicted. It also plays with our emotions by making us feel happy to be part of a group or excluded if we are left out. We all have reactions to what we see and do online. Just focusing on social psychology to explain how social media influences our pop culture, humans are designed to be part of a group and need to have a sense of belonging. We all want to be part of a community and we shape our identity and habits based on what community we are part of, online and offline. I will warn though, psychology has proven that spending most of our life online does tend to make us feel lonelier and more isolated. Make sure to spend time offline with your friends,” Greif said.



Photos Courtesy of: [turkcewiki.org](https://turkcewiki.org), [fr.vikidia.org](https://fr.vikidia.org), [sv.wikipedia.org](https://sv.wikipedia.org), and [wikipedia.org](https://wikipedia.org)

# At Long Last...

## The complicated history of LGBTQ+ representation in film

Cinderella and Prince Charming, Jim and Pam, Jack and Rose. All couples we know and love, ones we've grown up with. The media we consume as we are developing plays a very large part in how our views are shaped. Depictions of the LGBTQ+ community have a long and oftentimes complicated history. If we were to look back at "classic" Hollywood, you would be hard-pressed to find any that feature queer characters. The reason why is no secret at all. The first Gay Rights Organization wouldn't be created until 1951. Up until 1971, being gay was viewed as a mental illness. Americans had walked on the moon before they came to this realization.

Although it was amoral and risqué to have openly gay characters in media, there is no shortage of queer coded villains sprinkled throughout all our favorite movies. The stereotypical behaviors of a gay man or a lesbian woman would be ones often portrayed by the villain in hopes to make them even more laughable and unlikable. Whether they were made to be the butt of the joke or added to the plot purely for the viewer to dislike them, it in no way was the representation the community deserved. The Hay's code was introduced in 1934 and was enforced until 1968. This code prohibited positive depictions of queerness among other things. The keyword is positive. Nothing deterred filmmakers from openly mocking the community.

Many can argue that we have come a long way in terms of representation for the LGBTQ+ community in mainstream media. However, the work has just begun. For many in the LGBTQ+ community, coming out can be seen as an important step in claiming their sexual identities. Therefore, we must create an environment in which the media young people consume not only shows them what it looks like to be in a healthy queer relationship but also maintains representation that does not push harmful stereotypes and agendas that may deter youth from feeling comfortable with who they are.

More times than not, the so-called representation is watered down to a one-liner or a forgettable filler scene. Meanwhile, the directors are praising themselves for being so inclusive in their filmmaking. What's needed is more than a moment, but that is hard in a world where certain people fume over just that small instance, or where organizations pull funding over just a one-liner. If you are going to praise yourself for queer representation, commit to the action and don't tiptoe around disturbing your conservative funders.

In many ways, media can be seen as propaganda and it is no question that propaganda is a powerful thing. Anti-LGBTQ+ messages have been something looked over in our society for way too long. We can no longer allow this to happen. Visibility must be demanded for people falling on any part of that spectrum. It can seem like film and media in America are taking steps towards the better but once you take your eyes off the screen and back into the real world you will behold a grimmer sight. It took until 2015 for gay marriage to be legalized in the United States. In many other countries, the idea of that is still a distant fantasy. In 2017 under the presidency of Donald Trump, Transgender people were banned from serving their country. As of 2021, we are still seeing a rise in hate crimes against those of the LGBTQ+ community. Things can change for the better though but for this to happen we as a whole need to look at how we view Queer people and how we choose to portray that lifestyle for the world to see. Love is love is love is love. It's about time the world opens its eyes to this idea. In a time with so much strife, hate, and fear why should we shame those who choose to love.



**The Maltese Falcon**  
1941

For all the Hay's Code hoped to ban, it didn't completely erase homosexuality on screen, it just made it harder to pin point. The Maltese Falcon got around this by portraying its cold hearted villain Joel Cairo with stereotypical behaviors often attributed to gay men.

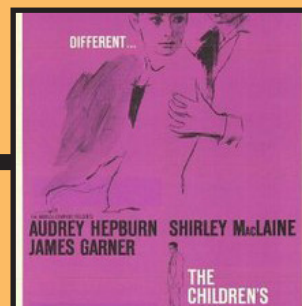
This film tells the story of two female teachers who get accused of sharing a sexual relationship. One of the women, who is actually a lesbian, meets a most unfortunate end. This gave viewers a queer character to feel sympathetic for which was rare at the time.

This encompasses the idea of 'queer camp' like no other movie at the time. This musical broke through all boundaries of heteronormativity. One of our main characters, Dr. Frank-N-Furter is a pansexual trans scientist. Over the years the film has become a cult classic.

This movie follows the tale of a married man who realizes he's gay and starts to fall for another man. This is seen as the first mainstream Hollywood film to give audiences a gay role model, and portray homosexuality in a positive way.

Moonlight tells the story of a young black gay man growing into his identity. It made history when it won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2017. Not only is it the first LGBTQ+ movie to win the award, but also the first with an all black cast.

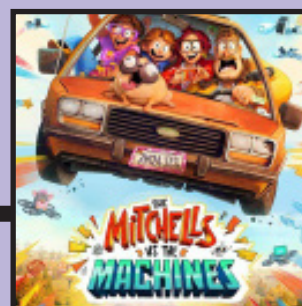
This movie brings an LGBTQ+ character into mainstream children's media. The main character Katie is queer and struggles with her parents over this issue.



**The Children's Hour**  
1961



**Making Love**  
1982



**The Mitchells vs. the Machines**  
2021



# INTO THE MOVIE-VERSE

Ranking the best MCU movies

On May 2nd, 2008, the most well-known, successful and enjoyable franchises started with the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). The movies have grossed over \$10,916,958,583 and will continue to keep growing with the hype fans have created over each MCU project. There have been more than 20 movies in the franchise and they don't look to slow down with phase 4 or the potential phase 5 lineup. We have taken all the Marvel movies and dissected which ten were our favorites and then did the same process with a student, staff member, and then an overall community ranking.

## MARVEL EXPERT RANKINGS

We (Chevelle & Teran) laid out all the Marvel Movies from *Iron Man* to *Eternals* and put them all in a tier list then took our top tiered movies. We then took those movies and ranked them accordingly to what we thought was the peak of the MCU and down.

- 
1. INFINITY WAR
  2. WINTER SOLDIER
  3. CIVIL WAR
  4. ENDGAME
  5. BLACK PANTHER
  6. RAGNAROK
  7. SPIDER-MAN HOMECOMING
  8. GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
  9. AVENGERS
  10. SPIDER-MAN FAR FROM HOME



# STUDENT VS STAFF

## NATHAN MORRISSEY

We first took this student's ranking because of his young and fresh point of view to the MCU. We personally chose him because he is a senior so he has a mature mindset about this subject, and he also grew up watching Marvel movies and has a good indication on what could be the top ten in the MCU.

1. INFINITY WAR
2. WINTER SOLDIER
3. ENDGAME
4. RAGNAROK
5. CIVIL WAR
6. BLACK PANTHER
7. CAPTAIN AMERICA
8. AVENGERS
9. SPIDER-MAN HOMECOMING
10. IRON MAN

## COMMUNITY RANKINGS

We finally took a community ranking because of the overall point of view and the variety of point of views. We personally chose to do this because we wanted to compare the rankings placed of an average joe to a Marvel expert.

1. BLACK PANTHER

2. INFINITY WAR

3. WINTER SOLDIER

4. ENDGAME

5. RAGNAROK

6. CIVIL WAR

## NICHOLAS JACKSON

We then took a staff's ranking because of his well-known background knowledge and detailed point of view to the MCU. We personally chose him because he is a well profound academic educator, language specialist, and Marvel comic enthusiasts; his resume speaks for itself.

1. ENDGAME
2. RAGNAROK
3. INFINITY WAR
4. GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
5. SPIDER-MAN HOMECOMING
6. GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY II
7. SPIDER-MAN HOMECOMING
8. BLACK PANTHER
9. WINTER SOLDIER
10. IRON MAN

# ACROSS THE MOVIE-VERSE

## Reviewing and ranking Spider-Man movies

Marvel Studios is the greatest movie franchise right now with nothing else even coming close. For this reason, many viewers were anxious to see if the new release would live up to all the hype.

The anticipation for *Spiderman No Way Home* started when leaks showed that villains from old Spiderman movies were set to appear again after 10 to 20 years since their movies' initial release. Fans were stoked to potentially see them fight Tom Holland's Spiderman. In wake of this new information people started to wonder if Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield would also reprise their roles as past Spidermen. Credible sources started saying they were going to be in the movie and some leaked pictures even showed Garfield and Maguire on set. Speculation was also floating around that these photos could also just be the result of elaborate Photoshops. At this point, the hype for this film rivaled that of *Avengers Endgame*, one of the biggest movie releases of all times. Everyone wanted to know if the movie was going to live up to their sky-high expectations. The Spiderman combined franchise has been twenty years in the making with each rendition of the character finding its way into the hearts of all viewers.

The movie was released December 16, 2021. Eleven of my friends and myself bought tickets weeks in advance so we could find a spot in the packed theater. The experience we had was unmatched. The atmosphere in the theatre was crazy; it almost felt like we were at a sporting event the way people were cheering. It was all for good reason because all those leaks turned out to be true. Lifelong Spiderman fans were very pleased to see the return of all three beloved characters - Tom Holland, Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield along with their corresponding villains such as Doc Ock, Green Goblin, and Electro. The best part for me was that I got to see all the Spidermen work together and interact. As for the plot of the movie, much can be said about the development of Tom Holland's character and how they've matured him. Ever since we were introduced to this new Spiderman in *Civil War*, viewers have watched him grow from a fumbling teenager looking for validation into a complex character that has faced many trials. The ending of the film left the opportunity to build on the character. For me, this movie provided a satisfactory end to Tom Holland's Spiderman trilogy.

# FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD RANKINGS

Have you ever lived in a friendly neighborhood, felt amazing or looked spectacular? One man has and that is one of the most well-known superheroes of all time and that man is Spiderman. He is one of the most influential heroes to the younger generation. And, even though his movies have gone through three different reboots with a standalone film, giving a total of nine films, they have all grossed to make a total of about 10 billion all together. I have looked over all films multiple times and ranked them along with other colleagues to identify which is the best of the best.

1. No Way Home
2. Into The Spider-Verse
3. Spider-Man
4. Spider-Man 2
5. Far From Home
6. Homecoming
7. The Amazing Spider-Man
8. Spider-Man 3
9. The Amazing Spider-Man 2

After the recent success of *No Way Home*, Sony is planning to make three more live action Spider-Man movies, a sequel of *Into the Spider-Verse* and a Disney+ show about Spider-Man's freshman year in high school. I think these next movies are going to set up the new villains and end up giving him the symbiote suit so he can try to fight it off while dealing with his own guilt and self-pity. Also, I think he might team up with other heroes including Daredevil and eventually to get his best friend back along with the love of his life after they were forced to forget who Peter Parker was.

When new Marvel movie projects get announced, it is almost a tradition for fans to create their own theories on what could potentially happen. One of these theories include that in the next movie Kingpin will hire Kraven the Hunter and Scorpion to go after Spider-man and that will cause him to team up with Daredevil to take them down. Another theory is that when Spider-man gets the symbiote suit, it causes him to go down a dark path and start to not pull his punches as much and possibly attack his former friend Ned in some way which would lead to him becoming Hobgoblin to get revenge. Finally, a theory is that Spider-Man will have to face an MCU version of the Sinister Six and have to somehow defeat them by himself.



BY: ASHLEY RAMIREZ (SHE/HER), STAFF

# DOWN AND BACK

A sit down with two girls basketball stars

**Q: Is there a coach or athlete you look up to?**

A: A coach I look up to is one we call Big Chris. I look up to him because he always knows how to uplift a team and he is always positive.

**Q: How do you manage sports and school?**

A: I manage school and sports by going to school, then practice, then doing homework after I get home.

**Q: Have you ever created your own play?**

A: I haven't created a play, but I've tweaked a play I basically just added a dribble hand-off and a screen and roll to the play.

**Q: What have you learned about teamwork from past experiences on your team?**

A: I learned a lot about teamwork playing basketball. As a point guard, you really need your team while playing. There is always something that someone needs to do for the plays to follow through.

**Q: How would you describe the season so far?**

I would describe the season as a struggle so far, but the players are all trying to work together and get through it.



## TAYSIA YOUNG

*Photos courtesy of Mariah Goodson.*

# ON THE WHISTLE

**Q: How would you describe the coaches and teammates?**

A: Our team is very young so we have a lot of people who have never played basketball. We have to teach them how to play while the rest of us steps ahead of them. We need the numbers so we all have to learn collectively.

**Q: What do you look for in a good coach?**

A: Mean but coddle us. Personally, yelling is what makes or breaks a good player. I also think a great trait of a coach is switching it up. If you expect different outcomes by doing the same things repeatedly, that's the definition of insanity.

**Q: How do you keep your teammates feeling positive and motivated during a loss?**

A: If you can't take anything away from a loss, then you deserve the loss, you beat yourself. The whole point of a loss is to learn what needs to be worked on and what you need to correct.

**Q: What are some short-term goals you'd like to accomplish in the next few months or couple years?**

A: I would like to attempt to shoot more three's because most people might think I can't shoot them because of my size but they'll be surprised.

**Q: How would you describe the season so far?**

A: So far, our season hasn't been the greatest or what we've expected. I think we all need to write down our strengths and weaknesses and come to practice with them both strengthened and it would greatly benefit our team.

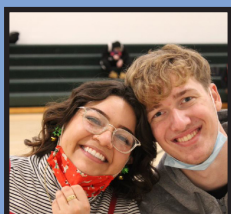
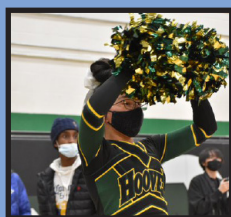


## ALEXIA JARRETT

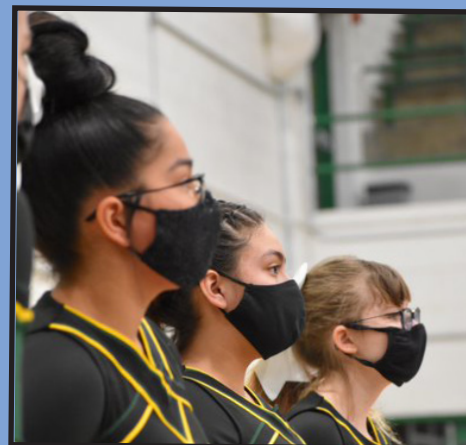


# WINTER

HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM WINTER 2021







HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM WINTER 2021

# ACTIVITIES

# 2021 WINNERS

## **MOST STREAMED SONG OF 2021**

DUA LIPA, "LEVITATING"

## **MOST STREAMED ALBUM OF 2021**

OLIVIA RODRIGO, "SOUR"

## **GRAMMY RECORD OF THE YEAR WINNER**

BILLIE EILISH, "EVERYTHING I WANTED"

## **MOST STREAMED ARTIST OF 2021**

BAD BUNNY

## **HIGHEST SELLING RAP ALBUM OF 2021**

KENDRICK LAMAR, "GOOD KID, M.A.A.D CITY"

## **GRAMMY SONG OF THE YEAR WINNER**

H.E.R, "I CAN'T BREATHE"

## **GRAMMY WINNER FOR BEST NEW ARTIST**

MEGAN THEE STALLION

## **GRAMMY ALBUM OF THE YEAR WINNER**

TAYLOR SWIFT, "FOLKLORE"

## **GRAMMY PRODUCER OF THE YEAR WINNER**

ANDREW WATT