

THE CHALLENGER

All in: Saying Goodbye



**Table
of
Contents**

Profiles

**Pg. 6 -
Pg. 29**

Feature

**Pg. 30-
Pg. 49**

Opinion

**Pg. 50-
Pg. 55**

**Volume 54
Issue 4
Summer
Issue
2021- 2022**

**Cover art
by: Callie
Garcia**

Copy Editor In Chief

Sage Johnson

Design Editor In Chief

Callie Garcia

Social Media Editor

Lilly Johns

Staff

Ashley Ramirez

Chevella Ruchti

Cirila Torres-Rubio

Grace Clingan

Hamida Mokhtar

Jiovanni Ellis

Taleaya Zelee

Tanner Reel

Tee Reh

Teran Bates

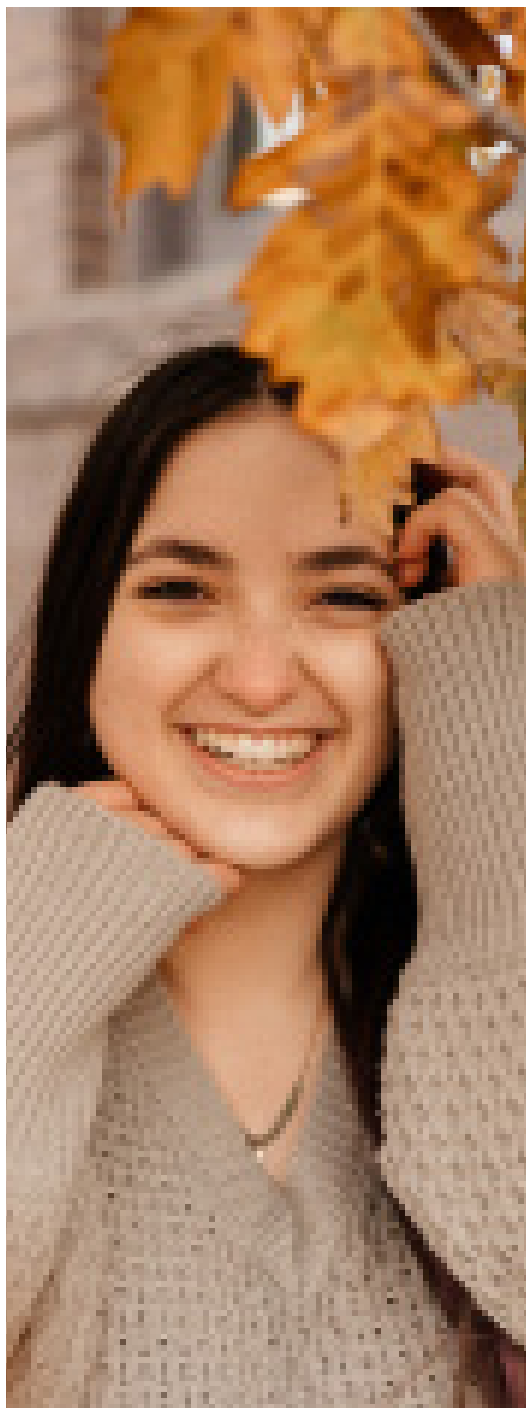


Photo courtesy of Sophie Rae Photo.

I don't like goodbyes, so I'll be writing this as a "break" letter. As I'm writing this, I have 29 days left of my senior year which means I have 29 days to come to terms with my "break" from Hoover and its students and staff. I have been at Hoover for three years and have found a home with the best family. I have been a part of many activities including drama, choir, golf, art, senior board, thespian board, pep club, IHSSA, and ***The Challenger***. I have found one of the best support systems at Hoover and am very nervous about my future when I will no longer see familiar faces every day.

I have had the privilege of having my voice heard on different subject matters, performing on different stages across Iowa, and writing about what matters to me.

I took journalism my sophomore year and joined the newspaper staff my junior year. I enjoyed writing and designing but this was especially hard because we were virtual when I joined the class. Once we came back in person, my love for journalism reignited and I became attached to the class and the people in it. I have met some of the funniest and most supportive people through newspaper. The class became an outlet for me where I could write, design, and talk to my peers about whatever was bothering me. Every week I look forward to the food day and constant laughter that fills the room.

Newspaper along with all my classes at Hoover have pushed me to grow in ways I will always be grateful for. As sad as I am for saying goodbye, I am just as excited for my future. I will be attending the University of Northern Iowa next fall. Thank you for all the happy memories. To ***The Challenger***, thank you for all the opportunities and just a pro tip- never listen to Hamilton about headline ideas.- Seriously, after I wrote this she suggested "Hamida's Habitat" for Hamida's profile page.

Callie Garcia

CALLIE RAE GARCIA

As senior year comes to a close, the cliches of reminiscing and leaving the past behind shuffle in. As a student that does my best to stay active in the school community, final performances, concerts, assemblies, and all ending activities are coming full circle. For me, writing for *The Challenger* has become a large part of my high school experience.

My freshman year, I joined Mrs. Hamilton's journalism class for the sole reason that my brother had been in newspaper several years before. With two older siblings that have gone through high school, I took everything they said to heart and joined the class to be just like him. What I didn't know, was that I would find myself in the position of Copy Editor in Chief and earning 3rd place in the IHSPA contest for Writer of the Year my senior year.

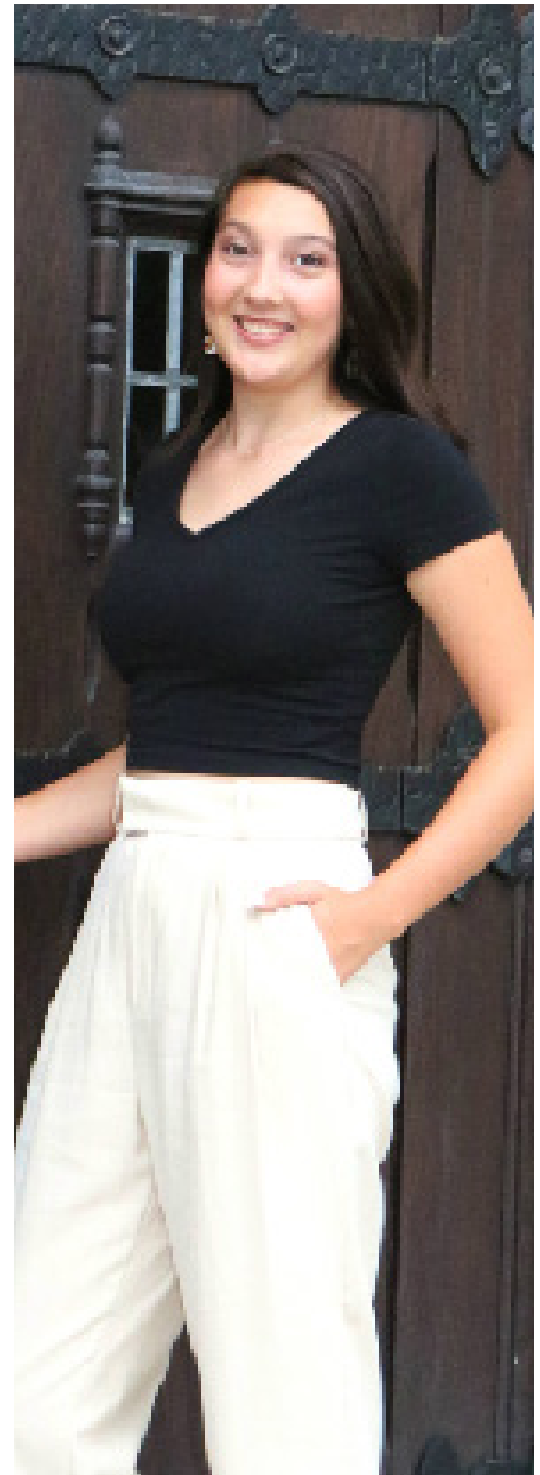
I have always been partial to writing and English classes. Words seemed to come naturally, and my perfectionism allowed for almost perfect grammar in every piece I wrote. The first time I realized that I may be a good journalistic writer was my freshman year. I had written an article for a journalism assignment about how students can advocate and stay active in local and national politics when they are unable to vote. Mrs. Hamilton pulled me aside to ask if my article could be published in the next issue of *The Challenger* – an opportunity that most freshman journalism students do not have because they are not on the staff until the next year. After being an editor for the past two years, I now know that the staff probably just needed to fill two extra pages for the storyboard... But at the time, I felt on top of the world. I finally felt like the work I was putting out meant something and was going to be seen by the staff and student body which is a feeling that has continued four years later.

Ever since then, I have written story after story about topics that are compelling to me. My goal as a student journalist is to showcase topics that are relevant to the current world. *The Challenger* has allowed me to express my angers, joys, and fears in writing that can also make an impact on those that read it. Being on the newspaper staff has allowed me to be recognized in state contests, by staff and peers, and even Charity Nebbe from Iowa Public Radio.

I am so honored to be recognized on so many levels, but my hope for the future of *The Challenger*, is the continuation of student voice to be broadcasted and supported in our school community. For the three people reading this, I hope the program continues to grow so that it become six, then twelve, then 11 readers that appreciate our student media. While my time on the newspaper staff may be over, I will forever be grateful for the opportunities and will always be *The Challenger's* number one fan.



SAGE JOHNSON



THIS IS CALLIE

AN EXPLORATION OF WHO CALLIE IS TO US

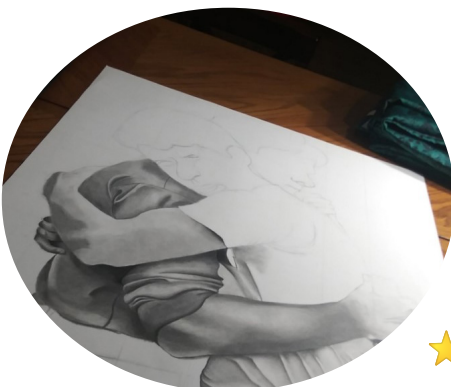


In 2020, Callie and I painted a pirate ship. It was for an orchestra concert where the drama department performed before each musical piece. She played Jane from Tarzan in the skit, and I played a pirate. The short interactions in those few months were the first times her and I talked. For her, remembering that time right before COVID hit is nostalgically weird since our sophomore year was cut short by the global pandemic. Despite the all-around weirdness of the time, our sense of humor seemed to connect. Even as I was interviewing her just a week ago, we found ourselves side tracking into a natural conversation rather than an interview.

She loves Halloween and all things associated with the fall “I like the candles and the clothes and, you know, all of it.” She insisted on the inclusion of her dog Dallas, he is a shepherd mix that she loves with all her heart. She enjoys working at a pizza food truck. When I argued that she is underpaid, Callie furiously defended her boss, showing her loyalty. “People tip. They tip around fifteen to sixty-five dollars, but my highest tip was like, one

hundred dollars.” We bonded for our love of the game Animal Crossing. “I got it for Christmas but I’m not very good at it.” She told me when BuzzFeed Unsolved ended, her heart was broken. She’s a Scorpio, rotisserie chicken makes her nauseous, and she prefers waffles over pancakes. And although yellow Gatorade is easily the worst flavor, she told me: “I grew up drinking it, it’s in my blood.”

Garcia is obsessed with The Simpsons. “I never even watched it as a child, so I don’t know why I like it.” As I pushed for an answer, she went on to say: “I think it started as the Halloween episode because I’m obsessed with Halloween.” I asked her what her favorite season of the show was, and she tells me she has trouble picking between season seventeen and nineteen. “So if you go and watch the first season, the difference in animation is so cool to me. I like how they didn’t start out, like, how they are now, the progress they made is so cool.” She was excited to tell me about how the show How I Met Your Mother ruined





the ending for her.” I am very passionate about it, I hated the ending, they ruined everything. Because they had a good thing going when Robin and Barney got together, and then they screwed it up!” There was a pattern of animated shows that she listed for me, SpongeBob, Scooby Doo and Gravity Falls. She also liked Adventure Time as kid. “It’s just stupid and silly and that’s a compliment.” Her favorite character is Marceline because she’s “a cool vampire with an axe guitar.” Her list of favorite shows ended with Cake Boss, which seemingly did not fit in with the rest. “They just make cool cakes.”



Art is a huge part of her life. Garcia started out drawing and quickly realized it could be a productive outlet, and in our conversation, she reminisces about when she could draw for hours at a time. She likes realism and mostly draws in black and white. When asked her favorite drawing, she answered after a thoughtful pause: “So, I haven’t finished it yet, it’s a work in progress...it’s of two guys during the AIDs epidemic hugging. I’m doing it in black and white, in charcoal.” She also tells me this is the hardest thing she’s drawn. “It’s because you can see every single pencil stroke and it’s big. It’s also because I’m a perfectionist and I want everything to look good.” Her most memorable art-related experience was the Van Gogh exhibit in Chicago, “I went to the immersive exhibit; it had really loud music and you can sit anywhere you want...it projects his art on the ceilings and walls and stuff. It makes you zone out and it’s really relaxing.” Her favorite part was the gift shop, where she told me that she bought her crochet keychain of Van Gogh there. I pushed back



on the price, arguing that it was too expensive, but she says it was worth it. She told me the editing of each projected art piece was a close second in memorability: “Each painting would transform into another...it was really cool.”

Garcia is going to be a first-generation college student, which induces a lot of stress when she starts to think about what that means for her. Garcia willingly takes on a lot of responsibility juggling theater, newspaper, art, physical therapy, and things related to the musical that she plays a key part in. Procrastination is self-admittedly one of her worst attributes and she feels that there often isn’t enough time in the day for what she wants to accomplish. With a laugh, she tells me when she gets stressed, she “cries and eats food.” She continued: “I deal with stress well to an extent. I can deal with the normal amount of stress, or even a little bit more. The problem is when it lasts for more than a year, that’s when I draw the line.”

When I think of Garcia, I think of someone that is driven, motivated and in touch with her emotions. She is open minded and welcoming, knowing an array of different people from each of her classes and extra-curricular activities. And although she types exceptionally slow, likes Shawn Mendes, and hates my designs, I will miss seeing her every second period. “I’m very excited about my future, my scholarship and UNI...I’ll miss the people. I’ll miss all of the students and staff and I want to thank everyone who supported me,” Garcia said.



“ART IS THE ONLY WAY TO RUN AWAY WITHOUT LEAVING HOME”

-TWALYA THARP



BY: LILLY JOHNS (SHE/HER), SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR IN CHIEF

HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM SUMMER 2022



SAGE

Meet the face behind some of your favorite Challenger articles.

SPOT

Sage Johnson. Passionate, responsible, stressed, and an absolute asset to the Hoover community. Not only is she one of the most multi-faceted people to walk the halls here, but she also excels in all that she tries.

From an impressive high school journalism career to a promising future in the world of theater, her skill set is very broad.

“In school, an impactful award I have received was the Emerging Journalist Awards from the Iowa High School Press Association. It was really cool to be recognized for the articles I have written over the years,” Johnson said.

As someone very concerned with social justice, she often likes to find ways to integrate relevant world issues into her articles such as ‘Making the Switch’ where she highlights the importance of recognizing and respecting pronouns, as well as in the article ‘Why you can’t have Activism without Intersectionality.’

With outstanding skills in both fields, she finds any way she can to let the two intersect.

“So far, I have been able to include both of my passions in articles I have written. This year I wrote about the new *West Side Story* movie, and the writing all came naturally because it was about something that I love. But as for outside of newspaper class, I follow a lot of theater journalists on Twitter who review new Broadway shows or have podcasts with theater news. It’s very niche but it allows me to connect to both

aspects of my life,” Johnson said.

After her time at Hoover ends, Johnson has big plans for her future.

“I will be going to the University of Iowa next year to major in vocal performance and hoping to continue on the music therapy or the music education track,” Johnson said.

However, if you were to ask her the very same question about her college plans earlier this year, the answer would have been drastically different.

“My plan since my sophomore year was to major in journalism and communications with my time in the newspaper class. I made a last-minute decision to audition for the School of Music to study voice because I realized that I don’t want to lose that passion in my life. I had to weigh my options and see which one meant more to me - singing or writing,” Johnson said.

This is a challenge facing many seniors this year as they start to take the next steps in life and figure out what kind of impact they want to have on the world. Just because her intended major shifted directions does not mean that Johnson’s passions for activism and reporting will take a back burner.

“While I initially planned on studying journalism in college, my plans have since changed but I still want to try to stay active in the news and maybe get involved in clubs to continue the passion I have for writing,” Johnson said.

From snagging the lead in the school musical, winning student of the month, and being a keynote speaker at the Iowa High School Press Association Award ceremony, Sage Johnson has been on a roll her senior year. A trend that is sure to continue as she takes the next step.

LIGHT

BY: SAGE JOHNSON (SHE/HER), COPY EDITOR IN CHIEF

On to the Next Chapter



HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM SUMMER 2022

Chapter 18: Senior Year

Senior Lilly Johns' participation at school is no secret. But what you might not know, is that she is an avid bookworm. With her highest book count of almost 100 in a single year, Johns spends a lot of her free time indulging in literature.

"My favorite book changes constantly as I expand my repertoire. As of the past couple of months, my favorite book is currently 'East of Eden' by John Steinbeck. I always enjoy a generational tale especially when the characters are as thought out as these ones are. This book also has one of my favorite book characters of all time, Lee," Johns said.

When she doesn't have her nose stuck in a book, you can find her roaming the halls, running from one activity to the next. An active member in the Hoover community, Johns has served as Senior Board President, been a member of National Honor Society, participant in cheer and golf, and most importantly to us, a staff member of newspaper and head editor of the yearbook. While Johns has many more experiences to seek, Hoover will always remain a special place for her.

"I have always been extremely proud of the fact that I attend Hoover High School. The relationship between the staff and student body works in such a way that makes this an exceptional place to learn and grow as a young adult. I will miss the familiarity of this place and the welcome feeling I get when I walk through the front doors every day," Johns said.

Johns is the perfect representative when it comes to staying involved in school and making strong connections with the staff. Her main sport, cheer,

was a huge part of Johns' involvement in the Hoover community before ending her season early this winter.

"Mariah Goodson, my cheer coach, is unquestionably the person who had the strongest impact on me here. Even after my time on the cheer team will be long over, I know she will always be a person I can count on to have my back," Johns said.

Aside from being a dedicated cheerleader, Johns has been on the yearbook staff for three years and made her Hoover Challenger debut this year as a writer for the newspaper. Johns has taken on leadership roles in yearbook to become the Editor in Chief that oversees every memory, photo, and design that is put into the yearbook.

The creation of the yearbook allows Johns to retain the events of her high school experience while also being able to showcase it to others.

"The Husky Media Group has offered a homebase to hone so many different skill sets. It has helped me discover many different areas of interest such as graphic design, photography, and journalism. It has taught me what it's like to lead a project, and how to help others succeed. I like that the time I've spent in high school, and all the fun memories I have made will be documented thanks to my hard work and the hard work of my fellow staff. Not only will be able to look back on this time, but everyone also can as well," Johns said.

She has plans to continue her education at a university with a focus on Political Science, Anthropology, and Literature to continue to expand her passions for reading and learning more about the world around her. As the 2022 school year comes to an end, Johns will be flipping the page to the next chapter of her life.

"The power words hold never ceases to amaze me and when you can find a book that completely transports your mind to another world, there is no better feeling."
- Lilly Johns

ACCORDING TO *Grace*

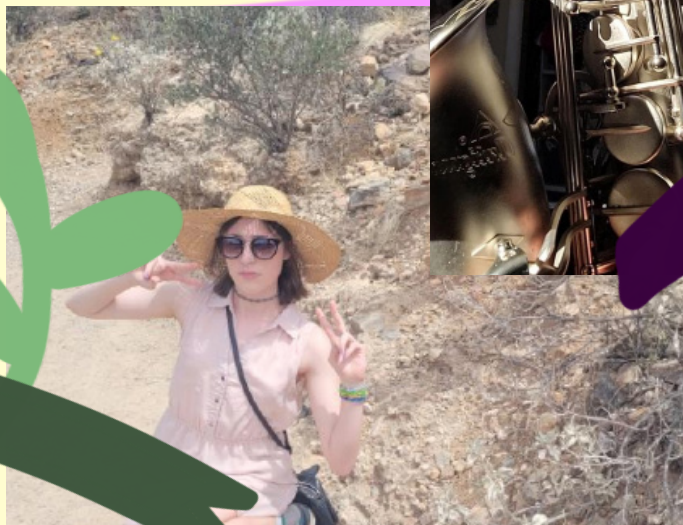
An inside look into the interests of senior Grace Clingan.

Grace Clingan is a very interesting person contrary to her beliefs. She loves movies, TV shows, Animal Crossing, Bill Nye, and purple. She's bad at math yet she's a cashier, who also plays the saxophone. Her typing speed is 70 words per minute destroying my record for 15 words per minute. I have known Clingan since my sophomore year and with each year we increasingly learn more about each other. It's typically weird stuff like how she hates *The Magic School Bus* and yellow Gatorade.

Clingan loves many things. One of which is movies. Her favorite movies are *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, and *Good Fellas*. She told me she doesn't have favorite actors so the actors she "likes" are Michael Cera and Adam Driver. She loves snacking on popcorn and Cherry Coke in movie theatres and hates it when people speak or use their phone during the movie which is exactly what I do. Her least favorite movie is *Bad Moms* and she thinks superhero movies can die. Although I don't agree with her superhero comment, she makes up for it with her taste in TV shows.

Clingan's favorite TV shows are *Death Note*, the first four seasons of *Community*, *Spongebob*, *Avatar The Last Airbender*, and *Bojack Horseman*. The first thing she looks for in a new series are good characters.

"I don't care about action or the plot. Those are always good, but I just want good characters," Clingan said.



Her favorite streaming providers are Netflix and her stolen Crunchyroll account. She requested I specifically note that her Crunchyroll account is in fact stolen from a friend in hopes of coming off “cooler.” Her most watched show is *Malcolm in the Middle* because of how frequently her family watched it. Although she cannot explain a single episode of *Catdog*, it was one of her favorite shows growing up along with *Spongebob*.

Clingan is a huge cat lover and has two of her own, one named Noche and the other named Niño. Both are black cats and have been with her since childhood. Before Noche, she had two other cats named Eddy and Rain. She loved them both and described them as very beautiful. Clingan loves cats because they’re nice, fuzzy, and they love to sit in boxes with their paws tucked in. Her lock screen and purse are cat themed and she wishes to get a blue cat laying on his back tattooed on her arm.

Along with loving cats, she also loves games. Her favorite game is Animal Crossing with Minecraft coming in as a close second.

“I have been playing Animal Crossing since I was ten. I had the City Folk version on the Wii and played

it every day before school when none of the villagers were awake yet because it was so early,” Clingan said.

Phil the ostrich is her favorite villager from New Leaf and Flora the flamingo is her favorite villager from New Horizons. She enjoys New Leaf more than New Horizons because there’s more stuff to do and different things to customize.

Like everyone, Clingan has her fair share of unpopular opinions. She hates ketchup and thinks pitbulls are ugly. I already tried to fight her over the pitbull comment so don’t bother - she won’t change her mind. She doesn’t like dogs but will make an exception for some, especially if they’re fluffy. Although this doesn’t entirely make sense because my dog isn’t fluffy, I won’t complain because progress is progress. She believes Will Smith should not have slapped Chris Rock at the Oscars and hates the book *Brave New World*. Clingan believes in rehabilitation over punishment and hates everyone on TikTok. She has a saved folder called stupid people for stupid TikToks. While having this folder is great, it does mess up her TikTok algorithm and cause more stupid videos to be on her ‘For You page.’

Although we have opposing views on Gatorade flavors and childhood TV shows, we did bond over painting a pirate ship in theatre class sophomore year. Grace Clingan is a wonderful person and I’ve had many great memories with her. She did not want to make this profile all about her future, but I do wish her the best with whatever she wishes to do.



VALUABLE VELLE

HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM SUMMER 2022

Senior Chevelle Ruchti is a 6'6 260-pound behemoth of a man. He is one of, if not, the greatest Hoover basketball center to walk through this school. He is a top rebounder in the state and was number one in the state in field goal percentage.

Not only is he an athlete, but he is also an exceptional student. He has an outstanding GPA of 4.0 and is a part of pep club. Ruchti is committed to Mount Mercy University for basketball. Ruchti is a hard-working young man who works at Hy-Vee one of the most successful stores in the world. Ruchti wanted to work here because he wants to be successful and the only way to success is to learn from success itself.



Q & A TIME



Q. How does it feel to be the best center in the state?

A. I wouldn't say I am the best, but I would say I am the most efficient at scoring and one of the best post defenders.

Q. Do you plan on playing basketball in college?

A. Yes, I'm going to be playing basketball at Mount Mercy.

Q. What are you most looking forward to in college?

A. I am looking forward to being in a new environment and meeting new people while also trying to experience what life is like not being at home and trying to make those same connections I had at Hoover.

Q. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years?

A. I hope I am making a good amount of money and don't have to worry about going homeless or anything like that. I just want a stress-free life.

Q. Describe some of your biggest challenges?

A. My biggest challenge would be dealing with outside influences while trying to focus on my senior year in basketball.

Q. What parts of yourself would you like to improve?

A. I would like to improve my mental strength and just be a better basketball player so nobody else can compete with me.

Q. What will you miss most about Hoover?

A. I'm going to miss my friends mostly and some of the staff I have grown close to.

Q. If you could be somewhere else for the day, where would it be?

A. If I could be anywhere then I would go to Jamaica to see all the baddies and experience some good food.

Q. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

A. I would like to have the power of invulnerability so nobody could kill me, and I can just do whatever I wanted to do without consequences.

Q. Are you excited for your next steps in life?

A. I am very excited and nervous because I hope it all goes well and I stay healthy.

Q. Do you work? Where?

A. I work at Wahlburgers located at the downtown Hy-Vee. I serve people food and basically just do whatever they ask of me.

BIG

TIME

BATES

Acknowledging why they call him “Big Time Bates.”

Senior Teran “Big Time” Bates is not only a basketball philanthropist but is also a power five, two-time, full ride scholarship guy to Iowa State. He received these accolades by exceeding in the classroom and having an outstanding GPA of a 4.2 while also doing extracurricular activities to not only help himself but to help others. When he isn’t dominating the classroom, he is a lights out shooter on the basketball court and was the spark plug that ignited the Hoover basketball team on a seven-game win streak. He was a key asset defensively and veered us in the right direction with his drive and kick playstyle. Bates is also the Babe Ruth of Hoover baseball by having the first home run of the last five years and then having a dominate mercy-rule victory against North High School. Bates has been playing baseball all four years including 8th grade and plans to have a deep playoff run this upcoming summer season while having as much enjoyment and fun as possible. Outside of sports and school, Bates has worked for a multi million-dollar company by financing the money that comes in and goes out all while making sure the customers are always satisfied because that is his pleasure.

SCHOOL

Q: What are your plans after high school?

A: I plan on attending Iowa State University on my full ride and I am currently undecided but interested in education.

Q: How are you going to be big time in college?

A: I'm going to be big time in college by getting great grades as always and beating everyone in the state gym in basketball.

Q: Why did ISU choose you to be their big time guy?

A: Iowa State picked me because they see what I bring to the table - a hard working, smart, quality guy who met all the criteria.



WORK

Q: Are you big time at Chik-Fil-A?

A: Definitely big time no doubt about it. I go the extra mile to serve the customers and it's my pleasure to do so.

Q: Why did Chik-Fil-A choose you?

A: Chick-Fil-A picked me because I promised them second mile service. I don't just go the extra mile around here, I double that and I delivered on that promise.

Q: Why is it your pleasure?

It's my pleasure because I like to treat the customers with respect and show them that I care about them.



SPORTS

Q: When did you become *Big Time Bates*?

A: When I torched Roosevelt on a way to a dominate blowout win.

Q: Are you big time in any other sports?

A: I'm not only big time in just sports, I'm *Big Time Bates* in everything I do.

Q: What is your favorite memory in the sports you played?

A: For basketball it's definitely having a deep postseason run with my teammates. For baseball it's just messing around and having fun.

Q: Do you think you could score on prime MJ in 3 possessions or strike out Babe Ruth and why?

A: It would probably be strike out Babe Ruth because he's dead so it wouldn't be that hard.

BY: TEE REH (HE/HIM), STAFF

Mokhtar

Let's look at Hamida's moments at Hoover and her future.

Q: How do you feel about graduating soon?

A: Excited, but it's also kind of nerve-racking. In just a couple of months. I'll be free to make my own schedule and build my own life.

Q: What kind of impacts did Hoover have on you?

A: I've met some pretty great people here and honestly, I kind of wish that I had chosen to spend more overall time at Hoover rather than Central. Being at Hoover just sort of has its own comforts.

Q: What was your favorite thing about your high school years?

A: Honestly a lot of it was just being at Hoover, joining groups, making friends, trying out new things. I did all of that here. And I really enjoyed it. My favorite part about high school was the people I met and the person I became because of it.



Moments

Activities

Q: What activities did you do at Hoover?

A: I've been part of the Hoover Drama Department for the entirety of my time here. Taking any opportunity to be on or off stage. I also participated in IHSSA, the Iowa High School Speech Association, it's a competition of performing arts. There are two back-to-back seasons of it - one for group events and one for individual events. Both of which I participated in. I also am planning on doing girl's golf this season. It is something I've never done before but should be fun.

Q: What was your most memorable memory at Hoover?

A: I don't really have a lot of super memorable things at Hoover. The majority of my time here was just keeping my head down in classes. But the after-school activities I took part in were really special to me. One of my favorites was doing mime for group events in IHSSA, it's where I got really close with my best friend.

Hamida's Future

Q: What are your plans after you graduate?

A: I have a few different options as of right now. I really love every aspect of filmmaking - the acting, directing, writing and everything in between. Whatever I end up doing will more than likely revolve around that.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A: I'm not quite sure. I would like to be part of something involving performing arts but considering how easily I tend to change my mind; it could really be any aspect of it. I just hope that I'm satisfied wherever I land.

JOJO'S MOJO

Breaking down Giovanni Ellis's high school experience.

Giovanni Ellis has had an eventful four years of his high school career. He has been involved in Hoover athletics, IJAG, newspaper and yearbook. As his senior year is coming to end, Ellis gives a reflection on high school and what he has coming up in the near future.

PAST:

Ellis looks back on what really made his four years the best.



Why did you come to Hoover?

All my friends were going to Hoover and I didn't want to end up being a weird loner who still lived in his mommy's attic with no friends.

What will you miss about Hoover?

What I'm going to miss about Hoover is the assemblies that we would have in the gym and would have all the grade levels participate for the spirit stick

What is your favorite memory at Hoover and why?

My favorite memory at Hoover must be 2021 prom because I got to be with all my friends when we arrived, and I got to leave and go to after prom with all of them.

What have you been involved in the past four years?

I have been involved with football four years, basketball three years, and track one year. I also am a part of the hoover IJAG program.

PRESENT:

Ellis reflects on how his senior year and what had an impact on him while giving advice to the next up and coming seniors.

How did your senior year go?

My senior year has been pretty chill just trying to finish the year strong.

What would be your advice for the next upcoming seniors?

My advice for the upcoming seniors would be just go to class and do your work. It's your last year, finish it up strong.

How did football impact your senior year?

Football really impacted my senior year because I created bonds with more people that I could talk to after I

FUTURE:

Ellis tells us about what he has in store after his high school days are done.

What are your plans for next year?

My plan for next year is to go to college at Iowa Central Community College.

Why did you choose that college?

I picked this college because I had a visit with Big Byron, D'vonta, Randy, and Lex and it's a very good for football and academics.

What are you looking forward to the most after graduation?

What I'm looking to the most after graduating is just starting a new chapter of my life.



BY: HAMIDA MOKHTAR (SHE/HER) STAFF

HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM SUMMER 2022

TUNE

IN TO

TEE REH

Tee Reh:
self-described as quiet,
hardworking and honest.,
sits down for a Q&A with
this beloved Challenger
staff member.

How do you feel about being a senior?

I feel surprised because time flew by so fast but at the same time, happy that I'll be done with high school.

What career do you want in the future?

After I graduate, I plan to get my CNA then go into a nursing program. I want to pursue something in the nursing field.

What made you choose to go into nursing?

Nursing was just a career choice I made because I wanted to make a small impact on the world, even if that's just being able to help a few people feel a little better.

Are you a part of any clubs or do you play any sports?

I play volleyball in my free time. I started playing because my sister used to play.

Why volleyball?

I would describe volleyball as my passion. I really enjoy playing it. I've played in a few tournaments here and there, and I had lots of fun. I play as a setter for my team, although volleyball isn't really my future. I strive to get better and better every day.

Do you have any siblings? How many?

I have three siblings, two older and one younger. Both of my older sisters went to Hoover.

Did they ever give you any advice for high school?

They gave me advice, but I never paid attention to it.

What piece of advice would you give to next year's freshman?

My advice would be to be yourself and do assignments on time. Most of the time the assignments aren't hard, just time consuming, and if you need help, don't hesitate to ask teachers.

If you could change one thing in your high school career, what would it be and why?

One thing would be that I would have done sports, just because it's the only time in your life. You can play sports for fun or competitively without a lot of responsibilities.

What kind of music do you listen to?

I listen to every type of music - rap, hip pop, r&b, classics, kpop, even anime ops. I don't have any favorite artists or favorite songs.

Do you play music?

I'm part of Hoover's orchestra program. I joined mainly because I didn't want to do choir. But throughout my years there, I really learned to appreciate the work that people put into music. Although music isn't my passion, learning to play the violin is very fun. There are lots of talented people in our orchestra and Mrs. Fried is the best teacher. I've also learned to appreciate the music that I've heard because it's composed so well.

What's your favorite food?

I guess breakfast foods are my favorite like pancakes, bacon, hashbrowns, sausage, biscuits and gravy, and omelets.

If you could have dinner with three people, dead or alive, who would they be? Why?

Gordon Ramsey, so he can cook me some nice meals, Yuji Nishida, so I can ask him for volleyball tips, and Jeff Bezos, so I can ask him how I can get rich.

What's your favorite color?

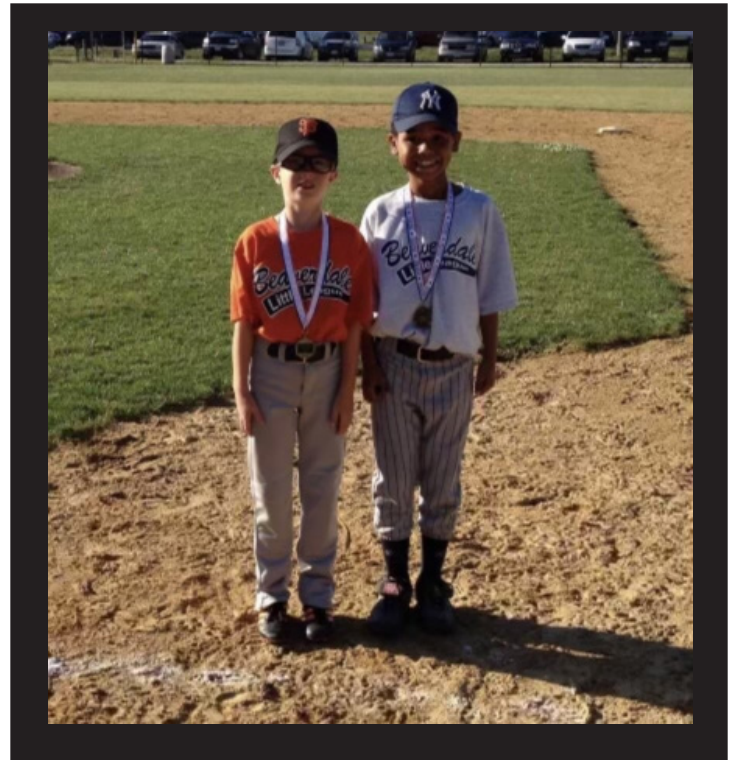
My favorite color is sky blue because it's calming. I like sky blue because it reminds me of the ocean.

What are three fun facts about yourself?

Three fun facts about me are - I am from Thailand, I like nature stuff, and I like being clean.

Notorious Nathaniel

Senior Nathan Morrissey is a top baseball player in the state. He racks up awards like nothing and just flat out gets the job done. He is attending Coe College on a full ride and is expected to make an immediate impact on the team. He is also a two-time varsity basketball player who hit a clutch free throw against the Valley Tigers. Not to mention his four-year varsity golf career where he competed with the best in the state. Not only is he a ball player he is also a student athlete. He has a solid GPA of 3.5 and is a four-time academic award winner. He expects to take this excellence and further it during his college career.



Q. Why did you start playing sports?

A. Because my parents signed me up for them and I just enjoy playing them with my friends.

Q. What sport do you like most and why?

A. I like baseball the most because I feel that it is my best sport.

Q. What's your favorite baseball position and why?

A. Shortstop because it seems that's where most of the balls are hit.

Q. Do you plan on going to college? If so, where?

A. I plan on going to Coe College and playing baseball there.

Q. What made you want to pursue baseball in college?

A. Wanting to play the game I love for as long as I can.

Q. Do you plan on getting a job in college?

A. Yes, because I have to pay tuition.

Q. What are you most looking forward to in college?

A. I'm looking forward to moving on with my life because college is a great next step.

Q. What will you miss most about Hoover?

A. I will miss all my friends and teachers because I will have to make new ones.

Q. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years?

A. I hope to have a job somewhere and start a family.

Q. Are you excited for your next steps in life?

A. I am very excited for my next steps because I'm going off to place where I know nobody.

Q. Describe some of your biggest challenges?

A. One of my biggest challenges is getting to prepare for college because it's probably the biggest step I'm going to take in my life.

Q. What parts of yourself would you like to improve?

A. I would like to improve on being able to make all kinds of friends.

Q. If you could be somewhere else for the day, where would it be?

A. I would like to be somewhere warm and get out of the Iowa weather.

Q. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

A. I would have super speed so that I can run anywhere I would like.

Q. What three places would you like to visit?

A. I would like to visit Italy, Hawaii, and California. Somewhere warm and has great scenery.

Q. What is your go to snack when you're hungry?

A. A nice cold Snickers bar.



COE COLLEGE

Coe makes it possible. You make it happen.

BY: GIOVANNI ELLIS (HE/HIM), STAFF

THE PRINCE IS CROWNED

The view of high school from Prince Fode.

What has been the hardest part of high school for you?

The hardest part of high school is when you don't pay attention in math class and you have to use your own intuition on the problems.

What are something that people should know coming into high school?

Stop trying to act cool and just be yourself..? But get out your shell.

Did you have any role models in high school? If so who were they and why?

Kaleb Walker just had this aura of him being a little more knowledgeable in different ways than the rest and he just held himself high.

Who has been your top 3 favorite teachers in high school?

Mr. Dusek, Ms. Roney, Ms. Johnson.

What sports and activities have you been apart of since being in high school?

Basketball, Track, and Football.



Pictured on the right.

Prince Fode is one of many students who went through high school when there was COVID. As a senior now, we would want him to tell us what it was like for him during his high school years and if he has any plans later on in the future.

What have you learned from being in high school for 4 years?

I learned that if you got a social vibe to you and are just willing to talk to people you can get fit in and get along with people pretty well in high school.

What has been your favorite memory in high school so far?

I think my favorite memory in high school would have to be the time we came back to school in person and had the smallest classes.

What has been the easiest part of high school for you?

The easiest part of high school would be whenever I'd go eat lunch.

DARING DVONTA

Senior reflects on his high school career.



What are some things that you shouldn't do in high school?

One thing that you shouldn't do in high school is continue to stay broke and follow into peer pressure.

How have your bonds with your friends been through high school?

Some of us fell off due to the paths we took, but I am happy with the people I have now

Did you have any role models in high school? If so who were they and why?

My role model is former Hoover Husky QB Byron Jarrett. He helped me with a lot for football and life.

Senior Dvonta White has been through a lot during his high school life. Football, baseball, and COVID but he hasn't let any of that stop him from being himself and doing what he loves to do most.

What have you learned from being in high school for four years?

Time goes fast.

What has been your favorite memory in high school so far?

Meeting the great people in my life.

If you could change something that happened to you in high school what would it be?

Taking sports seriously since freshman year.

What sports and activities have you been a part of since being in high school?

I've been a part of football, baseball, basketball, pep club, Husky Crew and B2B.



BY: HAMIDA MOKHTAR (SHE/HER) STAFF

THE SUITE LIFE OF KACPER

MALINIOWSKI

From Lodz, Poland to Des Moines, Iowa. It's time to find out how one of our foreign exchange students feels about his year at Hoover High School.



Why did you decide to be a foreign exchange student? What foreign exchange student program are you a part of?

I'm a finalist in the US Department of State's FLEX program. I applied for the program after being amazed by the monumental beauty of Washington D.C. after visiting it for a couple of days in 2019, with the purpose of speaking at the conference.

What has been the most dramatic change from your old school to Hoover?

In Poland, since I was 6 I attended classes in the same building, with the same students, learning from the same musicians, in the one and only music school OSM I & II st. in Łódź, called Sosnowa students. Thus, I felt heavily attached to the student body, which I was the President of last year. When coming to Hoover HS, I was stressed I won't belong here emotionally. But thanks to people's kindness, and diversity of characters, it quickly became one of my homes.

What extracurriculars have you been a part of in your time here?

Honor's Orchestra (harpist, perfect score at State), Debate Club, Speech (all-state participant), Boys' Soccer, US Academic Decathlon (state winner in the category of the interview, nationals qualifier), Pep Club. I was also partially involved in helping other Hoover & Meredith orchestras & ensembles (incl. harp solo performances), and Drama.

Why those activities?

My exchange's year acceptance rate in Poland varies from 3-5% every year. And Hoover HS offers an enormous variety of extracurriculars students can attend. I wouldn't forgive myself if I wouldn't take a chance to take these opportunities to the maximum. And it was the best decision to make, as I've created bonds with people for a lifetime.

What kind of music do you listen to? What are your favorite songs, artists, and genres?

My playlist is just pure chaos and a mix of everything, but while my favorite songs change daily and depend on a genre, previously I loved listening to 2010s flashback music, pop and rhythmic music are my always favorites, and naturally, thanks to my background and profession, I love classical music. Currently, my favorite artists include Adele, Whitney Houston, Alec Benjamin, Doja Cat, and Jeremy Zucker. In the past week, my favorite pieces were "My Little Love" by Adele, "22" by Taylor Swift, and Dmitri Shostakovich's "Symphony no. 5 in D minor; op. 47".

What are three fun facts about yourself?

I'm an atheist who was baptized in the Catholic Church, is a godfather in the English church, and commemorates his Jewish roots.

I'm a huge enjoyer of British humor, full of sarcasm, irony, and non-enthusiastic comedy.

I'm Hamida Mokhtar's favorite person. Quoting her words: "Vote Kacper for the Prom King!"

What's the best memory you have of your time here?

Every day here seems like a new adventure. I sometimes wake up in the middle of the school week, recalling memories from the previous weekend, thinking they happened months ago. Within the whole exchange year being a wonderful journey, it's just impossible to choose one memory that's my favorite. If I had to choose my favorite part though - it'd be the pleasure and honors of meeting amazing, unique people.

Do you ever regret becoming an exchange student?

Never. In fact, I wish I could repeat it.

What will you miss most when you return to your home country?

The people. I can not imagine the journey will just cut and end at someplace. I wish to watch more movies with my host dad, I wish to perform more as an orchestra's harpist, and I wish to enjoy more talks with my friends here. I know our friendships will be long-lasting, but the thought of it ending, the realization of its fragility, and limited time here made me notice how I'll miss these moments immensely.

How many states have you visited since you arrived?

5 (6) - Iowa, Indiana, New York, Illinois, Minnesota, District of Columbia

Which state was your favorite?

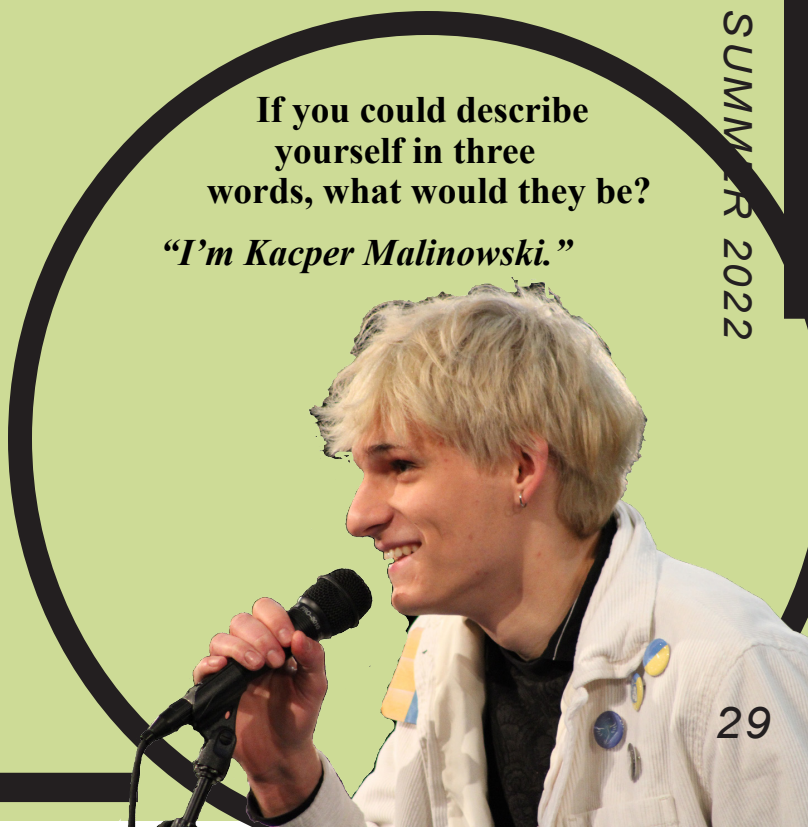
Washington D.C. all the way! Best American city in my opinion!

If you could describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

I'm Kacper Malinowski.

If you could describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

"I'm Kacper Malinowski."



BY: TALEAYA ZELEE (SHE/HER/HERS), STAFF

A Whole New Direction

As class of 2022 leaves, what are their final words?

Favorite memory throughout high school?

Dvonta: Sophomore year pre-COVID, it was fun. There was no worry in life. I would just go to school and have fun.

Jiovanni: Prom in eleventh grade, being able to hang with my friends and being able to dress was nice.

Justin: Playing basketball with Emmanuel.

Meadow: Any assembly with the spirit stick.

Logan: Being able to play sports.

What do you think your best accomplishment was as a senior?

Dvonta: Being voted captain of the football team by peers and coaches.

Jiovanni: Probably winning homecoming king or make second team at districts for football.

Justin: Making it to the sub state final.

Meadow: Good grades.

Logan: So far it has been getting first team all-conference for volleyball, but I'm hoping to beat some school records for soccer so stay tuned.

What is one thing you wish you could've done better at?

Dvonta: I wish I would've gone out for basketball.

Jiovanni: Paid attention just so it doesn't become a habit because you'll have to play catch up your senior year.

Justin: Made it to state.

Meadow: Showed up to class more.

Logan: Take more risks.



How would you describe your senior year?

Dvonta: A rollercoaster of emotions.

Jiovanni: Interesting, ups and downs but mainly ups.

Justin: A great year, a lot of great things happened, it was great.

Meadow: To be honest pretty boring but basketball season was great.

Logan: Stressful, but it has been filled with many blessings.

Were there some times you felt like giving up? What did you do to forget that feeling?

Dvonta: There was definitely sometimes I felt like giving up, but I had to think about my mother.

Jiovanni: Every time we lost a game during football, I would always hang out with my friends to feel better.

Justin: Having a convo with coach Hen.

Meadow: Told myself to get up.

Logan: Definitely, the best thing to do is talk to your friends and the teachers/ adults in the building that you trust because they are your biggest supporters.

What do you see yourself doing after graduation?

Dvonta: I see myself playing in the NFL.

Jiovanni: Going to college and playing football.

Justin: Building generational wealth.

Meadow: Going to college for sports.

Logan: I will be going to college in Wisconsin to study nursing and playing soccer.

Was your life goal the same as you had your freshman year?

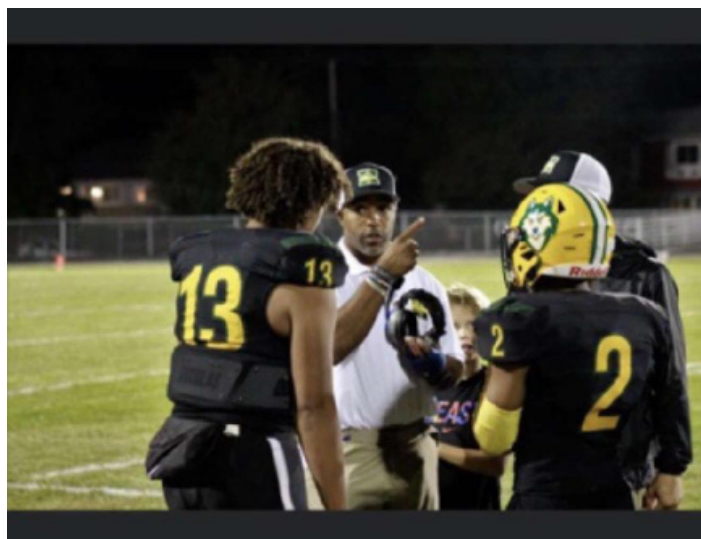
Dvonta: No because I wanted to flip houses and now I don't.

Jiovanni: Yes, yes it is.

Justin: Yes, yes it is.

Meadow: No.

Logan: No, I thought I wanted to be a journalist, and then a lawyer, and I never wanted to play sports in college.



What are some things you could say to the future senior classes?

Dvonta: One thing I would like to say is take classes and your activities more serious because you don't know what opportunity might open.

Jiovanni: Stay true to your goals and you can achieve anything.

Justin: Stay committed, stay focused and achieve your goals.

Meadow: Senior year goes by really fast so stay focused.

Logan: Do everything that interests you, get involved, make friends, have good connection with teachers and support staff, and hang on because senior year is going to fly by fast.



THE NEW FACE OF HOOVER

Mid-year, a new principal has stepped into Hoover to represent the Hoover way.

As previous principal Sherry Poole had an opportunity she couldn't miss on, she decided to leave her position in March to work in the police academy. In the beginning of April, the principal door opened up with Ms. Kelly taking over. Kelly is from Preston, Iowa and was an associate principal at Lincoln and Roosevelt. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and obtained a German education degree with a minor in ELL. She also went to the University of Northern Iowa and received her master's degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages. She also went to Iowa State University and obtained a master's degree in educational administration.

Q: What are some things people should know about you?

A: I am a high energy person and very passionate. I'm also a people person so don't be afraid to come up and introduce yourself to me! I care deeply about people and want to help support others any way I can.

Q: Why did you accept this position at Hoover?

A: I accepted this position because I am super invested in this community! I live here and have always loved the northwest side of Des Moines. I also love the diversity, tight knit feeder pattern, and the size of the school.

Q: How do you like the transition?

A: It's been great! I feel so lucky to be able to come in the middle of the year so that I can build authentic relationships with students, staff, and the community. Everyone has been so kind!

Q: Can you describe your idea of an effective high school campus?

A: An effective high school campus has no barriers to students achieving their post-secondary goals and the school serves as great learning environment tailored to those individual goals. Also, teachers feel supported and

free to take risks in the classroom, continually improving their practice.

Q: What do you feel is the best measure of student success as a principal?

A: Academic achievement data increasing, athletic/activity participation numbers increasing, and students feeling that the vibe of the school is welcoming and inclusive.

Q: How will you ensure that teachers have adequate administrative support?

A: We will be easily accessible and a constant source of support to them and the goals they have in the classroom!

Q: What is your approach to maintain school safety?

A: Both the long and short game- the staff and students will know what to do in care of an emergency right away, but we will also look to partner with community organization to offer more mental health services and other pertinent services so that students feel supported.

Q: Do you have any goals for Hoover next year?

A: I want to continue to build Husky pride. I also want to increase academic achievements for all students and make the northwest side of Des Moines an attractive place for families to move to!



Principal Qynne Kelly

What's in that fanny pack?

-Phone

-Masks for students

-Keys

-Gum



A SAD GOODBYE

Associate principal discusses his fond memories of his favorite high school.

Q: What made you want to move to an elementary?

A: First, I came to Hoover after being an elementary school teacher. I taught at the elementary level for seven years before moving the high school. Deep down, I think I knew I would end up back at the elementary level, just not this soon. Second, the move presents a great opportunity for me to be the leader of building, an opportunity that I would love to undertake. Last but most certainly not least, my son is going into his freshman year at Roosevelt. It is imperative that my presence as a father reign true in his life during these valuable years. When you put all those things together, the move, as much as it pains me to leave the greatness Hoover offers, simply makes sense.

Q: Why do you like an elementary school?

A: There is a uniqueness about elementary school students and the curriculum. Working with students at the beginning of the public-school education is such an impactful and key time. I'm excited to continue helping students mold that perspective so they find value and love for learning.

Q: What things did you learn from your time at Hoover?

A: OMG!! That list is huge, you'll need a whole magazine for that! I've learned that TikTok can be a fun and active way to build a relationship, Frosted Flakes may not be the best cereal (shout-out to Queen Mia), students really care about their future and want to learn but need to see the value, purpose, and relevance in the education we provide. I've learned that students are strong and will keep it 100 with you. Be careful when you ask for opinions, they will give it to you! I've learned that it's okay to be wrong as an adult and there is nothing wrong with apologizing to students when you made a mistake. Lastly, I've learned that most students need to spend more time in art. Many students think I have grey hair when it's obvious that it's platinum silver.

Q: What things will you miss from Hoover?

A: The students, the teachers, the conversations, the curriculum, the games, the events. In other words, EVERYTHING!!! What's not to miss? With that said, please know that I will be coming back to visit and I would love to partner with Hoover and have students visit me. Elementary school students and staff love having high schoolers come to visit!

Q: What is your goal after leaving Hoover?

A: The same goal I have now, to figure out ways to help students find value in education. However, I find great value in getting students involved in clubs and sports at an early age. I look forward to helping students figure out ways to belong academically, athletically, and socially at every education level.

Q: What are your favorite memories from Hoover?

A: I have a ton! Mr. Burke letting me fire off the t-shirt cannon, that was sick! Talking with students in class as they share their thinking always warms my heart! Remember the time students rushed the football field and admin tried to stop them?!?!? That was crazy and so much fun! I failed horribly and I'm so happy I did - it was exactly what Hoover needed. Oh, the time Justin hit that buzzer or when Chase hit that three from what seemed like the parking lot for a buzzer beater.....straight bananas. I love the night when we have students bring their younger siblings and we put on the orchestra show. Many of you don't know this, but I never went to prom until I came to Hoover. I loved how amazing prom makes everyone feel and all the pictures taken, great memories! Mr. Henderson getting pied was awesome, that should happen every week! Lastly, I can't begin to share all the memories, laughs, and lessons learned I've received from working with the Hoover staff and the amazing admin team, those memories are very dear to me. Like I said, I have a ton of fond memories from Hoover.





Showing Spirit

School spirit is important and Hoover is lacking it.

School spirit is important. It shows how proud we are to be Hoover Huskies and it shows other schools how important our school is to us.

“It enhances the high school experience. It makes games fun to go to and makes you clear your schedule for Friday’s game,” senior Charles Walker said. But the problem is that people are not attending games and showing up to support their fellow classmates.

“With COVID happening, I think it’s going to be difficult to try to engage more people in participating in things,” senior Mina Sanchez-Andrews said.



Since COVID, smaller numbers of students are attending game which causes less support. For example, freshmen and sophomores don't know the chants and haven't participated in many assemblies and games.

"We had role models and got to see how things were done around here so then we could do the same. But with COVID hitting, the underclassmen haven't been able to really see how we do spirit related things," Sanchez-Andrews said.

In the past years, students during pep rallies were all in. Every event we had more students and families showing up, we had good energy and it was packed. We also had more students participating

in spirit week and attending dances.

"Having a student section is essential because the team needs encouragement, but the main goal is to get in the opposing team's head," Walker said.

Even though the energy isn't the same as it once was, students and staff are working hard to try and find solutions.

"Word of the mouth, we can give them stuff and have all the free entry nights - but the perspective of people needs to change. Regardless of a win or loss, we should support each other because that's what a strong community AKA family does," associate principal Will Montgomery said.

New Year New Schedule

A New Beginning For Hoover Huskies.

Next year, there will be a change to students' schedules. Students will be able to have up to eight periods and there will no longer be Husky Time. This won't affect seniors who are graduating this year, but how will it affect next years' freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors? And how do our students feel about this change?

According to counselor Jan Stribling, the eight period schedule will still be from 8:25-3:25, and students are supposed to have seven classes a day with either a release or study hall for the 8th. More classes mean more materials to learn, however, this change will give some students a chance to get more credits. This could help many students who do not have enough credits to graduate.

"Honestly, I think it'll just cause me stress. Balancing school and work is hard enough already, now I'll have another class to worry about," junior Jaquelyn Rosas said.

With the new schedule, there will no longer be an advisory period. For many students, Husky Time is a way for them to catch up on work, get help from teachers, or just relax. 2/3 students feel Husky Time should stay, while others don't mind. But since students will have a study hall or release, those options could be a substitute for Husky Time.

"Husky Time should stay," sophomore Gabriela Martinez said.

Block days will also be removed from the new schedule, so there will not be any more hour and 45-minute classes. This means students will most likely have seven 45-minute classes a day. While some students feel the hour and 45-minute classes were too long, will this new schedule be enough for students to get assignments done or understand the material learned in class?

"I was never too fond of the hour and 45 classes some days," junior James Bank said.

Tips to stay on top of your classes

- Get to the class on time
- Try to stay off your phone as much as possible
- Study, even just a little bit counts
- Get enough sleep
- Be proactive
- Take notes
- Turn things on time
- Eat breakfast/ stay hydrated

Do Hoover students like the new schedule?

Yes  35%

No  65%

BY CHEVELLE RUCHTI (HE/HIM), STAFF

URBAN

OVER

SUBURBAN

Looking at the impact of the DMPS environment.

Des Moines Public Schools has roughly 35,000 students. Some of them will leave the district as a whole and go to one of the suburban schools thinking the grass is greener. Quite often enough, suburban students leave that environment to come join DMPS. The reasons may include the diversity, environment, and opportunities.

Diversity plays a huge part in a school. You want to feel accepted for who you are and not feel like an outcast. A diverse school is allowing people of all backgrounds and races to feel welcomed and accepted. Most suburban schools have kids who are a lot alike or cookie cutter kids while DMPS schools tend to have more of a mixed in group of students.

Staff members are also making a switch from suburban schools to DMPS. Hoover staff member Joe Salazar is a former administrator at Carlisle and made the switch because he thought DMPS would be a better fit with environment because of the diversity DMPS shares.

“The diversity between the two districts is quite different. There is way more diversity in Hoover. For me, it’s better because it shows students the importance of having an open mind and willingness to include people from different backgrounds and cultures. I believe that is very important not only for educational purposes but also for and inclusive purpose when it comes to working with others,” Salazar said.

The opportunities that DMPS offers are way more valuable than what most suburban schools offer. DMPS will allow kids multiple chances to get good grades with retakes, allow female students to participate in football and is open-minded with the

diversity with the students. Suburban schools tend to focus more on politics and more opportunities go to the wealthier groups.

“The education is better because it prepares you for success outside of college. Hoover gives everyone an opportunity in sports and it helps kids grow physically as well as mentally. It gives everyone confidence and the more opportunities people have the higher success rate for these students,” junior Jude Kammerer said. Kammerer is a former Johnston and Des Moines Christian student.

The environment at a DMPS school is more welcoming and friendly. The teachers and staff take time to know the kids and create a good relationship with everyone. You never feel like you are unsafe or feel like you don’t belong. Suburban schools are more of you are just there to be there, you never really create as good as relationships as you would at a DMPS school.

“The school is smaller which allows us to receive help and more opportunities to converse with a teacher. I also like it a lot better here because the staff are a lot more accepting and they understand the many backgrounds that are involved here. At Johnston, the environment and community are the same so there’s no real connection,” senior Kayla Logue said. Logue is a former Johnston student.

DMPS is one of the gems of places to go for school and they really take care of the students that come there. DMPS welcomes anyone and everyone with open arms and accepts them no matter who they are. Overall, it is urban over suburban.

Making Tracks

DMPS athletes are training hard and turning heads to change the state's outlook on the metro athletic program.

It is a cool but bright Saturday morning on the track. Sophomore Jessica Kyne is minutes away from racing some of the best runners in the state - all of which are upper-class runners from suburban schools. Kyne wants to make a name for herself and pave a way for her district.

For what feels like centuries, metro schools have lived in the shadows of suburbia, constantly overlooked and underestimated. Recently, athletes from Hoover, Roosevelt, East, North, and Lincoln High School have voiced they are tired of being ignored. Metro athletes, including Kyne, are here to prove themselves when put up against suburban schools. Their goal is to gain respect and they have started their mission with a bang.

Kyne made her high school debut last year, being named the fastest freshman in the state. Placing second in the state for the 200 meter dash and third in the 100-meter dash, Kyne drew a lot of attention to herself as only a high school freshman. Her current events consist of the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 4x100-meter dash, and occasionally the 4x200-meter dash. With the spotlight shining on her, many opportunities have been revealed to the runner.

"A lot of suburban schools have asked me how I feel about transferring my freshman year, but I want to stay in the Metro. I want to give us a chance to finally win," Kyne said.

Not only has she made this claim, but many other Metro athletes also express their opinion on going up against suburban schools.

As much as Kyne has created a name for herself and opened eyes to the talent of the Metro, she is only one student at Hoover and she is not a one man show.

Russell Lamar-Nelson, a multi-sport athlete at Roosevelt High School, has turned the heads of many. While playing football in the fall and running track in the spring, he still finds a way to be a student and he is a proud advocate for getting an education. In the spring, Nelson runs the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 4x100-meter dash, 4x200-meter dash, and occasionally the 800-meter sprint medley relay.

When football season hits, Nelson grabs his helmet and heads to the field as a running back. While talking to peers and other classmates of Nelson, they have made it noticeably clear that Nelson's athleticism and determination is something they most admire.

His talent has grabbed the attention of many people and he has shown great resilience. Lamar would like it to be known that Metro athletes are just as good as the suburban athletes despite any public opinion.

"My favorite memory was definitely making history against Waukee. We broke a 127-game win streak against the suburbs. We did it for the city and I take pride in that," Nelson said.

"I want to stay in the Metro. I want to give us a chance to finally win," Jessica Kyne said.

There is a clear divide between the Metro athletic experience and the suburban experience.

Former North High School athlete and current Valley High School athlete Rouse Sayee could not agree more. Many students in the Metro feel there is a distinct hierarchy between the two districts. They feel as though they are seen as less than not only by the suburbs but the staff of both districts as well.

“I used to never want to play sports because of the opinions’ people had about metro athletes and how bad it was. But I figured who cares, I am playing to have fun, you know?” Sophomore Takira Smith said.

Sayee spent his first two years at North High School and now is currently a junior at Valley High School. Sayee is a multi-sport athlete, playing basketball, football, and running track and field. He is one of many metro athletes that find themselves having to transfer to suburban schools because of the continuous complaints about the lack of recognition they get while attending a Metro school.

Numerous athletes find themselves entering the transfer portal by the time junior year hits. Athletes like Kyne, Lamar, Smith, and many other faces of the metro want to be the change for their district.

“I hate to say this, but at Valley, it is a better experience, athletic wise. They have better facilities here and more opportunities. I have a better chance of going to the State Championship game than I did when I went to North. But I will say North was a lot of fun even with the struggles,” Sayee said.

While this topic is still a big debate in the city, despite the standing point of everyone, many can agree that the city is filled with talent, no matter where you look. The talents of the Metro are making their mark on the city, and they do not plan to stop anytime soon.



Sophomore Jessica Kyne runs at the 2021 State Track Meet. Kyne placed first in 100 meter dash prelims. Des Moines Schools Flickr.

What's In My Track Bag?

1. Spikes
2. Rollers
3. Running Shoes
4. Headphones
5. Granola Bars
6. Extra Socks

Crossing the

Finish

Boys and Girls track race into a new year

The snow is finally starting to melt, the buds are starting to grow, and you can feel that spring energy. This is also the time where runners lace up those shoes and get to go back onto the track after the long winter with a chance to compete in the state tournament.

Senior Charles Walker is a top runner in our program and usually runs the 200m and 400m races and is a very competitive person.

"I like watching if people are going to quit on themselves mid race. I don't know why but it amuses me because I know who really wants to win," Walker said.

Junior Taysia Young is a top girls runner in our program and usually runs the 60m (indoor) and 100m (outdoor) and likes to work on her fundamentals.

"During practice we like to make sure our forms are good and our times are good," Young said.

Junior Tae'shaun Presswood is one of our only discus and shotput competitors.

"I like discus because of the challenge and the difficulty of it," Presswood said.

Sophomore Jessica Kyne has received a division 1 offer from the University of Minnesota.

"I still think there is a lot of room for improvement but it's good to see all my hard work paying off," Kyne said.

Coach Jerry Rohach has been coaching track for 26 years and has been coaching at Hoover for four years now.

"The best thing about coaching track is that improvement is very tangible, and improvement doesn't come without paying at least a little bit of a price. Track is hard. If it wasn't hard, I would have 100 guys out," Rohach said.

Our track program has a history of excellence here and it all starts with the hard work put in by the players and coaches every day.

"I always miss the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment that I see on the faces of the guys when they reach or exceed a goal. When you see that ... 'I did that!' look on the face of a guy who just reached his goal for that meet... that's pretty cool," Rohach said.

AT THE CONFERENCE MEET AT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL THE GIRLS 4 BY 1 RELAY TEAM PR'D AND GOT FIRST PLACE. THE 4 BY 2 TEAM GOT FIRST AS WELL. THE RUNNERS CONSISTED OF JESSICA KYNE, TAKIRA SMITH, KIM KARNGA AND DEU WAL FOR THE 4 BY 1 AND 4 BY 2.



STATE QUALIFIERS
SENIOR JUSTIN IMANI- LONG JUMP
D'VONTA WHITE- SHOTPUT AND DISCUS
JESSICA KYNE- 100M AND 200M



Courtesy of DMFlickr

RECAP

Little Women



Hoover drama put on their production of *Little Women the Musical* May 6, 7 and 8th. The musical goes along with the book and movie in following Jo March, an aspiring author with her daily life and challenges. The March family consists of Jo March and her sisters Meg, Beth, and Amy along with their mother Marmee. There are multiple love interests consisting of Laurie Laurence, John Brooke, and Professor Bhaer. The musical also features scenes from Jo's books.



Scene: Laurie Laurence is being welcomed into the family by the March sisters after saving Amy March from a skating accident.

Cast:

Laurie Laurence:	Freshman Andrew Geerdes
Jo March:	Senior Sage Johnson
Meg March:	Senior Kadee Collier
Beth March:	Senior Carlie Jeffries
Amy March:	Senior Nik Conder

Scene: Marmee March reading a letter to her children from their father who's fighting in the war.

Cast:

Marmee March:	Senior Callie Garcia
Amy March:	Senior Nik Conder
Meg March:	Senior Kadee Collier
Beth March:	Senior Carlie Jeffries
Jo March:	Senior Sage Johnson



Photos courtesy of Halstead Productions

COUPLE BREAKDOWNS



Laurie Laurence played by freshman Andrew Geerdes and Jo March played by senior Sage Johnson.



John Brooke played by freshman Gavin Houchins-McCallum and Meg March played by senior Kadee Collier.



Professor Bhaer played by senior Mason Beckler and Jo March played by senior Sage Johnson.



BEHIND

The Scenes



A Species in

The Vaquita is in danger! Right now, it is on the brink of extinction, and it needs help to survive this dire situation. what can we do to help?

Phocoena sinus (Fo-Seen-A Sign-Us) also known as the vaquita is a marine mammal species in the porpoise family. It's one of the smallest in its family at a length of five feet, and 120 pounds respectively.

As we head into the 21st century, we have an impact all over the world - even under the sea, and most people don't know it. Whether it be a good impact or bad one, depends on how we use our resources, and if we have the will power as a society and humanity as a whole to have a good impact.

Right now, according to BBC.com, as many as 150 to 200 species go extinct every day, from birds, to reptiles and mammals. The rate these animals are going extinct is 1,000 times the normal background extinction rate.

Ten percent of species are going extinct every one million years. One species on the verge of becoming a statistic is the marine mammal, the Vaquita.

The vaquita is, or was, a vital part of the ecosystem of the Gulf of California, and sadly, it has been critically endangered since 1997 according to weebly.com. Its limited habitat of the Gulf of California, often hailed as having a considerable amount of marine perservations, has been subject to large amounts of illegal fishing and its practices. This causes the vaquita to be the victim of fishing nets, also known as by-catch.

““The vaquita is going extinct because of overfishing of the totoaba fish, which is targeted for its swim bladder. Gill nets are used to catch the totoaba. The vaquita is caught as by-catch and drowns in the nets,” Dr. Gregory Barord, the marine biology instructor at Central Campus said.

Losing a species doesn't mean that species is just gone. It leaves a hole in the food chain. This can kill off some other species due to a lack of food, or the species can exponentially grow due to having no predators. According to onekindplanet.org, the vaquita typically eats fish, prawns,

crabs, and have a particular preference for squid. Losing the vaquita could cause populations of these fish to overflow and become uncontrollable. The loss of the vaquita would mean damage to the ecosystem it resides. We must save it.

“Any species that disappears as a result of human activity is worth saving to ensure the ecosystem

functions the same, to ensure a resource is around to utilize, and for the sake of the species, just to ensure it is still here,” Barord said.

Governments around the world have ratified laws that protect endangered species from potential hunting or fishing, Sometimes it's not enough and sometimes it is almost too much. One of the ways that endangered species like the vaquita are documented is being

listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International in Endangered Species in the 1970s. This allows governments to keep track of populations, and make laws according to the severity of the situation.

“Governments need to make it illegal to hunt these animals as well as keep some in protection, based on how endangered they are,” marine biologist Cori Baker said.

It is not just the vaquita. According to Barord species like the nautilus, manta rays, scalloped hammerhead sharks, sawfish, and several species of whale face possible eradication off the plant due to human interaction. For us to be able to help, we need to care.

Some of the best ways to get people to care is by teaching someone about these animals and our impact. Another big way is through donating to organizations that work towards species conservation like Save the Nautilus, the Nature conservancy, or World Wildlife Fund. We don't have a respawn button so we have one chance to help these animals or they will say gone forever.

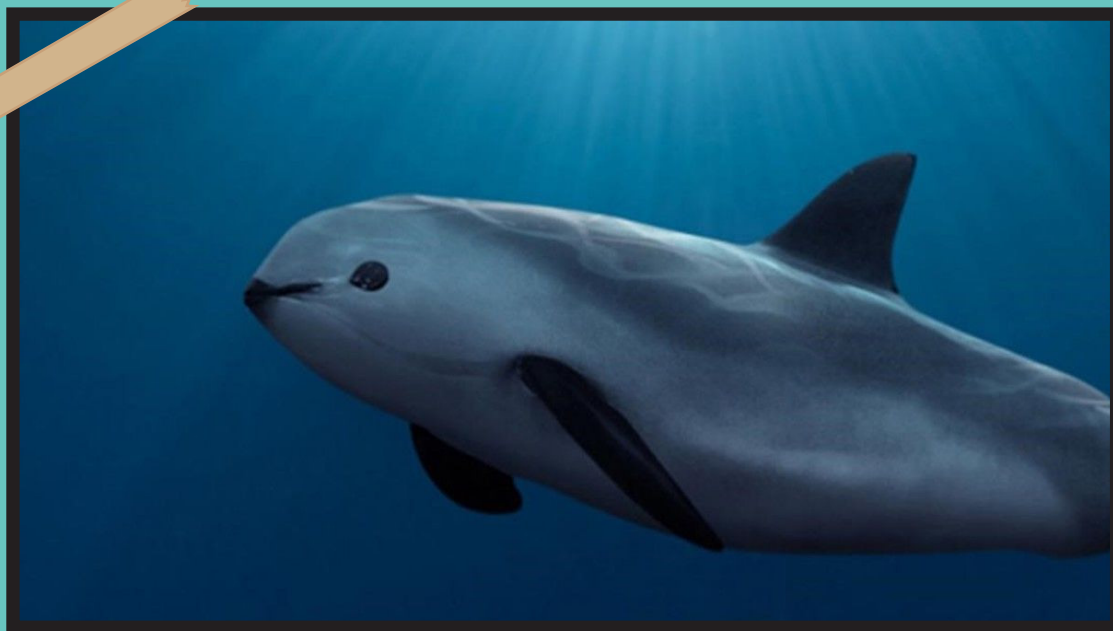


Photo courtesy of Flickr

Distress

Fast Facts!

1. 97% of the population of vaquita has been lost
2. **Vaquita** means “little cow”
3. **Scientists** identified the vaquita in 1958
- 4: **Gillnets** are a main srouce for the extinction of the vaquita



*Photo courtesy of: Wikipedia commons
Vaquita porpoise.*

“I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIES BEING SAVED AS A RESULT OF FOLKS CRYING. YES, SPECIES GOING EXTINCT IS AN EMOTIONAL THING FOR SOME. HOWEVER, WE NEED TO STOP RELYING ON EMOTIONS TO LEAD TO SOLUTIONS. EMOTIONS MIGHT LEAD TO ACTION, WHICH IS GREAT, BUT THOSE ACTIONS MUST BE BASED UPON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY OF A SPECIES.” - BARORD

What is it About

The world is full of beautiful and fascinating places, with endless Possibilities, where do you want to go?

VACATION! A word most people love because of it being commonly associated with tropical beaches and adventure. Many people around the world enjoy traveling to beautiful locations as a way to get away from all the drama of home and to have fun. However, too much of a good thing could turn bad, and the same is true with traveling

According the ustravel.org, U.S. domestic travel increased 1.7% in 2019 to a total of 2.3 billion person-trips. During breaks and the summer, one of the most popular things to do is to travel to beautiful places to enjoy the scenery.

"I was in the Navy for six years. During that time, I went to Hawaii, the Fuji Islands, Guam, Australia, Singapore, Thailand, and Iraq. I've been to Roatan, Honduras and the Cayman Islands on a cruise," associate principal Will Montgomery said.

Many people travel to places to have a great time and attend parties and visit the beaches. Florida is one place that is held in high regard for its massive influx of spring breakers, summer break, food, beaches, tourist attractions, and culture.

"Florida is overrated if you only go for the beaches and parties. There is so much diversity and culture in Florida. It has always bothered me that people usually visit for the parties or the pictures they see on postcard," Montgomery said

There are many places around the world that are also held as being paradise for tourists. Year round these places have a constant flow of travelers seeking something new and adventure. Other countries are a great place to go for something organic and unique.

"Places like Tokyo, Japan are great places to travel because of their very unique culture, and because of their popular car brands like Honda, Acure, and Isuzu," sophomore Hilario Rosales said.

It's not just Florida that is beloved as a traveling destination of adventure. Places like Mexico also are held in high regard for their culture, language, food, and most of all, the traditions that many people carry in their families.

"I love Mexico because it is very popular for tourists because of the beautiful traditions for parties there," senior Hilary Jimenez said.

As tourism has exploded in recent years, so has the impact it has on local economy. According to forbes.com, in 2018, global tourism generated

\$8.8 trillion to the world's combined gross domestic. However, the influx of people always has a downside with pollution, overpopulation and noise.

"Tourism can be very beneficial to a community because it draws money and attention to some

very cool places around the world. But it is also important to remember that everything needs to happen in moderation and when a place gets overrun with a constant stream of people it can ruin the reason people are even there in the first place," senior Lillian Johns said.

There are many places around the world. Hidden jems and popular destinations. From Hawaii, Japan, and Mexico, to Florida and the Caribbean, The possibilities are endless and the adventures last forever.

"OUT OF THOSE PLACES WHICH ONES STAND OUT TO YOU? WHY? FLORIDA IS HOME FOR ME, IT'S WHERE I'M FROM. HOWEVER, I LOVE ALL THE CARIBBEAN PLACES I'VE SEEN, IF I COULD MOVE THERE AND DISAPPEAR, I'D DO IT IN A HEARTBEAT." -MONTGOMERY

Vacation?

Highlights!

Yellowstone National Park!

Location: Wyoming, U.S.
Best known for geysers, and beautiful wilderness



Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

Tokyo!

Location: Japan
Known for electronics, manga, and video games. Akihabara is the epicenter if it all. It becomes a jungle of electric lights and colors at night, providing a sensory overload for visitors.



Photo courtesy of: Flickr.com
Tokyo, Japan



Miami beach, Florida
Photo Courtesy of Flickr.com

Miami!

Location: Southern Florida
Miami, Florida is best known for its white sandy beaches
Warm weather
Food scene (from USD 79.0)
Miami Riverwalk (from USD 69.0)
Cuban coffee

Honorable Mentions!

South Africa

Best known for dramatic landscapes such as the Cape's mix of coastline and mountains to expanses in Namakwa, the Kalahari and Karoo.

Maui, Hawaii

Visit Maui between 15-December and 15-April and you'll witness one of the largest migrations of humpback whales in the world.

Grand Canyon, Arizona

It offers an excellent record of a rich and diverse fossil record.

HOUSE FILE

847

HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM SUMMER 2022

A new bill that was created onto Iowa's public schools.

Executive secretary Elaine Tant starts every morning with the announcement, "I pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America...." You may ask yourself, why is she reciting the pledge every morning? In previous years of high school, we'd never hear it. As of 2021, a law passed in Iowa that we must recite the pledge of allegiance every school day.

Representative Carter Nordman introduced this stand-alone bill to give an opportunity for teachers to discuss with students the true meaning behind the pledge of allegiance. One reason why this bill was

introduced was because Iowa was one of the few states that did not require a recitation of the pledge and they wanted to join the union with other states that recited it. In this bill under division six, it states that the United States flag must be displayed in every classroom and each public school district must administer the pledge of allegiance from 1st grade through 12th every school day.

"The majority of states already have a law around the pledge of allegiance. In this case, the fact other states have a law like this may have played a role into it," social studies teacher Amber Davison said.

Some educators believe that this law was a good bill to be created as it shows honor to those who fought for this country.

"Personally, I'm good with the pledge. As a veteran, the flag and pledge mean something special for me because I know there are so many people that paid the ultimate sacrifice believing in the words," associate principal Willie Montgomery.

On the other side, some teachers believe that this law was made to hide other laws that were being passed. For example, laws such as House File 2577, the transparency bill, that was added into the school voucher plan.

"I think that House File 847 was passed to deflect from other laws that were being passed at the same time," IJAG teacher Julie Johnson said.

But as the 2021-2022 school year started, students were confused why they were listening to the pledge of allegiance every morning.

Did you know?

- Iowa, Vermont, and Wyoming were the only states that did not recite the pledge of allegiance in schools

- This bill offers exemptions for non-public schools with religious objections

- DMPS being the largest school district in the state has about 2,500 classrooms. Since the bill passed over the summer, they bought 630 new flags to mostly replace faded ones that cost \$4,200



Flag hanging in Suarez's Room.

"I honestly don't understand why public schools now require the pledge of allegiance. In public schools, we are not taught about the meaning of this pledge or the duty it serves to our everyday lives," junior Annika Delyjah said.

Teachers also have mixed feelings about this new bill and forcing it onto students in public schools.

"I have mixed feelings. I grew up saying the pledge every day and beginning my teaching career it became part of a routine. But I will be honest, I never knew the reason why we said it because I've never had a teacher explain the thought behind it. It's not a bad thing, but I don't agree that it was forced on us and students that don't know the true meaning of it, especially putting students' religions in a bad spot when it says, 'under god'," academic interventionist Jennifer Davis said.

Being in a diverse school like Hoover with 76.48% minorities, this law could cause conflict for some students.

"For schools with diversity it is a juggling act of being respectful to our country while also respecting personal, cultural, and religious beliefs. It adds one more layer of trying to make everyone feel included and welcomed," Davis said.

Some say that this law interferes with students fighting for social justice issues.

"Requiring this law to be said in public schools basically overlooks students wanting change on social justice issues. It's almost as if placing this law is like a mock to what the students worked hard to strive for," Delyjah said.

Enforcing the pledge to be said in public schools make students believe that it's disrespectful and disregards movements that have been fought like the BLM movement. In the pledge when it states, 'with liberty and justice for all,' it means freedom and fairness for everyone in this country. Nowadays, people have been fighting for fairness and equality because equality doesn't exist in this country. People protest for fairness by kneeling or not standing up for the pledge as it's being recited because we know we don't live in a country that is equal and faces racism every day.

However, teachers believe that this law may inspire issues that are important to them.

"I think it may cause some positive reactions. It shows students that they need to be deeply involved in what happens at our state house. Politics and laws affect all of us and for that activism should start in

"REQUIRING THIS LAW TO BE SAID IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BASICALLY OVERLOOKS STUDENTS WANTING CHANGE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES. IT'S ALMOST AS IF PLACING THIS LAW IS LIKE A MOCK TO WHAT THE STUDENTS WORKED HARDLY TO STRIVE FOR," DELYJAH SAID.

high school to prepare students to remain vigilant and knowledgeable on what is happening at all levels of government," Davis said.

Educators also want students to know that this law gives them an opportunity to continue to express their beliefs on social justice.

"It gives them an opportunity every day to engage in a level of protest. Patriotism can be displayed by both reciting the pledge of allegiance and through the act of protest by not participating," Davison said.



The Battle Flag Against America

The Rebel flag, racism hidden behind a façade of southern heritage.

The confederate flag has been a controversial topic among Americans for decades. After the confederacy's defeat, the use of the rebel flag has been expanded to represent many ideas and groups throughout history. In 1948, the Dixiecrats, a political party which defended racial segregation and opposed civil rights, used it to represent them. Throughout the 1900's, this flag has been used to represent the traditional views of the south. While a large portion of the country associates it with racism, slavery, and white supremacy, there is also a loud support of the flag.

The American Civil War was between the southern and northern states of the country. Most historians today agree that the central cause of the war was the status of slavery, especially the expansion of slavery into territories that were affected by the Louisiana Purchase and the Mexican-American war. In 1860, four million Americans (13% of the population) were enslaved black people, almost exclusively concentrated in the south. The confederacy, which the flag represents, was formed in 1861 by slave states: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. All seven states were heavily dependent upon agriculture that relied on a plantation system and enslaved people. In fear of the north's growing apprehension toward slavery, the confederacy declared its

secession from the United States.

Despite the very real history of the confederacy, Americans proudly display the rebel flag in their homes, cars, windows, and on clothing. "The left is trying to take away our history!" they tell us, "This is our southern heritage and our culture." Some even claim that the Civil War was about states' rights, and that slavery was only a small piece of the equation.

I struggle to figure out what "southern heritage" the defenders of the flag are proud of. Is it the success of the cotton industry, that only took off because it stripped black American's autonomy and rights? Was it the one million enslaved people that were sold in the deep south? Or was it the numerous "sundown towns," meaning black Americans were in fear of their life due to the overwhelmingly white population? The confederate flag is undeniably attached to hate and racism, so when people would seemingly die to defend the flag, it makes me wonder if they are defending their heritage, or their bigotry.

This is not to say that we should dismiss the south, an important part of our country that we should appreciate. Southern states are rich with great people and food, and the notion that the southern states are full of an all-white population is wrong. On top of the large amount of black

HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM SUMMER 2022

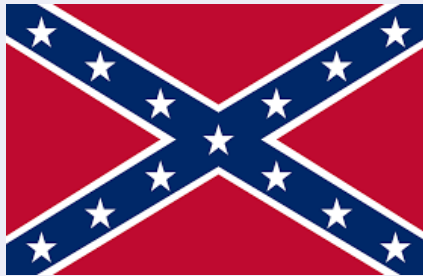
American flag

50 stars to represent the states and 12 stripes to represent the colonies



VS

Rebel flag



13 stars to represent the conceded states of the confederacy

Mississippi



Texas



Louisiana



and Hispanic southerners, South Carolina and Florida have had a large Jewish population since the colonial period. So, when people espouse the idea that all the south is full of violent racists, I would push back against them and assert that it is entirely unfair to characterize the south as uniquely bigoted compared to the rest of the country. If Texans are proud of their southern culture, I give them my blessing to express that pride. I would encourage them to fly the Texas flag, Mississippi flag, or Arkansas flag. Here in Iowa, for example, I see the Des Moines flag riddled throughout the city, and I think that is completely valid if southerners want to take suit with their own city's flag. That is the problem, however. I have noticed rampant defenders of the rebel flag are seemingly more interested in starting arguments and defending the confederacy than having pride for their country or state. We live in the Midwest, yet for some reason there are confederate flags plastered outside homes, often times sharing a flagpole with Trump paraphernalia. On January 6th, the day of the raid on the Capitol, we clearly saw that many were holding a confederate flag in one hand, and a Nazi flag in the other. Through their actions today and throughout history, the flag has had a hateful and bloody background, still representing abhorrent and regressive ideas that are counterproductive to the improvement of society.

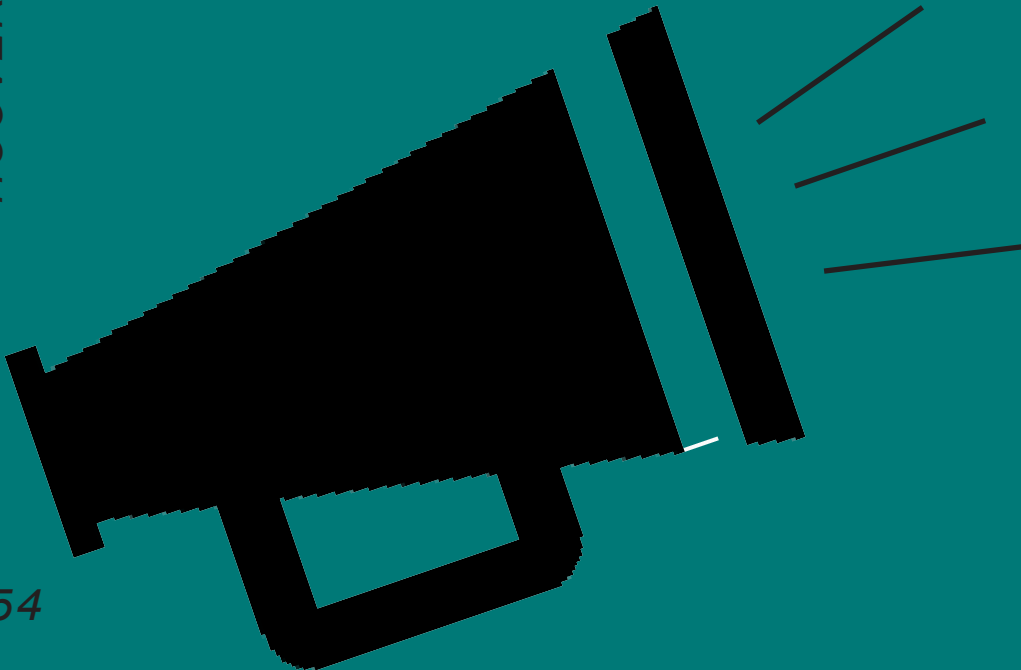
My biggest problem with this conversation and political discussion in general is the hypocrisy. If republicans hold freedom of expression and speech so dear to their heart, I commend them and even agree. I do not want to take away anyone's right to freedom of speech, that would

be a distinctively unamerican thing to do. So why do defenders of the rebel flag claim to believe in these American values, but demand football players like Colin Kaepernick be fired for kneeling during the national anthem? Kaepernick was simply exercising his right to peacefully protest, yet people like Donald Trump and his supporters called for him to be prosecuted and jailed, which is directly opposed to what the values of the republican party are supposed to be. If they care so much about remembering the history of this country, why are they are seemingly so opposed to critical race theory? A loud opposition against CRT claim that it is racist, teaching only one part of history. Ironically, though, the conservative side of the argument has proven to be multitudes more prone to misinformation about slavery and the civil war than the left ever has been. And finally, if they love America so much, why do they beam with satisfaction after flying a flag that represents the losing side of this country, the racist traitors that were willing to die to keep black Americans enslaved? Of course, these people do not care about their pride, or their country, or their values. What they care about is keeping the old, racist, status quo, and preventing the country from progressing past it. Want to show your southern pride? We have a perfect flag that encapsulates the entire country: the American flag. With fifty stars representing each state, and thirteen stripes representing the colonies, you can show your pride without the regressive message attached to the rebel flag.

BY: CHALLENGER STAFF

END VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

HOOVERCHALLENGER.COM SUMMER 2022



Staff Editorial

We're Still Fed Up

Violence in and around schools has become a frightening new normal in America. Des Moines Public Schools has not been spared of the increasing brutality.

In the spring 2019 edition of *The Challenger*, a staff editorial was published titled “We’re Fed Up.” This piece detailed the shocking displays of violence and unrest that students faced during the school year. An uptick in hallway brawls and shots fired at the Homecoming football game were a few instances of violence our community experienced that school year.

The future did not prove to hold a happier story. Multiple stabbings on school property and gun violence in the surrounding neighborhood are now common occurrences in DMPS.

On March 7th, this school yard violence reached its boiling point. The tragic events that occurred at East High School left one student dead and two others in critical condition. The devastation of this event was felt like a shockwave through all Des Moines. This incident marks the 13th shooting on an American campus so far this year.

Any loss of life, especially of life this young, can send a community reeling. East High School was given the remainder of school off until after spring break, but the aftermath of an event like this doesn’t just end there. Ten people were to be arrested in connection with the shooting, and it cannot go without mention that eight of those were current or former Hoover students.

So, what next?

How can we as a school, as a community, and as collective world create a solution to the devastation we have continuously faced in our schools?

Unfortunately, the answer has been hard to find. Des Moines Public Schools has taken actions to improve student safety over the past several years, but when will it be enough? After the recent events at East High School, community events have been put in place in several schools for community members to come together and advocate for the safety of our students. Continuing to have conversations and offering students with mental health resources is *just the beginning* of a long road to a collective recovery.

After all this time, **we are still fed up.**

1



2



3



GUESS WHO

4



5



6



GUESS WHO

7



8



9



Lillian Johns, Callie Garcia, Teran Bates, Sage Johnson, Chevelle Ruchti, Grace Clingan, Hamida Mokhtar, Tee Reh, Giovanni Ellis

1. Tee Reh 2. Chevelle Ruchti 3. Teran Bates 4. Lillian Johns 5. Hamida Mokhtar 6. Callie Garcia 7. Giovanni Ellis 8. Sage Johnson 9. Grace Clingan