

The Challenger

Out For The Summer



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BY: KIRAH MAYHEW (THEY/THEM), DESIGN EDITOR

Count On

Cirila

This senior newspaper and yearbook editor wants to be an accountant to help small businesses in her community and help grow Hispanic small businesses to get closer to her community.



Senior Cirila Torres Rubio is getting ready to graduate high school and move onto the next chapter of her life. She plans to go to DMACC to major in accounting then transferring to UNI to continue her learning. She dreams of helping Hispanic small business owners.

Torres has done a lot for Hoover from being Mrs. Hamilton's right-hand woman to being a leader in newspaper and yearbook to winning state publication awards to being on Student Collective. If you can't find Torres in Room 2065, you can probably find her taking photos for memories or hanging out with her friends.



Family is also a big part of Torres' life. Her mom is from Jalisco, Mexico and her dad was born in Honduras. Honduras and Mexico are important to her because a small part of her family lives there. After she graduates, she hopes to travel there to meet family she's never met.



Torres wants to travel around the world and learn from those experiences. She wants to visit Mexico, Honduras, Bora Bora and Europe.

Torres plans to reach out to Hispanic small businesses and offer services to help them reach financial stability plus their business goals.

“Overall, I would help the owners accomplish the goals they want to achieve in order to thrive and grow their business to where they want it to be,” Torres said.



BY LUCAS WOOD (HE/HIM), STAFF

DEEP DIVE INTO TANNER

A look into senior Tanner Reel as he talks about his plans and experience.

When he's not talking on the phone with his girlfriend he's working on exciting new stories. Tanner Reel is one of five seniors on newspaper and Reel plays an important role in newspaper being the media editor who helps with the *Daily News* a lot. He also leads the newspaper and answers questions from his fellow staff. Even though he likes newspaper, he isn't going to be doing it forever. He is interested in marine biology and hopes to make a career out of it after he graduates from college. He's been taking marine biology at Central for a few years and since he started, he's liked it. He has been excited to graduate and go into the next step in his life.

Q: What are your plans for after graduation?

A: I'm going to Northwest State University for marine biology, and I chose this

major because I've always liked the ocean, so I took marine biology classes at Central and loved them. Then I chose this college because it's close to Iowa and still had marine biology.

Q: Where do you see yourself in ten years? Why?

A: I see myself either working in a lab or working on a ship like looking for new species of fish because I love the ocean so much. One species I really like is the megamouth shark because there's only been like 100 of them caught and observed. I want to try and study those.

Q: What did you expect before you started high school? Looking back at those expectations how accurate were they?

A: I expected a lot more maturity. There was a lot less of that than I expected. I'm guilty of that but still, I expected to

IT ISN'T GOOD FOR THE KIDS WHEN THEY FOCUS ON ONLY THE GRADE AND NOT THE WORK MAKING IT. THEY DON'T RETAIN ANY KNOWLEDGE OR LEARN.

TANNER AS A BABY



TANNER AS AN ADULT



VS

be making explosions in chemistry like how the movies and cartoons showed, but we didn't do anything like that. I expected to change by the end of school into a completely different person but I'm still pretty much the same besides a few differences.

Q: What advice would you give to freshmen?

A: Find good friends. If they can help you through anything, they're good friends and good friends are better than bad ones who only do negative things.

Q: What is the most memorable moment for you here?

A: Probably when I went on my trip to Texas for a marine biology experience. We got to see and do a lot of things most people won't be able to see in their lives like working with scientists and study about the environment. Or it was my junior year winter formal that turned into the spring formal. It was my favorite because it was the first time I had driven my car and it was an absolute disaster, but it was really funny so it's something I'll remember.

Q: What was your favorite class in high school? Why?

A: My favorite class was marine biology because it was the hardest class I had ever taken but also the most fun class I've ever taken.

Q: What was your least favorite thing about school? Why?

A: Having all ATs in a class then getting a single PT and it lowers your grade from something like an A to B. It's annoying and it shouldn't be like that. There needs to be a change in how grading works. It isn't good for the kids when they focus on only the grade and not the work making it, they don't retain any knowledge or learn.

Q: Do you have any fears about graduating or your life after? Why?

A: I think probably just making a living because I need to make money to survive. I'm poor right now, and it's going to be that way for a while because of the money I have to spend for college.

TANNER'S FAVORITES!



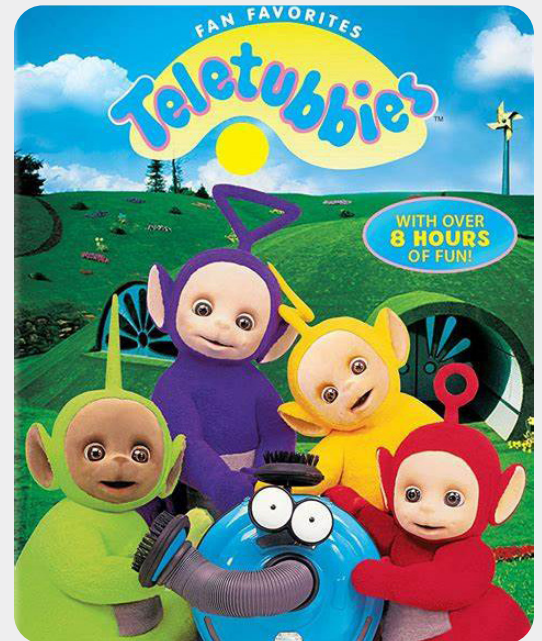
CAPYBARAS ARE TANNER'S FAVORITE ANIMAL



A CORVETTE FROM 1976 IS TANNER'S DREAM CAR



CHOCOLATE IS TANNER'S FAVORITE FOOD



TANNER LOVES TELETTUBBIES

Keeping it simple with James!

One ability that senior James Banks has is the ability to turn average things into exciting stories. He has been in publication classes for two years; being a part of both newspaper and yearbook. He's a former basketball player but dropped his basketball career for his new career in trades. He is looking forward to graduating and moving on to better things.

Q: What is your favorite high school memory?

A: Getting out early because of COVID.

Q: Why did you come to Hoover?

A: I was going to Roosevelt but none of my friends got in, so I picked Hoover.

Q: How did your senior year go?

A: It was easy.

Q: What advice do you have for the next upcoming seniors?

A: Get your work done; there is no point in wasting time here.

Q: What is your plan after high school?

A: Trades and eventually move out of Iowa and go to Las Vegas or California.

Q: What are your goals for the future?

A: Buy properties in different areas and buy my first house.

Q: Why did you join newspaper and yearbook?

A: I did yearbook because it gives me an English credit and I didn't want to take English four.

Q: Will you miss high school?

A: I won't miss anything. Absolutely nothing. I had to come because my mom would be mad at me if I didn't graduate.

Q: Why did you quit basketball?

A: I'm not a person who's into wasting time and this year I just felt like it was going to be a big waste of time. It was in the way of doing other things so I thought I might as well not do it.

Q: Do you regret anything during high school?

A: As of right now I have no regrets. Everyone says as I get older, I'm going to regret this and that, but I honestly don't think I will. There isn't a lot of stuff going on that interest me, so I don't care to do it.

Q: What are some benefits of trades?

A: To me the biggest benefit to doing a trade is getting paid to learn. You immediately get paid as they teach you and once you're done, there's pretty much a job waiting for you so it's an easy transition.



Chasing Chase

Senior basketball player going to a D1 college on a full ride scholarship to Montana state.

Senior Chase Henderson is described by teammates, friends, and family as energetic, driven, athletic, and a D1 recruit.

Henderson has been playing basketball his whole life and now is going to college in Montana to follow his dream.

He began playing basketball because his father and uncle played in high school and college.

“It feels good to know that my future is secure, and I chased my lifelong childhood dream,” Henderson said.

Henderson says this is a big step in his life going forward and his family has always been his support system.

“My mom and dad have always supported me in everything I do, and they motivate me to keep going even on my worse days,” Henderson said.

Henderson has been through a lot throughout his high school years, with Covid terminating his freshman year early and his sophomore year not being typical with virtual learning and hybrid, and last year having to endure surgery in the middle of the basketball season.

“It was a little hard for me to bounce back from the surgery, but it didn’t really affect my game as much,” Henderson said.

This year brought an end to having his dad as his coach. Henderson had his up and down but the team had a good season.

“Chase is determined. When things get hard, he doesn’t get frustrated or shy away in life, during games or practices,” head basketball coach Courtney Henderson said.

Henderson’s performance hasn’t been affected, if at all, by that mid-season surgery. During his senior year he ended the season with 498 points, 93 rebounds, and 114 assists.

“I treat Chase like any other player on the team but it’s different because I do live with him and I



had learn to switch caps at different moments in time,” Courtney Henderson said.

Teammates freshman Jayvion Hanson and senior Travon Phillips say it is a normal hardcore practice with the two of them and they all get treated the same way.

This year the basketball team made it to state at Wells Fargo Arena, being the first class since 2016 to make it to state and it was one of Henderson’s big achievements in high school..

“Making it to state was one of best moments of high school it was a big achievement for me,” Henderson said.

Henderson enjoyed his last high school season with the team this year and now he’s moving on to Montana State as a D1 athlete.

“We had lots of new guys and we made growth on and off the court,” Henderson said. “I enjoyed every year of high school because it went by fast and it’s filled with lots of memories.”



3 things YOU dont know about Chase Henderson

Fact #1

Chase
henderson enjoys
eating Crumbl
cookies.



Fact #2

He enjoys
fishing with
friends and
family.



Fact #3

He is going
to Montana
State
University.



Jack of all Trade

Senior Jaysson Reyes Rivas is a diamond in the rough

The mysterious senior, Jaysson Reyes is a person who you may have seen around. Self-described as reserved, a leader and somewhat patient, he is also a member of the newspaper staff. He decided to take the class as an elective and then found it fun.

Q: How long have you been in newspaper? Did you enjoy it?

A: I have been here for just this school year. I say I like it a good amount because I'm able to write stuff and publish it.

Q: What are your plans after you graduate?

A: I'm planning to go to DMACC for entrepreneurship and help with my family's cleaning business.

Q: Who is the most important person to you? Why?

A: My parents have been through a lot of trouble to get me to where I am at today; they have done their best.

Q: How do you feel about graduating?

A: It's a surreal feeling. You've been here your whole life with adults telling you what to do but you get a little bit more freedom.

Q: What were your best memories in this school?

A: Last year I was in the culture dance, so I was able to work with Hispanic and Latino students. It was fun and an exciting way to end the school year with a bang.

Q: Was there anything you regretted not doing in high school?

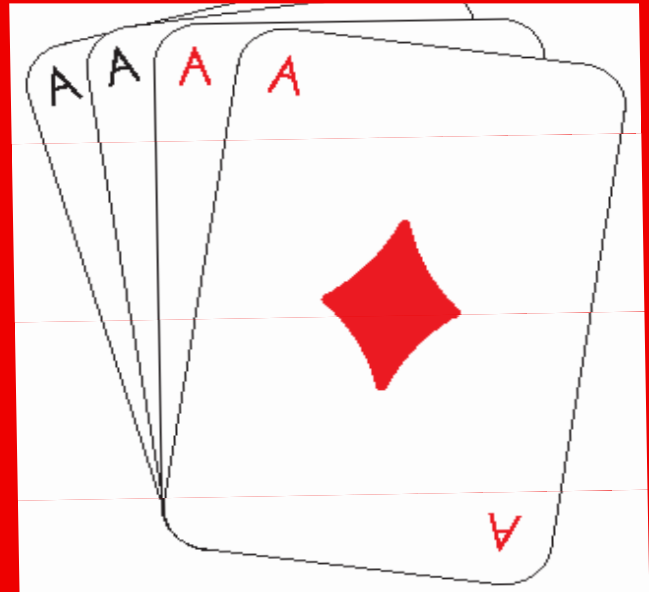
A: I regret not staying on task and having enough persistence.

Q: If you could, how would you choose to change the school?

A: I would do more events that have involvement of all students and not just clubs where students don't really get to be involved in, and make it more entertaining and include other students.

Q: What is one quality you would like to improve? Why would you want to improve that quality?

A: Persistence. I tend to start something and then I'll get bored, or it gets too difficult then I stop. I wish I had more persistence to get my stuff done.



"JUST STAY FOCUSED AND DO YOUR BEST IN EVERY SCHOOL YEAR AND IN EVERY CLASS. DO ANYTHING YOU CAN TO PASS YOUR CLASSES AND MAKE SURE YOU GET A FREE PERIOD SECOND SEMESTER. JUST STAY ON THE TASK, TAKE NOTES IF YOU HAVE TO, ASK QUESTIONS IF YOU HAVE ANY AND DRINK LOTS OF WATER," REYES SAID.

Fredoooo

Where did he go? Checking in with former Hoover Husky Fredy Staford who is hoping to return next year.

Fredy is the type of friend that will always be there for you no matter what you're going through, he's got your back through thick and thin.

Q: What's your biggest compliment?

A: My biggest compliment I ever received was probably that I have a good smile.

Q: What are your goals in life?

A: I have many goals in life but the most important one is to have a good family and have an excellent job.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: In five years, I see myself living in an apartment with friends, just working and living life.

Q: What motivates you?

A: My biggest motivation is family and friends because they helped me shape myself as the person I am today.

Q: Who or what inspires you the most?

A: My biggest inspiration is my grandfather because he was like a dad to me when my dad was not around.

"Life isn't challenging you because you're weak, it's challenging you to show you just how strong you truly are" - fredy



Q: What sports do you play?

A: I play football and track.

Q: Why do you play sports?

A: Sports have always been around me a lot, growing up on the East Coast everyone was either playing football, basketball, or baseball.

Q: Why did you transfer?

I had to move to a different home, so the best option was to go to Urbandale.

Q: When are you coming back?

A: I'm thinking about coming back, but I'm committed to Urbandale High School, they have a better education system.

THE PRINCE OF HOOVER 23

Prince takes role of Hoover's hype man

William Freeman, such an anonymous name yet so popular. People don't know William - they know Prince but what's beyond the nickname?

Freeman is a sophomore who impacts the space around him with joy and always makes it a fun time.

"I like to have a good time and just enjoy life, you feel me" Freeman said.

Freeman is focused on the classroom. Getting work done and making conversations for the class and teacher. On days when he isn't feeling it, he isn't a disruption. He lays low and just chills.

"When he's in a good mood he makes really good talking points and interacts with his group when working. On days where he's not focused, he lays low, and is quiet and also doesn't cause problems," Coach Theodore Evans said.

People can tell the difference between William and Prince. Prince likes to push people to their potential, especially on the football field.

"William is more into politics; I like Prince because he motivates me to keep going and not

give up especially on the football field when I wanted to quit," freshman Elias Young said.

Freeman doesn't like seeing people down. He lifts people up and will help anyone who needs help with anything.

"He impacts the space around him by lifting up others and wanting to help people even if he doesn't know how to do it or can't do anything about it," Young said.

Freeman has some pretty big goals he wants to accomplish. Wanting to go to college, he gets good grades and puts in the work outside of school.

"I just put in the work in and out of school, I want to go to college and play football. It takes hard work but if you're really determined you can do anything," Freeman said.

When you need energy, Prince will give you that energy you need. He is a leader, and most people seem to agree.

"Prince always comes with energy; he can take control of an area when he gets loud. I think he's a leader when there's a bunch of people around, they seem to copy everything he does," junior Riley Raybush said.



Prince in the varsity shuttle hurdles



William looking cool before his race

3 things
you
didn't know
about
**PRINCE
FREEMAN**

1. HE IS ONE OF THE FASTEST PEOPLE ON THE TRACK TEAM.

2. HIS REAL NAME IS WILLIAM.

3. HE PLAYS FOOTBALL.



William stretching before his race

There's a new

Looking for something new to listen to?

Brother. Friend. Fun. These are the words that describe freshman ZBOY OG.

Imani Nyambwe, who's better known by his stage name ZBOY OG, is a Tanzanian musician whose music career started in early 2019 when he was about the age of 11 is now looking to reach a larger number of audiences. Although people haven't always been supportive, he doesn't let that stop him from doing something he loves.

"Your closest friends, are sometimes your worst enemies."

"At first it all started as a joke. I just did it for fun, but over time I grew to love it," Nyambwe said.

Throughout his music career, Nyambwe has faced a lot of challenges such as when he started his music career, he didn't have any recording equipment, so he made the best of what he had. He started off by just recording on his phone then posting it on YouTube, but over the years he has made a lot of progress and he now has his own studio.

"Zboy is someone who pushes himself to go above and beyond when it comes to music. He also cares about the wellbeing of those around him, he is just a good person in general," Nyambwe's manager KB said.

Nyambwe wasn't well-known until he released a song called, "I'm a goat." This song is responsible for getting Nyambwe's name out there. It received a total of 2,000 views in just two hours.

Nyambwe admires people who encourage him to continue working hard every day, even when he feels like giving up. These are the individuals who inspire him and have shaped him into the person he is today.

Nyambwe has a total of six siblings, five sisters and one older brother who's known as Deemax wavy. His advice is to find supportive people.

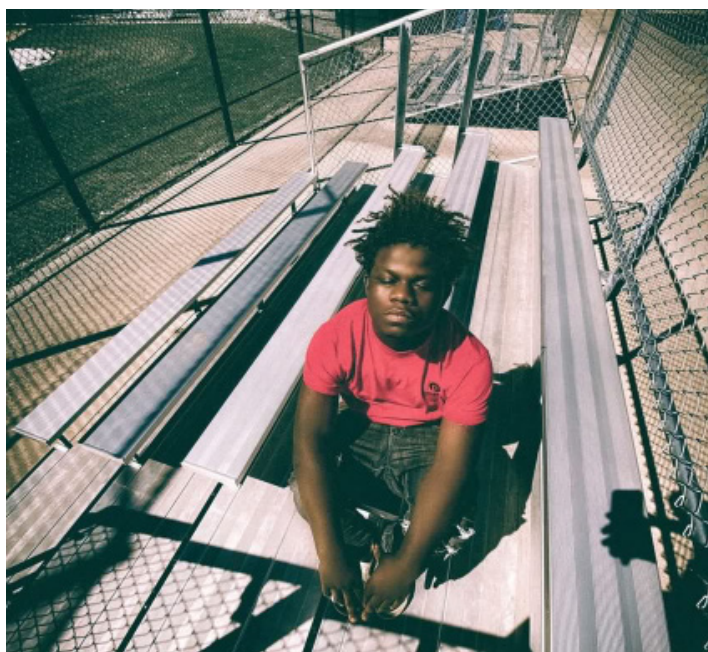
"Be around people who will push you to work hard," Nyambwe said.

To reach more audiences, Nyambwe decided to take part in the Global Gala that happened this May. This event was organized by the community and school coordinator Diana Rivas. Zboy hoped that people enjoyed his music as much as he enjoys making it.

"I love how exciting music is and the vibe that I get from it," Nyambwe said.

Boy in town

ZBOY OG is the move!



Did you know?

- Zboy OG is a freshman.**
- He was born on March 20, 2007.**
- He's also a comedian.**
- He likes Doritos.**

A *Second* Chance

An English teacher is helping students recover credits in her class.

Have you ever failed a class before? Many students can admit that they've been there, but luckily for students, we have a class called Flex Academy where students are able to recover these credits without needing to retake the whole class, allowing them to stay on track for graduation. One of the teachers in this class is Aymi Paradise-Flores. She is the Flex teacher for English. She has been working as a teacher for 23 years.

Paradise's class is important to students at Hoover to allow kids to stay on track for graduation and be able to recover English credits. The flex room's main classes are 2nd and 3rd period; they have the largest number of students. The first period is a planning period for the teachers, so there are no students during this time. The Flex room has classes all day long, but the later classes are significantly smaller.

"I really like working at Hoover. I used to teach at Roosevelt but the rooms and hallways at Hoover feel like the old school I used to teach at down in Houston, Texas," said Paradise-Flores.

Paradise has three kids, and a labradoodle at home. She took DMACC classes during high school, then entered Iowa State as a sophomore when she graduated high school. She has a master's degree in education administration, and almost has a second master's degree in special education and an associate's degree in paralegal studies as well.

"I had her class for a year. Mrs. Paradise's class is a balance between fun and hard working, on the average day you're putting in a lot of work, but it pays off," sophomore Shadow Lucas said.



"Flex class isn't bad; there shouldn't be a stigma against my class or any of the other teachers' classes either because so many kids have this class at some point and it's supposed to help kids get back on track." - Paradise-Flores said.

Flex class serves as a second chance for students, but if you don't get your work done, you're going to be sitting in there doing nothing, while falling further behind. Students will still need that credit to graduate as well, so it's best to get it done right away so you don't have to deal with it again, and then you can get a release period once you're finished.

"My advice to students in a Flex class is to get your work done as soon as possible, so you can recover your credit and then have a release period instead of sitting in there every day doing nothing," senior Ajdin Selimovic said.

All of the teachers in the Flex room come around to help all of their students and they all make the room feel very calm and help set a positive and productive environment for students.

FAREWELL FREILINGER

Associate principal Boston Freilinger departs away from the Hoover community to become a new leader for the Ames community.

One early day in February, news broke out that associate principal Boston Freilinger is leaving the doors of Hoover at the end of the school year. Freilinger moved up the hallway to Hoover when the seniors began their high school journey in 2019. Freilinger has accepted the job as a principal at Ames Middle School.

For those who may ask why he decided to take on this new adventure, Freilinger decided this is the best opportunity for him due to the changes the Ames community will have as Freilinger take on his new role.

“Ames reached out to me to apply. I learned that their school district is starting to do some of the work that I have led at Des Moines Public Schools. I am sad to leave Hoover and DMPS. But it was too good of an opportunity to miss,” Freilinger expressed.

Another reason for this decision is because of how he loves to connect with middle school students and give them guidance on finding out who they are.

“I was a middle school teacher at Hiatt. The line is ‘that it takes a certain type of person to enjoy middle school’ and I guess I am one of them. The students are trying to figure who they are and need a lot of support and guidance,” Freilinger expressed.

One of the many things he likes about Hoover is how it’s connected with Meredith Middle School.

“I love that we are connected to Meredith and 90% of our seniors have been in this complex for seven years together,” Freilinger expressed.

While being at Hoover for four years, a moment he will always remember like everyone else is the beginning of the pandemic.

“The times I will remember the most was the beginning of Covid. I spent a lot of the time alone at Hoover planning computer distribution and an in-person graduation. I will never forget how empty it felt,” Freilinger said.

As he leaves, Freilinger shares how he will miss the Hoover community and the people that made his experience here enjoyable.

“I will miss the students and the people. I have been in this building for the last six years. I have known the class of 2023 since they were in sixth grade. I am bummed that I will not be here next year for their senior year, but I will be at graduation,” Freilinger said.

Something that everyone is always going to remember him by is how he was someone who can be easily trusted.

“I hope the most significant contribution I made is that I have been supportive, someone that students and staff can trust,” Freilinger explained.

Hoover has helped Freilinger in many ways. He learned a valuable lesson that can help him be the best principal for the Ames community.

“My goal is to lead Ames Middle School in a similar way that I have done at Hoover. I want us to listen to students, support teachers, and build a community,” Freilinger said.

As it may be very nerve-racking, but having that background from working at a middle school for many years, we know he is the best fit for this position.

“I taught middle school my entire teaching career and was the vice principal at Meredith for two years, so I have the background. It was more important to me that their staff were open to my vision,” Freilinger said.

As Freilinger and the seniors leave the doors of Hoover, he has some advice for the graduating class.

“Don’t be scared to reevaluate and change direction if you aren’t sure what you should do. It took me eight years after high school to finally find my career,” Freilinger expressed.

Don’t think he also wouldn’t leave advice for students and his fellow colleagues.

“Students, show up and work harder. Hoover team, continue

to grow and learn more about our students and our vision for instruction.” Freilinger said.

Something important he wants everyone to remember is to “Keep on Trucking!”

Congratulations to Freilinger on his new position for this upcoming school year. We know you will be a great leader to the Ames community, and they are lucky to have you as their future colleague and leader. One thing to remember is that this isn’t a goodbye to Freilinger, this is a see you later.



Dealing With Senioritis



photo generated by: openai

Don't become the next victim of senioritis, and walk across that stage!

Tired, bored, unmotivated, skipping, bad grades. All these describe a fetal condition for seniors called senioritis. It can be a senior's worst nightmare and can even prevent graduation. Here are a few ways I have dealt with it in my senior year and maybe it can help you!

So, what is senioritis? A supposed affliction of students in their final year of high school or college, characterized by a decline in motivation or performance. However, it affects everyone differently. Some may sleep in class while others may sit on their phones all day. For me, I mainly just felt bored and didn't really try on my assignments very much.

"It's just like your mind and body giving out after 12 years of school and your body giving into the laziness that's always been there," senior Jaysson Reyes Rivas said.

Why is it so dangerous? It can give a false sense of security when you are so close to the end of your high school career. That feeling of being so close to the end can make you feel overconfident and can mess up classes.

How do you deal with it? There are many ways to fight it. The easiest and most obvious way is by just making yourself show up. At least you might know what topic the class is learning so you

FAST FACTS!

1. Students whose class rank drops can lose from \$1,000 to \$3,000 in scholarships
2. Senioritis affects 60% of high school students.
3. It will have immediate negative effects
4. 22.7% of seniors believe that senioritis won't affect them while 45.9% believe it will.



Photo Courtesy of: shareicon



Photo Courtesy of: Socketloop

have a better chance of retaining the knowledge. Another way is to keep a schedule for your assignments and make deadlines for yourself to keep. This keeps everything organized and turned in on time to keep your grade from declining. Lastly, just remember to visualize your graduation to keep you motivated!

“You just got to make yourself do the assignments, it’s not going to go away, and if you don’t, you will fail. You mainly just need strong willpower to get through and graduate,” senior Kaeden Osborn said.

According to a study done by omniscient, it showed that 78% of seniors develop senioritis towards the end of the year. This shows how widespread the problem is and that almost 80% of all seniors aren’t exerting 100% of their potential in their academics. It has become increasingly more problematic, causing students to fail or even drop out due to the lack of motivation despite being close to graduating.

“We try to be very clear with what seniors need to do to graduate, so we do senior contracts. If a senior is close to failing, we send a notification. The contract says what you need to do, like showing up, what credits you need, so that your family knows your situation,” associate principal Boston Freilinger said.

Overall, this is something that most students including myself have been facing, and even though you may get bored or tired, keep pushing, the worst feeling would be to fail your senior year because you didn’t feel like participating. This is a problem we’re all in together and let’s stay motivated to graduate.

Ways to Deal With Senioritis

1. Plan your final semester.
2. Stay involved in your school.
3. Use your time management skills.
4. Set goals.
5. Keep track of your schedule.
6. Take a break.
7. Try new things.
8. Remind yourself of your goals.

BY: MARQARIES NEIGHBORS (HE/HIM), STAFF

SENIOR SOCCER SUCCESS

SILBERHORN'S SUCCESS

Senior Tessa Silberhorn has been playing soccer for 14 years. Her main position here at Hoover is center mid where her main job on the field is passing and scoring. Silberhorn currently has four assists and five goals; she has not missed a shot this year.

Silberhorn has played for multiple teams such as Northwest soccer club, The Urbandale J-Hawks, Meredith and Hoover. Silberhorn's favorite memory while playing at Hoover is her game against Ottumwa her sophomore year.

"My sophomore year when we beat them and the bus ride home was really fun cause we stopped for food and just laughed the whole time home," Silberhorn said.

When asked what she did better this year, Silberhorn explained, "Reading where opponents put the ball."

Silberhorn is committed to Southeastern Community College.

"At Southeastern community college I'm doing a biology transfer major but then I'll go to ISU to get a degree in dietetics," Silberhorn said.



Seniors Tessa Silberhorn and Katie Adoobe have been playing soccer together since their freshmen year. Now they both are committed to play soccer at college.

KATIE'S JOURNEY

Across the field, senior Katie Adoobe has been playing soccer for 13 years. Her main job on the soccer field is defense. Over the course of those 13 years, she feels she's grown as a player and teammate.

"I've gotten faster, and my endurance is so much better now. These are things that come with playing for so long, but I actually worked on my endurance so I'm proud of it," Adoobe said.

Adoobe is going to Iowa Central Community College to play soccer there, but she has also played for teams such as City Light.

Adoobe's favorite memory was the lock in her junior year.

"The memories I made that night with my friends and teams is something I'll always remember and look back on," Adoobe said.



Moonlighting with the Huskies

Take a trip through the night with some of the biggest stars.

Everyone says they'll never forget their prom and this year was no different. Prom has always been a once in a lifetime experience for everyone and no one wants to miss it, between winning prom king or queen. The memories from that night are described as unforgettable. This year the night was full of surprise for the class of 2023 in the words of seniors Troy Skinner and Katie Adoobe.

Q: How was the dance?

Katie: "It was fun. I like that they played afro beats. It was pretty engaging for certain students."

Troy: "The dance was dope; it was fun, and it was a cool environment for the time I was there."

Q: How did it feel winning prom queen/king?

Katie: "I didn't think I was going to win; I thought Triniti would've won so it was very exciting."

Troy: "It felt amazing; I did not expect to win to be honest, so it was great to get that unexpected surprise."

Q: What did winning prom queen/king mean to you?

Katie: "I felt like it was a really good milestone to end high school; it's fun to go out with a win."

Troy: "It means a lot because it was unexpected and it's always great to feel that winning feeling."

The energy from the senior class was extremely high as the night ended but there was also much excitement from next year's seniors who also attended the dance. Damian Miller and Alison De Luna talk about how much fun they had and what they're looking forward to next year.

Q: How was the dance?

Damian: "It was super cool. I can't wait for next year when we're the oldest. It's going to be lit."

Alison: "I thought prom was fun! I was able to have a fun night because I could be around everyone I cared about."

Q: How much are you looking forward to your senior prom?

Damian: "I'm really looking forward to it; it's going to be my last dance with all my friends and it's going to be fun to see everyone that didn't go this year hopefully go."

Alison: "I'm looking forward to senior prom, especially because it'll be my last one. Makes it feel more special."



Photo Courtesy of Hoover Publications



Photo Courtesy of Jordan Nguyen

The Fear of Change

Climate change is happening, the reactions are amazing.

Have you wondered if you should be really terrified of climate change? Or not?

There are many perspectives when it comes to climate change considering our climates current activities.

“Eventually the seasons will be all mixed around. When I was a small child, we had to wear snowsuits under our Halloween costumes. Now, it’s warm enough on Halloween to trick-or-treat in shorts. I see the winters



photo credit to [Imagegeo.edu](https://www.imagegeo.edu)

starting later and later, so it’s cold from December-April now instead of October-February. In the future, I can picture that it will be cold from March-June and our seasons will be all messed up,” science teacher Cheyenne Howard said.

The cause for all this fear would be the eco-anxiety effects.

According to [medicalnewstoday.com](https://www.medicalnewstoday.com), it states “Eco-anxiety refers to a fear of environmental damage or ecological disaster. This sense of anxiety is largely based on the current and predicted future state of the environment and human-induced climate change.

According to a 2018 national survey, almost 70% of people in the United States are worried about climate change, and around 51% feel “helpless.”

This concern has started because of people having anxiety and the truth behind climate change revealed itself.

“Movies and documentaries, especially documentaries can depict how climate change would look if it got bad. I think movies and documentaries if they got enough information, they could show how life would be like,” junior Hunter Horn said.

We can try slowing down the amount of carbon we are putting into the air. This wouldn’t be an individual thing; it would be a team effort.

“I think this is less of an individual person/household issue and more of an issue for big industries. They are the ones putting out more pollution and have a greater ability to affect change by adjusting their emissions than I do as one person,” Howard said.

If we don’t do anything and just allow climate change to happen, things will get worse.

According to [Nasa.gov](https://www.nasa.gov), it states, “Changes to Earth’s climate driven by increased human emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases are already having widespread effects on the environment: glaciers and ice sheets are shrinking, river and lake ice is breaking up earlier, plant and animal geographic ranges are shifting, and plants and trees are blooming sooner.”

This change could possibly lead to an end of the Earth and the things living on it, but some people don’t look at it as a threat.

“It doesn’t scare me. I have too many other things to worry about that I have control over, so I don’t worry

“We can waste less food, limit the plastic you use, stop cutting down forests,” Horn said.

about things that I don’t have control over. Plus, I don’t think anything super drastic will happen in my lifetime that I need to be scared for,” Howard said.

While some people may not find interest in this issue, there are people who do care about this issue and are afraid for the future.

“Climate change does scare me, and it makes me sad. Just thinking about how the polar bears are hurting and not having a home in Antarctica because of climate change makes me sad. Also seeing how the earth is slowly dying makes me upset,” Horn said.

Skin Care

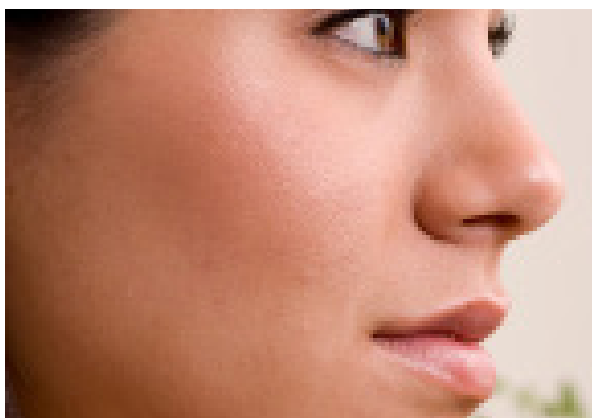
101

Pimples. Dark spots. Oily skin. Every 28 days your skin completely renews itself. This is why it is important to start eating healthy. In 28 days your skin will have totally renewed itself with healthier vitamins! Let me teach you how to have healthy skin. Lots of people struggle with acne, even kids at Hoover. Acne can be something that you deal with throughout your whole life.

Inside and out

Diet is actually a very important factor in maintaining and getting healthy skin. It is true. Having a diet full of sugar and carbohydrates can cause break outs. It may be hard cutting back on those sweet treats, but you can always start slowly. A couple of options can be eating half of the sweets you normally eat, eat a healthy meal after eating treats or really think about which one is more important. healthy skin or unhealthy snacks.

"Candy, chips and pop have a huge impact on your skin," freshman Camari Williams said.



Knowing your skin type

The most important step to having healthy skin is to know your skin type. If your face appears shiny, you more than likely have oily skin. If your skin is flaky and tight, then you have dry skin. If your face is mostly oily in the T zone of your face, then you have combination skin and if you don't experience any of those, then you have a normal skin type. Knowing your skin type is a must because then you have a head start on which products may work best for your face.

The five basic types of skin are normal, dry, oily, combination and sensitive. Each skin type is typically cared for differently. For example, if you have an oily skin type, it's best to use a lightweight moisturizer but if you have a dry skin type, it's best to use a moisturizer cream which is thicker than a lightweight moisturizer. Not all people have complex skincare routines, If using just one product works for your skin, then keep using it.

"My skin is neither oily nor dry; I'd say it's a combination. I only use one product called African black soap," freshman Hushindi Abwe said.

How many times should I wash my face?



Washing your face can help clean out your pores and loosen up that dirt. No matter what your skin type is, you should watch your face twice every day. Washing your face too much can cause your skin to become irritated and can make things worse. When you wash your face, you should make sure you are using a clean towel to avoid spreading bacteria on your skin. Most people think using a rough washcloth works better opposed to soft ones to wash their face. In fact, rough washcloths physically irritate the skin.

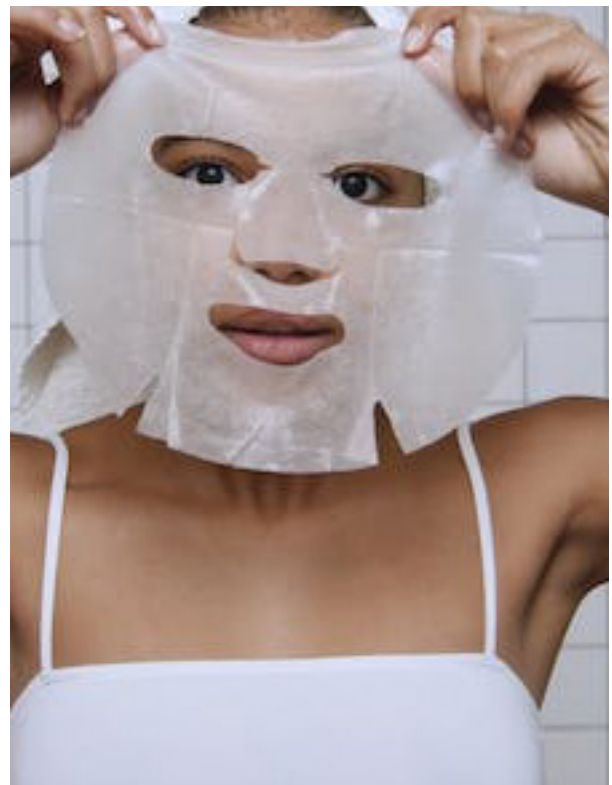
"I wash my face every morning and night," sixth grader Khyler Howard said.

Bedtime

Do not go to bed with dirty skin. Even forgetting to wash your face for just one night will cause breakouts, clog pores or you may even experience dryness depending on your skin texture. It is very important to stay consistent with washing your face morning and night. If you are a forgetful person, then it may be best for you to set an alarm on when to wash your face at night to get into a routine.

"My advice is to wash your face morning and night with a cleaner that works for your face. Never to bed with dirty skin," journalism teacher Sarah Hamilton said.

Having troubled skin may be a puzzle but just remember that there are many different solutions. It may be a long journey to find what works best for your skin and being consistent with your routine but you can do it, Just remember this story.



BY: JAYSSON H. REYES (HE/HIM) STAFF

MENTAL HEALTH & MEN -

Men's Mental Health and how to live with it.

If you walk into any classroom, you will be able to see a variety of students, of different genders, with different cultures, and different primary languages, but something that may not be as noticeable is the mental health of everyone.

Although mental health is an insanely broad topic that could be talked about for hours on end, I would like for us to focus on the mental health of men.

Although this topic has been brought up a lot during these times, it has also been neglected, and I would like to shine some light on to this situation and help any other students and young men struggling with mental health.

According to the CDC, last year, more than 45,000 people took their own life away. A little over 9,4000 of these were women, and more than 36,000, were men. Why is there such a big difference?

“Males, they don't really speak up about it...” senior Kaitlynn Asher said, when asked about the difference between female and male mental health.

But this still doesn't answer the question, as to why men don't seek help.

Well let's first try to define what it means to be a man, although there are many opinions on this, I believe we can agree that a man, simply put, is someone who helps others. A man helps his family, a man helps his extended family (their partner, the family of their partner, and their own children), and a man is always helping others, but this doesn't just mean being able to move heavy equipment, moving giant pieces of furniture with ease, helping their partner with house chores, or solving their kids' problems instantly, it also means being there emotionally. If this is what a man does, it would be logical to think that, when one man needs help emotionally, they will seek help between other men, but that is not the case.

With the rise of cinema, media, and the internet, the idea of what a man should do or be, has been distorted, and the rise of toxic masculinity came to be. Toxic masculinity is a set of certain male behaviors that harm society and even men

themselves, usually these behaviors are overly exaggerated masculine traits that are accepted or glorified in other cultures.

“That kind of mindset was indeed associated with more negative social media use, and higher levels of depression,” said Mike Parent, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Texas at Austin, when interviewed by Fatherly.

But it isn't just social media or entertainment that's at fault, but also old ways of teaching. Daniel Briggs, a 44-year-old man, when interviewed by The Guardian, said “The pressure to uphold the traditional idea of masculinity stopped me from getting help earlier. I come from the north, and work in a shipyard. Among those I worked there with there was an old-fashioned view of being a man- we don't talk about our feelings. If you get upset about anything other, then football you are considered a ‘sissy’. When people say, ‘how are you doing’, if you say, ‘A bit crappy’ the classic response is: ‘could be worse.’”

But mental health isn't an issue that is far away from us, but it is a global problem, and it could be present right in front of us, but sometimes it can be hard.

“Society doesn't typically allow men and boys to express emotions freely in the way that women are often allowed the latitude to do- and so because of that it turns into bottled up emotions, and that's not healthy,” principal Qynne Kelly said when asked if male students have a harder time dealing with mental health.

In a Latino household, when a boy tells their parents, that they are sad, the answer is usually, “Ponte las pilas,” meaning to be alert and not to let that bring them down, and although this is said with good intentions, this does not help, because they are already trying their best, and talking to their family could've been a last resort.

And coming from an immigrant background can also be difficult because of how we are brought up.

“Since my parents come from a bad background it puts more pressure on me to try to impress them and

HOW TO HANDLE IT ALL?

make it better for them,” junior Adolfo Patino said.

And it is similar in other immigrant families.

“My dad is from Morocco, Africa, and his idea of mental health is, it just doesn’t exist, it’s not a problem, he thinks ‘just get a job’ or ‘get out of the house’ or ‘get out of bed, and you’ll be totally fine’, for him it’s just not a thing,” Spanish teacher Mariym Martinez said.

Although dealing with mental health is a struggle for men, there is a way to cope with it. One way to deal with it is to understand and reject or balance certain male social expectations. For example, needing to be seen as strong. Yes, men must be strong, but it’s also okay to be weak at times. Sometimes holding everything together can be exhausting, so if you need time to relax and let go, do it.

Another male stereotype to avoid is having a lack of emotions. Men are human, and humans have emotions. Sure, there is a scientific difference between the hormones that make us feel emotions between men and women, but the truth is we do have emotions, and we as men must be able to control them. That is the difference, it’s not showing emotions, it’s not bottling them up, it’s not suppressing them, it’s simply controlling them, not letting our decision making be fogged up by our emotions. That is what happens with men that have a toxic masculine point of view, they are filled with anger or other emotions of past traumas or current ones, and they simply let that control them.

What else can we do as men to deal with our mental health?

One way is to talk about it. Yes, it can be hard and even uncomfortable for one to open to another person, that is why it must be a person you trust immensely in. A parent, a sibling, a friend, or your significant other can help you simply by listening and, if desired, give some advice.

But maybe you don’t have anyone to turn to, or you just simply are very uncomfortable with talking to a person, well there is no problem because there is always going to be someone for you, and they are always available, and that person is you.

“But how can I help myself” you may ask.

Journaling. ***“Journaling?”***

Yes, journaling.

Journaling is the act of writing down or drawing anything really, onto a notebook.

But why would you want to do that?

Well, for starters, it has been linked with helping to deal with trauma, stress, or just complicated emotions. An article written by Karen A. Baikie and Kay Wilhem from the Cambridge University Press discovered that journaling could improve, not just mental health, but also physical health.

People that journaled regularly were seen to have fewer stress-related visits to the doctor, an improvement in their immune system, their blood pressure reduced, their lungs functioned better, as well as their liver, alongside other benefits.

The only reason we have so much information of some of the greatest men in history is because they left journals filled with all their experiences, and their discoveries.

“But those were important men, they had stuff to write about.” Do you not have a lot on your mind? Do you think these people wrote all of that down thinking that some day they would have millions of people reading it? Sure, maybe you aren’t inventing the next big machine, or discovering a new animal or land, but wouldn’t it be nice to have something written down, letting your family members to come know that you were a real person, or maybe even helping them by letting them see that they aren’t alone in their struggle with mental health? Even if that wasn’t a cool enough reason as to why, think of this, you will become virtually immortal.

Another thing that helps with mental health is working out. It doesn’t have to be extreme exercises either, it can be as simple as a quick walk.

Mental health is a serious topic, and everyone has the right to be happy. So don’t be afraid to speak up and seek help.

You are not alone.

Al Éxito, beneficial to Latinos at Hoover?

Club, Mural, Community

How many clubs are at Hoover? More than about 20. But how many advocate for specifically Latino culture? One. Al Exito.

Hoover is in fact a very diverse high school with about 73% of students being people of color, many different cultural groups. There are several clubs that advocate for that fact. But we're here to focus on just one. Al Exito ran by the one and only Eduardo Bolanos. Not many are aware the club exists and how it impacts the community of Latinos at Hoover. And why and what influenced Eduardo to start this club.

"I share some of the same lived experiences as the students that I serve," Club leader Eduardo Bolaños said

Al Éxito was set out to meet the purpose of giving Hispanics the possibility and opportunity to be noticed at a school where everyone should be seen. Students realized that and they were the start of the clubs existence and the reason why Hoover has the chance of creating this club. And students are ecstatic about this.

"I'm glad Al Exito exists because I've never seen anything focusing on this community specifically, so I'm really glad that it's a thing and I get to be so included in it. It's a very welcoming club," freshman Guadalupe Avila said.

It's so important that a club like Al Exito exists not only for the obvious Latino community at Hoover but also what Hoover represents as a whole, being the most diverse high school in all of Iowa. Having that sense of community in mind, principal Qynne Kelly believes that giving a voice to this community is essential in Hoover's growth as a school.

"I want to make sure we are doing absolutely everything we can (in collaboration with our communities) to ensure that Hoover is the ideal school for Latino students and for all groups," principal Kelly said.



Photo of Al Exito finished mural.

The club has been given the opportunity to reveal themselves to the rest of Hoover by painting a mural that represents the existence of not only the club but the community the club represents. A lot of the club members feel that the mural makes them feel seen and a part of something much bigger than themselves.

"Years in the future people, specifically younger Latinos are going to see the mural and resonate with it. Being a pillar in that makes me feel like I'm opening the doors for future generations like my ancestors did for me and why I get to be a part of this," Avila said.

So yes, Al Exito is beneficial to the community of Latinos at Hoover providing representation, a community to go to, a voice for Latinos, and opportunities that are there for them.

"It will be a constant reminder to our Latino students that they do belong here. They have a space where they can be themselves and be accepted," Bolanos said.

Exactly what the club's all about.

Who all worked on the mural?

Kimberly, Campos || Sophomore

John, Canseco || Senior

Guadalupe, Avila || Freshman

Uriel, Rodriguez-Mena || Freshman

Johana, Brito-Meza || Freshman

Damaris, Yanque-Cortes || Freshman

Evhelyn Lorenzo-Perez || Freshman

Eduardo Bolanos || Club advisor

Siriaco Garcia (Siricasso) ||

Designer, Artist

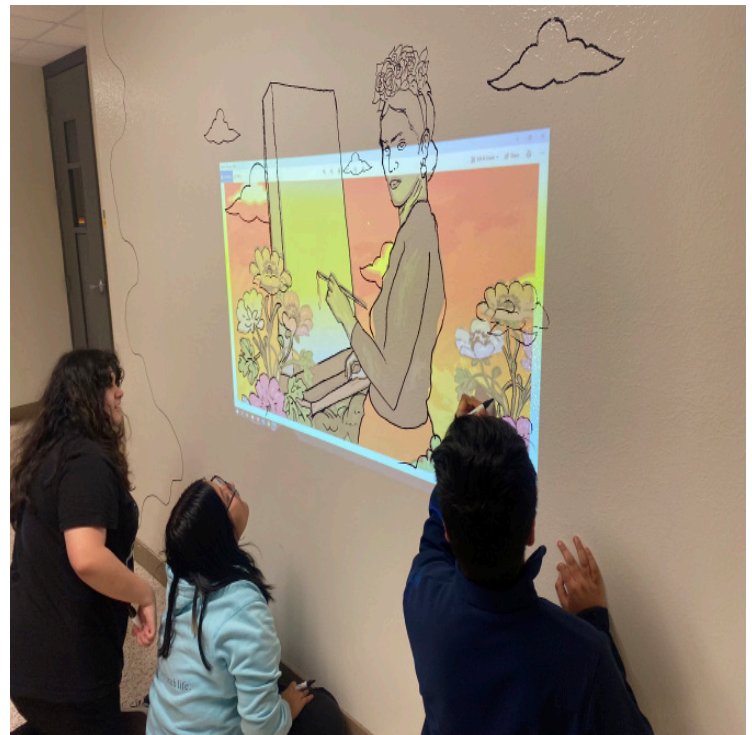


Photo of students Uriel Rodriguez-Mena, Guadalupe Avila, and Damaris, Yanque-Cortes outlining the design

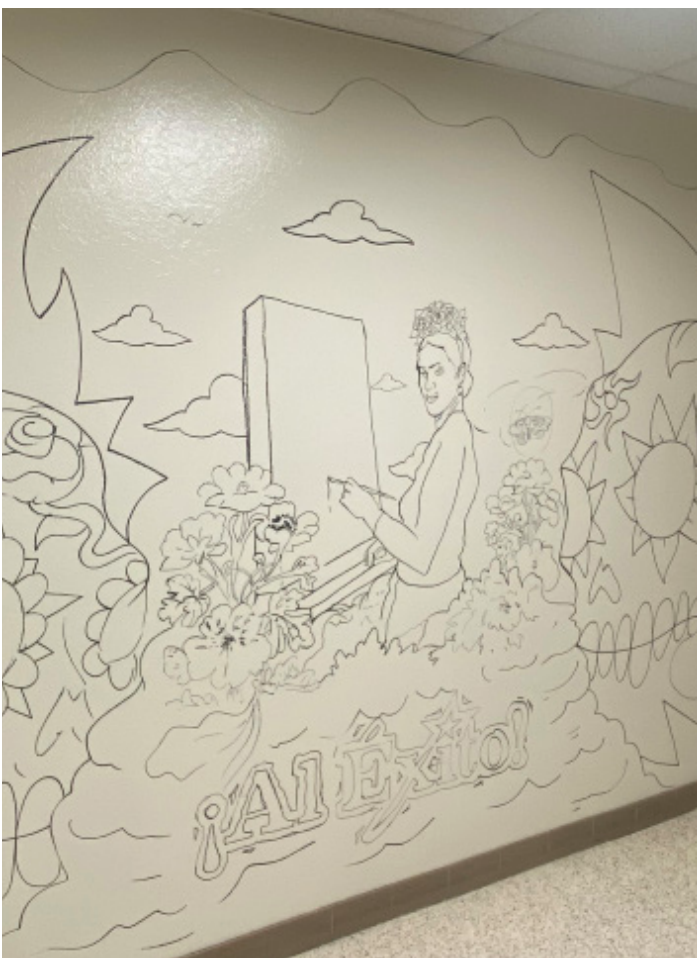


Photo of the progress of Al Exito's mural



Photo of students Avila and Yanque Cortes painting

Turning

Explore the world of art in one of the dirties, and gross ways and make masterpieces for all to see

Clay, gross, grey, wet, slippery are all words to describe pottery. It is one of an artist's favorite tools to construct masterful pieces of sculpture, whether it be a bowl, or a statue; the possibilities are endless.

Amy Endres, our art teacher, has been throwing clay for years and has accumulated lots of experience.

"The first time I would say I tried was 1995. At first, I didn't really try. But I first learned at the Des Moines Art Center," Endres said.

One of the most popular, all be it, dirty, ways to make sculptures is by throwing clay on a spinning pottery wheel.

One of the most important aspects of throwing, and which is often messed up, is centering the clay on the wheel before molding it into its desired shape.

"I try not to think of anything except centering the clay before I start throwing," Endres said.

Endres soon became proficient in making this form of art and decided it was something to pursue for the future.



Photos courtesy of Flickr



into Pottery



“I knew I was going to teach it and I wanted to be competent when I am teaching students. I wanted to make bowls, cups, and things that have function,” Endres said.

Pottery can be used for multiple different functions. It can be used to make bowls, vases, pitchers, cups. The possibilities are virtually endless. One of the most commonly made things are bowls due to the functionality and form.

People throw clay for multiple different reasons - to make sculptures that have a function, or sometimes just for fun. It can even be therapeutic at times by creating something never made before or making designs that make a statement. Throughout centuries, clay has been used to display how a civilization develops, with designs on the vases such as the ancient Greeks, and Romans who used pottery to show scenes in their religion.

One thing can be for certain whether it's for fun or to use in life, clay has been a massive part of human civilization. All the way back to show what life might have been like during those times, representing their culture and beliefs, and the best thing we can do is keep on throwing.



BY HAE PAW (SHE/HER) STAFF

Knitting the Knots

You can make anything with yarn

Have you ever felt anxious, depressed, or bored? Crocheting or knitting is just for you! It gives you a distraction, so you don't focus too much on your mental state and instead focus on what's in your hand with that simple ball of yarn and a crochet/knitting needle that can turn into anything you want it to be.

Before you begin knitting, you should know the origin of it.

"The origins of knitting date back to the fifth century AD, and crocheting has been around since the sixteenth century in various forms," according to an article by Charlie Bradley Ross on henryford.com. "Knitting is believed to have originated in the Middle East in the fifth century and traveled to Europe with wool traders soon after."

While the knitting origin was simple, the origin of crocheting is a bit complicated.

As stated in an article by Ruthie Marks on henryford.com, there are a few theories as to the origins of crocheting: "One: Crochet originated in Arabia, spread eastward to Tibet and westward to Spain, from where it followed the Arab trade routes to other Mediterranean countries. Two: Earliest evidence of crochet came from South America, where a primitive tribe was said to have used crochet adornments in rites of puberty. Three: In China, early examples

were known of three-dimensional dolls worked in crochet."

Reasons for starting may vary and it usually has to do with relaxing your mind.

Stitchandunwind.com says to start for a creative escape. "Crochet is the main creative outlet for a lot of people. Whether you're designing new patterns, arranging color schemes, or just following a tutorial, your creative juices are flowing. As we get older and busier, sometimes we have to take a moment to release some of that creative energy! It doesn't have to go away when you grow up," www.stitchandunwind.com said.

Crocheting isn't a hobby that takes up a lot of room, it's just some yarn and a crochet hook.

"It's portable! Unlike other hobbies, crochet can go almost anywhere!" lepetitsaintcrochet.com said.

There are many ways to start knitting, freshman Milo Spath-Bradley started because he had nothing to do.

"I've done knitting because I was bored and wanted to," Spath-Bradley said.

If you want to start, you need to know the difference between knitting and crocheting.

"Knitting is performed with either pointed knitting needles, knitting looms, or knitting machines. Crocheters use a single crochet hook to create delicate items," thesprucecrafts.com said.

Many people start crocheting because

people taught them how to do it.

“I’ve tried both but only succeeded in learning to crochet. I learned because a friend of mine liked to crochet and taught me how,” program facilitator with Community Youth Concept Krauss said.

The beginning is tough for everyone “The hardest part was getting started. I found it very frustrating at first and didn’t understand why my stitches weren’t looking like they were supposed to since I was doing the steps correctly,” Krauss said.

These activities can benefit you by improving important skills.

“You can get a lot of fine motor skills and it can help you destress,” teacher Ashley Schooley Hamman said.

The things you can make out of the crafts are endless.

“I can make pretty much make anything by now like sweater and scarfs,” Spath-Bradley said.

The cost of the items needed for this hobby is outstanding.

“It’s a fun hobby but be warned yarn is expensive,” Krauss said.



Photo courtesy of wallpaper flame



Photo courtesy of Pzxfuel

An item perfect for beginners!!



photo credit to Flickr.com

There are popular pieces in crocheting like dishcloths or washcloths.

“Making dishcloths is a really great place to start when learning and practicing crochet. It helps you make even rows without missing stitches (one of the most challenging things for a beginner) and there are many different stitches you can do to make a dishcloth or a washcloth,” homemadeemilyjane.com said.

A project that is simple for beginners would be a big chunky scarf. “As an absolute knitting beginner, I do recommend picking a project that doesn’t involve too many complicated stitches or any kind of shaping. First, and foremost you will want to practice getting the tension right and learning to create even stitches across a lot of rows. A simple scarf in garter stitch will give you exactly this opportunity. If you pick a big chunky yarn (which will hide minor inconsistencies much better) you can still create your first wearable,” nimble-needles.com said.



photo credit to Flickr.com

Fun fact!

crochet: “The name actually refers to the process of creating fabric by interlocking loops of materials with a crochet hook. This is evident with the name which is derived from the French term *crochet* which translates to small hook,” jaarn.co.za said.

knitting: “Not only can knitting or crocheting with cotton yarn relieve stress, improve motor function and prevent arthritic diseases, but it also burns calories. When you knit for a half hour, you can burn up to 55 calories,” brownsheep.com said.

The Relevance of The Dark Knight

How a fictional character can be a teacher for all of us

In the year 1920, the first hero comic came in, Superman by Action Comics. And ever since then, the imaginations of multiple people have created a nearly infinite number of heroes and universes, but through all this time only a few have been able to stick around to be true classics.

But one hero stands out, not because of his powers, or because of some physical mutation, but because this hero is just human. He is a human who is capable to out think anyone, a human who is stronger than your average civilian, a human with the ability to stay calm and collected under extremely high-pressure moments, a human who strikes fear into the hearts of men with just a silhouette of him.

He is the protector of Gotham, he is the caped crusader, he is the Dark Knight, he is vengeance, he is The Batman.

By now, you know the backstory of this tragic hero, but for those who don't know, let's give it a quick rundown. Although Batman's story has been altered throughout all these years, the premise has been the same. The Wayne family went to a movie theater that Thomas Wayne, Bruce's father, would visit as a child. After leaving the theater, Bruce insisted they would walk home, to take a short cut, they went through an alley where they encountered a mugger, and that is where his father would be shot, and his mother would die of a heart attack. Ever since then, Bruce hasn't stopped blaming himself for his parents' death.

Although other heroes have had tragic pasts, like Beast Boy, Spiderman, Cat Woman, The Flash, just to name a few, but none of these heroes have been affected by it. They just try to forget about their past, or have been successful in what they want and so they don't worry about what has happened.

But Batman doesn't forget, Why?

Well for starters, his family were billionaires. This doesn't mean that he is sad because they lost their money

or whatever, but rather because he is constantly reminded by the media of their death. Another reason is because the whole reason Bruce became The Dark Knight was because of their deaths. He didn't make a promise to his city; he didn't swear to protect the innocent; he became Batman to avenge his parents and have revenge for himself.

Batman also has some of the most unique villains in the DC universe. The reason they are unique is because most of his villains are just humans, but also because they usually represent a part of Batman. Let's analyze some of his most popular ones. The Joker has been a classic antagonist to Batman, not only that but he is arguably the Bat's biggest fan. The Clown Prince of Crime is a direct opposite of Batman. While Batman wants order and do things as close to the rule book, Joker is an agent of chaos; all he wants is violence. Joker is an exaggeration, like many of his villains, of who Bruce could've become if he would let his emotions and hatred get the better of him.

Although Clay Face has powers, he is also a representation of Batman's inner struggles, Clay Face is a man whose main power is shape shifting, letting him turn into any person he knows, down to their vocal cords. Clay Face is a representation of Bruce's identity issue. When Bruce became Batman, it was hard for him to keep Batman and Bruce Wayne separate. In the 2022 film, *The Batman*, we can see how that would look like. He is serious in both shoes, as Batman and as Bruce. We can also see this in the beginning of the 2005 film *Batman Begins*, Bruce is a serious character and is full of anger and wants revenge, but later as the film and the trilogy progresses, he is able to make a clear distinction between Batman and Bruce Wayne. Although Bruce Wayne is a playboy billionaire, Batman is his identity.

And the same thing can be said about Two Face, he is also a constant reminder of one of his biggest failures by not being able to save him fast enough and creating a man whose sense of law has been distorted. Mr. Freeze, a man who will do anything to cure his wife, he is a direct opposite to Batman in the sense that Mr. Freeze doesn't want to let go of his beloved wife. He is an exaggeration of who Batman could of been if he allowed his parents' death impact his decisions and in his perception of justice.

Batman's Nicknames and their importance

Batman would just go on a rampage trying to find peace in just killing every villain just like they did to his parents. But unlike Mr. Freeze, he keeps those thoughts and feelings at bay, and he knows what is right, and over time he has learned to let go.

Batman has learned from himself, and we can also analyze him, and take away some key factors. Every villain is a specific challenge for Batman, but even when he falls, he always gets up, he always fights for what he believes, he always protects the ones that need it, and will always defend his city. Batman is the most popular character in fiction, and rightfully so. He is so popular that people have even gone as far as to write articles on him, and to explain how we can learn from him. From his dedication, his beliefs, his decision making, his intelligence, his leadership, and his compassion.

When you believe in something strongly, stick to it, and don't let anybody change that unless it's out of your own will.

When you see others struggling, or someone who won't or can't defend themselves, take the initiative to help them out.

When you want to make a change, make sure that you have fairness and compassion, but also make sure to be tough enough for people to take you seriously, but not too much as to where people only listen to you out of fear.

Always stay humble, and always remember what your cause is and why you believe in it.

Even if you have many mistakes, remember that you're a human being, and making mistakes is just a part of learning, don't get stuck in the past, and don't be fearful of the future, just get up, and keep fighting.

1. The Dark Knight:

Heather Duda, author of *The Monster Hunter In Modern Pop Culture*, explains that, "In this case, 'dark' is not so much referring to the fact that he works at night or that he wears a black suit. Instead, the 'dark' here refers to the soul of the Caped Crusader which may or may not be every bit as tainted as those he captures."

2. The Caped Crusader:

The "Caped Crusader" nickname was given to The Batman during the 60s, and it has stuck ever since. The nickname is pretty straightforward, but it also represents on how Batman is on a crusade, or mission, to get rid of crime in his city, and to find peace with himself.

3. World's Greatest Detective:

Although we commonly see Batman fighting criminals, punching his way to answers, beating up monsters, using extremely high tech, and even going toe to toe with aliens, sometimes we forget that Batman is one, if not, the smartest character in his world. He actually started of f as a detective. Knowing you can't outsmart him, only adds to the fear he creates.

BY: LUCAS WOOD (HE/HIM), STAFF

Inflating The Bloons



Bloons is a paid mobile game that is popular across the world and can be played by anyone.

What can you get with eight dollars? Eight coloring books, eight drinks from McDonalds, the Monopoly deal card game, or Bloons Tower Defense Six. With Bloons Tower Defense Six, you can have hours of entertainment.

Bloons Tower Defense Six was released in 2018 and has provided entertainment for millions of people across the world.

In Bloons the point of the game is to defeat the incoming bloons by placing the different monkeys around the tracks to beat the bloons before they leave the exit. Different monkeys

have different strengths against bloons and some have weaknesses against the bloons. To beat the bloons, you need to plan and use strategy to win.

Bloons is a game that has nearly unlimited replayability. There are unique ways to play that

anyone can try. Whether it be challenges, speed runs, or trying to get to the highest level. It has a roster of over 20 usable monkeys along with 15 hero monkeys. Since there is a large number of monkeys to choose from, it leads to hundreds of different ways to play.

“Bloons is totally a replay-able game with enough monkeys for people to customize the game to anything they want,” sophomore William Flanigan said.

There is many customization options in the game. You can make the bloons wear googly eyes, top hats, or even make them double the size. One very popular feature is the monkey names. After playing for a while, you unlock the opportunity to name the monkeys. With that you can make them have funny or sweet names making it feel more personalized.

“BLOONS IS TOTALLY A REPLAY-ABLE GAME WITH ENOUGH MONKEYS FOR PEOPLE TO CUSTOMIZE THE GAME TO ANYTHING THEY WANT,” FLANIGAN SAID.

What do you play on in Bloons?

In Bloons you play on tracks and there are currently 67 tracks in the game. Every track has a special design or feature that makes it unique. There are also skill levels for tracks from beginner to expert level. So even experienced players can play on tough maps.



What else is there to do on Bloons?

Two other ways players can stay entertained is by completing achievements and daily challenges. With achievements it can encourage players to play differently or to try new things. There are even hidden ones with special rewards. Daily challenges refresh every 24 hours and bring new challenges for each player to face.



“My favorite part of Bloons is the feature where you can name the monkeys whatever you want,” Flanigan said.

Since there are so many different monkeys, classes, and heroes, the game can be simple and complicated at the same time.

“Winning is easy, It isn’t too complicated it’s just fun to play,” sophomore Noelani Curry said.

It all depends on how you play. It can be as simple as putting down monkeys you think are cool or as complicated as using only monkeys that have high damage and pierce.

“Since there is a lot of different maps, modes, and monkeys it makes it so you can play it differently each time you play,” Curry said.

While there is so much content inside of Bloons, players still think there can be more added.

“I would like to see more monkeys added into the game,” Flanigan said.

Bloons has been getting consistent updates that add new content and monkeys since its release and that’s a reason it’s been popular for so long. With the new updates it helps meet the requests of players by adding new playable hero monkeys.

One thing that Bloons has that is an interesting feature is its powers feature. There are power ups that can be used at any time during a round that aid the player. Powers can be like cash drops, bombs that blow up strong bloons, and one very popular power the banana farmer.

The banana farmer is a popular farmer because when placed around banana farms, it automatically picks up bananas for the player so the player doesn’t have to worry about the farms. The only downside of the farmer is that it

costs in game money to use so it’s not totally free but does not cost real money.

“I want them to add another monkey that’s a little farmer one that you can upgrade to something cool instead of having only a basic farmer,” Curry said.

Overall Bloons is a game that is very beginner friendly but can also still be challenging for players who have been playing a long time.

You can find it on the playstore, app store, or steam. Wherever you can buy games you can buy Bloons for eight dollars

What makes the monkeys unique?

There are five classes of monkeys in the game.

Primary, military, magic, support, and hero. Each can be used with different strategies because of all the strengths and weaknesses.

Primary monkeys can be used for almost anything in the game and can be seen with the dart monkey. It can attack and destroy almost everything.

Military monkeys focus on things such as planes and mortars. This class can be used for explosives to destroy clusters of bloons and high damage in general.

Magic monkeys focus on powers and summoning help. The druid monkey can summon vines that go all along the track and can-do high damage. The wizard monkey can spawn a large phoenix that circles the track.

Support monkeys help the other monkeys as the player progress. Banana farms can help generate money for the player and monkey villages can boost other monkeys in their range. Spike factories can destroy any bloons that cross its path.

Hero monkeys are the unique feature in Bloons Tower Defense Six. Heros are special monkeys that can level up on their own and can do different things. With every hero there is a different skill or ability and because of that they all have strengths and weaknesses, that means some are easier to use than others.



Leaving Children Behind

How a new bill passed into law affects public education.



Governor Kim Reynolds continued to advocate for a school voucher bill to be passed until she finally signed it into law this session. For her third legislative session in a row, she's been proposing different methods in order for this bill to pass. After many attempts and only eight hours of debating, on January 24, House File 68 was passed into law. The issue with this bill is how it will affect public schools like ours. What many people don't know is how much public school districts are forced to make budget cuts due to their enrollment declining. Budgets like DMPS receive state funding based on students in attendance. According to an article on weareiowa.com, DMPS will cut nearly \$11 million in the budget and there will be a 2% reduction in teaching staff, and 5% reduction in support and central office staff members.

The reason why Reynolds introduced this bill is because she wanted to allow parents, not the government, to choose the best fitted education setting for children without having income or zipcode interfering with it. How this bill will function is students at any private or public school will be able to receive \$7,598 from the state and use that to pay for private school tuition and any other expenses. Right now, each student in a public schools bring \$7,598 to the school they are located, this is funded from tax dollars. With this bill, they are allowed to open a savings account and use this money to pay off their tuition in private schools.



Educators believe that this bill does a poor job of finding balance within the budget system.

“By changing the system and creating a new flow of money into education, I feel that we are allowing the desires and a small portion of the population to influence public education for many students,” social studies teacher Christian Davison said.

Others believe public schools need to adapt to new changes within the education system.

“I believe that public schools need to adapt anyways so there's no reason we can't be innovative and desirable to folks even in a competitive school environment. I'm ready for it,” principal Qynne Kelly said.

One thing to remember is that public schools will be forced to make budget cuts, but the way they will run the school will never change. An example of a public school that will face this issue a lot is Hoover due to the low number of students enrolled here compared to other high schools in the DMPS district.

“If a high school has 1,000 students and then the next year it has 900 students, that high school will have less money to use. However the cost of ‘running’ the school does not change - which makes it harder for staff and students to meet the mission of public education,” Davison said.

Something that people should know is that the transferring process isn't going to be easy at all. Private schools still have the ability to not allow students to come into their institutions due to many reasons. People who were to transfer must remember that transferring to a different school is a process that

takes time, it's not something that happens in a day.

As Hoover faced quite a bit of budget cuts, and a low number of students enrolled, there still could be high hopes for Hoover.

"I think this bill will make it easier for families who find Hoover attractive to get here. We have so much to offer families. We are a diverse student body with teachers that have high academic expectations for all students. We also allow students to develop authentically into who they are. This is enticing when you think about being prepared for a 21st century American workforce/life and Hoover is the place to get ready for that," Kelly said.

One thing we must remember is that public education is the best education because we have the most diverse institution in their state. Use your voice! Each and every single one of you has the right to use your voice and have the power to create change in the world. Remember to fight for what you believe in! Don't let anything interfere with that. As changes will come next year for our education, remember that you have the right to make that change. Don't be afraid to use it and fight for what's right. We must fight to improve public education and help smaller populated schools!



Information courtesy of iowastartingline.com and photos courtesy of DMPS Flickr.

Did you know....

- In Reynolds' 2022 proposed voucher she diverted \$55 million from public funds to support 10,000 students
- Now, over a three year process in the first year alone this voucher will cost more than \$100 million
- Not only does this bill benefit public school students, but it will also help existing private school students
- In year one, private school students whose annual family income is at or below 300% of the federal poverty line (\$83,250 for a family of four, according to the governor's staff) would qualify for a scholarship
- In year two, private school students' families would have to be at or below 400% of the federal poverty line (\$111,000 for a family of four)
- By year three, there would be no income requirements

CUT OFF

If a bill that modifies what defines an administrative expense is passed into law, officials of Des Moines Public Schools will need to make \$33 million in budget cuts. As part of a discussion about the budget for the 2023–24 academic year, the Des Moines School Board will be impacted on the potential effects of Senate File 251.



A bill that uses tax dollars that would typically go to public schools to fund education savings accounts was signed into law by Gov. Kim Reynolds earlier this year. The “parental choice” agenda of Reynolds, which seeks to give parents and guardians more control over their children’s education, includes the education savings account bill. Officials stated during the meeting that Des Moines schools would lose about \$1.1 million in funding. The bill would not have an impact on institutions with fewer than 1,000 students if it were to pass as is. With about 30,000 students, Des Moines Public Schools is Iowa’s biggest school district.



HOW TO FIGHT BACK

- Notify your community about this bill
- Protest
- Contact the super intendent and ask how to help
- Do reascarch
- Spread awareness
- Know your rights
- Keep yourself and others updated with news and social media

Social studies teacher Darryl Nellum was cut from Hoover in February due to the DMPS budget issues.

Q: How did you first feel about getting the news about getting cut?

A: When I first heard the news, I was just in shock really. I never really thought it would happen to me. After I just had this feeling of being dejected, resentful, and confused about it. It was so sudden that I never really got to process what happened. I felt I always and forever feel

like Hoover is like a home. Having spent two years here trying to grow as a teacher as well as build meaningful relationships with the students and staff. I thought that it was totally my fault and it made me feel alone in this process. When someone explained about the process it made me feel a lot better and cleared up a lot of questions that I had. However, I still felt bad because there was still some uncertainty with my next move.

Q: What is your opinion on the balancing of future budgets, Des Moines Public Schools may close buildings and lay off employees?

A: I think that this process is an unfortunate one to be in, but I understand why it might happen. This happens every year within each school across the country, where most districts have to make tough decisions. Most years are not this drastic with excessing teachers, but it happens. Ultimately, it comes down to cutting teachers or closing schools, which is not good either way. Especially when you're at a school that you've grown so accustomed to being in. I think with the budget for DMPS getting stretched thin as it is and things getting pulled to pay teachers, then it is going get pulled from somewhere else which makes it tougher to run a school. The budget I think could've been handled better on so many levels.

NELLUM ADDS, "I DON'T THINK THERE IS ONE FOR ME. MY INITIAL THOUGHT WHEN THIS HAPPENED WAS TO FIGHT IT BUT IT'S JUST A SITUATION IN WHICH NO ONE IS REALLY AT FAULT. DO I WISH THAT DMPS HAD THE BUDGET TO KEEP ALL OF THE TEACHERS THAT WAS EXCESSED IN THEIR CURRENT PLACEMENTS? OF COURSE, BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE. IT'S A DECISION THAT WAS OUT OF MY HANDS FROM THE START. I THINK MY PLAN, IF THERE IS ONE, IS TO KEEP BEING THE BEST TEACHER I CAN BE AND MAKE SURE THE STUDENTS I HAVE NOW LEARN AND TAKE THINGS AWAY FROM BEING IN MY CLASS BECAUSE THAT WAS THE GOAL FROM THE START."

Principal Qynne Kelly has been fighting hard for change within the school and in the community, She's a hard-working leader with the help of her teachers and administrators.

Q: What is your opinion on the balancing of future budgets, Des Moines Public Schools may close buildings and lay off employees?

A: It's not exactly ideal... but it is our reality. I do think it's important that I mention why the budget is in this state. Public schools in Iowa have been underfunded, seeing a decline in Supplemental State Aid (SSA) since the 1980's. It has been particularly bad the last decade (as can be seen in the graph below). Even with 3% in SSA this upcoming year (more than the last several years) we still have a deficit due to the compounded years of no money & inflation.

Q: Do you have anything to add to let individuals know about the DMPS school cuts?

A: I would like people to know that I have a lot of hope for the future of the state of Iowa, Des Moines Public Schools, & for Hoover. I know I'm in the minority when I say that, however, I can't help but believe in Generation Z. I say all the time that your generation is the most diverse, courageous, & innovative generation in American history. I have a lot of hope for the future because of YOU.

Q: If you were to fight back what would your plan be?

A: I do fight back, all of us do/should. The strategy I take is talking about the amazing things we do in public schools in all spaces that I occupy. I get out into the community & let them know why Hoover & other public schools will best prepare our youth for a global, 21st century Des Moines & America. I also have protested, called/met with legislators, & I keep up to date with what's happening at the state house.

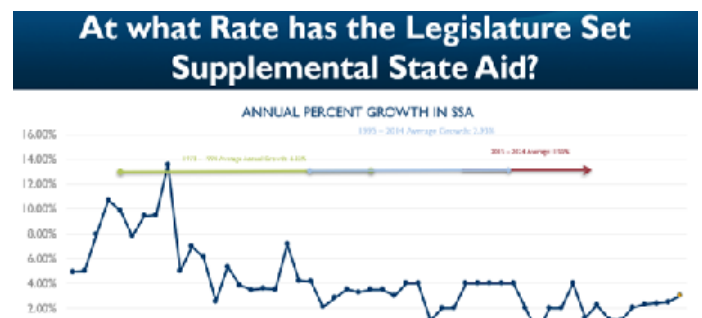


Photo Courtesy of DMPS

Seniors Summer!

"THIS SUMMER I'M GOING TO BE SPENDING MOST OF MY TIME WITH MY GIRLFRIEND. I'LL PROBABLY GO TO ADVENTURELAND A FEW TIMES, AND I'LL JUST DRIVE AROUND DOING STUPID FUN STUFF," SENIOR TANNER REEL SAID.



"I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO GENUINELY BEING ABLE TO ENJOY THE SUMMER SINCE I WON'T HAVE TO STRESS ABOUT RETURNING TO SCHOOL. I'M ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING MORE FREEDOM TO DO THINGS," SENIOR JAYSSON REYES SAID.

"I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TRYING TO ADVANCE MORE IN MY JOB OVER THE SUMMER. HOPEFULLY ALSO FOCUS ON GETTING PREPARED FOR COLLEGE AND THE FOLLOWING SEMESTERS IN SCHOOL OVER THE SUMMER," SENIOR KAEDEN OSBORN SAID.



"I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING SEVERAL TRIPS THIS SUMMER SINCE THERE IS NO SCHOOL. PLACES LIKE VEGAS, ITALY, DENVER, AND CALIFORNIA," SENIOR JAMES BANKS SAID.