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No More Smoke Signals Admin Establishes Strong Policy Against Vaping

Lauren Moore
Editor-in-Chief



Photo By Lauren Moore

Student Assistance Counselor Mrs. Christner presents the vaping appliances she has confiscated within a single week of patrolling the halls, cafeteria, and bathrooms during lunches.

Cool. Life-threatening. Fun. Highly addictive. When asking the student body about vaping, the usual response is either a laugh or an unphased sigh, as if vaping has become more of a “who hasn’t” mentality. And that mentality is a valid response, considering students from all four classes have reported that they either vape or know at least one other peer who vapes. Vaping has become commonplace, and is deemed nothing out of the ordinary. However, the administration is putting its foot down, making it their mission to end the vaping epidemic happening within the student body. As of Jan. 8, vaping during school hours is a zero-tolerance offense, and will automatically lead to suspension, confiscation of vaping appliances, vape psychoeducation classes, mandatory tutorial hours,

and Saturday school. “The student vaping presentation, that was presented in February, was to educate Wildcats on the high volume of nicotine found in many of the vapes and the dangers of vaping,” Student Assistance Counselor Mrs. Rebekah Christner said. “We further explored what defines a substance use disorder and the withdrawal symptoms from nicotine.” The policy outlines three levels of punishment. On the first occurrence of being caught with a vape, two days of out-of-school suspension are given, along with 6 hours of mandatory tutorials, 8 hours of Saturday School, and a 2-hour psychoeducational class. The second offense leads to the recurrence of all previous punishments in addition to another day of OOS. The third offense automatically leads to a

conference and transfer to the district’s DAEP campus. “Vaping has become an epidemic that we need to address quickly and efficiently,” principal Dr. Shaun Perry said in a Tweet following the presentation. Students are no strangers to the vaping phenomenon. Those who haven’t vaped still know the magnitude of the craze, and have even seen students vape while on campus. Although most students have reported that the most common place students vape is in the restrooms, few have also seen vaping take place in lounging areas, in the cafeteria, in the parking lot, and even during classes. “[I see] vaping happen everytime I go to the restroom,” junior Yubin Lim said. “From what I’ve seen, it happens more with the underclassmen.” Students who have vaped

in the past or are current vape enthusiasts believe that they vaped is because of the “vape culture” that has been created, the easy accessibility to vaping appliances, the apparent “cool factor” of vaping, the overall feeling vaping gives them, or their own addiction to the product. Students who are addicted to vaping feel as though they have the inability to end their habit due to the “relief” it gives them. “Most of the people at Guyer have vapes with nicotine in them,” junior Sydney Morris said. “It’s a buzz that lasts less than 5 minutes. But if they’re addicted, it doesn’t last as long, so they do it even more.” Administration has surveyed the issue of vaping as a whole, and officially announced the new policy by releasing a schoolwide presentation for all students to view during class. The counseling department, in collaboration with administration, created the presentation in order to send the student body a message to discourage vaping and attempt to take down the epidemic before it spreads further. “[We hope students learned] that their decision to vape may be a lifelong battle.” Mrs. Christner said. “I once worked with an adult who was in recovery from heroin...he said it was easier to give up heroin than nicotine.” The 10-minute long presentation consisted of a Pow-

erPoint video highlighting the negative effects of vaping and its lifelong consequences, and introduced the newly strengthened policy. Student response to the presentation as a whole was mixed. Some students, such as senior Shekinah Areloegbe, believe that the presentation was beneficial and that the policy will begin to suppress the popularity of vaping. “I think that the presentation was informational,” she said. “Depending on how people receive it, it will benefit those among the student body who vape.” However, other students believe that their peers took the presentation as a joke, and that on-campus vaping won’t stop, despite the newly established policy. “My class was just laughing at the presentation,” junior Isabelle Kenneke said. “People didn’t really take it seriously, so I don’t think they’ll take the policy seriously either.” Nevertheless, administration will not stop in their fight to end the vape culture that has manifested itself within the student body. “I think with most student presentations, that we may only successfully reach a handful of students,” Mrs. Christner said. “But in reality, if we can get 5 Wildcats to break the habit or decide not to vape, then we are winning the battle.”

Will Today Be My Last Day? Gun Control Should be Strengthened to Save Lives

by Trinity Trout
Guest Contributor



Photo By Lauren Moore

Senior Trinity Trout speaks out at the March for Our Lives walk-out rally happening just last year.

14,000. Roughly 14,000 lives were lost in 2017 at the hands of mass shooters.

And while we idle away time with the Kardashians and social media, the death toll climbs higher and higher by the day.

Think about that for a second. One single bullet ruined the lives of young minds just like mine. Minds that could've held the cure for cancer, or made the next great scientific discovery. Maybe even the mind of the next president.

And tomorrow, that could be me.

That could be your child, your sister, your brother. The future you've spent years dreaming of for your child--their wedding day, their graduation--gone.

Some say that taking guns away from law-abiding citizens will leave us defenseless against those who mean us harm. Which begs the question, how many mass shootings have you seen that were stopped or in any way improved by another civilian with a gun?

Some say that the shooter is the problem, not the firearm. But let

me tell you something; the gun doesn't care who pulls the trigger. The dead children who stared down the oily barrel of those guns didn't care about who pulled the trigger. They cared about the little piece of lead that was about to go between their eyes.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, a study shows that less than 5% of the 120,000 gun-related killings in the U.S. between 2001 and 2010 were committed by people classified as mentally ill. Some like to place blame chiefly on the mentally afflicted, but are there not people who battle the same illnesses in every other corner of the world? There are, but the one key difference between a potential shooter, and a mass murderer, is a gun.

Congress has been doing that same thing for years. We can debate until we're blue in the face, but perhaps we should expect just a bit more from our alleged "representatives."

Until then, the rest of us students get to look on Snapchat and see our peers being shot. Af-

ter which we sit for weeks, traumatized. Feeling paranoid that the suspicious guy you see in the hallway after lunch is carrying some sort of firearm, and regretting that you didn't tell your mother that you loved her that morning. Fearing for your little brother or sister's lives when they set foot in their elementary schools to learn their addition and subtraction. Pleading with Congress, with our government, to start doing their jobs. To speak for us. To put a voice to our anguish and fear, because, in the grand scheme of things... we're powerless.

Decisions about our safety fall to you.

In the meantime, we will sit in our classrooms, mourn, and pretend. We will pretend we don't battle paranoia everyday we set foot in a place that is supposed to be a safe environment. We will play our parts, and pretend that we aren't terrified.

But mostly, we'll wait. Wait for a change, or wait for a bullet.

You choose. Because we don't get to.

High School Expectations Ruin Students Before College

by Ally Anderson
Guest Contributor

Everyday, teenagers across the US wake up and drag themselves to school, not because they love it or even feel like they need it, but because it's required.

School is a foundational part of becoming an adult, collecting the right skill sets and learning important life lessons. However, high schools today don't stress the importance of college or prepare students for it.

It is the responsibility of teachers and the government to do their best to set students up for success beyond their classroom, and train them for higher level education.

Ask nearly any high school student and they will say that harder coursework and more homework is a bad idea, and that teachers shouldn't make their classes harder, but lighten the load instead. However, once a student graduates after getting used to easier curriculum and pushed back due dates, their college experience is that of a nightmare.

It's necessary for students to be challenged while they're in high school so that when it comes time



Photo By Lauren Moore

Honors Pre-Calculus students Karen Lin and Christopher Rausch work out a challenging trigonometric equation, a subject only a fixed amount of society even uses in everyday life.

to work for their degree, it's less stressful. Many teachers today seem to over sympathize with students about how difficult of time high school can be, and as a result, don't push them to work as hard. This kind of thinking only makes it okay to slack off and be lazy when it comes to school work, and colleges definitely don't go easier on these types.

Even further, the bad habits students pick up and get away with in high school teaches all the wrong ideas, and causes them to miss out on healthier, organized, academic attitudes. For example, time man-

agement. When teachers are lenient and accept projects and papers pass the due date, students think that they don't have to have things in on time or to the highest requirements. They develop a procrastinating mindset and push school further and further down in a list of personal priorities.

Finally, possibly the most important reason to increase the productivity of students in high school, is to better our future leading generation. It's true that not all teenagers are lazy, codependent with technology, and push things off to the last minute; however, a vast majority do have those tendencies because of the world

we live in today.

Imagine those who never did work in class, had their grades handed to them on silver platters, never having to put time and effort into the things they want to achieve. What kind of future does that leave for those to come? Being led in government, operated on in surgery, treated at the doctor's office, teaching more to have the same kind of behavior, by people who don't know the meaning of responsibility- it's a scary thought.

Change begins with alterations in district grading policies. Retesting shows students that it's okay to not do your best the first time, because you'll always have an easier second chance. Teachers are some of the biggest influencers in people's lives, and it's their job to teach the right lessons, not the wrong habits. Change the teacher's attitude, change the student's. Let's work toward making schools more than a dreaded place of useless knowledge. Let's make schools a pathway toward a better future- for everyone.

FEATURE

Young Republicans Club Ready to Reverse Stereotypes

by Lauren Moore
Editor-in-Chief



Photo By: Molly Henry

Senior Ashley Carter presents the premise of Young Republicans to new members at the first meeting of the year.

Tensions ran high among the halls November 6, the day of the Beto-Cruz Senate election. From persistent voting reminders to students decked out head-to-toe in candidate merchandise, students became enthralled with the election. However, upon Beto's defeat for the Senate seat, young voters stormed social media expressing their discontent. Senior Ashley Carter, a Cruz supporter herself, saw the incorrect perceptions on both sides as to what modern republicanism truly is. Therefore, she has made it her mission to mend said misconceptions in order to foster better political discussion within our community. Founding the organization Young Republicans, Carter intends to show the student body, regardless of political affiliation, what it really means to be a Republican.

"We're trying to educate people who say that they are Republicans, and trying to get rid of the stereotype that [Republicans] are ignorant or racist," Carter said. "We're just trying to inform students from both sides of what Republican values are."

Young Republicans meets every first and third Monday of the month after school in room B231. All sides of the political spectrum are encouraged to come to the meetings and stimulate debate.

"Everybody is welcome," she said. "If they're Republican, or a Democrat who doesn't know Republican values, anyone's welcome if they just want to learn more about politics."

Since the first announcement of the organization's creation, Carter has received mixed opinions from her peers about being the founder

and president of Young Republicans.

"Some of the people who say that they are Republicans are all for it, but they don't quite understand it, Carter said. On the other side, I've been called a racist, ignorant... a bunch of things."

Despite receiving such backlash, Carter believes that Young Republicans is simply an organization wanting to educate young and upcoming voters as to what their values truly are. Both Carter and the other members of Young Republicans want to eliminate the stereotypes behind the word "republican."

"If [people] really want to know what the club is about, they should come to a meeting," she said.

At the first meeting, Carter discussed the overall the values of Young Republicans while also describing what it means to be a young Republican in Texas.

"I enjoyed the meeting," senior Annalee Ramsay said. "I learned a lot about ideals that I didn't even know were affiliated with right-leaning politics."

Senior and CEPAC president Caleb Brock attended the Young Republicans meeting in order to better understand Republican politics.

"I went to the meeting to further broaden my perspec-

tives on why some people think the way they do," he said.

Sponsor and Biology/Aquatic Science teacher Dr. Thompson believes that educating the student body is key to mending the current political climate.

"People need to understand that the organization isn't about hating a certain political party. It's about educating everyone of one political party's ideals," she said. "Once we get people talking, we can start having valuable discussion."

Carter has lots planned for the meetings to come, including topical current event discussion, watching the news from both right-leaning and left-leaning outlets, and getting prominent political speakers to speak to the organization.

"I wanted to see if we could have people who are more educated on different subjects than [high schoolers] are come to Guyer and talk to the club. We're watching both FOX and CNN, and getting people educated."

Carter believes that Young Republicans will grow to a school-wide movement, and hopes to collaborate with other clubs and organizations within the community.

"Our generation is a huge generation that's really important for the government's future," Carter said. "Everyone needs to know what's happening."

EDITOR IN CHIEF:
Lauren Moore

ASSISTANT EDITOR:
Rylie Nabors

STAFF WRITERS:
Tejaswi Chapa
Jayson Rhoades
Hannah Favara
Madison Kiernat

FACULTY ADVISOR:
Mr. Larry Turner

PRINCIPAL:
Dr. Shaun Perry

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Diego's Legacy Teammate Honored at Boys' Soccer Game

by Tejaswi Chapa
Staff Writer



Photo by Molly Henry

Varsity soccer teammates honor Diego's legacy by framing his jersey and dedicating the rest of the season to him.

Blocking the kicks, catching the ball and winning the game. Diego Rivera was always on the soccer field. On Jan. 9, Guyer lost the young and spirited life of senior, Diego Rivera.

Diego was a goalie on the varsity soccer team, having played for most of his life. During practices and games, he always brought a light-hearted and fun energy to the team.

"Fun to have around a well rounded player, Diego always worked hard and put in great effort," said soccer coach, Coach Schroeder.

Diego passed away with his brother, Daniel, who was in the 8th grade. Diego always brought joy and humor into the room when with his family.

"Diego was very close with his family and especially his little brother," said senior teammate Armando De Leon.

The next day, the varsity soccer game was renamed in Diego's honor. Before the game, Diego and Daniel's family came to hold a small tribute with the team and school. His jersey was framed

and flowers and stuffed animals were brought to celebrate Diego's life. After the game, the team and Diego's close friends held a moment of silence as the final goodbye.

"[Diego] was always the one screaming and cheering for us. It was hard playing without hearing his voice again," said De Leon.

After high school, Diego wished to pursue soccer and become a car mechanic.

"He had clear aspirations to be successful in whatever it was he chose to do," said his English teacher, Ms. Colson.

#StateForDiego has

been created to motivate the soccer team to win the championship in honor of Diego. Although the boys's soccer team did not advance to State in the playoffs, the team believes that Diogo will always remain with them.

As of April 29, almost \$40,000 has been raised in Diego and Daniel's name. There is also an on-going petition to increase the safety of Hickory Road Creek, where many others, in addition to the Riveras, have lost their lives.

Water Polo Teams Have Winning Season

by Rylie Nabors
Assistant Editor



Photo by Rylie Nabors

The Girls' Water Polo team posing in front of their well-earned third place win at the UIL State Championships.

Swim season has excelled this year since its start in August. So far, the swim team has broken 6 records out of 7 events. The water polo season started on February 22, the date of the first tournament in Denton. Practices for the Water Polo season began in mid January. Last year, the girls were undefeated 31-0 and won the State Championship. The boys also advanced to the state championship, but placed second overall. However, Water

Polo coach Cullen believes that they can also win this year.

"I'm excited for the new water polo season," he said. "I think we can improve."

The school had enough students last year interested in the program that it had both a junior varsity and a varsity water polo team. The sport obligates students to be able to swim. Positions include attackers, goalie, center, center guard, and point. Most students are involved both programs,

but some are swimmers because it is individual.

"They get in shape and run up and down," he said. "It works well for both of them."

Junior Kylee Noble says that the aquatics program keeps her in shape while also teaching her work ethic and teamwork. She says the program is similar to track as the main focus is to beat the clock.

"Water Polo adds motivation to swim because you want to be able to swim fast for a game," she said.

Freshman Sadie Sallas has been involved in the aquatics program for six years and competed in four Junior Olympics. She says her main goal is to make the national team, which involves conditioning, passing, and shooting.

"We practice with our team and focus on skill, work and technique," she said.

Freshman Riley Chapple says swim appealed to her as a fun experience. As a method to compete under pressure, she relaxes and listens to music.

"[It has given me] many new relationships, friends, and a fun

activity," she said.

Competitions in the water polo category consist of four, 5-6 minute long quarters depending on the amount of fouls in the game, its entirety lasting usually between 45-50 minutes. The state championship was on May 2.

"Every meet, everyone's gotten faster," Coach Cullen said. "We hope that we can move faster and move on to the playoffs."

As of now, the swim team has a good freshman class that is giving it good results. The UIL district championship was on January 18, where the swim team performed well. However, swim isn't just about winning medals and working hard; the athletes on the swim team have a very close bond that manifests itself in the water.

"Everyone is energetic and funny," Noble said. "Most of us are really close."

Noble says that the field is more competitive and physically demanding than most people realize.

"[The hardest aspect] is not giving up and continuing to keep going," she said.

FEATURE

Key Club Cares for the Community

by Jayson Rhoades
Staff Writer



Photo by Jayson Rhoades

(Left to Right) President Emme Erwin, Audrey Nolte, Cindy Tran, Riley Nabors, Lauryn Adams, and Zoe Butler preparing to go out and pick up trash around Guyer.

Student-led, Key Club offers a variety of opportunities in leadership and service. Not only does Key Club serve Guyer, but also the community around them. The international organization

includes charters around the nation with an emphasis on developing skills through volunteer work. Key Club is open to anyone who likes to help organize, serve, or better their community. Club ac-

tivities can also provide service hours.

“Key Club is a great way to help both Guyer and the community at large,” said Lauryn Adams, club member.

Our school’s branch of Key Club is sponsored by Mrs. Erwin, the Honors and AP Chemistry teacher, and Mrs. Davidson, the Diagnostician. Members of Key Club can be seen helping with most club related events in the school and even public events around Denton and Corinth. They have participated in events such as the Stream Clean and several Mobile Food Pantry locations, with another Blood Drive taking place on March 6, Key Club members helped students sign up during lunches.

“The club is a focus of not what a school can do for someone, but what they can do for the school,”

Mrs. Erwin said.

Mrs. Erwin is not only the sponsor of the organization, but she also took it upon herself to begin the initiative on her own.

“I started our branch of Key Club because I wanted to see what Guyer could do for the community and those around us who are less fortunate.” Mrs. Erwin said.

Key Club meetings take place on Tuesdays after school in Ms. Erwin’s room. Meetings are typically spent talking over what the club can do to support events within the school, and what new ones could be put on in the club’s free time. and students are encouraged to attend.

“We’re always looking for new members,” Adams said. “More viewpoints means a more well rounded club.”

PTA Reflections Recognizes Students

by Hannah Favara
Staff Writer



Photo by Hannah Favara

Award-winning student artwork placed in the Career Center in preparation for the Reflections gallery.

Every year, the Parent Teacher Association encourages students to showcase their artistic and academic skills in the yearly Reflections competition. The theme for this year was “Heroes Around Me.” For a student to be eligible to participate, at

least one of their guardians must be a PTA member. Students compete in different genres such as, dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. They are to create something

that they feel shows the current theme.

Senior and Reflections participant Elizabeth Hubner was inspired by service dogs through a friend of her brother.

“I wanted to show the fact that service dogs are heroes and it’s often unrecognized. They have done a lot for people and I wanted to somehow get that out there,” she said.

Writers and artists can be recognized at the Local, Council, State, and National PTA levels. There is even a division for students with disabilities, so everyone has the opportunity to participate.

There are 29 Guyer students participating in the

2018-2019 year in all different categories. Elizabeth is entering in both the photography and visual arts categories.

Junior Lauren Moore participated in last year’s competition, where she won awards at the State level for her writing.

“[PTA Reflections] gave me the opportunity to showcase my work and be recognized for it,” she said.

Senior Thanh Pham entered in the visual arts category. His piece is named “Bà Nội” after his late grandmother. She is pictured in a Vietnamese street market.

“This piece was personal to me as it reminded

me of my late grandma. I remember running into her arms when she comes back from the market and bribing me with my favorite food and treats” Thanh said.

Each student has a different reason for submitting. Junior Morgan Theriot entered in the visual arts category and loves her art classes.

“I drew my friend Sarah who has been a supportive friend of mine throughout high school. I’m really passionate about expressing my art and trying to enter more of my pieces into programs where my art can be recognized” Morgan said.

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FFA Students Wrangle Competition at Stock Show

■ by Rylie Nabors
Staff Writer



Photo by Rylie Nabors

Junior Reese Rockett poses with her award-winning chicken after the stock show award ceremony.

Since its founding in 1928 by a group of boys, FFA promotes inventive and technological ways of farming. This year, the club plans to travel throughout the entire state. The Fort Worth Stock show started on January 18 and continues through February 9. The club also plans to attend the San Angelo Stock show from February 1 to February 17,

the San Antonio Stock show from February 7 to February 24, and the Houston Livestock show from February 25 to March 17.

Club Sponsor Mrs. Kalka says the stock shows are where competitions are held and animal projects compete at state level. They offer scholarships to students that participate.

“Every day is something differ-

ent,” she said. “[There are] different days for different animals.”

The shows involve students working with rabbits, chickens, pigs, lambs, goats, cattle and longhorns at the shows. All animals are owned and handled by the students. The club offers “Barnyard day” during its competitions where students explain the different species of animals while people are free to visit them.

“Smaller animals you don’t have to be quite so hands on with,” Kalka said. “Larger animals have to be trained.”

Senior Jessica Rosso is the Vice President of the club. The club has “taken over her life” and brought her out of her shell to love people. As an officer, she makes newsletters, advertises the club, and helps the President.

“Spending 5000 hours with these people,” she said. “There are a lot of memories.”

Senior Zach Watkins has been a member of the club for three years. He builds projects to show in the main shop building and is not involved in the animal aspect of the club.

“It takes a bunch of people that are misfits and brings them together,” he said. “We are all weird, but we all

love each other.”

Meetings involve leadership contests, speaking contests, career development, research, science, agricultural mechanics or “ag-mech”, and plants.

“They’re usually fantastic,” Watkins said. “We’ve had a bigger turnout than when I was first in the club.”

During the year, Agricultural Mechanics is building traders, deer blinds, and a deer feeder. The club has done community service such as helping emergency services and cleaning Old Alton road. Agricultural awareness week is also this week.

“When I got here almost 4 years ago,” Kalka said. “We only had 15 members. Currently this year we have 104.”

The club hopes to help kids meet their own personal goals and figure out what they need to do as well as raise awareness that agriculture is not typical planting crops. The club also involves science and technology.

“There’s so many more components to ag than sows, cows, and plows,” she said.

Top Bassists Earn Spot in Statewide Orchestra

■ by Hannah Favara
Staff Writer

This year, all three Rhapsody bassists qualified for All State, one freshman and two seniors. This is the first year that Guyer has taken three of the 12 bass spots in the All State orchestra. Senior Aidan Wood has made it two years in a row now. He said he fell in love with the idea of All State when he made it his junior year.

“Hearing that I made it with the other bassists as well made me incredibly happy,” Aidan said. Another All State bassist senior Ethan Nguyen, is the first person to make all four years of All State. He says his overall experience with orchestra has been fun and enjoyable, especially All State.

“This year I was even more excited to hear that I made it into the top group which has been my goal since sophomore year,” Ethan said. “And even better, with my other two friends.”

The three bassists received 5th, 7th, and 11th overall. Aidan has been playing with another bassist long before his senior year.

“One of the bassists is one of my

really good friends, having met him in middle school when I moved to Denton,” Aidan said. “I remember playing in All Region with him in 8th grade, both of us being in the top two chairs in the varsity group. I knew then and there that both of us would achieve great things with music in high school, and here we are now.”

Christian Luevano, freshman who ranked 5th, has been preparing for his All State audition since middle school.

“I’ve been playing double bass since I was five years old, and pretty much ever since I moved to Texas my goal has been to make All-State,” Luevano said.

The audition process for All State takes a lot of hard work and time. It takes a lot of devotion to be the best. Aidan said he wanted to play with the best, so he focused as hard as possible. All three bassists worked incredibly hard and practiced long hours to prepare for their audition and achieve All State. “All State has always been a little stressful because of the amount of practice



Photo by Hannah Favara

Rhapsody bassists Aidan Wood, Christian Luevano, and Ethn Nguyen stand with the basses they brought with them to the All-State.

and time you have to put in, Ethan said, “so I’m glad that my hard work paid off and I get to play in one of the top orchestras in high school for Texas.”

Aidan had a good mindset going into the audition and knew he had prepared well and done the best he could.

“No matter what happened,” Aidan said. “Life intended for

whatever would result from the audition, and that no matter what, it was a necessary experience for myself. This acceptance allowed me to put my whole being into that audition, and I made it.”

“I am so happy to get the opportunity to get to play great music again, and I know I’m going to remember the experience for the rest of my life.” Aidan said.

All In This Together

STUCO Hosts ‘High School Musical’ Themed Male Pageant

■ Tejaswi Chapa
Staff Writer



Photo By Ally Anderson

Senior Pete Hays (Mr. Popularity), Senior Luke Brodersen (Mr. GHS), and Junior Daniel Cho (Mr. Congeniality) take the top prizes after winning their awards.

High School Musical’s “We’re All In This Together” played in the background as the stage was decorated with a red runway and lockers; it was Student Council’s biennial showcasing of Mr. GHS. Never failing to get the crowd excited and laughing, Mr. GHS is a male pageant where juniors and seniors show off their skills and talents and win the titles of Mr. Popularity, Mr. Congeniality and of course Mr. GHS. The contestants are challenged in several categories including talent, interview, fancy attire, sport attire and summer attire.

Junior contestant Omar Shah, was excited to challenge himself and bond with his friends through the competition.

“[Mr. GHS] is someone who represents Guyer in a positive way and someone who’s not only doing it because they want to win but also to represent their school,” he said.

For sophomore Olivia Dimka, STUCO member, it is her first time organizing and experiencing the event. “The event means a lot to the contestants and the audience because it really brings our

community together,” Dimka said.

The night started with a group dance number to a medley of High School Musical songs performed by the 16 contestants. Student Council members Allynna Castro and Annie Rose dressed up as the roles of Gabriella Montez and Sharpay Evans, respectively, to watch on the sidelines of the stage. The contestants first started in the sport

“The event means a lot to the contestants and the audience because it brings our community together.”

attire category and were introduced by hosts Rylye Brooks and Sophie Barrera.

“I could tell that the boys were really having fun while they were up there,” junior and

Student Council Secretary Lauren Moore said. “When they started performing and the crowd began to respond, I knew all of STUCO’s hard work paid off.”

Next, contestants modeled in their summer attire. In the talent category, contestants performed songs, played instruments and even performed live magic. For the finale, contestants modeled down the runway in their formal attire. For the interview category, contestants were brought out one by one to be asked a question by the hosts where one contestant, senior Jacob McKittrick, even asked his girlfriend, Annie Rose, to Prom.

“We’ve been dating for just over a year now and after talking with her mom and some of my friends, I knew I had to show her off and it was perfect timing for Mr. GHS,” Jacob said. It was honestly kind of nerve racking [asking] in front of over 100 people but I am so glad I did because she loved it. The crowd was so happy for us and for the next

week, I had people coming up and congratulating us.”

During a brief intermission, audience members were asked to vote for Mr. Popularity, which was won by senior, Pete Hays.

“It was really fun to just goof around with the guys,” Pete said. “When accepting the award, it was really nice to look out into the audience and see all the people that voted for me and supported my silly antics. I’m so glad I got to experience the whole thing.”

The contestants themselves chose junior, Daniel Cho, for Mr. Congeniality.

“I entered Mr. GHS to just have fun with the boys and enjoy myself so winning was the last thing on my mind,” Cho said. “So when I won Mr. Congenial-

ity, I was really shocked and, to be honest, kind of confused. The whole experience was really enjoyable.”

Faculty judges included Ms. Riley, Ms. Yamashita, Mr. Tucker and Ms. Damrau to select Mr. GHS. By the end of the night, senior Luke Brodersen was crowned the winner.

“From the start it was total blast to hang out with the guys and just have a good time getting ready,” Luke said. “I’m very grateful because [Mr. GHS] could have gone to anyone. Everyone brought so much joy and energy; it was just a pleasure to be there.”



Photo By Ally Anderson

Mr. GHS contestants perform a kickline along with a choreographed dance before the categories begin.



Photo By Ally Anderson

Contestant Jacob McKittrick asks “Sharpay Evans” (Annie Rose) to Prom in the middle of his questionnaire.

Spring in to the Season

The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox. The term vernal is Latin for “spring” and equinox is Latin for “equal night.”

The first spring flowers are typically lilacs, irises, lilies, tulips, daffodils, and dandelions.

1.5 million students go on spring break every year and collectively spend over one billion dollars.

According to Greek myth, the return of spring coincides with the return of Persephone, the daughter of Demeter, who is the goddess of plants.

The early Egyptians built the Great Sphinx so that it points directly toward the rising sun on the spring equinox

South Padre Island, TX is the second largest domestic spring break destination with an attendance of 225,000 students reported in 2013.

Honeybees are more likely to swarm during the spring. They swarm as a way to start new colonies from successful ones. Surprisingly, swarming honeybees are very docile and the most friendly they will ever be all year.

Facts from: <https://www.factretriever.com/spring-facts>
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/spring-break-2015-interesting-facts-brian-roblyer>

S U D O K U

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BY VALERIE GARZA

ARIES: MARCH 21-APRIL 20

While some emotional things may be going on in the background, Aries in May are going to receive a blast of positive energy. During this special month you will feel motivated to learn, try new things, and share your ideas!

TAURUS: APRIL 21-MAY 21

For Taurus signs, May is about clearing out all of the negative energy in their life and making room for new beginnings. It's time to pay attention to yourself and possibly even learn new things about yourself that you wouldn't expect.

GEMINI: MAY 22 - JUNE 22

With the coming of April, Gemini signs' social life will receive a lot of attention! Because there may be a few bumps along the road this month, it's smart to remember that your friends are always there for you. Self-motivation will come to you this month, so now's the time to take up a leader role and work towards your goals.

CANCER: JUNE 23-JULY 23

In May, Cancer will feel a need to make special time to recharge with relaxation and self-care. This month, do your best to take advantage of all opportunities, but don't overwork yourself and listen to your body when it tells you to slow down.

LEO: JULY 24- AUGUST 23

This month Leo signs will be pulled out of their comfort zone, take on new challenges, and grow more self-confidence. Leos will know what they need and will do all that it takes to get it done. It's time to branch out and try new things, and without a doubt Leos will be recognized for what they do in these new areas.

VIRGO: AUGUST 24-SEPTEMBER 23

For Virgos, the month of May is a power period and a time to perform and be energized about their goals. You're in touch with your ambitions and ready to take on any challenge that you come face to face with. This month you will be recognized as a true leader and will explore unusual and different interests.

LIBRA: SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 23

In the month of May, the thing that will create the most happiness and success is cooperating with others. Relationships will be tested, but what Libras need to keep in mind is that the strongest relationships will endure any hardship thrown at them.

SCORPIO: OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 22

While there may be some blocks throughout the month of May, certain events and circumstances this month will result Scorpios taking better care of themselves. It's also an excellent time to use your talents more often and embark on new projects!

SAGITTARIUS: NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 22

This May, Sagittarius signs may realize that there are situations in their life that are preventing them from expressing themselves freely. Focus on your relationships, for your closest loved ones will guide you and encourage you to be positively yourself!

CAPRICORN: DECEMBER 23-JANUARY 19

Though Capricorns may come across some family problems in May, all it means is quality time to get your personal life in order. Ultimately, this will bring more joy at home and more time to understand yourself and your needs! Communications between you and your loved ones will improve this month, resulting in more confidence.

AQUARIUS: JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 19

May will be a busy month for Aquarius signs, so it's best for these signs to take advantage of any moment they have for themselves. You are in charge this May, and there's nothing stopping you from deciding what's best for you.

PISCES: FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 20

May is the perfect time for Pisces signs to build their talents and take care of business. Keep an eye out for any opportunities that you feel are right for you and don't be afraid to share your ideas with others! There is no doubt that this month you will be recognized for your efforts, talents, and accomplishments.