

Hopewell Hi-Lites

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Hopewell's Giving Thanks

BY: GIOVANNI KREBS

What are you thankful for?



Ally Honeywill: I'm thankful for my family, friends, and everything that I have since some people don't have a lot.

Does your family have any Thanksgiving traditions?



Ean Maxwell: We have turkey butter, butter in the shape of a turkey.

Where do you go for Thanksgiving?



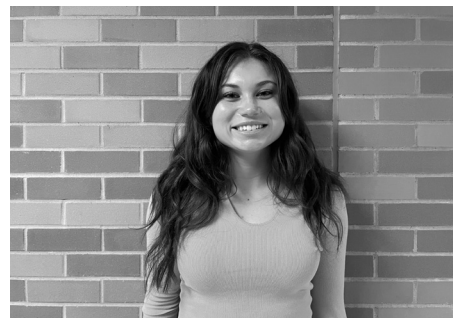
Landen Kramer: It depends, usually I go to my grandparent's house or my aunt's house.

Does your family have any Thanksgiving traditions?



Mr. Byrnes: My wife's family always has homemade lasagna for Thanksgiving which is a bit unusual but they also have the turkey and mashed potatoes and so forth.

What is your favorite Thanksgiving memory?



Mary Adams: Whenever my dog ran away three years ago and we were searching for her until midnight and we found her at three in the morning.

Does your family have any Thanksgiving traditions?



Ms. McClintock: We go around the dinner table and say what we're thankful for.

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Being A Soup-er Hero

BY: ISABELLA TIMPANO

Thanksgiving dinner: a time to enjoy family and a nice home-cooked meal. But what about the families that don't get to enjoy that luxury during the holidays? That's where the Hopewell National Honors Society comes in with their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Hopewell has been hosting an annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for many years. History teacher Mrs. Meyers remembers the food drive opening when J&L Steel closed down in 1988, as that was the first time the community showed great need. Math teacher Mr. Smith noted how the food drive has been happening all 29 years that he has been a Viking. With many different sponsors over its duration, current sponsor Mr. Smith recognizes the food drive has touched the hearts of many.

"We believe the charity begins at home, so we want to help the people in our district first. So the teachers started this years ago, NHS was sort of the vehicle for doing it, but now it's really just morphed into a community-wide

thing."

In a community with struggles, it's important to have people who care and act in times of need. Although these struggles may not always be visible, Mr. Smith acknowledges that there are hundreds of people who could use support all around the world every single day.

"It's just the idea of being able to give back. Let's face it, in this country if you have three meals a day and a roof over your head then you're richer than a lot of the population in the entire world."

The idea of giving back may seem daunting at times, but the important aspect is to realize and to put into perspective what donating could mean for someone.

"We just have to recognize that we can sacrifice a little bit and give back to people in need, especially around the holidays when purse strings are a little bit tighter."

Not only do the people that receive get full tables for the holidays, but the kids who give in these times of need get full hearts that will not soon forget these kind acts.

"They're not feeling the pinch each holiday, but then when

they see others, and how much other people need it, I think it does contribute to their benefit too."

Mr. Smith acknowledged a quote from Mahatma Gandhi in regards to how helping others has shaped him.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Gandhi effortlessly reflects what Mr. Smith, and hundreds of others feel in the holiday season, as helping others inevitably has an effect on the volunteers.

From Mr. Smith, Mr. Nelson, and any and all sponsors of the Hopewell Thanksgiving Food Drive, they want to thank you.

They thank the community for the support, and they thank all of the students and past volunteers that make this happen every year. In the end, it truly is a season of thanks, and a time of extending gratitude throughout the entire community.

"It's important to have empathy for people that need some help. So, anything we can do as a community to lift those people up, that's our job."

NUMBER 22

BY: JOSHUA FRANK JR.

Intensity, integrity, and intelligence are just 3 words to describe senior Abby Oldham. Her journey to this year has been one of many various accomplishments ranging from clubs, grades, and sports. She is ready to make her last year a success.

Abby couldn't do it without her two highest importances. Family and friends have inspired her to give a non-stop effort in her senior year, especially when running for and winning the secretary position for the 2023 Class Club.

Senior peers, Bella Leseiko, Autumn Redinger, Sophia Pulvino, and Madi Krah, the self-proclaimed "Fab 5," would end up winning the other positions.

"Having them and my other friends support truly drove me to continue forward," said Abby. Achieving this goal wasn't an easy task but the support backed by friends and family is something Abby applies in all of her activities.

Volleyball has always been a part of Abby's life. "Playing for this long has been very rewarding," said Abby. She has been an all-star student and also an outstanding player who has lettered two times and made the Second Team All Section this year.

Abby has truly given her all to the sport. The commitment she has to the game, based on her joining clubs outside of school and the six years she has been playing for the school, made Abby into not only a note-worthy player but a

supportive teammate.

Abby has been able to become a leader on her team, resulting in respect from underclassmen. Junior Azure Humphries said, "I have always looked up to Abby on the court, she doesn't say much but she's the best teammate I've ever had. She may not know it, but she's gotten me through some tough times in the past two years. I think we could all take a page out of Abby's book as to how to live life."

Respect for Abby goes beyond volleyball. One of her best friends, senior Bella Leseiko said, "Abby has been my best friend for 13 years. I seriously don't know what I'd do without her. She is constantly pushing me to become a better person everyday."

All of these years of hard work, respect, and honor would lead to a special night she will remember for the rest of her life—senior night. "It was really great. Everyone was there. It was all a big remembrance of the years prior."

With her family and peers in the crowd, she played an amazing game with a show of talent for an extra special night for her and her teammates. Abby's senior night is just the start of the final journey that will be one worth watching.

This year is already as impactful as Abby intended, so leaving won't be as easy as she might have thought. But, her next steps lead her to college. Although undecided on where, she wants to continue playing volleyball.

Hopewell students can all agree with Azure when she said, "I'm sad to see her graduate but also very excited to see what great accomplishments she will achieve in the future."

Excitement is an understatement when thinking of what the next few years hold for her. She is ready to finish this year off strong and head into the future with a head held up high. Good luck Abby!





How To Care

BY: PAYTON ROCK

I am here for you. You are here for me. We are here for each other.” This saying is a foundation of what the Highmark Caring Place stands for. November 17th is Children’s Grief Awareness Day and here at Hopewell, we want to acknowledge and show support for peers around us that deal with grief daily. We want to use this as a day to recognize their need and lift others up who might be feeling blue.

With three locations spanning Pennsylvania, the Caring Place has grown in order to reach more people that may need their help. Despite this, many people still are not aware of what the Caring Place does.

According to their website, “The Highmark Caring Place is a family-centered, child-focused, peer support program. It is family-centered because, when a family member dies, the whole family grieves, and therefore the whole family needs support.”

The Caring Place is a peer-sup-

port group that allows children from all ages to connect with others going through the same things they are.

If you are curious as to how you could help, there are options here at Hopewell on November 17th, which is Grief Awareness Day.

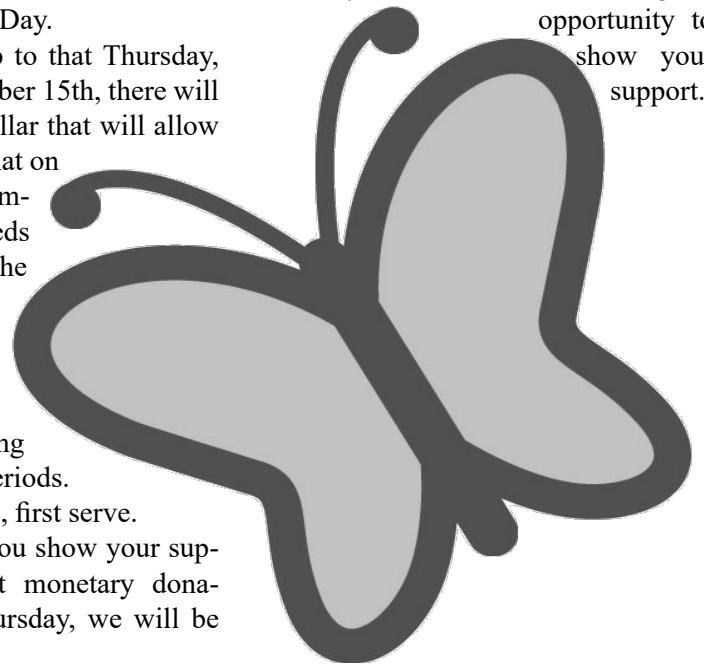
Leading up to that Thursday, on Tuesday November 15th, there will be stickers for a dollar that will allow students to wear a hat on Wednesday, November 16th. All proceeds will go towards the Caring Place.

Additionally, on the actual day, there will be cookie decorating during all lunch periods.

It will be first come, first serve.

How can you show your support, even without monetary donations? Well on Thursday, we will be having a blue out.

Spread awareness and wear as much blue as you can on November 17th for Children’s Grief Awareness. Remember to take the time to be kind. You never know who is struggling and days such as this are a great opportunity to show your support.





SPORTS VOICES

Boys Soccer Team Makes Playoffs After Decade

BY: GAVIN LYSCIK

While the season may be over, the Hopewell Boys' Soccer Team is making great strides. For the first time in over a decade, the team qualified for the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) playoffs.

The team advanced to the playoffs after a 1-0 win against Riverside, resulting in an overall 6-6 record in the section. It was then followed by the playoff game against Deer Lakes, which ended with a 0-1 loss, Deer Lakes having scored on a corner kick during the 2nd half.

Upon hearing that they made the playoffs, defender Landen Mukanos-Kramer said, "We all felt really proud about it. There were definitely good spirits all around the team, and we were all obviously really happy that we achieved that spot."

Landen agreed that, while there is room for improvement, they did well in their overall performance throughout

the season and playoffs.

"I think we did really good. Our record shows this is the first winning record we've had in ten years and made a playoff spot," said Landen.

"Everyone stepped up, including the freshmen, all the juniors. In the playoff game, against a team that's been one of the best 2A teams for the past five years, we held them to one goal."

Winger Chris Colonna agreed, "We did good. I think we could have done a lot better, but I think we did a lot of good this year."

The season wouldn't be without its sacrifices, as it's also the last season for Corey Obeldobel, the team's captain and senior. Losing Corey will have a great impact on the team, but they're confident that they'll manage in his absence.

Colonna said that Corey's absence would affect "Having a tank at a center back." He described how Corey had a really good influence on the team,

being very positive, very friendly, and an overall fun guy to be around.

"I mean, he's been the captain for two years, and he's our starting center back," said Landen. "He's had a really big impact on this team, and it'll be a hard spot to fill after him being in there for so long. He'll definitely be missed, but I feel like we have some good people that'll fill in the spot."

The team is optimistic about future seasons, believing they'll continue the quality streak that they've kept throughout the season and qualify for future playoffs.

"Yeah, I think the sky's the limit for the team," said Landen. "I know we're definitely going to get better, the freshmen are going to get way better, everybody's going to get more experience, and we're going to have seventeen season seniors. We're going to be really good next year, even better than this year."





Should Gavi have Really Won the Kopa Trophy?

BY: LANDEN KRAMER

The Kopa Trophy is an award given to the best soccer player (footballer) under the age of 21. The award is named after former French footballer Raymond Kopa. Previous Ballon D'or winners nominate their top 3 players. For those who don't know soccer, the Ballon D'or is given to the best footballer in a calendar year.

On Monday, October 17, 2022, Pablo Martin Paez Gavira, better known as Gavi, lifted the trophy. He is a midfielder for FC Barcelona, and he also plays on the Spanish national team. This is the second time in a row that a Barcelona midfielder won the award.

There has been a lot of controversy over Gavi lifting the trophy all around the globe, and a lot of the people, including myself, think that there was another nominee in particular that should have won instead. There were 10 nominees for the award, with the likeness of teammates such as Karim Adeyemi Jude Bellingham, Eduardo

Camavinga, Gavi. The player that the majority thought actually deserved the award more was Jude Bellingham.

Jude and Gavi were the top 2 contestants that were slighted the most to win.

Most people that watched soccer thought that Jude was the clear favorite to win the award.

Jude had 6 goals and 14 assists as a central midfielder. He played 40 games last season, which is almost as much as Camavinga and Musiala combined. He has also won 433 challenges, which is the third most in any league in the world, and he's only 19 years old. Jude covered 333.8 kms this season, which is about 10.5 kms per game last season. He is also the captain of the German giant club Borussia Dortmund. And he is also on the England national first team, as a teenager. On the other hand, Gavi only had 2 goals through all competitions and only 5 assists. This means that Jude Bellingham has had almost 3 times as many goal contributions as Gavi had

throughout the 21/22 season.

Julian Nagellsmann, the head coach of Dortmund's rival club Bayern Munich, said that Jude Bellingham was more deserving of the award than Gavi was.

Alphonso Davies weighed in on the matter on twitter and said, "They may have denied you of your Kopa trophy, but they won't deny you of your future Ballon D'or."

Everything added up points in the direction that Jude Bellingham was a better footballer than Gavi, plain and simple. He had more production than Gavi and has more of an impact on his club. He is one of the brightest youngsters in world football and it will be exciting where his career takes him and what trophies he will win.

Greatest Hockey Franchise

BY: AARON MINEARD

The Pittsburgh Penguins have shown that they can be the best franchise in the NHL.

Over the past 55 years, the Penguins have been one of the most dominant franchises in hockey.

They have won 5 Stanley Cup Championships: '91, '92, '09, '16 and '17. They also have 6 conference championships won throughout the 90's and early 2000's. Along with 6 conference titles, they have 9 division championships.

Not only has the team had great success, the Pens have had some of the greatest players of all time. Throughout the team's history they have had legends such as Mario Lemieux, Sidney Crosby, Jaromir Jagr, Evgeni Malkin, Kris Letang, and Marc-Andre Fleury.

If we were talking about the NHL's greatest players, I would say

Mario Lemieux is the greatest player of all time. He is first all-time in playoff goals scored per game, and he is one of the first players to bring a Stanley Cup to Pittsburgh.

Most people think that there are better teams than the Penguins, but Pittsburgh is the city of champions and the people of Pittsburgh think that the Penguins are the greatest hockey franchise of all time.

In the modern era, Sidney Crosby has taken the torch from Lemieux. Scoring 522 goals and 1,421 points, he is 3rd all-time in goals and is 5th all time in points. He has won 3 Stanley Cups in '09, '16 and '17 in a trio with Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang.

Evgeni Malkin is also overlooked as a top 100 player of all time, he has helped Crosby win 3 Stanley Cup titles and has also scored 1,000

points with Sidney Crosby. Many say Kris Letang is not as good as other players in the league, but he has helped Crosby and Malkin win 3 Stanley Cups as the "third wheel" of the great trio.

These great players have also proven to be great humans. Like Mario Lemieux, Sidney Crosby has done many significant things for hockey. He is the youngest captain to win the Stanley cup, along with Kris Letang and Evgeni Malkin. Sidney Crosby is also known for having a feud with the Washington Capital's Alex Ovechkin. It's significant because NHL players like these two are known for getting into fights with each other.

Cups, legends and good dudes; what other franchise can claim such greatness?





How Should Sports Cheaters be Punished?

BY: DANIEL J. EARLEY

In 2017, the Houston Astros led one of the biggest sporting scandals in recent history. They conducted one of the worst sign-stealing scandals of all time.

During the 2017 season the Astros had a video camera in center field to film the catcher's signs to the pitcher. They had a live camera feed behind the dugout and used audio cues to tell what pitches were coming. That year the Astros won the world series.

The punishments that were given by the MLB were very soft. The Astros' general manager Jeff Luhnow and field manager A.J. Hinch were suspended for the 2020 season. The Astros were fined \$5 million and had their first and second round picks in the 2020 and 2021 drafts taken away. No players on the roster were punished because they were given immunity by the MLB if they cooperated.

If you look at what the Astros gained from cheating, these punishments were very soft. They won the 2017 world series, but Jose Altuve (Astros 2nd Baseman) won the 2017 American League Most Valuable Player. Jose stole the MVP from Aaron Judge (New York Yankees Right Fielder) because Jose knew what pitches were coming. When you can expect what pitch is coming it is much easier

to get a hit. Which was a vital component in helping him win the MVP.

Knowing that information, it's obvious that so much was given to the team that cheated. They basically got away with it. Their coaches were able to return, they won the world series, and Jose won the MVP. Players should have been punished with the evidence presented to the MLB. Altuve should have been suspended, fined, and his reputation ruined. Sports leagues are weak when punishing players that are caught cheating.

The MLB should take into consideration that from now on the 2017 world series was won by cheaters. During the World Series Altuve's home batting average was .472 and his on base percentage was .513. At away games his batting average was .143 and his on base percent was .268. This proves the Astros had a way better chance to win at home when they had their cheating setup with them.

Fast forward to today, the Astros are currently in the World series

against the Philadelphia Phillies. So the MLB taking away those draft picks really didn't affect the productivity of the Astros. As well as none of the players on the 2017 roster being punished, many of Houston's stars continue to dominate the league.

In the future the MLB should consider harsh punishments when dealing with such serious events that result in changing the whole history of the league as we know it.





Life 360: To Protect or Possess?

BY: ASPYN BEHR

Imagine someone tracking your every move for every second of the day. Unfortunately for a lot of teens, this is their everyday reality. Some say that the popular tracking app Life360 provides a resource for keeping track of your loved ones as a safety measure.

Although that was the intended purpose of the app Life360, it is starting to be used incorrectly. Typically, apps like Life360 are branded as tools to guarantee a parent's peace of mind. However, the truth is that Life360 and similar apps have only worsened child-parent relationships. An article from the New York Times says research shows that adolescents who believe their parents have invaded their privacy go on to have higher levels of conflict at home.

Teenagers who resent being trailed digitally sometimes disable location features or leave their phones at friends' houses to throw parents off their scent. This can potentially cause more safety problems than there initially were. It can be more dangerous in the case that a teen does leave their phone behind and they need a way of contacting someone they won't be able to.

Apps like these often confuse teens and leave them wondering why their parents don't trust them. Teens

who are constantly being tracked by their parents tend to have lower self-esteem and bad self-image. This can potentially cause problems in life beyond adolescence and into adulthood.

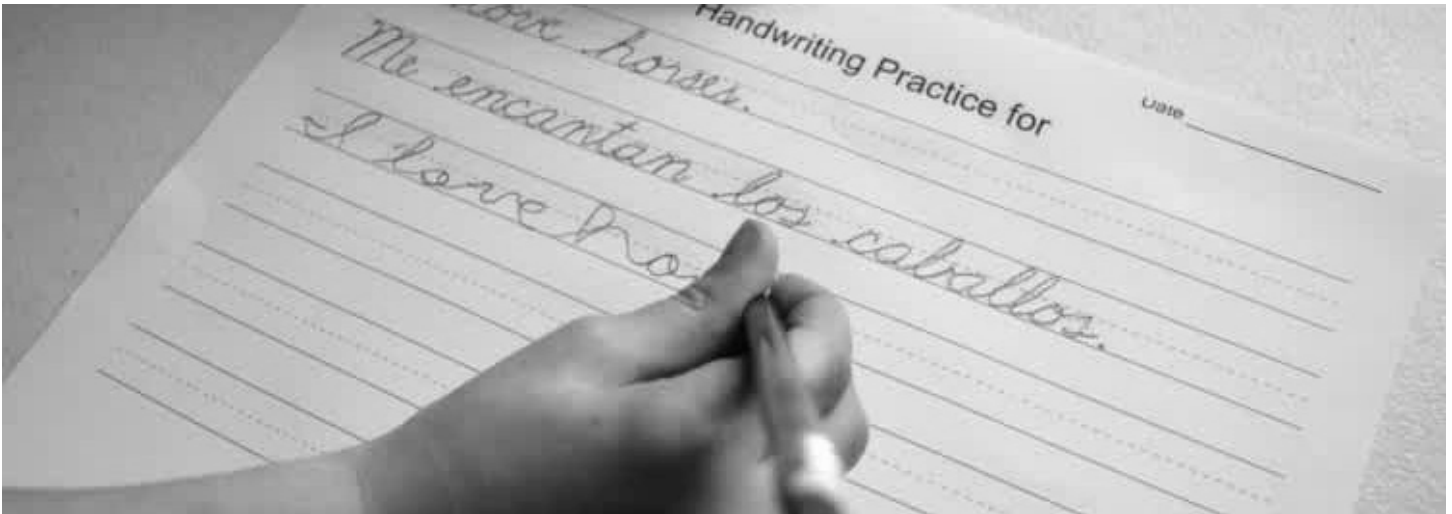
Teens that feel they are constantly being monitored are more likely to develop issues like anxiety and lack of confidence. In addition to this, being tracked obsessively can potentially cause issues in teens' social life and make it difficult for young adults to develop a trusting relationship with others.

Not every aspect of tracking apps like Life360 is negative. If used correctly, the app can be a very good way to exercise trust and safety.

Unfortunately, in most situations this is not the case. More than often they are used in ways that are controlling and manipulative. Parents should learn to trust their teens to be able to navigate the world on their own because if you don't trust your child to make the correct decisions, what makes you think they even trust themselves?

Being coddled constantly as a teen won't allow someone to fully develop into a self-sustaining responsible adult. So before you think about installing a tracking device onto your teen's phone, think about all the ways it could be negatively affecting them long term.





Cursive Isn't Dead Yet

BY: SUZY DEPACE

Over the years, cursive has become a dying art. As the use of computers and typing has grown over time, people feel that there is no need for cursive. Although cursive is used less, it is still a beneficial everyday skill that people should incorporate into their lives.

Writing in cursive provides many benefits, including enhanced motor skills, improved literacy from an early age, and even in some cases, helps with dyslexia.

According to *The Case for Cursive: 6 Reasons Why Cursive Handwriting is Good for Your Brain*, cursive is proven to get the entire brain working, as it provides a flow of thought as well as a flow of words. Writing in cursive can also help retain more of the information being written down. As there is more of a focus on writing, there is also more of a focus on content. Paying more attention to what you are writing can also result in better spelling.

From *The New York Times* article, *A Defense of Cursive*, From a 10-Year-Old National Champion, Virginia Berninger, a retired professor of University of Washington says, "We think those connecting strokes help children link the letters into word units, which helps their spelling. Handwriting also allows children to write fluidly and quickly, which can lead to longer stories and essays." On top of this, students will be able to take notes faster in school.

Knowing how to write in cur-

sive should be a widely-known practical life skill, as signing your name is a standard requirement as an adult. If taught the proper technique, students will have a tool they can apply later in life that gives them more options, including knowing how to write their signature correctly, being able to quickly write notes, and improving their writing. If schools kept up with teaching cursive, kids could be excelling at it now, therefore thriving in efficiently taking notes.

Data from a randomly selected group of Hopewell High School students suggests that cursive is dying here. Of the 22 students polled, 23 percent said they did not remember how to write in cursive. Out of those that said they did remember, only 22 percent said they use cursive regularly, with only 27 percent knowing how to write their signature.

The argument can be made that cursive is starting to lose its practical usefulness completely, but truly, cursive is too important to let die out.

Some argue that there is less of a need for cursive due to the constant increase in the use of computers, but the reality is that we need both. Most of our communication is done online, and the rest is with print. But, although typing is practical when you need it, cursive is also useful when you need it.

Teens will try to make the argument against cursive, but the truth is that they are too stubborn to accept

the truth and make the change. Kids cheat their way through their writing by scribbling their way through, as many people have terrible, sloppy handwriting. Cursive can help improve the looks of handwriting if you learn it properly. All cursive is connecting letters with loops, a simple technique that provides a simple answer to writing quickly.

In *The New York Times* Article, *Should All Schools Teach Cursive?*, Kathleen Wright, a former worker for Zaner-Bloser, a company that publishes cursive workbooks, says, "After they got rid of handwriting, now they're all rediscovering it." Time shows that cursive writing can never be lost completely.

Virginia Berninger, a retired University of Washington professor, has conducted research on the ways children learn when using print or script, and has an interesting perspective on what it means.

"People mistakenly assumed because we had computers, we didn't need handwriting. We need both."

Cursive is not dead, it's still flowing. Like a ballpoint pen on paper, cursive helps ideas connect and flow. It shouldn't be forgotten, because cursive simply provides too many benefits. So, next time you pick up a pencil or pen, try writing in cursive for a change.



Homework Don't Work

BY: OLIVIA SEDLACEK

Three hours—that's the average amount of time high school students spend on homework per day according to Stanford.edu. Homework can be helpful, but teachers need to limit it.

Students are in school for about 6-7 hours per school day. That's 32-33 hours each week. In total, students spend about 48 hours dedicated to school in a five day week. If a student gets 8 hours of sleep, spends 7 hours in school, and does 3 hours of homework, that leaves them only 6 hours to do any extracurricular activities, sports, and/or downtime. In those 6 hours you also have to eat, get ready for bed, and do other at-home chores. There just isn't enough time.

Studies from stanford.edu have shown that 56% of stress is from homework. Spending more time on homework than the recommended amount of 90 minutes or less has been linked to higher rates of anxiety

and depression. Stress can affect your thoughts, feelings, and also cause health problems.

Without homework, there would be more free time for students and more time for them to socialize. According to an argument by Vivien Williams at mayoclinic.org, socializing is important because it not only lowers stress, it also sharpens memory and cognitive skills. Free time gives students a break from their daily pressures and stresses from school. The amount of homework given should be less because it will provide students more time to socialize.

Homework does have some benefits. It has been proven to increase test scores, but only up to a point. According to an article written by Harris Cooper at sedl.org, students who spend less than 90 minutes on homework perform better on tests than students who spend more time on homework. So, there is value to homework,

but at least according to one study, it should be less than 90 minutes a day.

Another practical benefit to having some homework is that it can serve as a grade booster. If teachers give points for completion, homework can provide positive points to support students who may have difficulty on tests. Homework reinforces classroom learning and helps students develop good study habits. It also helps students be more responsible. But it just needs to be limited.

If teachers limit the amount of homework, then students may have better academic success and well-being. Less homework can lower students' stress. School dominates students' lives, but they also need time to work, play, socialize and relax. We need to balance students' lives as people with their lives as students. Limiting homework is a necessary step toward valuing young adults.



Should there still be snow days?

BY: KENDRA ONUSKA

Who doesn't like snow days? It's a whole day off from school. You can sleep in and relax, or play in the snow. However, due to coronavirus and online classes, those nostalgic memories are coming to an end.

Most students greatly enjoy breaks from school. Snow days can be used for everyone to restart and refresh. Taking time off on snow days can relieve lots of stress on students and even teachers. Children are staring into screens all day almost everyday. Instead of experiencing the same old migraines and headaches from electronics, they should be able to enjoy themselves and be kids. With snow days, kids will be able to make memories, relax, and recharge.

On the other hand, are snow days really necessary? The winter season is already full of breaks. If we continue to have snow days it will cause the current school year to go further into our summer breaks.

However, virtual learning eliminates that disadvantage. If schools go virtual on snow days, sum-

mer break will start on the originally scheduled date. Here at Hopewell, we were given FIDS, work specifically made for snow days. With FIDS, we won't have to make up any days of school that were snow days.

Furthermore, after having many days off from school it may be hard for teachers and students to keep focus and find motivation to do their work. With virtual learning, that loss

of motivation would be abolished. Hence, eliminating snow days would save both students and teachers from excessive stress in the school environment.

Snow days are beneficial. We should still have snow days and we shouldn't have to work virtually or on FIDS. Instead, we should be enjoying ourselves and keeping those same old memories alive.





Should School Start Later?

BY MIA GARGIULO

It has been debated and tested whether students should start school later. There are factors that prevent this change, but are there benefits to starting later?

According to kidshealth.org, a teenager's sleep pattern is different from an adults or child's. Teenagers are programmed to fall asleep later and sleep in later.

A 2014 School Health Policies and Practices Study states that 93% of high school students in the U.S. start school earlier than 8:30. It has been proven that students perform better in school when they get more sleep. A study by the National Sleep Foundation found that graduation rates increased at schools that start at 8:30 or later.

The National Sleep Foundation also found that attendance rates increased when schools started later than 8:30. It's easier for students to arrive at school on time if they can wake up later. Students have less of a rush to leave in the morning and are less likely to miss the bus. Additionally, the likelihood that students will fall asleep

during class decreases.

Student athletes need more sleep for their safety when playing sports. Studies show that student athletes that are not getting enough sleep are at a higher risk of injury because sleep deprivation impairs an athlete's reaction time, which can lead to serious injuries.

One common argument for school starting earlier is after-school activities. Students participate in sports, extracurricular activities, and/or have jobs which is why students are sleep deprived. However, if schools were to move the start time 30 minutes later, then students are only getting out of school 30 minutes later, which still gives students plenty of time for their after-school activities.

And as mentioned before, teenagers fall asleep later and get up later. Therefore, this different school dismissal time would be more beneficial for the students.





Cash Course: Economics

BY: MARY ADAMS

School was created so children of a community can learn skills, knowledge and morals that will help prepare them for society. Any type of design starts with a foundation and the common core classes taught in school are the base for students in the overall scheme to produce educated people in society.

The common core curriculum consists of math, science, history and literature. These classes are purposefully designed and are efficient because students have the ability to move schools and are still on the same track they were at their old school. The curriculum is traditional and focuses on critical thinking, but it is missing an important class that has a major impact on lives—economics.

Economics is the knowledge of production, consumption, and the transfer of wealth: all vital things in the world that people need to be aware of. An economics class would consist of a curriculum that educates students on saving, borrowing, investing and working.

Money controls the economy and when students graduate, they need to be prepared for these types of things because economics is part of life everyday. People never stop buying, things are never not sold, loans are never going to be extinct. Money will be around until the end of time.

Students have a base for critical thinking, but a basic understanding of the economy is just as important. There are 48 million students that are borrowing money for college according to the source Student Loan Hero. Research shows that on average it takes about 21 years for a college graduate to pay off their student loans.

Loans are typically supposed to be paid off in 10 years, but with other costs time is only added. This process is messy and with many high school students looking to pursue a college degree the steps to get there are confusing and not cheap. An economics class can help them understand this process.

Lots of high school students

already have jobs. Everyone has a different goal of what they want to do with their money. Some students want to save, while others may want to have more spending money. Everyone has different thoughts, but without an economics class these opinions on what to do with their money may not be the best financially for them. Economics can teach students in the workforce how to save and explain what their paychecks really mean.

An economics class can teach students lots of important skills that will impact the rest of their life. 83% of students have expressed that they want an economics class added to their curriculum to help for the future.

If students don't learn basic financing in school, where will they learn it from? They will be thrown into the world and have to try to balance their income and debt while still learning it.



Should Gifted Education Programs Be Eliminated?

BY: GRACE GOLD

How are gifted education programs affecting students and families today is the question we need to be asking ourselves. Many public schools in America offer gifted programs for students that appear to be academically gifted. This way of testing/choosing students is not an accurate process.

In order to be tested for a gifted program, a student needs to be recommended by either their parent/guardian or their teacher. If the student's teacher(s) and parents aren't paying much attention to what and how the student is doing in school, then there's no way for that student to get the opportunity to get tested for giftedness even though they are just as advanced if not more advanced than students in gifted.

"For almost 50 years the American educational system has struggled to define giftedness. Even now, there is no universally agreed-upon definition of what it means to be gifted," says the University of Virginia. gifted programs aren't diverse enough, and

the process is very inconsistent and disorganized.

The inconsistency of the testing process is a downside to gifted, but a benefit of it is that many gifted programs offer extracurricular activities for students to do that provide extra challenges that are enjoyed. This is a great way to get gifted students the extra work and the extra material they need.

While these options are fantastic for the students, they need to be more available, and available to more students. Instead of testing a handful of students, these kinds of opportunities to join these programs should be more accessible. More often than not, these activities, work, and trips to and from events cost money. In order to get money, fundraisers and sales should be held, which would give the students something even more to do, and it would provide funding for these projects.

"I enjoy the options that they have available for me and that they have extracurricular activities that

challenge me," said Allison Honeywill, a 9th grade student that is in the Hopewell High School Gifted Program. it's good that they often have these challenging and engaging activities readily available, they just need to be available for more students.

For example, the NHS (National Honors Society) is a group of students that have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and they go on certain field trips and do fundraisers. But for Hopewell's gifted program, there's no motivation or something to strive to achieve to be able to join gifted. If there was a criteria or goal that could be reached in order to be able to join gifted, that would very much broaden opportunities for many more students.

Overall, gifted education programs should be kept in schools, but the opportunities that are available to gifted students should be available to many other students. A goal should be set so that students can strive to reach that goal.



Star Wars: Ahead of its Time

BY: ISABELLA PAWLO

Star Wars has been a beloved franchise throughout the years. Not only is it timeless, but it is also something that has arguably kept its enjoyment factor. Star Wars was ahead of its time, especially technology-wise.

It's an amazingly written franchise, but some may not be aware that it also has a military history but that's for another day. Star Wars blurs the lines between Sci-Fi and Fantasy, tapping into our most fundamental myths and archetypes to tell the ultimate story of a heroic few overcoming a terrible evil. The original trilogy shaped countless childhoods and gave us some of the greatest cinematic moments ever.

What amazes me is the fact that George Lucas came up with such an extraordinary script at a time when we were not advanced enough in technology to even produce many of the special effects for the movie. George Lucas created one big script which was too large to make just one movie. He had to cut the script into multiple "acts" and created the Stars Wars Trilogy. People enjoyed his ideas of the Star Wars trilogy so much that there are still spinoffs today, fifty years later.

Due to technical and storytelling reasons he had to produce the films in a whole new order. Lucas divided the story into three separate films and had also developed a backstory "prequel" for his tale. Together, it to-

taled six chapters, and Lucas sought to make Episode IV first because it required the least special effects. He hoped technology would advance to create believable special effects for the other episodes.

Star Wars is an amazingly written franchise that had a rough start but pushed through. There was so much writing that the script had to be broken down into three parts and the cool cinematic visuals Lucas wanted to have were so advanced that our technology wasn't ready for it yet. In the end everything worked out.



CANCEL CULTURE

BY: ELLA RITCHART

In a world that revolves heavily around social media, you have probably heard the term canceled. It feels like almost every other day a celebrity or influencer is getting canceled.

When something gets canceled it's done, finished, through, like your TV subscriptions or the plans you made. It's the same thing when it comes to celebrities.

When a celebrity gets canceled, their fan base withdraws their support, or boycotts them. Usually it's for a reason, hopefully a good one. But whether they actually did do something offensive, or were simply just stating their opinion, many celebrities have felt the wrath of cancel culture.

Recently, Kanye West's actions have been brought to light. In a recent interview for a podcast, West said a numerous amount of offensive things, including his opinion that George Floyd died of drug overdose.

His outrageous actions and comments have led to many compa-

nies terminating partnerships with West. According to CNN, Adidas, The Gap, and Balenciaga have all "severed ties with him." All of this has had an incredibly negative impact on his bank account. West has reportedly lost 2 billion dollars in just one day.

After years of controversial behavior Kanye West is finally being held responsible for his actions. He is losing money and credibility all due to cancel culture.

Cancel culture has a history of being harsh. In a world where everything is posted on social media, it's easy for people to jump on you about one small mistake.

One early example of the potential danger of cancel culture started in 2016, when Colin Kaepernick, former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, was wrongly canceled for kneeling during the national anthem before his games. Whether you agree with his actions or not, cancel culture went too far.

Kaepernick kneeled during

the national anthem to protest racial injustice and police brutality. His protests made national headlines, everyone was talking about him.

After the 2016 season, Kaepernick was a free agent. When no team wanted to sign him he filed complaints accusing the NFL of trying to keep him out of the league. He believed no team wanted him because he stood up for what he believed in. Cancel culture played a role in the loss of Kaepernick's football career.

Everyone has their own opinion about cancel culture. Some people say it is a "toxic trend" that is taking away people's right to voice their opinion, or it's a form of bullying and spreads unnecessary hate.

However, in my opinion, cancel culture is a good thing. It allows people to grow, recognize their mistakes, and fix them. It spreads a message that celebrities actions can not be excused simply because they are celebrities.

Is The Electoral College Still Relevant Today?

BY: TAYLOR ROBERTS

Are voters' voices truly being heard during the presidential election? Or is the Electoral College preventing that from happening? The Electoral College needs to be modified to make sure the voters of America are being heard.

The Electoral College is a body of electors from each state who formally cast the vote for the president of the United States of America. This was one of the many compromises of the Constitution. The votes individuals cast are the popular vote, but ultimately these electoral votes decide who is going to be the president.

It has been heavily debated whether or not the powers of this elite group should be discontinued. According to fairvote.org, there have been at least 700 amendment proposals to abolish or change the Electoral College. A Gallup Poll reported that during the 2020 presidential election 61 percent of Americans were in favor of abolishing the Electoral College.

Some Americans are in favor of keeping the Electoral College. They base this on three main reasons: the process ensures all parts of the country are involved in the final decision, the educated voters make the best decision and the electoral college allows all votes to have an impact.

It is believed that the Electoral College ensures that all parts of the country are involved in voting. This means the presidential candidates campaign in all parts of the country to make sure they secure all the electoral votes and it's not based on population.

This is not entirely true. The majority of presidential campaigns are spent in the bigger states, which contain the most electoral votes. These states are called swing states. The candidates try to secure these states

because if they win these states, they will definitely win the election, and in turn, they can ignore the smaller states.

Another perceived pro of the Electoral College is that educated people should make the final decision. The founding fathers wanted to put a safeguard in the election against "uninformed or uneducated voters" by having the electors who had the information make the final decision.

The intent of this was valid. At the time, voters couldn't get all the information they needed. Now, we are constantly bombarded with information through the internet and social media. People today also have many more opportunities to obtain a higher education. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 77.9 percent of college-educated voters turned out for the 2020 presidential election.

Even the founding fathers recognized the system wasn't perfect, Alexander Hamilton wrote in Federalist No. 68, "[If the Electoral College is] not perfect, it is at least excellent," because it made sure "that the office of President will nev-

er fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications."

The Electoral College doesn't prevent people from being elected that aren't qualified. There have been multiple times this has happened. In 2016, President Donald Trump won the electoral vote, but lost the popular vote by almost 2.9 million votes. Many people believe that he was not qualified to be the president because he had no past experience in politics and government, even at a local level.

Lastly, the Electoral College allows all votes to have an impact. The electors are supposed to vote in our favor and decision, but like most things in politics, it has become corrupt. They vote in their own interest and are swayed to one side over another. This leaves people with a sense that our voices and votes don't matter.

The odds of the Electoral College being abolished are very low, but our country should try to find a better solution to make sure everyone's voices are heard and keep democracy intact.

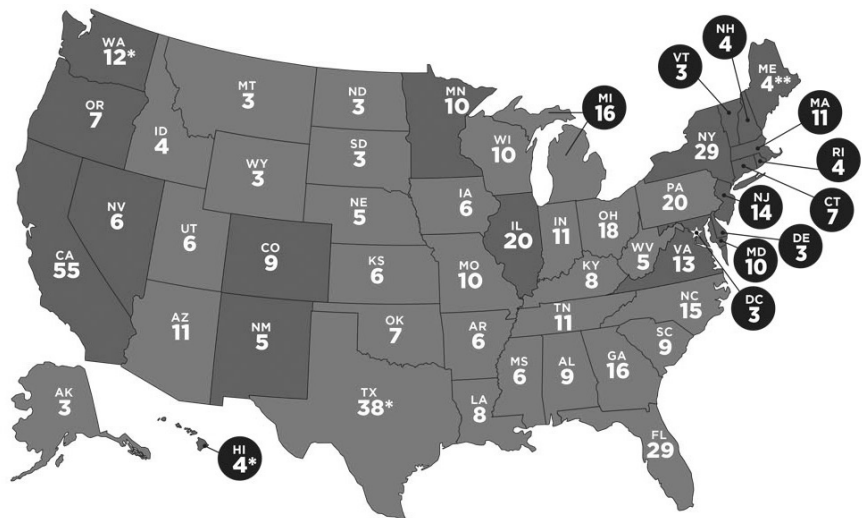


Photo by Jim McMahon/Mapman



Are Movie Theaters Still Relevant?

BY: MADISON GERARD

In the past couple years, movie theaters have been forgotten. Many movie companies have been sending movies straight to streaming, letting people watch the movies in the comfort of their own home rather than go to a theater. As a result, theaters are losing money, and in some cases closing.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, movies had to be released on streaming services. So people got used to this. According to statenews.com, movie theaters had 63 nationwide releases in America in 2019. Within the next year, the number of movies released was only 39. On various streaming services, 84 new movies were released.

It's obvious that streaming is favored by many companies due to their popularity. This causes many movie theaters to close down permanently because they haven't been getting enough money to stay in business. Regal movie theaters are closing because the Cineworld Group is filing for bankruptcy.

Many people say that streaming is flexible and convenient though. Streaming services allow a movie to be available for a longer period of

time, giving people a chance to watch shows and movies anytime. Due to this being so popular, streaming services have even created their own studios where they can produce their shows and movies.

Even though it's available, it takes away from the experience the filmmakers intended for the audience. At home there are many distractions as well, but in the theater everyone is focused on the big screen. We're losing ourselves as a community not going out together anymore. Ever since the pandemic we're going online to

do every little thing. For example, dates, meetings, or even just talking to our friends. We've been isolated for so long, that it's what we are used to. We should go and all watch movies together before that gets added to the list.

Streaming services are more available, cheaper, and more comfortable. This is what will cause movie theaters to eventually close and be forgotten about all together. People should be coming together as a community instead of being isolated.





“Superstar (Taylor’s Version)”

BY: ALLISON HONEYWILL

Superseding all other mega-stars, Taylor Swift is unquestionably the greatest artist of our generation. The 32-year-old, multi-talented singer/songwriter has an uncanny ability to produce amazing projects that inspire and are universally loved. Her tenth studio album, *Midnights*, is an immediate hit, receiving a 5-star review from *Rolling Stone* magazine.

Taylor has crept her way into our hearts through her relatable and intimate lyrics. Without hesitation or censoring, Taylor writes about her relationships with lovers, friends, family, the male-dominant music industry, and even the LGBTQ+ community.

Anyone can relate to at least one Taylor Swift song. From the pop hits of *Lover*, to the country bops of *Fearless*, and the storybook tales of *Folklore* and *Evermore*, with the extreme versatility of each album, it is impossible not to like at least one Taylor Swift song.

Hits from the late 2000s, such as “Our Song,” and “You Belong With Me,” have long lived in our hearts, as Taylor has dominated the music indus-

try for a whopping 16 years!

Mainstream artists have long idolized Taylor. Anyone who has heard the bridges of “All Too Well,” “Getaway Car,” and “Dear John,” can attest to why many artists admire Taylor’s lyrical superiority.

At only 20 years old, Taylor won Album of the Year at the Grammys, for her second album, *Fearless*. Taylor has won the award two more times for her albums *1989* and *Folklore*, making her the only female artist to win the coveted prize three times.

She has won Video of the Year three times, making her the most decorated artist in VMAs history. Taylor is also known to sweep the American Music Awards, which she holds the record with 32 wins. This further shows her stellar relationship with her supporters, as the winners are completely voted on by fans.

To top off her impressive resume, she has won an Artist of the Decade award not once but three times! Once again holding a record, Taylor has won Billboard Woman of the Year three times.

Taylor’s early success was predictable. As Taylor says, “People love an ingenue,” or an innocent woman. The youth and innocent presence of Taylor’s demeanor made her appealing to many fans and music executives. Her instant success seemed to be applauded by everyone as she continuously was being honored for some sort of award.

Other artists could only dream of what Taylor has accomplished in her career. She is not backing down, as her popularity is not declining, but increasing significantly.

For the past several years, the eye of the media has been focused on Taylor re-recording her masters under the form “(Taylor’s Version).” After Scooter Braun, an entertainment executive, acquired her masters and later sold them to a private equity company, she vowed to re-record all of her old masters, from her self-titled debut album to her 2017 album *Reputation*.

Denied the chance to purchase her masters, Taylor decided to re-record her albums produced under Big Machine Records to become the own-

er of the songs she wrote.

As she so perfectly says in the song, “My Tears Ricochet,” (a song dedicated to the private acquisition of her albums), “I didn’t have it in myself to go with grace.”

She most certainly did not back down with ease, as “(Taylor’s Version)” is at the zenith of its rising and influence. The re-records of her albums are the stepping stones in the path for many young artists.

Outside of her musical career, Taylor has an undeniable impact on society. In August 2017, she won a sexual assault trial, in which she symbolically sought one dollar.

While publicly addressing the trial, Taylor said that she sought the trial, “For me and anyone who feels silenced by a sexual assault.”

Standing up for sexual assault victims is a feat that should not be forgotten. The courage it takes to share private details of your life, let alone

with millions of fans and critics that have their eye on you, is not something that is easily summoned. Her trial has opened the door for silenced victims to find a way to seek justice.

The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network reported a 35% increase in calls the weekend following the verdict of the trial. Not only did she influence an increase in sexual assault reports, but she also greatly increased young adult voting rates.

According to Vote.org, within 24 hours of Taylor posting a voting plea to Instagram, young adult voting registries increased to almost 65,000. In the days following, the number escalated to greater than 102,000.

Many who oppose the superiority of Taylor Swift dislike her because of her song topics and extreme popularity. While it is true that she focuses many of her songs around her relationships, this is the very reason she is so popular. “Tim McGraw,”

“King of My Heart,” and “Lover,” are all songs about her relationships, the good and the bad, that have captured the hearts of millions.

There is no doubt that Taylor is one of the most popular entertainers in the world, yet that is no reason to hate her. Her extreme popularity is a projection of her true dominance and excellence in the music industry. Hating Taylor simply based on her popularity begs the question: Do you really hate her, or are you just jealous of a successful woman?

At this point, it is impossible to not like or at least admire Taylor Swift. Through her harrowing struggles with stolen albums and great feats of setting records, she has proved her true commitment and prominence in the entertainment industry. So next time you turn on the radio, give the greatest artist of our generation, Taylor Swift, a listen.





Productive or deadly? Autonomous Semi-Trucks

BY: JADEN CAMPBELL

The idea of autonomous semi-trucks is a scary thought. If you don't know what an autonomous vehicle is, it's any kind of motorized vehicle that can drive with driver assistance or in some cases on its own. The possibility of an autonomous semi-truck, opposed to a regular semi-truck. This still doesn't discount the cons of the idea. However the benefits for the companies could make a lot of sense. The question I ask is this, is safety worth the time efficiency?

The pros of having an autonomous semi-truck, if it's totally safe, could cut shipping times down significantly, save money for the company, reduce carbon emissions, and may even be more efficient on fuel.

The main problems with having autonomous semi-trucks on the roads would include safety concerns, and a loss of good paying jobs. Is it even safe? What happens if there is a car pileup?

Well, little you may know, there have been autonomous semi-trucks on the road already. The technology, while new, is being tested, and

surprisingly the crash rate isn't much different.

While considering this, most trucks were not fully autonomous, rather having a "driving assist". There are 6 classes of autonomous vehicles. Ranging from levels zero to five. Zero having no assist at all, two having partial driving automation, this partial autonomous driving is exclusive to highway driving. Level five being fully autonomous.

Examples of all three, zero being a car such as a 2014 Toyota corolla, no road/ driving warning. Level two being a Tesla Model 3, and Level Five not even being tested on actual roads yet. Now thinking of a fully autonomous Truck, weighing 80,000 pounds with a max speed of 75 miles per hour, getting released to the roads of America by 2025 without having any actual cars being a level five autonomous driving car could be a frightening thought. Hopefully the technology is good enough to not cause many fatalities on city roads and highways.

Another pro that these trucks may give is a better impact on the en-

vironment. Idling the truck at rest stops releases a lot of carbon in the environment. Not running the truck when it doesn't need to be could make a little bit of difference, however I don't see this as a huge improvement if the truck is already running on the road burning diesel.

Semi-trucks, and heavy duty vehicles that burn diesel in general, are the biggest contributors to carbon emissions. This is terrible for the environment. This doesn't really change much, especially with the idea of these heavy trucks not necessarily being safe in mind.

Many of the claims of the idea of a fully autonomous semi-truck seems like the company is just trying to save money, which is something you can't fault these companies for because as inflation rises in our nation, it gets harder and harder to live a normal life. But is this the right way to go? I don't think so. Risking physical health, let alone a person's life just for a cheaper alternative shouldn't be so.



Fall Fashion Trends

BY: OLIVIA GUZMA

Crisp air, colorful leaves, and cute clothes. Fall is the best season to dress to impress. The biggest fall 2022 trends have much to offer as we move from sundresses and sandals to chunky loafers, coats, and cozy layers. Some staple pieces to have in your closet this year are leather jackets/skirts/pants, neutral color sweaters, flair bottoms, knee-high boots, etc.

Leather is always in for fall. But this year's take on leather is different, coming in edgier and more excessive. From moto jackets to pants to outerwear to even leather tank tops. Pairing a leather skirt with a crochet sweater is the perfect outfit to wear to the pumpkin patch.

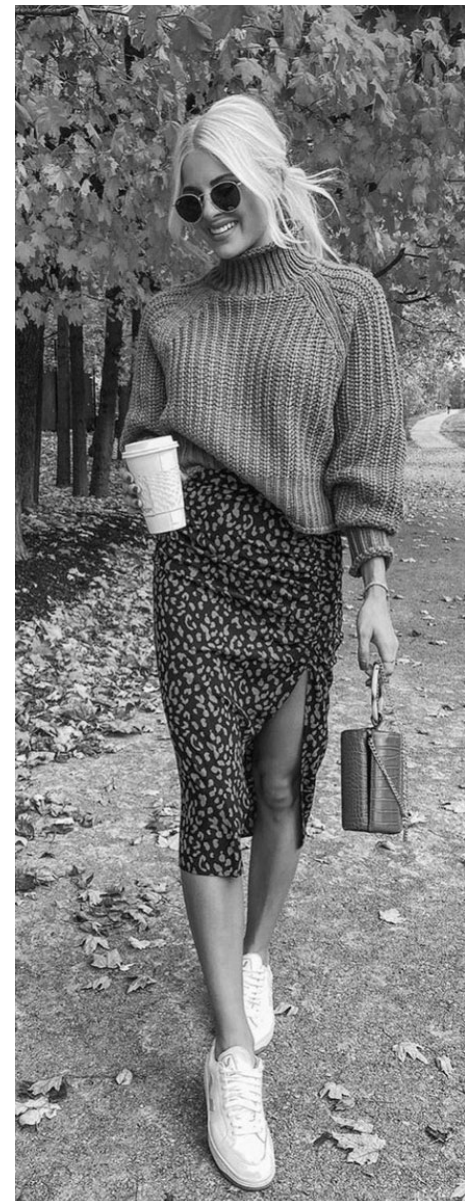
A classic button-up is a fashion constant, but going a little more bulky is in this year. Wear an oversized version that'll make anything you pair it with feel off-duty model, street-wear-ready. The best part is they'll look good even just paired with jeans.

If there's one area that's destined to become trendy during fall, it's accessories, and this year's are fuzzy and fun. From sherpa shoes to furry bucket hats, this season's accessories are anything but boring and are made to draw the eye. Adding a furry tote bag to any outfit will add some of that

fall (pumpkin) spice.

Since fall is sweater weather, sweaters are always a must have. When you think of fall colors, a few immediately come to mind: burgundy, mustard, chocolate brown, army green, and more. Going for a neutral color sweater is a good option when picking the perfect fall outfit. If you want to add a pop of color you can also wear pastel shades of green, yellow, pink, and blue. These colors are all showing up in the season's buzziest collections.

Stay warm and trendy with these new fall fashion trends. From head to toe, be sure to make a statement everywhere you go with a seasonal flare. Activities from pumpkin carving to hayrides require the best, so dress to impress!





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