

Hopewell Hi-Lites

1215 Longvue Avenue, Hopewell, PA

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Class Rank System Broken

BY: TURNER WILSON

Students all have a GPA. Colleges use GPA as an admissions factor. A GPA can decide eligibility for scholarships and sports. It also determines class rank.

Class rank is designed to represent academic standing within a graduating class. However, the weighted system, which Hopewell employs, can potentially reward those who fill their schedule with study halls rather than non-weighted electives.

Consider the following fabricated case: three students take two AP, two Honors, and two regularly-weighted classes. They each earn a 95 in these six classes.

The table below shows where the students chose to take different paths. Student A takes one elective and three semesters of study hall, giving Student A 6.5 credits. Student B takes another half credit to have a 7-credit schedule. Student C has a full 8 credit schedule.

The differences in GPA are notable. These types of GPA's at the top of the class can be 5 to 6 spots in the rankings.

In addition, Student C has a greater workload and less

time to devote to her core classes. Therefore, the weighted system potentially benefits those who avoid electives, while those who take a full schedule face a mathematical and study-time disadvantage.

One alternative is a system that awards points per class. These points, separate from GPA, would determine class rank. Point totals would be determined by the grade in the class, with more points being awarded for weighted classes. This system gives more credit to weighted classes and benefits students who take more classes, therefore earning more points.

Class ranking points would encourage students to challenge themselves with a full schedule and explore electives of potential interest. A points system could encourage students to learn more, which would make school more useful.

Hopewell's current grading system certainly has strong points; nevertheless, students seeking the highest class ranks, just might be choosing study halls over electives.

Schedule	Student A Grade	Student B Grade	Student C Grade
Physical Education (4.0)	100	100	100
Half-Year Elective (4.0)	Study Hall	95	95
Full-Year Elective (4.0)	Study Hall	Study Hall	95

Final GPA **4.28** **4.24** **4.19**

Olympian Visits

BY: TURNER WILSON



Christa Harmotto Dietzen, a 2005 graduate of Hopewell, was honored on September 11, for her return home from the 2016 Olympics and for her outstanding volleyball career.

“It’s so important when there’s challenges in life, when there’s bumps in the road, when you’ve lost your way, to go back to the question: Who am I?”

Harmotto Dietzen, who has announced her retirement from professional volleyball, won a bronze medal at the games, adding to the silver medal she won in London at the 2012 Olympics. Harmotto was one of four on the 2016 team who also represented the United States in 2012. Outside of her Olympic accomplishments,

Harmotto-Dietzen has played professionally in China, Turkey and Italy. Despite her success around the world, Harmotto still remembers her roots at Hopewell High School. Harmotto-Dietzen was part of Hopewell's state championship team in 2004.

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“Man of Steele”

Scoreboard

BY MADELYNN FARKAS

Cross Country Boys (4-1)

New Brighton:	W 44-17
Chartiers Valley:	L 43-18
South Side:	W 39-20
Burgettstown:	W 39-19
Central Valley:	W 50-39

Cross Country Girls (5-0)

New Brighton:	W 33-23
Chartiers Valley:	W 40-21
South Side:	W 46-17
Burgettstown:	W 31-26
Central Valley:	W 43-16

Girls Volleyball (8-9)

Mohawk:	W 3-0
Avonworth:	L 3-0
North Catholic:	W 3-0
Riverside:	W 3-2
New Brighton:	W 5-0
Ellis School:	L 5-0
Carlynton:	W 5-0
Neshannock:	L 5-0
Winchester Thurston:	L 4-1
Ambridge:	W 3-2
Vincentian:	L 5-0
Avella:	W 5-0
Beaver:	L 3-0
North Catholic:	L 3-0
Quaker Valley:	W 3-0
Central Valley:	L 3-0
Southside:	L 3-2

Football (5-2)

Freedom:	W 36-24
Burrell:	W 27-26
Ellwood City:	W 15-13
Yough:	W 26-13
Mohawk:	W 30-20
Quaker Valley:	L 31-14
Central Valley:	L 35-0

Girls Golf (3-4)

Seton LaSalle:	L 223-217
Blackhawk:	L 243-214
Central Valley:	W 280-244
Ellwood City:	W 280-244
Blackhawk:	L 207-190
Sewickley Academy:	L 242-183
Ambridge:	W 242-285

Girls Tennis (5-5)

Riverside:	W 3-2
New Brighton:	W 5-0
Ellis School:	L 5-0
Carlynton:	W 5-0
Neshannock:	L 5-0
Winchester Thurston:	L 4-1
Ambridge:	W 3-2
Vincentian:	L 5-0
Avella:	W 5-0
Sewickley:	L 5-0

Boys Golf (3-2)

OLSH:	L 240-213
Cornell:	W 274-240
Quigley:	W 268-240
Rochester:	W 250-216
Quaker Valley:	L 195-183

Boys Soccer (3-10)

New Brighton:	W 3-0
Riverside:	L 5-0
Central Valley:	L 7-2
West Allegheny:	L 9-0
Montour:	L 10-0
Blackhawk:	L 9-0
Ambridge:	L 6-0
Moon:	L 7-0
West Allegheny:	L 6-0
Blackhawk:	L 3-0
Mohawk:	W 3-1
Southside:	W 2-1
Moon:	L 1-0

Girls Soccer (2-7-1)

West Allegheny:	W 1-0
Blackhawk:	L 3-0
South Fayette:	L 7-0
Central Valley:	L 3-2
Montour:	L 2-0
Ambridge:	L 2-1
Blackhawk:	T 0-0
South Fayette:	W 1-0
Central Valley:	L 3-2
Montour:	L 3-0

They Said It

BY TURNER WILSON

Senior wide receiver Christopher Jones on the football team's recent success and his hopes for the second half.

"This season we work harder and are learning how to work together as a team. Unlike last season we only focus on winning one game at a time. Everyone knows their role so no one is sleeping on anyone's toes. We are playing as one unit.

Going into the second half of the year, I would encourage our student body to continue to come out and support our team. We are going to need the students' support more than ever going into this last stretch of games. Keep coming to the games and keep being loud. We feed off the energy."



Student Section vs. Yough- Photo by Mr. Mohrbacher

Athletes of the Month

By: Erin Kunzmann



Billy DePaul-Football
-4 year starter and 4 letters
-Scholarship to Notre Dame College in Ohio and Edinboro University



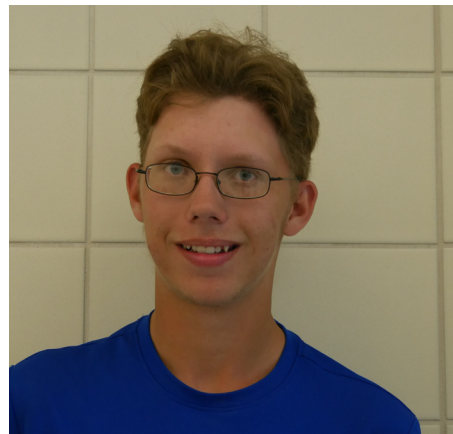
Jennah Ellis-Girls Tennis
-Captain
-4 letters
-Plays second doubles



Ava Li Baker- Girls Golf
-2 year player
-Great abilities on the green
-Excels on the course and classroom



Jake Mateer- Boys Soccer
-3 year center midfielder
-3 letters
-Most improved player junior year



Nick Barth- Boys Golf
-3 year player
-2 letters
-Shot personal best 43 this year



Kallan Parker-Volleyball
-2 year starter and 2 letters
-Co-captain with Leah Good
-249 digs this season



Cole Janicki- Cross Country
-Captain
-4 year runner
-Finishes consistently in the top three



Rachel Ciccone- Cross Country
-Captain
-4 year runner
-Continues to out run most opponents



Raychel Speicher- Girls Soccer
-Started as a freshman
-2 goals in first 4 games



Happenings

Pokemon GO-ing to Dark Places

BY: GARRET ROBERTS

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry fought bravely at Lake Erie to hold the line against invading British forces in the War of 1812. He dreamed of securing a safe future for the United States, and his memorial is visited daily in remembrance of a great war hero. This all changed with one act of domestic terrorism: somebody put a Pokéstop at the monument.

What was previously a calm memorial in a Presque Isle State Park has become a battleground once again. Countless Pokémon GO players flood the path to the monument, searching for elusive Pokémon and reaping the rewards of the five Pokéstops nearby. Walking through the park is a surreal experience, with screams of “SQUIRTLE!” ringing out throughout the area and herds of people moving like cattle to one central point, staring at their phones.

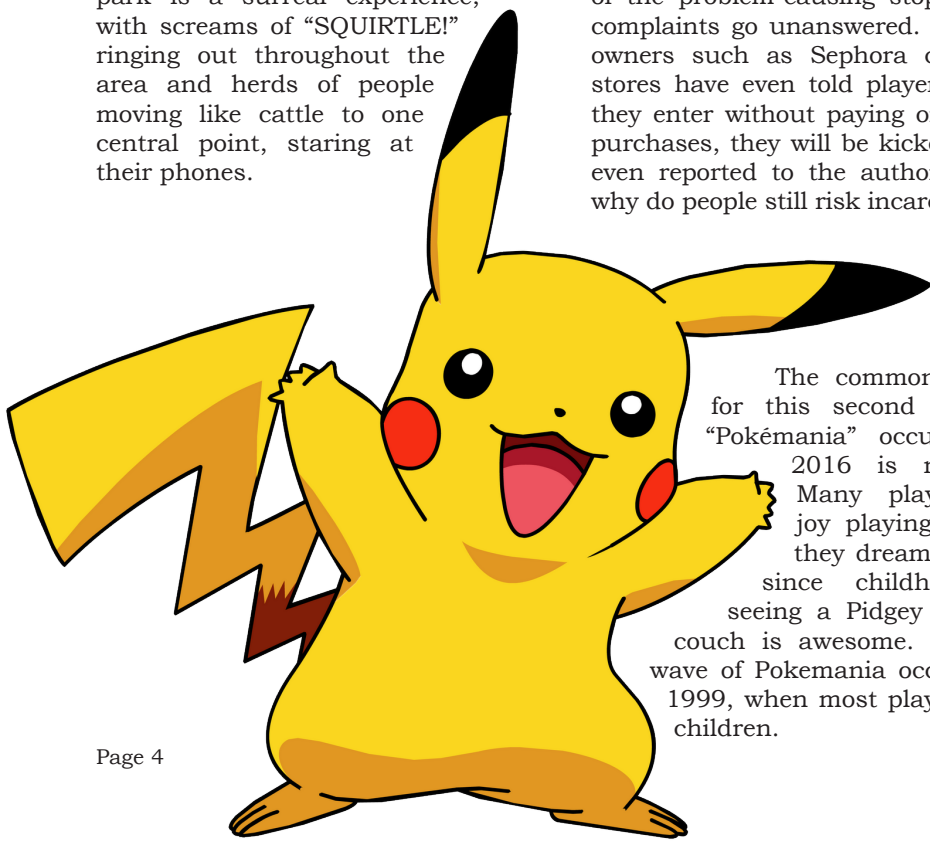
Presque Isle Park administrators have requested that Niantic (the developer of the game) remove the stops over a month ago, but their request has so far gone unanswered. Despite the newfound tourism, many players tend to litter and smoke while playing the game, causing the park to become dirty and unwelcoming. Unassuming visitors have to struggle to get to the monument or ride bikes in the area, leading to anger and more complaints to arise.

This conflict isn't exclusive to just the Perry Monument in Erie. Players are flooding locations all over the United States, causing an outcry from park officials and business owners. While Niantic has removed some of the problem-causing stops, many complaints go unanswered. Business owners such as Sephora cosmetics stores have even told players that if they enter without paying or making purchases, they will be kicked out or even reported to the authorities. So why do people still risk incarceration?

Another factor is the community around the game. Pokemon Hunters meet and discuss the game, and form friendships over the app. Online communities grow each day, with the reddit r/SylphRoad being the largest of them all. They dedicate hours to searching for Pokemon, datamining code for secrets, and discussing how to improve the game. An entire culture has grown around one game.

Both sides have valid points. While parks shouldn't be ruined by players causing chaos, if it is all public property they are fully in their rights. A park can't simply close its gates to visitors because they have a Tauros in their fountain. Any federal property citizens pay taxes for is fair game for Pokemon Hunters. While littering is illegal and the park can ask you to leave, it is still public property.

Is Pokemon GO a curse or a blessing? There's no clear answer to that question. The app has caused trouble, but created a new community. Just make sure you don't scream out “Charizard!” while in the library, or problems are sure to come.



The common answer for this second wave of “Pokémania” occurring in 2016 is nostalgia. Many players enjoy playing a game they dreamed about since childhood, so seeing a Pidgey on their couch is awesome. The first wave of Pokemania occurred in 1999, when most players were children.



Pokemon GO players blocking the path way at Presque Isle Statue Park. Photo courtesy of Garret Roberts.

Hopewell's Spice Girls

BY ALEXA BURAK

If you have attended any of the football games this year, during half time you might have noticed five girls, front and center. Meet the new dance team. Part of the Vikettes, the team includes Hannah Barkman, Alexa Burak, Nicole Groves, Alyssa Hammon, and Marlee Kerlin. The five have been practicing since early June and have already nearly perfected their routines.

Hannah Barkman, a junior, said, "We put on a great show, our kicks are really good, and I'm glad I get to have them all as friends to share this experience together."

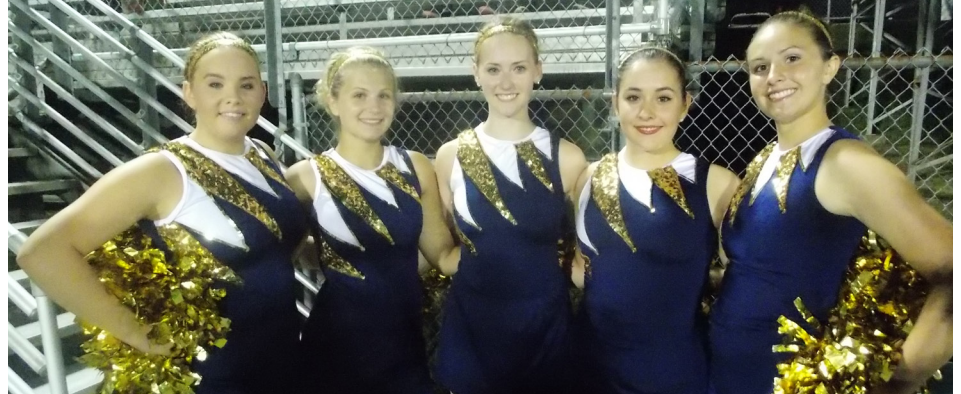
Even though they are a part of Vikettes, they differ greatly from the Color Guard. Instead twirling a flag, the dance team performs choreographed routines. They perform jetes and ariels, all with huge smiles on there faces.

They dance to all of the band's songs and for the finale the dance team and Color Guard join together for one awesome dance to *Land of a Thousand Dances*, which includes great moves like the twist and the backbone slip.

Because of these awesome dance moves, the girls have been

dubbed the Spice Girls. They even named themselves after each Spice Girl member.

The team has made great progress and adds some attitude to the half-time presentation.



Left to right: Marlee Kerlin, Alyssa Hammon, Hannah Barkman, Alexa Burak,

MAN OF STEELE

BY: MADELYNN FARKAS

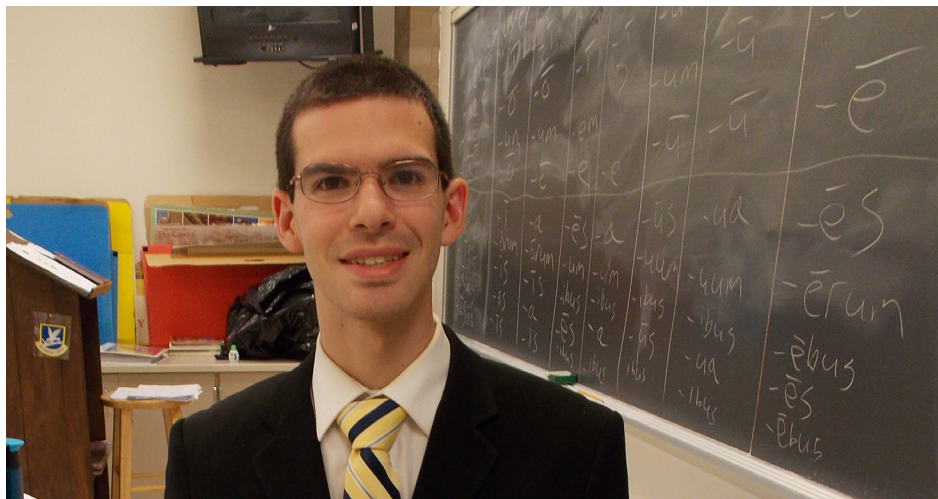


Photo by Madelynn Farkas

Mr. Kelsey Steele is Hopewell High School's new Latin teacher. This is his third year of teaching Latin to high school students.

Mr. Steele was born in Anchorage, Alaska and has a younger sister, who was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. He said, "We get along very well despite her getting the good looks in the family." He moved to

Pennsylvania in third grade and graduated from North Allegheny High School in Pittsburgh. He then moved on to Westminster College, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Latin as well as a degree in Music Education.

His love for Latin started in middle school and stayed with him throughout high school because of some really good teachers "I hope I

can do the same here at Hopewell." He also helps with the band. He can play trombone mainly and can play many other brass instrument at a high school level.

When you hear Mr. Steele's name, what do you think of? A new Latin teacher? Do the band kids and Vikettes think he's just another part of our band? Well there is much more to Mr. Steele. Some hobbies of Mr. Steele are playing video games especially the ones that make him think. He likes to hang out with friends, and conducts his church's music ensemble.

Mr. Steele has many great tales of conquest. One story is about the time he marched in President Obama's first inaugural parade. He also has a story about him having to evacuate his past workplace because armed police told him to. He said, "They're both pretty long stories, though but I'll love to tell you." Feel free to stop by and ask him in person some time and get to know one of the newest teachers in Hopewell, Mr Steele.



Grinds My Gears - Senior Year

BY: GARRET ROBERTS

Freshmen year is a blur of memories for me. I don't remember much of my school experience. The three years prior to my senior year tend to blend in my memory. Previously, I couldn't wait to be a senior. The thought of leaving school and being an adult was exciting. Stars in my eyes, I jumped head first into high school optimistic about my future.

Senior year, however, is a completely different experience than I was led to believe. Only one week into school, "Senioritis" is approaching like a freight train. I've turned from a starry-eyed freshman to a cynical old man in the span of just four years. School is like prison; it changes a man. What changed between the first year of high school and the fourth to cause such a dramatic transformation?

Many members of the senior class has some kind of job. Retail, manual labor, babysitting, etc.; everyone is looking to make some extra money. I quickly learn school and work do not mix. Big test tomorrow? Too bad, you're scheduled to work! For some reason, all your co-workers catch the Plague anytime you need to reschedule. After a long day at work, you crawl into your house at 9:00, and end up falling asleep on your notes. The entire Civil War is covered in

drool, and you're failing that test. Where is the exciting senior year you see in the movies?

Four years of hallway traffic also builds up a lot of rage. Every senior complains about the freshmen that block them in the hallway, but most new students don't know better. The Business Hallway intersection is like a rock concert mosh pit, with everyone bumping into each other. The new people are terrified of what's going to happen to them. Meanwhile, the grizzled veterans know exactly how to duck and weave through the intersection, leaving with barely a scratch. I begin to wonder, "Will I miss this ungodly battleground?"

Classes that once seemed daunting or exciting have turned out to be the equivalent of watching paint dry. It's a let down because what I spent years waiting for turned out to be something that I can't wait to be done. Only one month into school and I already want to fall asleep in math class.

Maybe I'm feeling freshman nostalgia, but our newer students are living the life. No responsibilities, no anxiety, just excitement and wonder. I can only hope freshmen year of college gives me the rush I clamor for. While September is a new breath of life for our freshmen, it's a ghastly exhaust for us seniors.

Tanner's Train-Wrecked Life

BY: TANNER McMAKIN

I swear when I drive I can feel my blood pressure rapidly rising. For example, I was driving by Arby's and two jay-walkers decided that they wanted to cross the street without looking. So with my mad driving skills, I avoided them. There was, of course a side effect. I got extremely furious!! I felt that those simple jay-walkers needed to be sent to maximum security for life. Driving is such a stressful thing. Now every time I get in the car I get super stressed out even if I'm not driving. Driving with parents in the car also gets me really stressed. I feel like I'm being pressured to the best I really can. If I screw up in front of my parents I feel as I just failed some sort of exam. Correct me if I'm wrong, but everyone I have met hates parallel parking. Those words are like a strike of lightning. I tried to Parallel Park and I failed!

Other drivers also make me very angry. For example, when I was at my dad's house in Wisconsin over the summer, well he wanted me to drive like no tomorrow to get "experience" (aka my mom told him he needed to teach me). So we were getting on an on ramp when a cop pulled out right in front of me!! He was trying to arrest this homeless man for hitchhiking in the intersection blocking me from even moving!! After about 10 minutes of people honking me to move, the cop moved but man I was stressed out!!

Honestly, driving sucks. I hate when my passengers are having a good time looking at the scenery and their phones and I'm driving and having a meltdown. Advice for students looking to get a license, please don't.

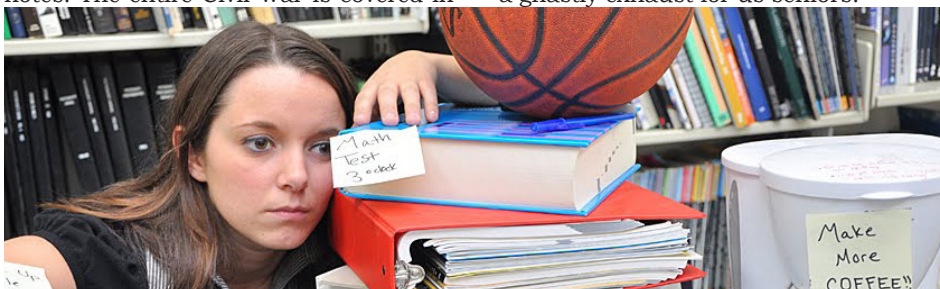


Photo Courtesy of Google

Blockbuster Bummer

BY TANNER MCMAKIN

Unlike last summer, with the release of *Jurassic World*, *Straight Outta Compton*, and *Sinister 2* this summer was awful. Movies such as *Ghostbusters*, *Sausage Party*, and *Lights Out* were just plain trash. I saw *Lights Out* and it wanted to make me gouge my eyes out. While the summer did have its good movies such as *Finding Dory*, *Suicide Squad*, and surprisingly *Kubo and the Two Strings*. The *Conjuring 2* scared the living daylight out of me, and should have done better in the box office. I gave it an 8/10 not as good as the first one, but still pretty good.

Suicide Squad has mixed Reviews, not just from me but everyone else. I didn't see *Finding Dory*, but junior Haley Gault said "it definitely lived up to my expectation transferring from nemo and childhood."

I recently saw Seth Rogens *Sausage Party*. Let's just say, it may have been the worst movie I have ever seen. I left not even half way through it. This upcoming fall/winter we are going to have some great pieces including *Rogue One: a Star Wars story*, *Inferno*, and the highly anticipated Marvel movie *Doctor Strange*.

This summer was the worst for movies. No doubt most summers have had their ups and downs for movies. Somehow though this sum-

mer had more downs than ups. I'm calling it "the Great Cinema Depression of 2016." I hated about 90% of the movies this summer. Please do not rent *Sausage Party* at any cost.

I totaled up the top five movies from the summers of 2015, and 2016. There was a 270 million dollar difference! Was there just bad movies or did people just want to get them at redbox for a \$1.99? You decide.

2016		2015	
1. Finding Dory	\$483,931,392	1. Jurassic World	\$652,270,625
2. Captain America	\$408,080,554	2. Avengers: Ultron	\$459,005,868
3. Secret Life of Pets	\$363,388,255	3. Inside Out	\$356,461,711
4. Suicide Squad	\$313,774,166	4. Minions	\$336,045,770
5. Jason Bourne	\$160,408,000	5. Rogue Nation	\$195,042,377

Courtesy of boxofficemojo.com

2016 Fall Fashion Fads

BY: ERIN KUNZMANN

With the weather changing and the temperatures falling, the fashion trends will begin to change, too. School is in session again and there are many trends that will help you turn heads. This fall there are many trends that are making a comeback or are just coming out. Whether you like to dress up or prefer to dress more casually, there is a way to fit in with the latest fashion.

Some of the latest trends include the colors you wear, the way you wear your clothing, the way your clothing fits and the combinations you put together.

Color combinations that are being worn this season are olive green and a dark color, mustard yellow and very light pink, rusty orange and different shades of dark blue. Putting these colors together make a great outfit.

Platform shoes and ankle high com-

bat boots are all shoe fads this fall. They are making more of a comeback because these have all been fads before. With the style most have today, a lot of the clothing and accessories are from the past.

Chokers, fringe bags and are also in style this fall. Adding things like this to an outfit can make a big change in your style.

Another fad that seems to be coming out is over sized clothing. Big cover ups, jackets and jeans are all a craze right now. They are comfortable and make any outfit look good. Chokers are being worn often with a bigger, loser necklace. When put with an outfit, it gives an off a feel of elegance but is still very simple.

Fringe bags are a nice touch to an outfit. Fringe has a modern but old-fashioned

touch. Fringe bags make an average outfit pop.

Oversized sweaters are a good way to spice up a simple outfit. They're comfortable and easy to add to pretty much any outfit, whether it is casual or dressy. Platform shoes are a crazy way to make a crazy outfit look even better. Some of the latest companies like Vans and Converse, have decided to make their shoes have an option of platform bottoms to spice up a more modern and casual outfit.

Combat boots are a simple pair of shoes that go great with anything. They have been in style for a few years, but they only keep getting better.



Google Images

Caught in the Hi-Lites

