



OCTOBER 2019 AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL 36300 FREMONT BLVD FREMONT, CA 94536 VOL. 47 ISSUE #1

# REMEMBERING MR. CHAN

AHS honors the memory and legacy of Mr. Chan

**Annie Liu**  
Editor-in-Chief

On the evening of September 12, AHS students, families, staff, and alumni gathered together to attend a Celebration of Life for Mr. Chan, a beloved teacher at American who had been teaching AP Physics 1 and AP Physics C for the past three years.

During the remembrance, which was attended by Mr. Chan's family, members of the community took turns telling stories of how

Mr. Chan has impacted them. Many students recalled Mr. Chan's unconventional teaching style, which was designed to challenge students in his class to think critically, while others fondly remembered his genuine passion and excitement for what he taught, and still others reflected on the lifelong values that he instilled in his students.

Students also set up numerous memorials for Mr. Chan to show their appreciation. Sticky notes bearing messages from both past and current stu-

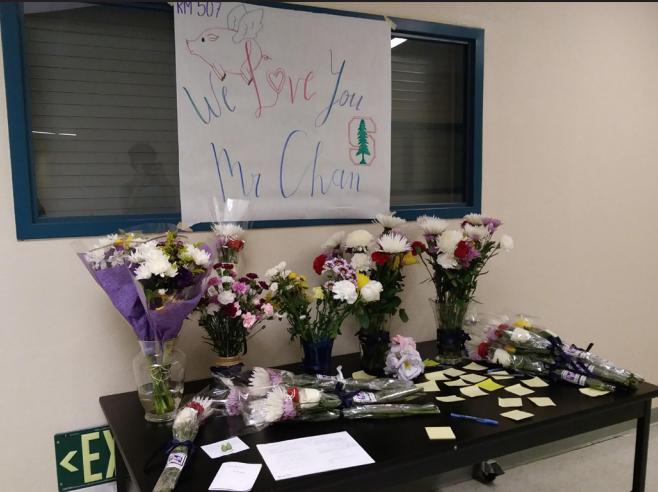
dents as well as staff covered a table outside of the classroom where Mr. Chan had taught physics for the last two years. Dozens of flower bouquets accompanied the messages. In addition, students came together to paint a poster depicting all of Mr. Chan's favorite things, including inside jokes and references to topics that he would mention in class. The poster is currently displayed inside the science wing.

In honor of all of the positive contributions he made to American during his time as a teacher, Mr. Chan was awarded the first Nest of Honor of this year.

"Physics equals numbers plus concepts that disprove popular, misleading theories (what do you mean the shopping cart pushes ME when I'm clearly pushing IT), which equals terrified and confused. Mr. Chan

changed my perspective as I learned the mind-blowing craftsmanship of the universe. He bestowed on his students the knowledge of gravitational pull that prevents us from floating into space and the—prepare to be shocked—very much fictional centripetal force that keeps us from breaking our heads on rollercoasters. His labs were challengingly engaging—flying pigs were loose from their cages for a week—and his iconic pre-exam hype music is never to be forgotten: "ARE YOU READY TO RUMBLE???" Now, as a college freshman, I can't ever express how grateful I am for his teaching as I plow my way through physics class. Thank you, Mr. Chan, and may you rest in peace." -Emily Hung, class of 2019

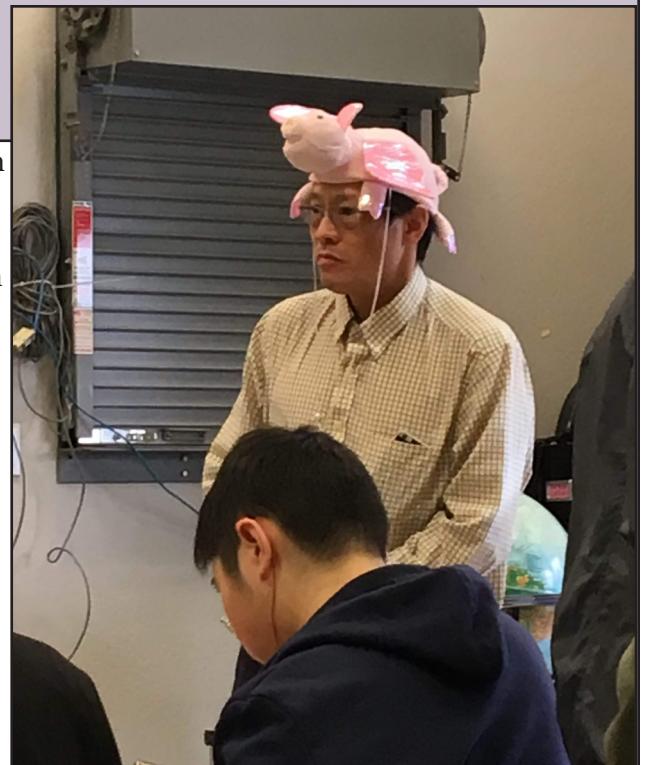
"One thing Mr. Chan emphasized was not to look too much into the numbers [and grades]; it's what you learn in class that matters the most. For him to say that it's not the numbers that matter [but rather] the quality of what you learn—I just thought that was really different from what I'd always been told. That stuck with me, because no other teacher has ever told me it's not about the grade." -Maggie Liu, class of 2020



"Mr. Chan taught me more math than my math teachers ever did and made a hard class the class I looked forward to the most each morning. I enjoyed

the stories he told us and respect him for being one of my greatest academic inspirations. He's in a better place now, a place in which he believed that pigs could fly independent from the path of a conical pendulum."

-Chris Choo, class of 2018



## One Stormy Morning...

*School Closes because of Leaking*

ing," explained Assistant Principal Mr. Reibenschuh.

While the staff worked hard to solve the issues, they soon realized that they would not be able to solve the problem fast enough to keep students in classes. "When we found out that they couldn't fix it

quickly because they couldn't find the right parts for it, we decided to send the kids home," said Mr. Reibenschuh.

With the delay in fix-

See "One Stormy Morning..." (3)



*The first rains of the season came unexpectedly which led to leaking. "Because of the roof construction that is happening, we had holes in the roof, and they hadn't filled all that stuff in so the rain came right through," explained Mr. Reibenschuh.*

"[When] water gets into contact with [the wiring's] metal, it can short circuit sometimes, and the alarm can go off. That's why some of the lights were flicker-

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"[It's not fair] not being able to show shoulder or stomachs, the fingertip rule for shorts too," said Yang. "I [can't] even think of [any] rules the guys [as unfair], they are pretty decent."

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Eagles,

With first quarter winding down, it's interesting to look back at what we've accomplished over the first part of this school year. Here at the Eagle Era, we've spent the last two months hard at work to bring you this first issue of the 2019-2020 school year. From welcoming a new team of staff writers, to going over the basics of journalism, to scrambling to conduct interviews and take photos, we've been in a whirlwind of commotion over this past quarter.

It's also been a period of exploring new territory for us as a media source. This year, the Eagle Era is piloting a video broadcast called Halfway Point in which we bring together students with opposing views on controversial topics and allow them the chance to have a meaningful and productive discussion. We recently had our first shoot, and the results were quite impressive! We

look forward to bringing you the first episode very soon. We're also introducing Humans of AHS this year, which strives to tell the stories of a variety of individuals across the American High community, each with their own unique background. To us, all of these publications (including the main newspaper) are centered around our fundamental mission: to serve as a medium through which the AHS community can be informed, feel represented, and have their voices heard.

This issue is the culmination of all of our efforts throughout the past two months here at the Eagle Era. We hope you enjoy it.

**Annie Liu**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Dear Eagles,

Well, two months of school have already gone by. How are we all doing? Good? Bad?

For me, personally, I've been going back and forth over the past few months between two states: tired senior and excited senior. As a tired senior, I'm facing college applications, AP classes, and an urge to sleep despite my workload. I get to spend half of the year worrying about sending essays and the other half worrying about receiving responses. I'm a tired senior from running to my first period every morning so that I'm not late, but that one's on me.

As an excited senior, I'm enjoying my classes this year as they're more creativity-based, like drama, journalism, and culinary. Who could've guessed that a person as introverted as I am would enjoy the classes that put her on the spot? I was an excited senior for senior sunrise and senior picnic, and I'm eagerly awaiting prom and grad night, which seem to be ages away. And, of course, I am defi-

nately an excited senior for this month's issue, which is our first issue of the school year and my second one as an Eagle Era editor. We've covered the enthusiasm of spirit week, the unexpected cancellation of school, the riveting debate over marching band's status as a sport, and much more. To honor Mr. Chan, we've decided to share the statements of both students and teachers who have been impacted by his presence. Though I've never been taught by him personally, I've heard many interesting stories from the people around me, and I hope these continue to keep his memory alive.

I'm looking forward to the school year of 2019-2020 and the stories we'll cover, no matter how difficult they may be, and I hope you, dear readers, will stay with us every step of the way.

**Michelle Lee**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

## Learning How to Dress

*Different opinions on the dress code*

**Nydia Kuo**  
Staff Writer

Having the responsibility of taking care of the students' well being, schools set dress codes to protect students; however, there are times when people think the dress code discriminates against female students.

"I have [read the dress

code], [and] the dress code is somewhat equal," Julian Yang (10) says, "but definitely harsher to girls." Many female students nod their heads in agreement with that statement as there are more restrictions towards what girls can and cannot wear. An example is that it mentions "Tank tops, off-the-shoulder or short blouses/shirts or [any] blouses/ shirts that show the torso, stomach, or midriff are not allowed." When she explains the limitations of the school sets, she also thinks that there is a rule from the dress code that should be changed. Yes, breaking a rule will ultimately lead to a consequence. Still, in this case, the punishment is too severe for something as small as clothing. After all, dress up is one of the ways a student can express themselves.

"Girls shouldn't have to leave campus if they break [the] dress code, and breaking the dress code shouldn't lead to detention," Yang said.

Students get the consequence when an adult sees them in the wrong cloth-

ing, but who gets called out for these mistakes more?

"I think girls are often called out more often for breaking the dress code than guys are," according to Kavin Goyal (10), "there are still students who wear gang colors, and there are some guys that even sag their pants around the campus." According to the dress code, those two factors are part of the dress code that students should not be wearing their clothes like that at school. However, teachers tend to point out female students that failed to follow the rules completely.

But even if the dress code seems like it was created to discriminate against female students, it was designed to prevent any distractions.

"Teenagers can be distracted by so many different things," Mr. Reibenschuh (assistant principal) said, "and whether it's seeing a girl's shoulder or back of a young man's pants sagging, it's very distracting. We, as people, can be distracted very easily anyway." By keeping that in mind, the school tries to

minimum. After all, this is a place to learn; and the lesson here is to know how to dress properly for each situation.

The reason behind setting a dress code in the first place anyway is to make sure everyone is appropriately dressed for a school setting.

"We want to make sure that they understand the difference [of clothing] between relaxing at their home," Mr. Reibenschuh explains, "relaxing at their friend's house, [and] going shopping in the mall from what they wear to school."

In Mr. Reibenschuh's mind, each situation calls for different clothing; one will not wear their best clothes when gardening or wear something revealing at work. So continuing the same concept, the clothes worn to school should be more conservative to fit the educational environment.

Without a doubt, there are reasons to dislike or like something. Every rule created at school has a reasonable idea, and that includes the dress code too.

# Deadlines are Closer Than They Appear

AP Exam Registration Date Moves Up to October

**Aarya Vaidya**  
Staff Writer

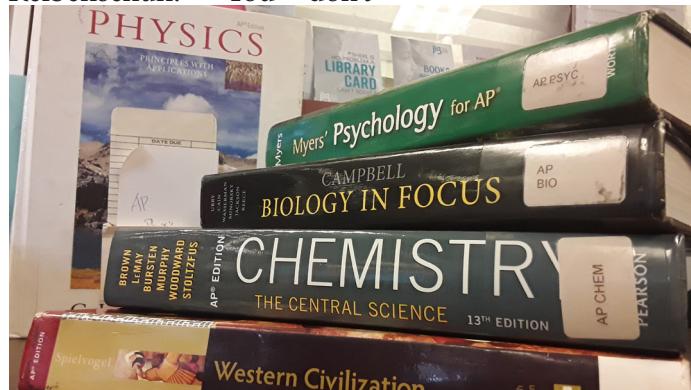
It's happening now. You may have hoped to wait several more months before even thinking about it, but AP Exam registrations are here, right at the start of the school year. Many students are familiar with signing up for AP exams in February, but due to the change in a College Board policy, students at American need to sign up for their exams by October 25th.

"Their rationale is that ... if students commit early they are going to try harder on their AP exams," assistant principal Mr. Reibenschuh explained.

On the other hand, Mr.

Reibenschuh understands that an early registration date may not be the ideal option for many students.

"It's kind of thrown all of our students and families into kind of a turmoil," acknowledged Mr. Reibenschuh. "You don't



Some students feel that with later registration, they can better gauge if they should or should not sign up for an AP exam. "[With] a later date, students can see the grades they had and decide not to take the test," Iffat Pathan (11) said.

want to spend that much this early in the year, particularly for a class you may not necessarily want

See "Deadlines Are Closer Than They Appear" (7)

# One Stormy Morning (cont.)

ing the leaking issues, students were dismissed from school at the end of the first period. While students did have a free day, adjusting to the change in schedule did lead to some complications for how students would get home. "I'm in a carpool, so there was confusion on who would be picking me up," explained Sakshee Parekh (11).

However, students were able to enjoy their day off. Even with the initial chaos organizing the carpool, Parekh still got the chance to have a relaxing day.

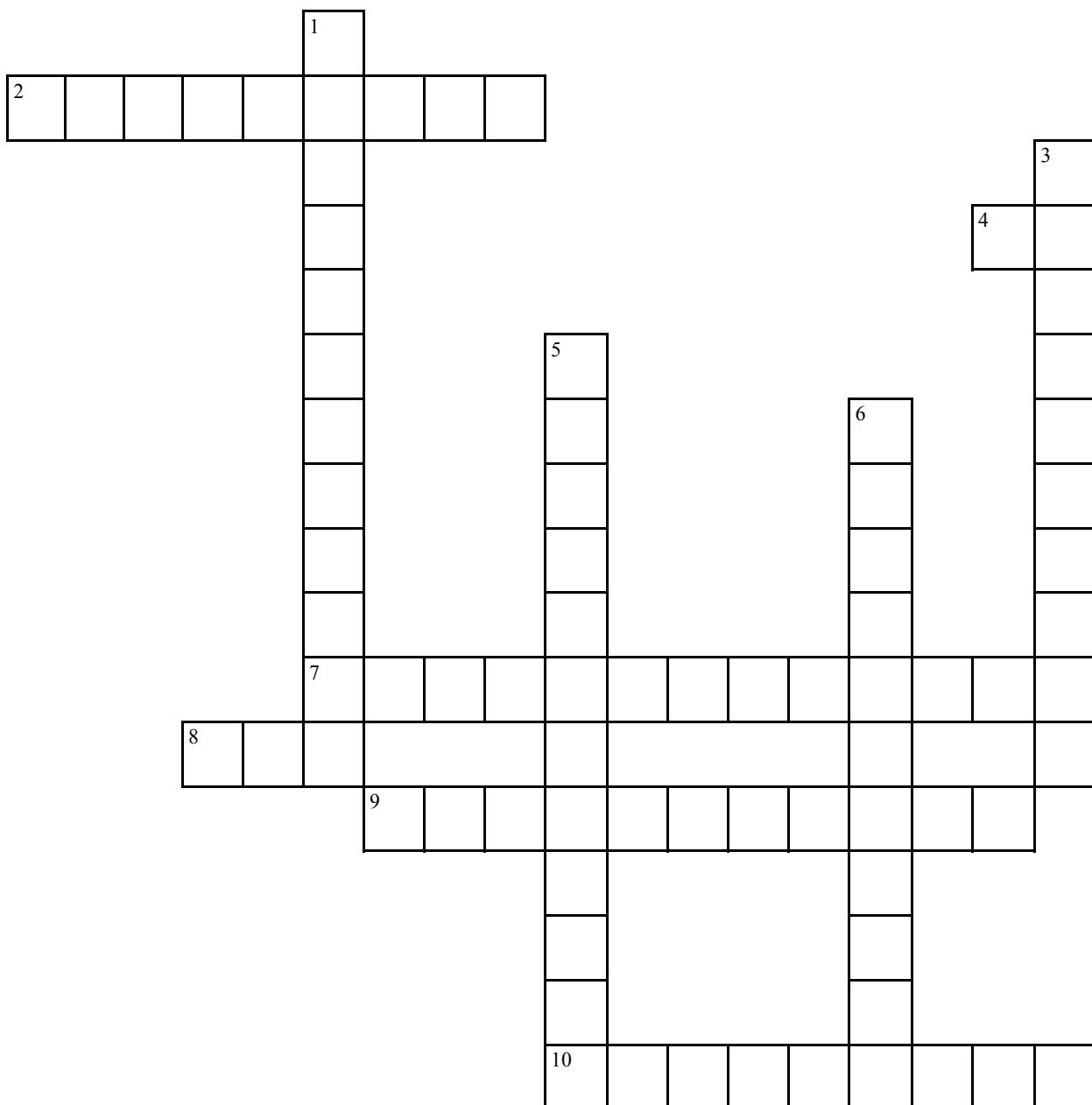
"I went to Starbucks for an hour...I did homework that was due the next day, so I had a head start on it. I was able to sleep earlier, so it was really helpful to my mental state," Parekh told.

Pranav Grandhi (9) also too had a similar experience.

"I was pretty excited. I had tests that day which I got to skip," he told. When asked about how he spent his day, he responded by saying "I had a lot of homework, so I just did that... I still studied for the test because I got more time to study".

With the help of the administration, students were able to return home safely and resume school the next day. Mr. Reibenschuh emphasized the importance of keeping students safe and explained that, "[The administration] started checking the various locations of the school, [and they] found out how much water [there] was and how dangerous it could have been had [they] not taken the right precautions."

## Crossword!



### Across

2. Item stolen during the freshman skit
4. Reason why school was cancelled
7. Recent protest on campus
8. Will you follow Humans of AHS's new Instagram  
@humansofamerican ?
9. Now this is a little story about how my life got \_\_\_ upside down
10. Sophomore spirit week hashtag

### Down

1. New rule in this year's spirit week
3. Order pizza or \_\_\_
5. New broadcast from the Eagle Era
6. Theme for American's fall dance

# Focusing on Freshmen: Spirit Week

*What inspires some of America's youngest students to show school pride?*

**Shreya Daschoudhary**  
Staff Writer

Spirit week is arguably one of the most festive and fun-filled times of the year. Students from all four years come together in order to prepare sets, dances, fight scenes, and skits. They toil hard all summer in order to put together a show during Spirit Week. Many students are inspired to participate after seeing one of these grand performances, but what leads freshmen with no prior high school experience to join in on the fun?

"I found out about spirit week from my friend who was running for president," says Naomi Tchao (9). "They were trying to coordinate everything."

Although being close to one of the class council candidates introduced Tchao to the idea of participating, the main thing that drives her is her personal passion. "I really like dancing, so

it was... natural, I guess. I also really like school spirit."

She mentions that the idea of representing her class is one of her main motivations. "I'm very enthusiastic about things, and I believe in school pride. Not many people take part in that these days, so I'll make up for everyone else."

While talent and pride act as the first steps in pushing someone towards a goal, what really inspires them to continue towards it? Tchao states that it's the satisfaction of working with others who share the same mentality. "The most enjoyable part is being able to dance with friends, because friends don't normally like to dance, unless it's Spirit Week... because it's something a lot of people like to do, and you see people who don't normally dance actually try."

While the dancers themselves have various reasons for participating, what en-

courages dance leaders to step up and take initiative?

Jalen Reyes (9) mentions that her first encounter with Spirit Week was through her older sister. "My sister went to American, and convinced me to perform because it seemed really fun and exciting!"

Sharing an integral part of herself with others also influenced her decision. "My dance background is Phillipines-dance based, and I wanted to share my culture with everyone, even though my choreography isn't traditional."

She also speaks about her experience with Spirit Week so far, and how it has affected her view of the student body. "All of the skits talk about how amazing it is to be an American student; when I'm performing or watching, the adrenaline ran through everyone, keeping me excited for a while. Everything is just

so high energy that it gives a welcoming vibe... [there are] some memories I've made so far from practices and dress rehearsals. We had a dress rehearsal in the gym on Tuesday, and everything felt so real and exciting!"

While both dancers and dance leaders voluntarily take part, members of the class council don't have the same luxury.

However, the freshman class president, Aditya Gupta (9), says that he "was inspired to take part in Spirit Week because it seemed like a great bonding experience for [the freshman] class."

Moreover, he indicates that Spirit Week really helped him grow accustomed to being a class president, as well as high school as a whole. "My position has changed my outlook [on] high school and American a lot because I always dreaded high school but I

now see the fun side of it."

Despite their confident façade, even class council members have to overcome obstacles. "A big challenge I faced was that I am an inexperienced dancer and lacked basic knowledge about dancing, but [I] was eventually able to pick it up."

In the end, were all hardships and stress worth it? Gupta says yes. "The dances are so hyped, and so much excitement is built [up] over them... it's so fun to see all the work you've put into a dance finally pay off!"

Spirit Week is arguably one of the most intense times of the school year, with every class competing for glory and recognition. While the incoming freshmen have had little to no exposure to the rollercoaster of emotions that is high school, they share the same mentality as the years before them; a desire to unite and represent.

## RANKINGS!

### GYM POSTER

1. SENIORS
2. FRESHMEN
3. JNUIORS
4. SOPHOMORES

### COIN DRIVE

1. JUNIORS
2. SOPHOMORES
3. SENIORS
4. FRESHMEN

### DRESS UP DAYS

1. SENIORS
2. JUNIORS
3. FRESHMEN
4. SOPHOMORES

### MORNING MARCH

1. SENIORS
2. JUNIORS AND SOPHOMORES
3. FRESHMEN

### SETS

1. SENIORS, SOPHOMORES, AND JUNIORS
2. FRESHMEN

### SKIT

1. SENIORS
2. JUNIORS
3. SOPHOMORES
4. FRESHMEN

# OVERALL RANKINGS

1. SENIORS
2. JUNIORS
3. SOPHOMORES
4. FRESHMEN

## DANCES

1. SENIORS
2. SOPHOMORES
3. FRESHMEN
4. JUNIORS

## UNIFYING SPIRIT

1. JUNIORS
2. SENIORS
3. SOPHOMORES
4. FRESHMEN

Colin Oliva and Jay Kochhar perform during the Junior rally's fight scene on October 21st. While new rules have made it harder to do flips during rallies, the performers were able to work around them to perform this specific move. "We've had ideas to do...cool stunts and stuff, but we have to choose alternate things to do and that's just kind of disappointing," said Rachel Tsai (11) on how the new rules have affected performance choreography. PC: Patrick Shao (12)

## An Institution Adapts

*How a new regulation has influenced the long tradition of Spirit Week and students' opinions*

Emyr Ortiz

Staff Writer

Spirit Week has often been a time to show off and be daring. Whether it was with a difficult dance routine or different costumes, Spirit Week has been the time to see and participate in new things. However, after last year's night rally incident, there has been a renewed focus on safety which has prompted new regulations.

"Well, we said no acrobatics," informs Mr. Fulton, the activities director. "And as classes have been working on their dances and choreography and other things, they're asking me what is acceptable or not."

Still, administrators do realize the importance of spirit week.

"I am a big believer that school is a place that you should want to come to, and I hope that for lots of students spirit week is a week of the year where they're super excited to be here at school."

In fact, Fulton does not believe that the rule change will make an impact on the essence of spirit week.

"There's a lot to spirit week, and I think, changing

one part...like the ability to do a flip in the lunch rally is...just a small part. [There are] other things that we're trying to get people excited about, whether it's... a glow in the dark dance or a way that a class puts a cartoon in their skit. That's why I tried to push when I talked to class councils... [about] being creative and coming up with new stuff because every year somebody does something new."

For the most part, the student body also seems to agree with Fulton

"We're trying] to think of new creative things instead of just moving around and are trying to incorporate the whole group instead of... one person being able to do tricks," says Rachel Tsai (11), one of the dance coordinators.

While the rule change has allowed for more people to get involved, they still eliminate a long tradition. However, students surprisingly have not taken up the new regulations with Mr. Fulton.

"There has been no push-back. I think everyone who was here last year and [who] remembers what happened understands why rules are the way they are now."

Away from the leadership team, however, opinions differ.

"I think [the new rules] really held us back because I noticed....it really limited us in what—especially what me and some other people in the team—did because we were already used to doing flips and really high kicks and things like that," says Natania Ishanato (10), the sophomore fight scene choreographer. "Things like this really limited what we could have done for fight scene...[and] that stopped some really cool things."

Even so, with the events of last year in mind, administrators are unwavering in their beliefs on the importance of the new rules.

"[The event last year] reminded me that...we need to make sure that...the stunts or whatever is done in the routine do not endanger a student's safety," said Assistant Principal Ms. Diacanis. "Again, back to that student safety, that's got to be the number one thing."

So, with the rule firm in its place, some students have decided to focus on the positive and have embraced the new changes.

"I think [the rule change] is a little strict but seeing what happened last year, I think it's a good change," commented Tsai.

Even those who are more opinionated on the negative aspects of the change can see a silver lining.

"[The rule change] has had positive effects because of safety, so I think that's a plus at least," reflected Ishanato. "I mean...it really forced us to think outside the box and try to find ways to do cool things even without having to do flips."



# Ask a Senior!

**“How do you balance your relaxing schedule with your study schedule?” -Caden Kwon (9)**

“MAKE SURE TO SPLIT UP THE WORK AND RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING TIME FOR YOURSELF. THIS WAY, YOU CAN PRIORITIZE RELAXING AND STUDYING TOGETHER.” -JANINE WANG

**“People who have jobs and still have social lives, how do you do that?” -Sarah Chaudhury (9)**

“I RECOMMEND GETTING A JOB THAT DOESN’T TAKE MUCH TIME. I ONLY HAVE A PART-TIME JOB ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, SO THE REST OF THE DAYS I STILL HAVE MY NORMAL LIFE.” -CHRISTIAN SHIH

**“Taking advanced placement classes, would it be worth it? There’s no advanced placement classes in freshman year so I’m kind of curious.” -Christopher Gomez (9)**

“I KNOW SOME COLLEGES, IF YOU DON’T NEED THAT CLASS ‘CAUSE IT DOESN’T APPLY TO YOUR MAJOR, THEY STILL ACCEPT IT AS COLLEGE CREDIT FOR AN ELECTIVE? IT MAY BE FAST AND HARD AND TIME CONSUMING BUT I THINK IT CAN BE WORTH IT IF YOU DO WELL” -KELLY KUANG

**“There are many types of extracurricular activities, but how will one find the time to fit them in?” -Edward Liu (9)**

“IF YOU KNOW HOW TO MANAGE YOUR TIME, I’M SURE YOU CAN SQUEEZE IN STUDYING TIME AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES” “I JUST THINK TO MYSELF THAT IT’S DUE TOMORROW AND I WANT TO SLEEP EARLY . . . SO I’M GONNA JUST FINISH IT AS FAST AS I CAN.” -IVAN LIANG

# THE ALL CONSUMING QUESTION

*In the Halloween season, one question haunts us all: Is marching band a sport?*

**Emyr Ortiz**  
Staff Writer

For ages, one issue has plagued the minds of the youth of America. Across the nation, one question has tormented all throughout the midnight hours and into the morning light. Is marching band a sport?

"No," eloquently states Marcus Sass (10).

Sass is a varsity football player and thus has first-hand knowledge of how grueling and time consuming a sport can be.

"[The] practices are pretty physical... Football is pretty exhausting honestly. After practice, you can't do much. You gotta do your homework and you just fall right asleep."

While Sass views his sport as exhausting, his definition of a sport on the other hand, is quite lax.

"A sport is a...competition between two athletes, at least."

However, this is not what Sass sees in marching band.

"Honestly, I don't really think marching band is a sport because...they're just playing [music]."

Obviously, marching band students vehemently disagree. This is especially true for Maria Aguirre (11), a section leader in the band.

"If football and dancing had a baby, it would be marching band," she stated.

Clearly, marching students see band as the peak of physical exertion, but what do they have to back up their claim?

"[Students] have to carry big instruments and that takes a lot of strength, and they have to march around the field a lot. We have to keep our knees

straight while we're backwards marching. You have to worry about all of these things and of course that takes a lot of strength." In addition to this, Aguirre claims that "sometimes, [competitions] can go up to...twenty four hours."

Pulling all nighters is impressive, but is that enough strain to qualify band as a sport? Marching band director Richard Wong weighed in with his opinion.

"[Marching band] is an athletic type of endeavor, but not necessarily, I would say, a sport."

This discrepancy between the band director and his students undermined the argument that the students had been cultivating for years. It didn't help that Wong then proceeded to prosecute the defense with cold, hard evidence.

"If a sport is a contest of one person or team versus another team, marching bands don't go head to head with another team... There's no head to head, the judging is different...If all the marching bands in the class did the exact same field show, music, and drill,... then I think that would be more sportlike in nature."

With this answer, it seemed like the marching band question had finally been put to bed. The populace of America would be able to rest; the elusive eight hours of sleep would finally be achieved. Unfortunately, Mr. Blackmon, coach of the varsity football team and the man who was supposed to put the final nail in the coffin, breathed new life into the controversy.

"I respect exactly what the band does...I don't un-

to take an AP exam for 6 months down the road."

With the limited spacing at school for students to take AP exams, those who planned to self-study seem to be impacted the most.

Initially, students who were planning to study independently were not allowed to register for AP exams at school this year. However, due to the large demand, the administration is now allowing these students to be put on a waitlist while the administration decides if they will be able to accommodate all students in the testing locations at school.

Even with the change in the exam registration, Mr. Reibenschuh is hopeful that there will not be too many negative impacts.

"We've already got people registered," Mr. Reiben-

schuh said the day after the exam registrations opened.

"We've got a culture here that wants to take AP Exams ... I hope the College Board decision doesn't change too many people".

As the registration opens, some students have expressed concerns about the change in policy.

"It does not give students enough time to see if they really want to take the test or not," said Iffat Pathan (11). "Later in the year if the class gets harder, they can't back out of it. They just spent a hundred dollars to fail a test."

Haritha Rajasekar (10) is taking her first AP exam this year, and she too agrees that is problematic to have students making the decisions to sign up right now.

"I think it makes it kind of stressful because you

have to recall the information and you don't really know what you are signing up for," Rajasekar told.

However, both students seemed to agree that their course selections play an important role in how they feel about their AP exams.

"I feel prepared because the classes I [am taking] are not that bad," Pathan said.

Rajasekar, who is taking an AP European history exam this year, feels that it is important for students to understand their perspectives on the subject when deciding whether or not to take an AP exam.

"I think that AP classes like AP Euro depend on your attitude [towards] history in general," Rajasekar explained.

In the meantime from now until May, it's best to keep a

derstand why it wouldn't be considered a sport."

It brings serious doubt to the case of the non-sport camp when the coach of the most sport-like sport defects to the opposite side. However, his

opinion might be biased.

"I used to play the trumpet when I was younger, and I gave it up because it got too hard." Has Mr. Blackmon's opinion been tainted by his trumpet playing experience? It may be

impossible to tell, but it certainly adds another layer of complexity to the equation.

So is marching band a sport? In the words of cross country coach Mr. Carel, "That's a really hard question."



*Percussionists perform for parents during the end of band camp barbecue. Marching Band students participate in a band camp during their summer vacation to condition themselves for the marching season. "My shoulders have never been more swole than now," says marching band student Athen Tang (10). "You know, lifting a baritone for two hours isn't fun. If I go back to cross country I won't be able to lift a baritone for two hours ever again." PC: Abigail R. Cromie (11)*

# What is Your Teaching Philosophy?

A deeper look into America's new teachers and their educational ideologies



"I believe that I have to build relationships with students... I genuinely like knowing the student, and what kind of different backgrounds he or she is coming from."

Min

Shreya Daschoudhary  
Staff Writer

Barrington

"I went to school on the weekends, in the evenings, to get my admin credential and finish my master's degree so that I could make change in areas

that I felt were really important... in areas about how we are providing academic opportunities for all students."

MEGAN BARRINGTON  
PRINCIPAL



"I got inspired in high school by really great English teachers, and at the back of my mind I thought, 'how cool would it be if I were an English teacher?' I thought I could maybe make a difference, inspire students."

Webb

Jackson



"Health is really important. What you decide to do when you're a teenager can affect you [for] the rest of your life, both mentally, physically, many ways... I wanted to help people make good decisions."

Mehta



"I would not like to be labelled as a teacher, but I would like to be labelled as a facilitator..."

someone who can help the student get inspired... someone who can help them connect... and make a difference in society, in the community."

Watson-Bird



"... I like... being able to build lasting relationships with the students. I like that... I'm able to carry over the work I've been doing with the kids at Thornton, and seeing them on to high school, and working with them... my philosophy is to find the best way for people to make mistakes, to give them the opportunity to make mistakes knowing that consequences will follow, but

## National Merit

This month, AHS recognized seniors who scored exceptionally well on the PSAT from October 2018. A total of 48 seniors were recognized as Commended Students for their scores. In addition, 21 students qualified as Semifinalists, advancing to the next round of the National Merit Scholarship competition. Semifinalists make up around 1% of all students who took the PSAT nationwide.

## Commended Students

Bridget Agyare  
Seher Alvi  
Rohan Anand  
Bryan Auyeung  
Sidhartha Bala  
Simran Bedi  
Grace Chen  
Aryanh Chikkere  
Sidhanth Chinnakotla  
Archisha Datta  
Christina Deng  
Ayesha Desai  
Trang Doan  
Aastha Dubey  
Arnav Gupta  
Nikhil Isukapalli

Amisha Jain  
Simran Jandu  
Kaushal Karpuram  
Chirag Kaudan  
Prachi Kulkarni  
Aparna Kumar  
Divya Kunisetty  
Michelle Lee  
Maggie Liu  
Dave Lu  
Meera Mallya  
Shashwat Mehta  
Roshan Nagaram  
Tara Natarajan  
Ethan Nghiem  
Ashley Oshiba

Harshal Patel  
Rishabh Poikayil  
Samik Pradhan  
Palak Purwar  
Anuj Raichura  
Archit Raichura  
Anchal Saraswat  
Rishabh Shastry  
Ashna Singh  
Anjana Sriram  
Lakshmi Tammineni  
Shubhang Tyagi  
Beneeta Varghese  
Anson Xu  
Vicki Young  
Alison Zhao



## Semifinalists



Dev Asnani  
Davit Babayan  
Anya Desai  
Andy Fu  
Angela Hawkins  
Rithesh Kannan  
Afzal Khan  
Meghna Kiran  
Austen Liao  
Emily Lin  
Annie Liu  
Jeffrey Liu  
Mira Ramachandran

Rohit Ravi  
Arnav Singhvi  
Michael Sun  
Aditi Talati  
Nithin Tatikonda  
Connor Vo  
Michelle Zhao  
Carol Zhou