

# Maroon & White

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Tennessee High School, Bristol, Tennessee

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## 45 Years of Valentine's Days



Mrs. and Mr. Grindstaff at Kissing Booth.

### Rachel Kent

Despite the complications of Valentine's Day—the dream of falling in love, the heartache of being in love, the disappointment of losing love—many of us hold out hope of finding love for a lifetime. Our lovely Mrs. DeClercq and our lovable Mr. Grindstaff have between them 45 years of Valentine's Days. (Full disclosure: most of those years belong to Mr. Grindstaff!)

Mrs. DeClercq and her husband Matt have been together for ten years and counting, but have only spent three Valentines days together. Since Matt was a member of the Air National Guard for much of their relationship, he has been either overseas or deployed. This has not stopped them from celebrating their love, however.

In 2016, before he went overseas, he managed to give her candies and a huge teddy bear nearly one month early—how sweet! “That was definitely my most memorable Valentine's day!” said Mrs. DeClercq. Another romantic tradition they have is that Matt gets Mrs. DeClercq a rose for each year that they have been married: this year, she will get six roses. Just imagine the bouquet of flowers on their 50th Valentine's Day!

Over the past four years, their ways of celebrating have changed just a little. Now that Matt works locally as a firefighter, they are no longer separated by long deployments. However, this doesn't mean that they still don't have to make sacrifices. They have welcomed two sons, Bryce and Brayden, into their family. They enjoy helping Bryce with his school valentines and giving him and his brother a gift as well, turning this holiday into a family affair!

When it comes to long standing traditions, however, the Grindstaffs have the record. Going strong for 32 years, the Grindstaffs have spent 35 Valentines days together. They celebrate by serving together at their church. “Our most memorable evenings were spent at ‘love and laughter’ couple programs,” Grindstaff said, and he has a cute “Kissing Booth” photo

to prove it. He confesses to having purchased at least 35 cards, his share in red roses, and so many ruby red Pandora Charms that his wife cannot fit any more on her Bracelet! As a couple, they have attempted to teach their three children how to share love with their special someone—a lifelong testament.

When celebrating one's special relationship, one doesn't need a specific day. Valentine's Day can be just like every other day, being with the one you cherish.

As the DeClercqs and Grindstaffs have shown us, it is not so much about the day, but about remembering those we love through our actions and traditions.



Mrs. DeClercq, her husband Matt, and their two children.

## For the Love of Ceiling Art

### Fabian Maqueira

If art is an expression of love, and love will find a way, well, so will art. One well-loved expression of art at Tennessee High are painted ceiling tiles. These tiles were created in both art classes and AP Literature classes.

In art classes, students got to craft a painting that represented themselves, whether it be a serious painting or something funny. In AP Literature, students had the option to make a ceiling tile as their final project.

According to Mrs. Kelly Vance, former AP Literature teacher, making ceiling tiles was an opportunity for students to express themselves through their favorite

quote from a book of literary importance. For a time, Mr. Davis continued this project.

“Students enjoyed making them because even if they weren't artistically inclined, they loved the idea of leaving something that will be here even after they were gone,” Vance said. The ceiling tiles have become part of our school to the point that most people enjoy seeing them and would do anything to keep them.

When rumors began circulating that the new Director of Schools, Tom Sisk, was planning to take these ceiling tiles down, sophomore class president Bridget Matthews, who really likes the artistic ceiling tiles, stood up for her peers. Matthews

did every possible thing to keep our art tiles.

“I wanted to start right away,” Matthews said. She went around the school giving out petition papers for people who wanted to sign to keep the ceiling tiles up. She said, “I collected just over 800 signatures, as well as a few teachers, which surprised me.”

Matthews also addressed that Vikings for Change, a new club started by senior Naomi Letson, reached out to her as soon as they found out about the ceiling tile rumors going around. After all these petitions were turned in to the office, Sisk received them and decided to clear the air by meeting with the student body.

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On January 31st, all the students who signed the petitions had a meeting with Sisk in the auditorium. In this meeting, he said, “I do not intend to take them down; I actually want to make an art gallery in the office where everyone can appreciate this art.” While this offers hope of preserving the art tiles, many students still did not seem to be convinced.

Sisk went on to propose that we could place the decorated tiles in the library and even in the school cafeteria, but the real reason they need to be moved is because the school system plans to repair our ceiling grid work. He also said, “I am not against art; actually, I love art.”



Meet the 2020  
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Girls Go  
Cyber

Kayla Rupe

Girls Go Cyber is a cybersecurity club that competes in cybersecurity challenges. Students work to solve cybersecurity tasks. The competition has three stages; the girls must successfully complete so many challenges to move on to the next stage.

Mrs. Del Gaudio started this club because she wanted “more girls involved in computer science.” The competition aims to let the girls experience computer science “without committing to a class to see if they like it.” They meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in homeroom.



Wilson Wins Oratorical Contest



Maddison Wilson at the Contest.

Grace Johnson

On January 22, Madison Wilson placed first in the annual Eastman Oratorical Contest for Black History month and brought home a \$1,000 scholarship.

Madison’s essay was written about the accomplishments of Toni Morrison, an African American novelist who won the Pulitzer Prize for “Beloved”, a novel about an escaped slave. Another Tennessee High student, Sydney Smith, also placed as runner-up and was awarded a \$500 scholarship. A little over 170 students entered essays to the Eastman competition; students who placed in the top fifteen were recognized and those who placed in the top five competed through

presenting their essays in front of a panel of judges. Madison Wilson describes this experience as “a great opportunity.” Mrs. Story, the AP Language teacher who pushed her students to submit the essays for this contest, says, “I am incredibly proud of how brave Madison and Sydney were... they inspired me.” Madison Wilson will be presenting her essay again at Eastman’s 2020 Black History Community Event on Saturday, February 15.

Vocal Valentines Visit Vikings?

Danica Mai

The season of love is upon us, and the Tennessee High Madrigals are here to switch up ordinary gift ideas with a Singing Valentine. The Choral director, Jason Whitson, is heading this event. On Valentine’s Day, groups of Madrigal students have gone around on and off campus to the recipients of the Valentin-o-grams and sing the requested song of either “Can’t Help Falling in Love” by Elvis Presley or “Love Me and the World is Mine” by Henry Bur. Each Singing Valentine comes

with a card and a choice of either a bouquet of carnations or an assortment of chocolates at a price of only \$25. Jason Whitson says that “the Singing Valentines are a unique fund-raiser that focuses on singing and the community”. Madrigal singer Ariana Floyd and Ethan Riffey have both said that they are “really excited to sing the Valentine-o-grams and think it is a wholesome gift idea”. Mrs. Kirk anticipated this event as she has said that she “loved receiving Singing Valentine during [her]

time at Science Hill”. Mr. Whitson and Mrs. Kirk both believe this fundraiser will be both beneficial to the choir department and the community, and they hope that this will be a successful tradition.



Motorcycle Club



The THS Motorcyle Club

Jacob Davis

The newest club at THS is Mr. Strickland’s Motorcycle club. Mr. Strickland has been riding his motorcycle for 10 years. He wanted to become more involved with the school, so he started this club to share his interest with anyone, whether they ride a motorcycle, or just want to know more about them. The club is student led, with

the current club president being Ryan Lily. Future plans for the club include teaching about motorcycle safety and concerns, going to bike shows, and building and racing their own dirt bike as a club. If you want to join, simply ask Mr. Strickland about joining. The club meets every second and fourth Monday.

FBLA Regional & State Competitions



Members of the FBLA Club

Lawson Vance

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) have proven their outstanding resolve by entering the Regional Competition on January 30th, 2020 and the State Competition on April 5-8, 2020. These events will test the

competitors’ abilities and are highly prestigious competitions. They accept only those with the keenest of competitive edges. Though the Regional Competition was canceled due to concerns of the flu in Knoxville, the competitors who were originally supposed to go there took an official substitute test that was sent out to all Regional participants. Jacob Finch, Jack Gaynor, and Brice Lay received first place in Management Decision Making, Lorianne English received first place in Securities & Investments, and Kaylie Mosher received sixth

place in Business Calculations. As for the state competition, Grace Hughes, Jeniffer Lu, and Bailey Bechtold are entering, and the outlook seems quite favorable. “Oh, they’re gonna win,” says McGwire Bains, President of FBLA, “They’re gonna bring home that Dub.” He continues, “They did good last meet, so I’m confident that they can win.” McGwire Bains continues to describe them as “capable” and “Top-tier” and shows full confidence in their abilities as Future Business Leaders of America.



# The Boss of Bloom Cafe and Listening Room



**Allie Frye**

Bloom Cafe and Listening Room is a local business located in downtown Bristol. They serve a wide variety: many types of coffee/drinks and even a healthy menu full of vegetarian and gluten free options. They also hold events ranging from art pop-ups, concerts, trivia night, and even a knitting club. Behind this unique business stands an inspirational business woman: Emily Fehr. Thirty-three-year-old Emily (Em) Fehr was born in Thompson Falls, Montana. She is the oldest of four siblings and moved to Tennessee her sophomore year of high school. Her love for coffee began during her eleventh and twelfth grade

years at her job in a coffee shop. Although at younger ages her dream job shifted from astronaut to dentist, she has “always been wanting to be a boss.” Her dream of owning a coffee shop finally became reality when she won a \$10,000 grant from the Believe in Bristol Downtown Entrepreneur Competition. Although Fehr didn’t necessarily have any critics, she did have many people that were asking realistic questions such as “Are you sure you can afford it?” When overcoming that skepticism, she stated, “You just have to decide to jump in and once you do you have to do it at 110%.” After a think group, she decided on the name Bloom Cafe and Listening Room. “Florals are a big part of my life. I am covered in flower tattoos,” she explained. “The name Bloom is like changing, growing, and always

trying to be better.” Fehr is not only constantly growing herself, but inspiring others as well. Dan Fehr, Fehr’s brother and band member of local band Indighost, started working for Emily three months after Bloom opened. He is the cafe’s event manager who also acts as a barista and bartender. “I’ve met so many cool people I wouldn’t have met otherwise doing this and gained so much experience.” During the early stages, Dan Fehr helped his sister with creating an amazing musical scene. “Any time you don’t know something just ask the people that do know,” Fehr stated when discussing her brother’s advice. “Take their opinion for what it is because a lot of times that’s really helpful.” One lesson he felt Emily taught him was “being able to say no.” He felt that this lesson had a large impact on

him and something “that’s really grown me.” Coco Watkins, another Bloom employee, discovered Bloom through a friend and has been working there for seven months. During her employment with Fehr, she has become inspired to get into business herself. She opened her online plus size vintage clothing store Plumpish during the second week of January. “There’s hope, even though it’s much harder being a woman owning a business, but seeing her do it makes me feel like I can do it.” Through her growth and the growth of those around her, this local business woman has shown that there can be powerful women in business that thrive. “Women need to try a little harder unfortunately in our society, but it’s important we try and give it our best.”

# Ginny Osborne is “Driven by Love”

**Kaitlin Rice**

Many Tennessee High students are familiar with Virginia (Ginny) Osborne, a junior at Tennessee High. However, most are likely not aware of a very significant part of her life: mission trips. Last summer from July 1 to July 28, Osborne traveled to Kenya. On this trip, Osborne “didn’t know anyone going into it.” In Kenya, Osborne went to two different orphanages and a couple different churches where she was able to help with a school and build a foundation for a new orphanage. This upcoming summer, Osborne will be taking part in another mission trip. This time, she will be traveling to Zimbabwe from June 1 to July 31. Osborne will be taking this trip through an organization

called Africa Freedom Mission with a group of missionaries from the United States. In Zimbabwe, the group will be “placed with other missionaries that are already planted there.” In contrast with her last mission trip, Osborne will know some of the people that she will be traveling with, one of which being a girl from her team last summer. In addition, some of Osborne’s leaders from last summer created a new organization that she will be going with this year. It’s hard for Osborne to be sure what she will be doing on this upcoming mission trip because “they do things a lot differently in Africa where they’re not super clock scheduled.” Osborne does know, however, that she will be on a boat

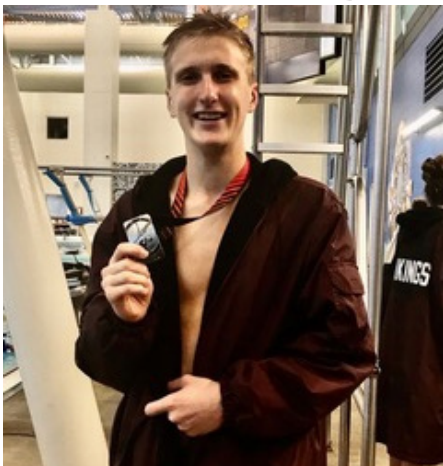
with her group for two weeks going to remote villages off the river. For the remainder of the time, she will be in different villages for weeks at a time “forming relationships and teaching them about Jesus.” There is a fairly large expense to be able to travel and take part in these mission trips. The price for Osborne’s mission trip this upcoming summer is \$5,500, which “doesn’t include domestic flights, visas, or baggage fees.” All together, the trip will cost roughly \$6,000. To raise money, Osborne has been selling sweatshirts that say “driven by love.” for \$30 each. From sweatshirt sales alone, Osborne has made roughly \$1,300. In addition to this, Osborne has sent out prayer letters and support letters. Through these various

methods of raising money for her trip, Osborne is about 90% funded. “Thank you to everyone who’s bought a sweatshirt and for all of the support.”



Ginny wearing the Sweatshirt that she raised money with.

# Caden Myers Takes on Diving at the State Level



Caden Myers at Championship Meet.

**Railey Marshall**

Tennessee High School Swim and Dive team will be taking on state February 6-8 at University

of Tennessee in Knoxville. Junior Caden Myers will be attending his first state meet as part of the dive team. However, getting to this point in his diving career wasn’t easy. Myers entered the pool facility expecting to swim. That was until he realized he had other friends diving and he “just went for it.” Myers started diving in seventh grade but ended up taking a break after his major setback. Myers was performing a reverse summersault when he hit the board. He took off a chunk of skin, starting from his knee and ending at his ankle. Myers says, “That created a mental block in my head, and it still worries me sometimes but you just gotta

throw it.” However, he didn’t let the setback hold him back any longer. Myers has accomplished many things this dive season. He has learned four front dives, three back dives, three inward dives, three twisting dives, and two reverse dives; this was after relearning all of the reverse dives he knew from seventh grade. He competed in the championship meet at the Kingsport Aquatic Center and was honored with second place. Myers also has the fourth overall score at Tennessee High. Competing at this meet qualified him for state. In order to make state for diving, you must compete in two six dive meets and one eleven dive meet,

and you have to perform two dives per category. Myers says that his favorite dive is “probably a back one and a half because adrenaline rushes through when doing it.” Myers said he wants to go to state and dive clean. He says some of his dives aren’t as hard as some of the others he is competing with, but his goal is to make all-state which is top four. Myers says he has enjoyed this season and is “super excited to see where next year goes.” “Shout out to Coach Estep. He’s made the season enjoyable and I’ve learned a lot. To the other divers, you make diving a lot of fun.”



# “Here’s Looking at You Kid”: Casablanca Review



Jacob Finch

Casablanca is a 1942 romantic film directed by cinema pioneer, Michael Curtiz. This is the standout piece amongst an awe-inspiring lineup of classic movies including, Mildred Pierce (1945), The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938), and White Christmas (1954), helmed by Curtiz as he invigorated Hollywood with a sense of realism not yet seen. Since

its release 78 years ago, the film has been praised as one of the greatest pieces of cinema ever created. The film also stars Humphrey Bogart, most known for his work in detective noir films, and Ingrid Bergman, one of the biggest names in Hollywood at the time. Set in French, and consequently Nazi, occupied Casablanca in the early stages of the Second World War, the film follows American nightclub owner Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart) as he reconnects with his old flame Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman). However, he soon discovers she is there with her husband Victor Laszlo (Paul Henreid), the leader of a resistance spanning all of Europe, as they are trying to escape to America. Ilsa and Rick were together in the weeks prior to Nazi occupation of

Paris, and when they were about to storm the city, she abandoned him. He felt betrayed but still had feelings, and the majority of the film is him discovering the proper path to take and whether it is the right thing to do. For a movie that came out in 1942, it feels surprisingly modern. The filmmaking techniques and writing make the film feel way ahead of its time. The time period that this came out in saw very direct and literal screenplays with little nuance and genuine emotion. Those films are still classics, but the dialogue takes away from the experience quite a bit. However, Casablanca does not fall under this category. The dialogue feels very natural and full of iconic lines, such as the classic “Here’s looking at you kid.” Rick and Ilsa feel like

real people going through a real situation with the way they react to their surroundings. There are also a handful of surprisingly funny jokes that catch you off guard if you are expecting a dry experience. Also, the set design and cinematography combine for a very distinct feel for the movie. The status quo of films from this era was flat lighting and backgrounds and basic camera angles. However, cinematographer Arthur Edson worked with Curtiz to give their film meaningful camera angles/movements and gripping set design that places you into the middle of 1940’s Casablanca. Overall, this film is one of the greatest pieces of cinema ever released, and deserves all the recognition it receives. I would give Casablanca a 10/10.

## Dangerous Jump

Maddy Wilson

In recent years, the indoor trampoline park Just Jump opened up in Bristol and has become a staple attraction at the Pinnacle. The park, which claims to be a prime location for “family fun, birthday parties, corporate team building & social outings for all ages”, is only one of many trampoline parks currently operating in the United States. However, according to WREG, the number of accidents reported from trampoline parks in Tennessee are rising. Though the severity of these reports were not disclosed, it’s important to note that it’s mandatory for any trampoline park company to file a report of any customer admitted into a medical facility. It’s stated on

the official Just Jump website that only .02% of injuries occurring in the U.S happen on trampolines and safety “is [their] main concern”, but that doesn’t prevent all the many possible injuries and mishaps occurring in the park. Despite the extensive list of rules named on Just Jump’s website, including (but not limited to) no horseplay, no double flips, no running, and no group acrobatics, there are still many injuries coming out of the park. The main type of injuries resulting from the park are burns and bruises, and are easily treatable but some injuries are even more severe and are worth accounting for. Personally, I believe it’s significant to remember anyone can put themselves in

danger in any situation. On the Just Jump website it states, “There is a risk of injury in anything you do, from waking up in the morning and rolling out of bed, to driving your car to work”, which approves the notion that even under circumstances where getting hurt doesn’t even seem likely, it can still happen. However, it’s always important to be precautionary. This especially applies to places like Just Jump, where many factors can play into an injury. Factors such as the amount of people jumping at a time, the age of the jumpers, and the amount of staff working that day play a significant role. However, the jumper themselves are responsible for their wellbeing and expected to know the rules

and regulations of the park. If the jumper is younger, their guardian is accountable for their safety just as much as Just Jump. Participants need to be wary of themselves and those around them to ensure safety, and to prevent any injuries that may occur. Though there is a risk of getting hurt, it shouldn’t stop those wanting to jump. As long as all of the rules are being followed and all jumpers participate within their comfort zone, all measures of safety are being met. As the site said, anyone can get hurt from even the most mundane tasks, so if you are going to jump, jump wisely.

## Battle of the Breadsticks

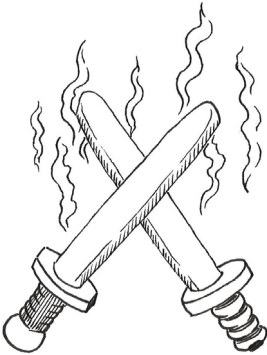
Meghan Bryant

When it comes to fine, authentic Italian cuisine, there are only two real options: Fazoli’s and Olive Garden. Olive Garden provides a homey environment, truly making the catch phrase “when you’re here, you’re family” feel accurate. Fazoli’s combines a fast food energy without being too sterile and cold. These two restaurants are wonderful establishments, but one remains superior, and it comes down to one thing. Breadsticks. There are many criteria in which to judge breadsticks. Firstly, there is the display. Olive Garden breadsticks are placed in a silver basket with a soft, white napkin lightly encasing them. Fazoli’s breadsticks, however, are delicately

placed on a white plate. Fazoli’s breadsticks don’t require a fancy presentation, they speak for themselves. Secondly, there is the appearance itself. Olive Garden breadsticks appear very firm. When you grab an Olive Garden breadstick, they just stay completely as is. A Fazoli’s breadstick, however, may bend or even break in half. Olive Garden’s breadsticks, admittedly, do have a more put together appearance. On an Olive Garden breadstick, you can see the seasoning shining like glitter. Olive Garden breadsticks aren’t perfect, but they are more pristine than Fazoli’s. Fazoli’s breadsticks can have many creases and imperfections. However, as the icon Hannah Montana once

said, “Nobody’s perfect.” Thirdly, there is cost. Both restaurants offer breadsticks options for carry out, which sadly are obviously not unlimited. Half a dozen breadsticks at Fazoli’s are \$2.69, and half a dozen breadsticks are \$3.79 at Olive Garden. A dozen breadsticks at Fazoli’s are \$4.39, while a dozen are \$5.29 at Olive Garden. Overall, I would say that Fazoli’s are the better deal. Lastly, and most importantly, there is the taste of the breadstick. Surprisingly enough, they both taste like breadsticks. Olive Garden breadsticks have more flavor, but sometimes less is more. Fazoli’s breadsticks are a simple wonder. While they are somewhat soggy, Fazoli’s breadsticks have a garlicky

flavor that balance well with salads. Olive Garden breadsticks are more filling, and rather salty. Teeth sink softly into a Fazoli’s breadstick, while sometimes Olive Garden breadsticks require more effort to eat. In the end, I believe Fazoli’s breadsticks are better. They are a cheaper option, and just taste so spectacular. Fazoli’s breadsticks are a gift to this world.





# Bristol: “A Good Place for Pride”

Meghan Bryant

After occurring in both Johnson City and Kingsport, TriPride is at last celebrating in Bristol, Tennessee. On August 29th, 2020, the third annual parade will travel down State Street, and close with a festival at Cumberland Square Park. This year’s TriPride may very well make history. Research of other cities that are split between states makes it appear highly possible that TriPride will be the first pride festival to happen in two states. The theme of this year’s festival is “A Good Place for Pride”, which is a nod to Bristol’s historic sign. There will be live entertainment, vendors, food trucks, and much

more at the event. TriPride is an event that brings so much love and positivity to our area. Jason Willis, a TriPride board member that serves as the Marketing Director on the Executive Committee said that one of his favorite things about the event is the community that offers free hugs: “Seeing so many folks come out to give free mom hugs, dad hugs, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, cousin and grandparent hugs is a beautiful thing. And those hugs are amazing and full of kindness!” Our very own Mrs. Davis has given out hugs at TriPride. “It’s just a cool way to show no matter what you believe or

think you can still support people and be there because everyone needs a mom,” Mrs. Davis said. TriPride is a safe space for many, including Tennessee High School students. One student, Helen Browning, said, “It’s one of the places outside of my house that I can still feel at home. Being in a crowd full of people like me and being able to escape the harsh reality of being lgbtq+ is one of the things I will always look forward to in life.” For those looking to get involved, parade and festival exhibitor applications will be accepted in late January or early February, and volunteers will be sought out as it becomes closer to

the festival date.



Tennessee High School students Justine Norton (left) and Helen Browning (right) enjoying TriPride.

# Mr. Robson: The Coach of the Crown



Sam Robson, a Student Teacher at THS

Gibson Bartlett and Danica Mai

Sam Robson is a student teacher at THS. He is completing his Master’s in Education at King University, where he is also the assistant coach for their girls’ soccer team.

That may not seem too out of the ordinary for THS, and that is the expectation of most students. However, when they first hear his voice students realize he is not like any other student teacher. Sam Robson is from England. Mr. Robson was born and raised in Hunmanby, England. He lived there for 18 years of his life where he played the sport he loved, soccer. Until one fateful day, Sam was offered the opportunity to play soccer on a full scholarship at Bethel University in McKenzie Tennessee. Robson had to make a tough decision on whether he will leave the comfort of his home country or pursue his childhood passion of soccer in a foreign

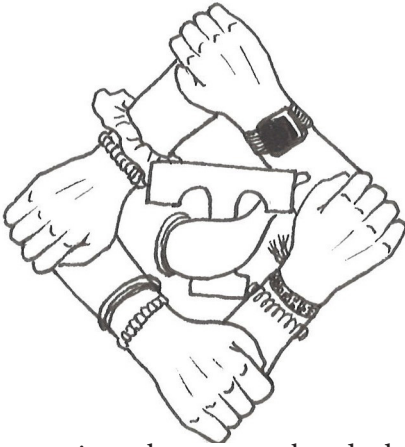
country. Sam Robson decided he would take a leap of faith and move to America to play soccer. At Bethel University, Sam was a part of the starting line-up as a defender. He played all four years of college where he graduated in 2018 and meet his fiancé. Robson then went to King University to finish his Master’s in Education. There he also became the assistant coach for King’s girl soccer team. Mr. Robson enjoys coaching the girl’s team. He says “they accept critique well while boys believe they know everything”. Mr. Robson’s plans Sam to stay in the United States. He is planning his wedding with his fiancé and they will continue building a

family with their 3 year old son. Although he misses his family and friends back in England, Robson believes he belongs in the US. Mr. Robson will continue coaching soccer here and advancing his education at King. Coach Robson is enjoying his time at THS and finds the students and teachers all have very strong relationships. Although he is only with us for a limited time, he has made some great connections at our school. It just goes to show, even a Viking that has sailed from across the pond is still a Viking.

# At Tennessee High, There’s a Place for Everyone

Nate Roark

Perhaps a basic lesson of life is that people are different, and that all people deserve equal respect. LaDonna Sonds, an Educational Assistant with special needs students, teaches with a heart that believes “everybody is unique in their own way.” Kelvin Coleman, a senior who finds his safe space in football, says, “[I am] able to vibe with anybody, so there’s not like a group that I can’t talk to somebody from.” Are you a student that “grinds,” hoping to one day make it big? Are you a student who values the journey more than outcome, or a student who is just counting down the days until you escape? Are you a student who simply wants to make a difference in the world? Are you a student who plays volleyball, football, baseball, soccer, softball, lacrosse, or do you find yourself



more into theatre, art, band, choir, student council, prom committee, Girls Coding, E-Sports, FBLA, Chess Club, or HOSA? Perhaps, you’re a mix of these. Perhaps, you don’t fall into any of these categories. Maybe you spend all of your free time working a part-time job, just trying to help your family survive. Some of us live in a mansion, a trailer, a nice picket fence house, but some of us also find ourselves homeless, couch

surfing because you can’t afford a home. We are made up of straight and queer students, Christians and Atheists. We are African American, Hispanic, Latino, Asian, Native American, and Hawaiian. We are Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. We are Tennessee High. Most students are able to find a safe place from clubs to sports to a close group of friends, but some students like senior Kloey Tester find themselves lost somewhere in the middle. Kloey believes that “overall, people accept people, but we could definitely do a lot more to make people more comfortable no matter what form of diversity they are.” She also notes that, “Mrs. Kirk is always open to new ideas.” Some students like Emanye Lockhart believe that “We need more pep rallies and posters that include clubs and different groups of

people.” Thankfully, at Tennessee High, students who haven’t found their people yet are invited to create new clubs that represent their diversity and uniqueness. In 2019, Naomi Letson, a senior, noticed that students often may struggle to find their place at Tennessee High so she took on the task of creating a new club. “Being someone who is often in the out group,” she found a need and developed Vikings For Change. Vikings For Change is a community outreach, politically driven, diverse and inclusive club that empowers students to speak out, be unique, and make a difference. It is often a club for students who have struggled to find a place in the world because they are a minority. When you feel excluded at Tennessee High and can’t seem to find your people, know that there are others who are waiting for someone to speak up.



## What Classes Should I Take?

**Gibson Bartlett**

Class registration upon us, and many are nervous about what to sign up for. I'd say I have an adequate grasp of classes at THS and here are my top recommendations.

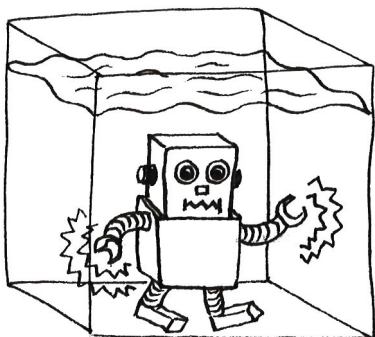
For the student with a love for tech, Mrs. Del Gaudio's Computer Science Foundations class is a great way to get more acquainted with coding, computers, and even be involved in our very own help desk!

For the savvy student entrepreneur, Intro to Business with Mrs. English is a great start to the business/accounting path. This course lets students explore different career options in the business field.

For the student with an interest in how all things work, Mrs. Givney's Principles of Engineering is a great way to discover the foundations of engineering and architecture. This class would be beneficial to anyone hoping to start an engineering program of study

For the student with an exploratory nature, Mrs. Parker's AP Human Geography class is a great way to learn about all different types of cultures, religions, and different ways of life around the world.

For the student with a brilliant voice, Concert Choir with Mr. Whitson is a great introductory class to the choirs at our school. This class introduces students to the foundations of vocal music and is a great start for any singer! Lastly, for the student with a nose for news, there is no better student journalism outlet than the legendary Maroon and White! Ask your guidance counselor or for more info!



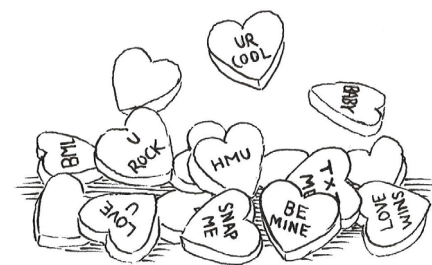
## Best Valentine's Day Candy?

**Emma Cross**

Have you ever wondered what the best Valentine's Day candy is? Well let me put your mind at ease, because trust me, I know. Whitman's heart-boxed chocolate? Don't think so. Fruit-flavored chocolate? Close but no cigar. Branch's candy hearts? Not a single chance in the world! The best Valentine's Day candy to eat is the Sweetheart's brand of candy hearts. Their flavor and textures

are a perfect consistency. They are my favorite candies of all time, and nothing can compare. Last year was the worst Valentine's Day I ever had, because they removed them from the stores due to the company being bought out. This year, the hearts will be making a comeback and my Valentine's Day cravings can be fulfilled. They will only be in a few different stores because Spangler Candy is still working on

recovering the recipe and getting the hearts back into full spring, so get them while you can!!



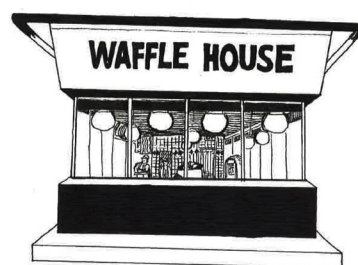
## Welcome to Waffle House!

**Grace Johnson and Railey Marshall**

For the past few years, it has been tradition for our family to stop at the Waffle House located in Jacksonville, Florida, on the way to the beach. We get out of the car that we have been trapped in all night, stretch our legs, and walk into Waffle House with our stomachs open and ready to enjoy a very well-made breakfast. After stuffing ourselves with delicious chocolate chip waffles and crunchy bacon, we head to the beach for the day. Because of the wonderful food and friendly employees, our family returns every year.

This fall, it was announced that a Waffle House would be opening at the Pinnacle. Our community was abuzz with anticipation. On January 6th, the Waffle House finally opened and many students from Tennessee High went to try out this new restaurant. Ben Fernandez, junior, was among the

crowd there on opening day. He said, "Everyone was super nice. It took a while to get our food but that's probably because it was their first day. The food was alright... nothing outstanding... it's nice to have some more variety around here. I think it's a good thing." The Waffle House manager, Casey Raulerson, was also there working on opening day. She said, "It was busy but we worked as a team and it went great." Raulerson also adds that working at Waffle House is "like working with a family." After hearing the experiences of the students, we decided to try out Waffle House for ourselves.



We hoped to have the similar experience that we have every year in Florida. On January 13th, after swim practice, we headed to Waffle House with a group of friends. It had become darkened outside and the iconic yellow Waffle House sign gleamed above us as we walked in. We were instantly greeted, "Welcome to Waffle House!" by all of the restaurant's employees. The sweet smell of the restaurant wafted through the air as we sat down to order our meal. As we sat down at the bar area, a waitress approached us with a pink bow on the left side of her head with a name tag that said "TJ". She was very friendly and our drinks never emptied.

Overall, we would rate Waffle House at the Pinnacle a 3/5. The food experience was not out of this world but it was adequate. The employees greeted us the second we opened the door and our waitress, TJ, was really nice and peppy. We would definitely go again!

## What Valentines Should be about

**Justine Norton**

Valentine's Day is known as the day corporations sell their sickly-sweet candies and overly fluffy teddy bears. Couples use this day as a way to express their love, but they should do that every day. The rest of us have an excuse to eat as much chocolate as we want. In my opinion, Valentine's Day exploits and cloaks the rich history behind it.

Valentine's Day didn't even get its name until the end of the fifth century. Originally, it was a Roman

festival called "Lupercalia" and it was held in mid-February. This festival celebrated the coming of spring and pairing of women with men by lottery. This changed when Claudius Valentine, said to be martyred, defied the Catholic Church and wed young lovers who weren't allowed to wed. After this, he was murdered and the day he died, February 14th, became known as Valentine's Day. In my opinion, this history is rich and isn't emphasized enough. I would want to celebrate what Valentine's is truly about, the

coming of spring.

In the end, I believe Valentine's Day should be known for loving the new season and the people around us. It shouldn't just be the love between couples, it should be the love between everyone, regardless of what the person looks like or stands for. Valentine's Day should be known as a day where we accept and love everyone! Everyone deserve to be treated equally in every way. Through Valentine's Day, we can do this!



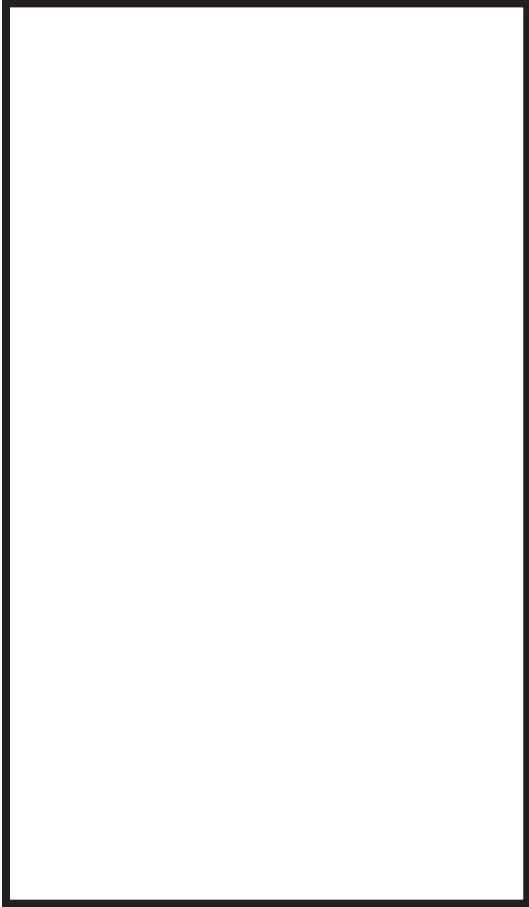
# Vikings Vocalize

Jacob Finch

Alex Jones (9th Grade)  
“Fun diyup!”  
Sallycarol Corowind (9th Grade)  
“Chocolate, haha.”  
Micah Kennedy (10th Grade)  
“Shnickers. Yep.”  
Sophie Arnold (10th Grade)  
“Kit Kats!”  
Ian Morrison (11th Grade)  
“Sour Patch, I guess?”  
Maddie Dorton (11th Grade)  
“Kit Kats.”  
Rowan Chapman (12th Grade)  
“Uh, chocolate.”  
Cara Hammonds (12th Grade)  
“Uhhhhh, chocolate? Yeah, chocolate.”

# Create your own ceiling tile

Please don't be vile



Don't worry, these won't be taken down  
But please, share your creations around  
Justine Norton



## Unscramble the Words: Valentine's Edition

Kaitlin Rice

- rraeybfu \_\_\_\_\_
- lianveten \_\_\_\_\_
- trsaeh \_\_\_\_\_
- pciud \_\_\_\_\_
- wlofres \_\_\_\_\_
- ortfnehuet \_\_\_\_\_
- oollabn \_\_\_\_\_

answers: february, valentine, hearts, cupid, flowers, fourteen, balloon

# Are You Basic? Quiz

Maddy Wilson

- 1.) Do you bring a Pal's tea to school at least 3 times a week?
- 2.) Have you gone to Sonic in the past week?
- 3.) Are your playlists roughly 45% rap music, 45% country music, and 10% Christian music?
- 4.) Do you only take the AP test for the extra two points?
- 5.) Do you go to Bloom to take aesthetic pictures instead of buying coffee?
- 6.) Do you own a Vera Bradley lunchbox?
- 7.) Do you regularly order lunch special #13 at Casa Mexicana?
- 8.) Do you attend Young Life?
- 9.) When you go to the vending machine, do you get an orange citrus Kickstart?
- 10.) Do you or have you ever worked at the following: Jersey Mike's, Food City, or McAlister's?

Scores:

- 0 – 3: Congratulations, you're not basic at all! Now go buy some \$3 mom jeans from the thrift store to pair with your \$150 Doc Martens.
- 4 – 7: You probably tried to go to Young Life, talked to one person, and never went back.
- 8 – 10: I mean... if the dirty white Van fits....

# Valentine's Playlist

Emma Cross  
Singles for Singles

1. Teardrops on my Guitar- Taylor Swift
2. Peach Scone- Hobo Johnson
3. Feeling Whitney- Post Malone
4. Yes I'm Changing- Tame Impala
5. Saturday Nights- Khalid
6. This Town- Niall Horan
7. Yesterday- The Beatles
8. UGH!- the 1975
9. Facetime- Tana Mongeau
10. Wrote this Song Without You- Juliette Reilly

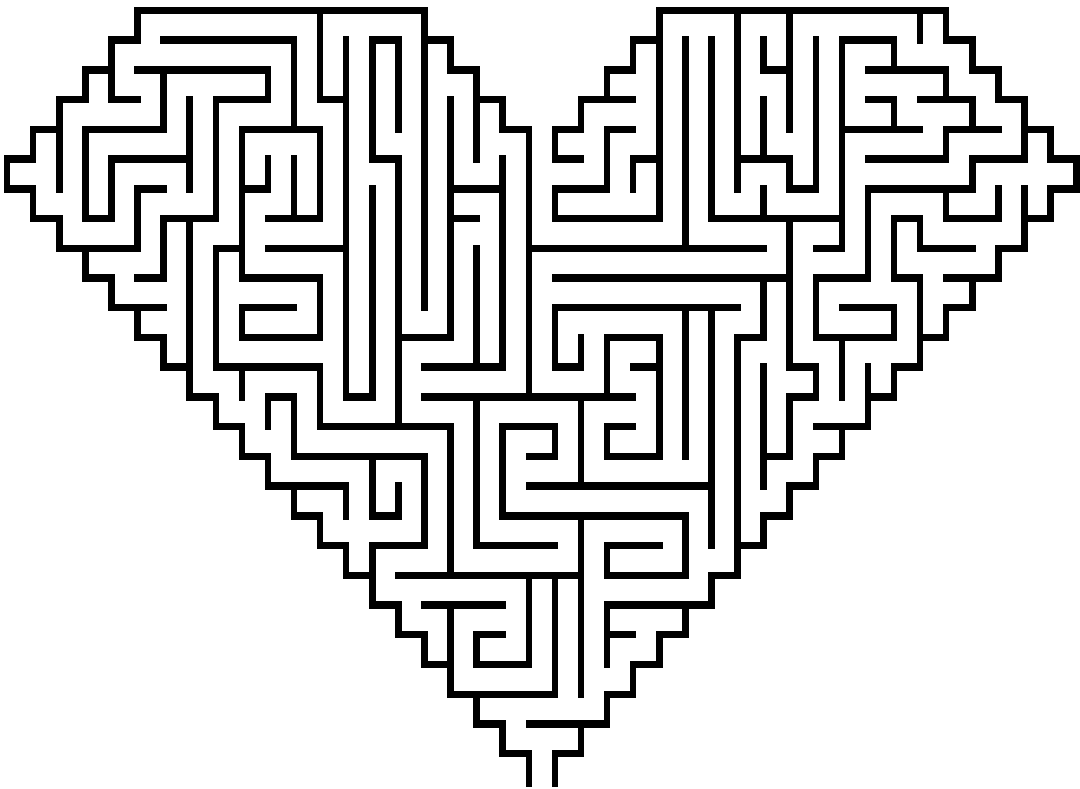
# Terrible Pick-Up Lines

Allie Frye

- 1.Even if there wasn't gravity on Earth, I'd still fall for you
- 2.I'm no photographer but I can picture us together
- 3.Are you a parking ticket? Because you've got fine written all over you
- 4.Do you have a Band-Aid because I scraped my knee falling for you
- 5.Are you a camera? Because every time I look at you I smile
- 6.Do you like raisins? How do you feel about a date?

## Couples

1. Only Love- Ben Howard
2. Golden Hour- Kacey Musgraves
3. I Don't Dance- Lee Brice
4. Mine- Taylor Swift
5. Loving is Easy- Rex Orange County
6. Adore You- Harry Styles
7. Beautiful Crazy- Luke Combs
8. I'm Yours- Jason Mraz
9. Night Changes- One Direction
10. Fallingforyou- the 1975





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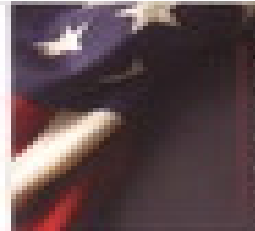
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