

# Maroon & White

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Tennessee High School, Bristol, Tennessee

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## Happily Ever After's at THS

Rachel Kent



**Mr. and Mrs. Slagle**



**Mr. and Mrs. Tiller**



**Mr. and Mrs. Bittinger**

Our story begins in 2008 when the pair of JB's met. Mrs. Bittinger and her husband knew of each other throughout their childhoods, but as fate would have it, they officially met at a mutual friend's birthday party while in their 20s. Mrs. B thought he was charming and smart and the bonus would be that she wouldn't have to change her initials since they were both already JB's. As graduates from Tennessee High, they would only cross paths in the halls during their teenage years. Little did they know, after that birthday party, they would be married in 2010. They just recently surpassed their 10th anniversary, sadly during Covid-19 so celebrating was limited.

Only two years later, Mr. Tiller would meet his soulmate as well. It all started when Lesley, a guest speaker for Mr. Tiller's government, class spoke to his students on "Law Day". Mr. Tiller didn't know it at first, but she would eventually become Mrs. Tiller. Thankfully through Facebook, they were able to connect and Mr. Tiller was given the chance to ask her out. Their first date was to see "Legally Blonde" at the Barter in Abingdon and since then, their love story has been its own Broadway production. They married in 2013 and have been "avid theater goers since".

Not long after Mr. Tiller found his happily ever after, Mrs. Slagle did as well. His name is Seth and Mrs. Slagle refers to him as being "pretty cool". They had their first date at "Label" in Johnson City and got ice cream afterwards. Later, Mrs. Slagle called her best friend, Mrs. Perdue and told her that she "just met [her] future husband". Seth and "Bethany", also known as Brittany, got

married in 2017. This nickname formed from a misunderstanding when their pastor accidentally referred to Mrs. Slagle as Bethany. Since then, it has been a running joke for Mrs. Slagle to go as "Bethany" when she is being "extra". As of now, they are a family of four, with Mrs. Slagle's "bonus son" Braden and two puppies named George and Chloe. Their family will soon get a new addition though, because when the fireworks come this summer on July 4th, a baby Slagle will too.

On Valentine's Day, all of these couples celebrate in their own ways. For the Bittingers, it is a large dinner by Mrs. Bittinger herself since she isn't the usual chef in the house. However, she once went on a surprise trip to Disney World. The Tiller's almost never celebrate on February 14th, due to basketball season, but that doesn't mean they won't take a trip to Giuseppe's in Kingsport around Valentine's Day. The Slagle's skip out on the "special dates" on Valentine's Day and they rather gift each other with new adventures. They love to travel so planning a trip in the future as a present is more exciting for them. They also enjoy finding new restaurants and recipes.

These three stories differ in many ways, but what connects them all is Tennessee High. Whether they are alumni, current staff members, or spouse to a staff member at THS, they all are connected. Through this rough past year, we have to remember and stick together as a school community that is already surrounded by so much love. So this Valentine's Day, Tennessee High is a place of love and friendships that are blossoming all around us.

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## In Loving Memory of Gabby Kennedy

Annie Hayes

A little over three months ago, our community was grief-stricken by the tragic loss of our citywide best friend, Gabby Kennedy. A hero to many, Gabby was best known for her ability to brighten anyone's day, as well as her consistent and persistent efforts to do so. Whether that be through her morning texts that provided bible verses, quotes, and many other inspirational inputs, partnered with an "I love you!" or just her strong, outstanding presence--anything involving was a lift to the spirit.

As you go around the community, Gabby effected every single person in some way, but not one single person's experience with her was negative. She was an extremely loved girl and had the most extreme love to give back. She was the purest example of "love thy neighbor."

Many different occasions and locations are dedicated to Gabby. The Tennessee High Girls' Basketball team has dedicated pretty much everything to Gabby. Their whole season is dedicated to Gabby, so they have been working hard for her.

The first piece of dedication to Gabby from the team is their shooting shirts. Coach Kim Bright said that senior player Tori Ryan had approached her about making shirts, so her and assistant Coach Charlie Tiller brainstormed and came up with an idea for shirts with ap-

proval from all three senior players. These shirts feature Gabby's most popular words "Walk the Earth, Leave Footprints of love" on the front along with her name and then her softball number #00 on the back. The girls wear these shirts to their games and warm up in them as well.

Another feature from the girls is their shoes. From afar, they may look like a regular pair of shoes, but when you get closer, you will see the writings made by players in honor of Gabby. Everyone's are personalized, but majority of them display the same quote as the shirt, and then show her number and initials on the other side.

Senior Tori Ryan said that both of these dedications give her strong motivation because it "feels like she's still with me." Tori also said that it is super important to her because even though she is not here with us, it is like she's here in spirit.



**The Girls Basketball Team's Shoes dedicated to Gabby**

**Meet the 2020  
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# Blinding Sunday Night Lights

**Danica Mai**

On Sunday February 7th, 2021, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers won the 55th Super Bowl over the Kansas City Chiefs. This is the Buccaneers 2nd Super Bowl win in NFL history. Their last win was in 2003 against the Los Angeles Raiders. The Buccaneers were led by Tom Brady, the Buccaneer's starting Quarterback, and the Chiefs were led by their starting Quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

The National Anthem was sang in a duet form by Jazmine Sullivan and Eric Church. The beginning of the game looked promising for the Chiefs with a 0-3 lead. However, the Buccaneers came back and scored 3 touchdowns by half-time. Grammy winning artist The Weeknd performed this year's half-time show. His show, many would say, is the best half time performance in recent years. Not only did many people enjoy the show, some memes were created from different scenes of the show. After half-time, the Buccaneers rode with their momentum from the last half and blew out the Chiefs with a final score of 31-9.

Over the years, the Super Bowl has not drawn in viewers because of the actual football game; the commercials are the main hook of the whole event. This year the commercials were lack luster compared to previous years,

and most of them brought nothing interesting to the table. The most memorable advertisements were the Alexa commercial featuring Micheal B. Jordan and the 3D Doritos commercial with Matthew McConaughey.

Overall, this year's Super Bowl was uneventful. The excitement of the game was quickly extinguished by the quick sweep from the Buccaneers and the unmemorable ads. The most memorable part of the night was the amazing performance by the Weeknd. Hopefully next year the Super Bowl will get back into the swing of things.



**The Weeknd**

# Coffee Shop Craze

**Annie Hayes**

As we all know, a new coffee shop—Trailblazer—located on West State Street has become essential to many Bristolians' lives. We are used to Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts coffee and sweets, but Trailblazer has become increasingly popular with its original and classic vibe. Trailblazer offers six original coffee drinks: Soho, Buccaneer, Doctor's Orders, All Nighter, and Black Bear Cold Brew. Along with their coffee drinks, they offer alternative cold drinks like Flavored Monster Energy, Bubble Tea, Smoothies, Italian Soda, and Iced tea. Hot drinks are Drip Coffee, Hot chocolate and hot tea. Trailblazer offers more than just drinks, though. Their bakery consists of donut holes, scones, cinnamon rolls, Rice Krispie Treats, bagels, trail mix, and a variety of breads. Trailblazer offers about 40 different flavors for their drinks.

So, Trailblazer is a new hot spot that appeals to not just coffee lovers, but everyone of all ages. And, their prices are honestly pretty great!



**Trailblazers Coffee Shop**

# School Systems Provide Vaccinations for Staff

**Gibson Bartlett**

Starting Friday, February 12th, faculty and staff members of Bristol Tennessee City Schools, Kingsport City Schools, and Sullivan County Schools received their initial doses of vaccinations for the COVID-19 virus. Through the Sullivan County Regional Health Department, vaccines were administered while students studied through asynchronous online learning. Because of most vaccine distribution plans giving higher priority to essential workers and the elderly, securing a vaccination from an outside purveyor proved difficult for teachers and near-impossible for students. This a big step in the right direction, as vaccinating teachers could help to reduce COVID spread in schools. Additionally, most Coronavirus cases show younger people tend to face more mild symptoms than adults,

so vaccinating teachers first is the most effective plan. The second and final dose will be administered to staff members starting March 5th.



**Tennessee High School**

# Theatre Bristol: The Hound of the Baskervilles

**Grace Johnson**

In March of 2021, Theatre Bristol will be airing their production of The Hound of the Baskervilles. This play is based off one of many Sherlock Holmes stories. Sherlock Holmes will be played by James Francis and his sidekick, Dr. John Watson, will be played by Andrew Hunt. This production had their first rehearsal February 2. Theatre Bristol says, "Listeners are in for a treat with this Sherlock classic!" (For more information, and to buy tickets, visit TheatreBristol.org or visit their Facebook page)



# Snyder Speaks on Vaccines

Grace Johnson

On December 16, the first Covid-19 vaccine was administered in Tennessee. Since then, around 650,000 more vaccines have been given in Tennessee. Smaller counties have begun giving vaccines to teachers while more populated ones are still working on distributing them to residents aged 75 years or older. Tennessee High School English teacher, Andrew Snyder, has recently received his vaccine.

Last August, Andrew Snyder signed up for a blind trial for the Pfizer vaccine. Some patients received a placebo and some patients received the actual vaccination. After it was revealed he received a placebo, Snyder was able to go and get the real vaccine on January 15th.

Besides a little soreness in his arm the next day, Snyder has reported no considerable pain or side effects. "I didn't even realize the needle went in," he said.

Andrew Snyder wanted to get the vaccine to "do his part" in "de-

feating" Covid. After receiving the vaccine, his opinions have not changed at all. Snyder says, "The only way we're going to get any sense of normalcy again is if enough individuals get the vaccine." He also adds, "This vaccine is the best, and safest, weapon to use when it comes to eradicating the virus."

Snyder's views align well with many medical professionals across our region. Based on countless research and trials much like the one Andrew Snyder participated in, it is highly suggested to do your part and receive the vaccine. For more information on signing up for the Covid-19 vaccine, visit the website <https://covid19.tn.gov>.



Mr. Snyder

# Viking U: Is it for U?

Gibson Bartlett

With the inaugural class of Viking U, an accelerated Associates degree program for THS students, entering its second semester, registration has begun for the next batch of students. This of course has many sophomores wondering if Viking U is the right fit for them.

Starting junior year, Viking U students switch to a college curriculum at either Tusculum University or Northeast State Community College in order to earn an Associates degree upon graduating high school. Classes vary as far as being taught virtually or in-person, and tuition costs are required to complete the courses. Over the two years, students still take three electives at THS in addition to their college courses.

Owen Ferguson, an 11th Grade THS student completing the Tusculum Viking U pathway says he enrolled in Viking U because he wanted to take more challenging classes. "All of my Tennessee High classes were pretty easy, so I wanted to bump up the difficulty." In discussion of the class environment and pace, Ferguson reports "there isn't a super heavy workload. It's just dependent on how fast you get (assignments) done." The curriculum is driven entirely by completing assigned work and readings before the deadline. For students who have found success in Viking U, several attributes stand out. Guidance Counselor Rachel Fleenor coordinates the Tusculum Pioneer Pathway. She lists some qualities that best identify with successful Viking U students: "someone who's very self-motivated, has good time management skills, .... Not afraid to speak up and ask for help." Being individually academically driven is the key to succeeding in Viking U. Classes are fast paced and teachers can't constantly remind students about upcoming assignments. Guidance Counselor Leslie Skeens offers another perspective. "I've always thought AP classes were harder than Dual Enrollment... If I wanted to rec-

ommend a class that you're going to be prepared for college, I'd say take Advanced Placement classes." For students who do not want to switch curriculums entirely-- or those who prefer to take many non-core classes-- there are still options for difficult courses. The caveat for AP is that receiving credit for a college course is dependent on the student's score on the AP Exam, whereas taking Dual Enrollment guarantees credit for completing the course.

"It's such an individual choice." Mrs. Skeens encourages students to consider the choice thoughtfully. "If you foresee yourself getting a masters or a doctorate, (Viking U) is a great way to jump-start it." She stresses the notion that for a specific kind of person, who is set on speeding through high-school and college to save time and money, the program can be very valuable.

For the student who is self-motivated, a diligent academic, efficient, an anti-procrastinator, ready for a fast-tracked education, ...Viking U might just be the right choice. "It's still a deal... a pretty good deal."



# Computers and Covid-19

Ethan Francis

Not everyone is good with computers. No one knows this more than Dr. Blair Henley, the Chief Technology Officer for Bristol Tennessee City Schools. Henley, 50, has overseen one of the most difficult times for the Technology Department. The department consists of only 10 people, all of whom answer directly to Henley. Only 5 of those are trained technicians who fix most major issues for all the students district-wide. And on top of their regular workload, the department had to deal with a global pandemic that would cause health concerns for students and staff district-wide and lead many students to choose to stay at home. These at-home learners posed a challenge to the department, as they could not come to the Help Desk of their respective school to have issues resolved. This led to the creation of the Hotline.

The Help Desk Hotline was created in March 2020, just after in-person school was cancelled for the semester. Although this was before Dr. Henley became head of the department, he says that the technology staff "are to be commended for their efforts during these difficult times." All at-home learners call one Hotline for the whole system, and although the desk only receives about 5-10 calls per day, that number can skyrocket to 30 per day when all students are at home. Incredibly, in one period of less than three weeks between August 17 and September 3, the Hotline received 3,614 calls!

The return to in-person school required the Technology Department to set new standards for how Help Desks would operate in

order to keep students and staff safe. A student does not even physically go to the Help Desk anymore. Instead, their teacher fills out an online form and either the issue is fixed remotely or the student drops off their laptop and later receives a replacement. Very few students are able to work the Help Desk this year as well, and are not able to work at any other schools. This again puts more work on the Technology Department and the Help Desks. They have faced a monumental task this year.

However, Dr. Henley is proud of his department, and they do indeed deserve praise. In the face of a global pandemic and the restrictions that come along with it, the Technology Department has adapted and continued to serve the thousands of students and staff throughout the district



THS Help Desk

# Meghan's (Almost) Monthly Music Musings

**Meghan Bryant**

Twilight is one of the most divisive movies of our time. Most people either love it or hate it. However, we aren't here to talk about the movie's plot. We are here to discuss how the Twilight soundtrack is a musical masterpiece.

I could really discuss any of the four Twilight movies. All of their soundtracks are sublime. To keep it simple, though, we are going to stick to the original Twilight movie of 2008.

One of the reasons the soundtrack is so special is because it truly coincides with the movie itself. It matches the iconic blue filter that covers every scene and fits the emo vibe Bella Swan exudes. It embodies the year of 2008 by featuring musicians such as: Paramore, Muse, Death Cab for Cutie, and Linkin Park.

A particular scene in the soundtrack that is one of the best examples of the soundtrack enhancing the movie is when "Super Massive Black Hole" by Muse plays during the Baseball scene. There is just something about this song that works so well with an ancient vampire family playing baseball. The scene is one of the most upbeat and "Super Massive Black Hole" just makes it more epic.

One of the best songs of the movie isn't even available on Spotify. Towards the end of the movie Bella is (spoiler alert) on the brink of becoming a vampire after being bitten. A very emotional moment occurs, in which Edward must use all of his strength to not kill Bella while trying to prevent her from becoming a vampire. In the background, a male voice can be heard singing soulfully. This male voice belongs to Robert Pattinson, the actor who plays the male lead Edward Cullen. I believe there is something unique and creative in using of the star's voice to highlight the emotion of the scene.

Overall, Twilight may not be admired in society. However, the soundtrack is one of the best parts of the movie and deserves a listen.

# Double Masked Up

**Ethan Francis**

It has been over a year since COVID-19 first appeared in the United States. Since then, over 26 million Americans have tested positive and over 450,000 have lost their lives to the virus (CDC). One simple method to fight the virus that the CDC, healthcare workers, scientists, and every level of government recommends is to wear a mask. Specifically, they recommend a double layered cloth mask or an N95 or surgical mask. In the last few weeks, a new idea has been circulating around the upper echelons of health and viral experts: wearing two masks.

The CDC is currently studying the effectiveness of wearing two masks versus just one. As this is still a relatively new idea, the science is still out on the matter. However, it would make sense that two masks are more effective than one. Dr. Anthony Fauci, one of the country's leading experts on infectious diseases, says that wearing two masks "just makes common sense that it likely would be more effective" (Washington Post). Having more layers of filter between a person's mouth and nose and the outside world would, in theo-

ry anyway, reduce the chances of catching COVID-19. Especially as new variants of the virus are spreading. In particular, the variant that likely originated in the United Kingdom is known to be much more transmissible than the original coronavirus variant. It is also known to be spreading within the United States. The higher transmission rates will likely lead to yet another spike in cases and deaths related to the virus. As the coronavirus continues to make many Americans severely ill and take many lives, wearing two masks is an easy way to reduce the chance of catching or transmitting COVID-19 to someone else.



# The Great Bristol Coffee Debate

**Grace Johnson**

Within the past few months, Bristol citizens have noticed the opening of the new coffee shop: Trailblazer Coffee. Because of this new addition to Bristol, it is high time to review all of Bristol's best coffee spots. Is it better to go mainstream or travel down to a local shop?

People all across the globe have heard of the beloved basics: Dunkin' Donuts and Starbucks. If you are on a budget, Dunkin' is a solid choice. However, their coffee is very mysterious. What do they do to their coffee, where each time you go, you order the same thing, but each drink is completely different?

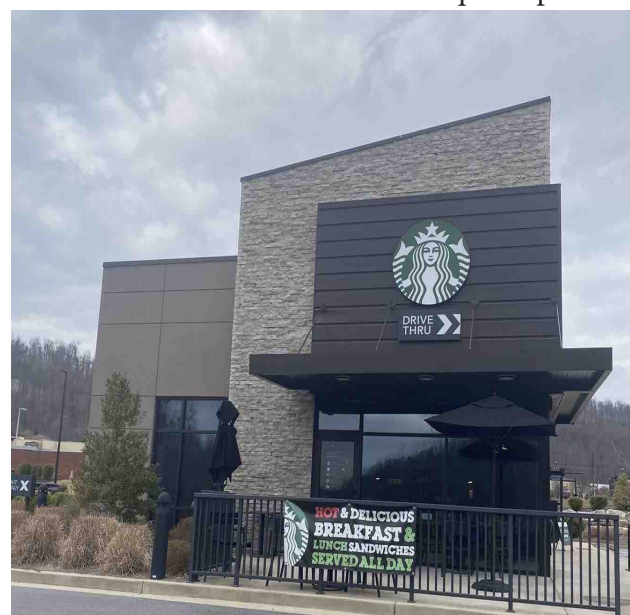
If you are looking for a more stable alternative, Starbucks is a great place to turn to. Their calming atmosphere and almost perfect guarantee that their drinks will turn out great every time, is definitely something to look forward to. However, their drinks are definitely on a pricier spectrum and the drive thru line often piles up.

Both of these coffee shops are in central parts of Bristol, making them the perfect place to stop for a drink while running errands.

Bloom and Trailblazer Coffee are some of the lesser traveled to places in Bristol. Bloom has a remarkable atmosphere with strong espresso and great coffee. You can also sit down in Bloom and enjoy a delicious meal. Trailblazer Coffee also has ex-

cellent coffee along with high quality flavored syrups. Trailblazer's drinks have unique names related to our region: such as the "Soho" and the "Buccaneer."

Though you may find yourself gravitating towards the classic Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts, I highly suggest checking out Bristol's local shops. Though they may not be centered right at the Pinnacle, driving a little out of the way is worth it for their delicious coffee and unique experiences.



**Starbucks at the Pinnacle**

**Use Your Voice! Write Your Story!**

**Applications to join the  
Maroon & White staff are  
open! There's a place for everyone!**

**Writers! Artists! Photographers!  
Social Media Influencers!**

**Ask Your Guidance Counselor**

# Flash Back to Friday the 13th

Danica Mai

On March 13th 2020, we experienced, what some of us could say, was our last day of normal high school. Every student has different feelings about that day. Some students look back on that day and find joy in the memories, and some remember that day and feel a sense of melancholy knowing that was their last normal day of high school.

When Keona Fieltz, a junior at THS, was asked how she felt about March 13th, she responded with an overall positive view on the day. She said the most memorable part of the day was the talent show when Gibson sang and asked my friend to prom and the performance from Broken Daze. However, she feels a sort of sadness when remem-

## The last first meet

Marv Huffard



2021 Senior Swimmers and Divers

The pandemic has had a bearing on just about every aspect of this year, sports being one of them. At the beginning of each season, the swim team divides into two teams and competes against each other in events and team spirit. What's at stake? Having

bering that day was one of her last Covid free school days. Keona misses high school without all the restrictions and regulations. She says school back then was "more fun and less tiring; everything is so tiring".

This year has been rough on everyone, both physically and mentally. The stress of online classes, masks, and new regulations can cause a huge strain on our well-being. So during this period, we should be focused on our mental and emotional health. We are all experiencing something completely foreign, so do not be afraid to reach out to someone.

no practice the next day. Due to the pandemic, there was a very limited number of spectators. "It's definitely weird and sad for a meet to not have anyone there" said senior Ben Fernandez. With little fans this year, the friendly competition between the divided team persisted. The points were calculated and the maroon team was crowned victorious.

This last-first meet was a bittersweet experience for the seniors. Senior Grace Johnson was especially sentimental, "The maroon and white meet was very bittersweet this year. We had a ton of fun during the meet and had some really good swims! It was very saddening that this would be my very last maroon and white meet." Senior, Alisa Harris, is hopeful for the season as she expressed, "Even with the circumstances, I'm glad we can all come together as a team and make this season the best one yet." The aquavikes are still doing their best to remain hopeful.

## Hybrid, in-person, or online?

William Burriss

On August 10th 2020 Bristol Tennessee School Systems had their first official day of school for the 2020-2021 year. However, the dreaded "first day of school" was a little different this year. In March of 2020 Bristol Tennessee School Systems had announced the closing of all schools indefinitely, due to the covid-19 pandemic. Over the long summer many students felt like "school didn't exist anymore", according to Tennessee High freshman Joseph Burriss. Although as the impending new school year approached many guidelines and protocols were implemented for the safety of students and teachers.

One of these guidelines - which was at the time strongly recommended by the Tennessee Department of Health - consisted of sending students back on a hybrid learning schedule. Bristol Tennessee City Schools' approach at hybrid learning consisted of sending half of the students to school in person Monday and Tuesday while the other half would attend Thursday and Friday. This hybrid learning schedule continued until the 13th of October where Bristol Tennessee City Schools returned to the traditional full time in person learning.

When asked which learning option (hybrid, in-person, or on-

line) he preferred, Tennessee High senior Ben Fernandez was quick to respond "definitely hybrid". In fact so did many students. Including Tennessee High School freshman Joseph Burriss who describes hybrid learning as the "best of both worlds". About 50% of all the students presented with the question answered hybrid learning. Many of these students, including Senior Ben Fernandez, also added that they felt hybrid learning was "much safer" than conventional in-person learning.

However despite all of the students who prefer hybrid learning, many of them also stated that they had somewhat mixed feelings about it. Joseph Burriss stated that while he did "enjoy sleeping until 7:25" he also felt a bit "unmotivated" while online. Tennessee High Senior Spencer Moore also pointed out that "internet outages" were a common barrier while attending online classes.

This school year has been difficult to say the least. With a plethora of challenges faced by both students and teachers, many are just hoping for things to one day return back to normal.

## Battling Covid-19 in the Classroom

Maddy Wilson and Meghan Bryant

This school year truly has been unlike any other. We have faced challenges in almost all parts of our daily lives. School has been particularly challenging, especially for our teachers. However, they have been working hard to provide us with the best education possible. Mrs. McMakin and Mrs. Phillips are two teachers in particular who have been working hard to adapt their classes during Covid-19.

Mrs. McMakin's TV Broadcasting classes are some of the many classes throughout our school that have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Both online and in-person students are facing obstacles. Online students lack access to important technology, like cameras and video editing software. In-person students are hurting from the simple lack of students, which makes it difficult to film Viking News or projects for the class. While schoolwork is important, Mrs. McMakin and the Tennessee High School staff just want to be there for students, "we want to make sure they are physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy as well as successful academically." It can be difficult to find the motivation to do schoolwork online and Mrs. McMakin makes sure to be understanding of that.

However, not every aspect of online learning is negative. It has allowed there to be more integration of technology in classes school-wide. Mrs. McMakin explains, "I already had my courses online in Canvas and used lots of online resources and apps, but this pandemic really took things

to a whole new level with classes completely virtual and hourly TEAMS meetings for each class. And we did it- virtually overnight! (pun intended)." While our school had already begun to integrate technology, this really increased the level that it is involved in our daily lives at school.

Similarly, Mrs. Phillips, who teaches health science, tackles issues stemming from the pandemic. From hands-on activities to making sure students stay engaged over Zoom, it can be a lot to handle. Also, the mix of students being both online and in-person poses a challenge, as Mrs. Phillips describes it being much easier to have everyone one way or the other. But, ultimately she's "happy that in this crazy time, we are able to adapt and allow students to attend remotely when they are unable to come in-person."

The new experience has also brought many new teaching moments for the teachers as well, especially in terms of technology. Mrs. Phillips' sees the challenge in a positive way, "I have learned many new options and ways of doing things, which is never a bad thing!"

We have been faced with many challenges this past year that we never even dreamed of. However, things have been looking up at Tennessee High School. Thanks to our wonderful teachers and staff, we have been able to return to some form of normalcy. Our school has also had an increase in the utilization of technology, which can expand learning capabilities.

# You Are Overrated, Harry Potter

Danica Mai

Harry Potter, the story about the Boy Who Lived. The story of Harry Potter was written by Joanne Kathleen Rowling (also known as J.K. Rowling), and was first published in 1997. The franchise has amassed over \$25.5 billion in revenue from its box office sales, book sales, and merchandise. Harry Potter has touched the hearts of many readers through the past 24 years, but does it live up to all the praise. I do not think Harry Potter deserves all the hype, and the series contains harmful stereotypes.

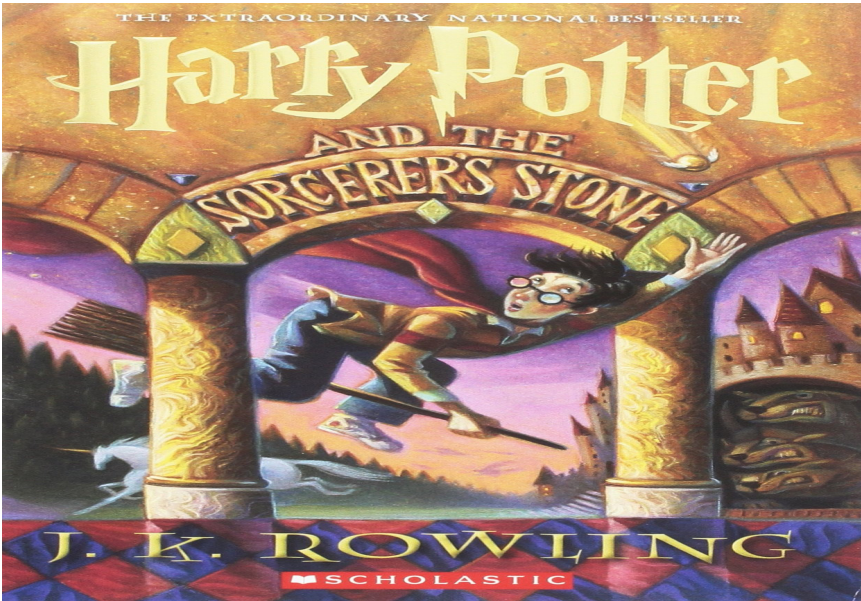
Let's first talk about the many controversies within the book. A reoccurring character in the series, Remus Lupin, is revealed to be a werewolf. The werewolves in the series are used as a representation for people with AIDS. This fact is confirmed by J.K. Rowling herself. The problem arises from the fact that many werewolves in the book are written to be evil and vile creatures. This plays into the stereotype that most people that have contracted AIDS are bad, and saying there are some good apples within the bunch by the addition of Remus.

Not only does Rowling villainize people who suffer from AIDS, she writes Anti-Semitic caricatures into Harry Potter. The goblins that run the bank are characterized by their short statures, hooked noses, and their greedy and hostile personalities. These descriptions line up well with the common stereotypes of Jewish people. To add onto the obvious mimicry of the Jewish community, the background of the goblins is ridden with oppression, segregation, mistrust, and exclusion. The description of the goblins as well as their history leads directly to Anti-Semitic propaganda.

J.K. Rowling's prejudices are also prevalent in tweets she post. Numerous tweets from the author are blatantly hurtful to members of the LGBTQ community and advertise items directly hurtful toward those individuals. Many cast members of the Harry Potter movies have called out Rowling for her hurtful tweets; these complaints were met with silence from J.K. This raises the issue of separating art from the artist. Can we

still enjoy someone's piece of work, even if that someone's views are harmful to others? I say we can still appreciate the Harry Potter series. Readers just have to keep in mind that the author is not someone to be praised.

The Harry Potter series is overhyped and has many controversies within the writing and outside of it. Anti-Semitism as well as discrimination towards AIDS suffers are just some of the issues within the Harry Potter lore. Not only does the series contain prejudices, the author herself is outspoken on her own contentious views. Overall, the series as a whole is overrated. If you are looking for something similar to the Harry Potter series but without the messy history, then try the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan.



Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

# ¿Servicio al carro?: Taco Riendo

William Burriss

Since the covid-19 pandemic, many people - including myself - have been very hesitant to dine at sit down restaurants. Although most places have introduced a form of online or call in orders, some restaurants have taken a different approach.

Taco Riendo is a restaurant located on 1395 Euclid Ave in Bristol Virginia, it opened on the 23rd of December 2021. Taco Riendo is advertised as being a Mexican style fast food restaurant with a wide variety of meals. When I first viewed the menu I was a bit overwhelmed by just how much they offered. From fajitas to sandwiches, Taco Riendo has just about everything you could imagine. One of Taco Riendo's most compelling features is their drive through. When I first heard they were operating a drive through I couldn't help but wonder how fast it could possibly be. So to satisfy my curiosity I decided to try it out.

When I first arrived the drive through line looked pretty long and I worried that it might take a while. To my surprise the line moved relatively quickly and I was soon ready to order. It was a good thing I looked at the menu ahead of time. Because the drive through menu was so overcrowded with options it was nearly impossible to comprehend in the short time you could view it. I ultimately decided to order the "traditional pastor chopped pork burrito".

The burrito was filled to capacity with sweet pork, rice, cheese, pineapples, and cilantro. The burrito wasn't spicy at all. But, if any spice lovers want to add a kick to their burrito I would encour-

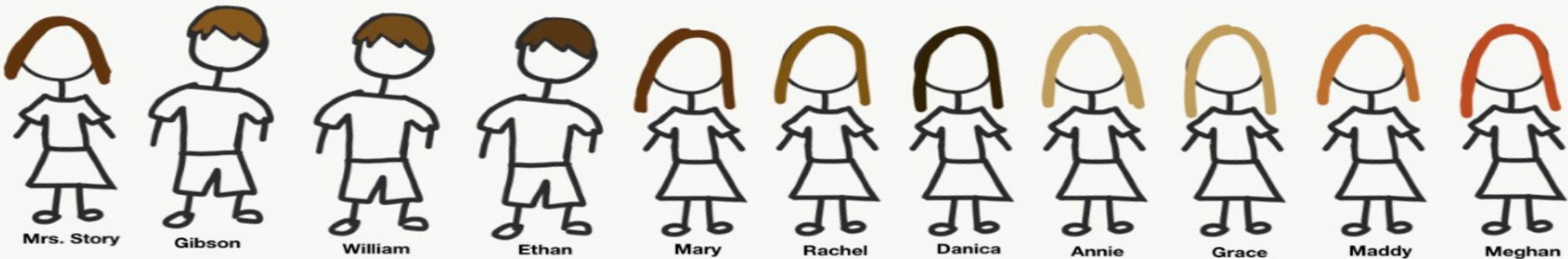
age adding one of the three salsas included with my meal. These salsas ranged from mild to spicy and all had a very unique flavor. The burrito, despite being a bit messy, was delicious, and I ate every last bite of it.

In the end I thoroughly enjoyed my meal from Taco Riendo. Not only was the food good, it was quick. Many people like myself prefer to avoid eating at a sit down restaurant due to concerns surrounding covid-19. However, since Taco Riendo has a drive through I don't have to worry. In conclusion I would highly recommend trying Taco Riendo for yourself.



Taco Riendo

## Meet Our Staff:



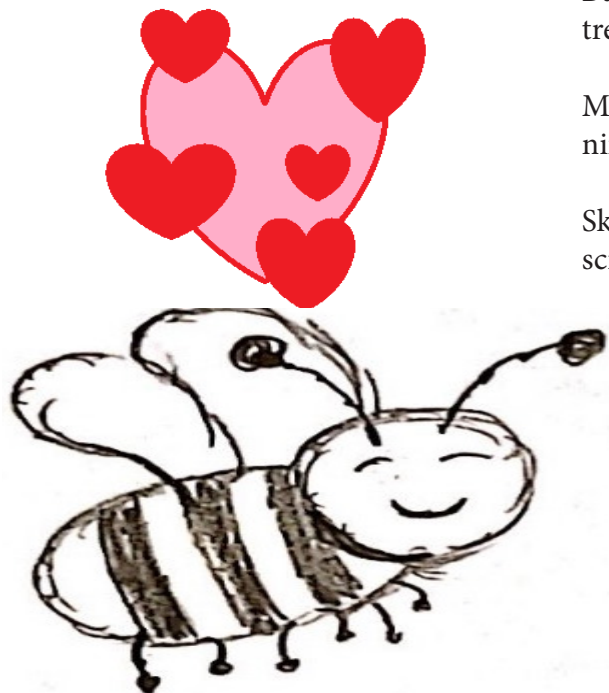
Grace Johnson

# How to NOT get a significant other in 2021

**Rachel Kent**  
You can't spell quarantine without "U R A Q T"! Without out you my life is emptier than the toilet paper isle in spring of 2020. Are you French... because Eiffel for you! Do you watch star wars... because YODA the only one for me! You cannot spell virus without U and I. Lastly, just because we are TENNESSEE high, plz do not use the "Are you from Tennessee... cause you are the only 10 I see". That will get you no where just in-case you did not already know that.

# Valentine's Playlist for the Single and Coupled

**Meghan Bryant**  
"Adore You" by Harry Styles  
"A Thousand Miles" by Vanessa Carlton  
"Yellow" by Coldplay  
"Better Together" by Jack Johnson  
"Love Song" by Sara Bareilles  
"He Could Be the One" by Hannah Montana  
"Home" by Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros  
"Iris" by The Goo Goo Dolls



# Chocolate Covered Strawberry Brownies Recipe

**Maddy Wilson**  
Ingredients List:  
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter  
8 ounces semi-sweet chocolate, coarsely chopped  
3/4 cup granulated sugar  
2 large eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 pound strawberries, sliced  
8 ounces semi-sweet chocolate, coarsely chopped  
Directions:  
First, preheat your oven to 350F and grease an 8 inch baking pan  
Melt the chocolate into the butter in a saucepan over medium heat  
Mix the sugar into the eggs along with the vanilla  
Sift the flour, baking powder, and salt together  
Mix the melted chocolate into the egg mixture and then add the flour mixture  
Pour the batter into the 8 inch baking pan and cook for 20-25 minutes  
Sprinkle your strawberries on top of the brownies  
Melt the chocolate over medium-low heat and pour it over the strawberries. Let cool until the chocolate is set (around 30-60 minutes)

# What your favorite candy says about you

**William Burriss**  
Almond Joy: You are a very relaxed person. You don't really care what other people think of you and enjoy being yourself.  
  
Caramel: You consider yourself an exceptionally classy person. You likely enjoy listening to jazz, and make sure to tell everyone you know how much you like jazz. We get it, you like jazz.  
  
Twizzlers: Admit it, you definitely have tried to use a twizzler as a straw.  
  
Reese's Peanut Butter Cups: You probably are a very social person. You likely have many close friends, all of which you share a strong connection with.  
  
Gummy Bears: You are very youthful and high-spirited. Whenever you enter a room you always brighten the mood.  
  
Liquorice: You drink your coffee straight and think people who add milk are weak.  
  
Chocolates: You have a very bold and defined personality. When you enter a room you don't hesitate to announce your presence.  
  
Butterscotch: You enjoy being outside and going on long hikes. You can definitely identify any and all trees.  
  
M&Ms: You are very energetic and equally creative. You likely enjoy high energy activities such as running or swimming.  
  
Skittles: You enjoy problem solving and are a very good deductive reasoner. You likely enjoy math and science based classes.

