



The Squall.

January 25, 2016. VOL. 21. Issue 4

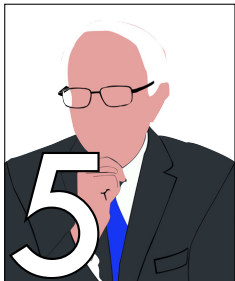


Are final exams putting too much stress on DHS students? Pages 8-9.

Dexter High School
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Dexter, MI 48130
www.thesquall.com



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Illustrator - Christopher Gaskin



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Photo courtesy of Pixar



8-9
Photographer - Claire Ward

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Bi-Weekly Binge

Photographer - Sarah Sober

Episodes 5-6

Staff Editorials:

Editorials represent the majority opinion of the editorial board. Editorials are unsigned. Columns represented the opinions of the individual staff members who wrote them.

Staff Policy:

The Squall is a student publication distributed to students, faculty and staff of Dexter High School. The Squall is also distributed by subscription to the Dexter community. The Squall has a press run of 1700 copies and is printed by The Argus-Press in Owasso, MI. The paper serves as a public forum with student editors making all content decisions. Opinions expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of Dexter Community Schools.

Letters to the Editor Policy:

The Squall encourages letters to the editors. They can be emailed to dextersquall@gmail.com, dropped off in room 407 or given to staff member of The Squall. Letters may be edited for length and unprotected speech. Requests to withhold a writer's name will be considered by the editorial board. Letters should be 300 words or fewer.

Corrections:

In the Editorial Q&A (Oct. 8 issue), Briana Pederson's name was misspelled. Meg Rittinger's name was misspelled in a feature story (Nov. 14 issue). A sentence in the story titled "DHS needs more 'middle of the road' classes (Dec. 18 issue) should have read: "...AP Literature, a class not well suited for non-avid English lovers..."



@DEXTER_SQUALL



@DHS_SQUALLER



THE SQUALL

DETROIT AUTOSHOW

Car Enthusiasts Flock to the Motor City to Enjoy the Automotive World's Best Vehicles

Just like every year, automakers roll out the best their fleets have to offer. These cars and trucks shine under the glow of spotlights. They're waxed and detailed and ready for the admiration of the public, the flash of cameras, and the looks of approval and disapproval from enthusiasts.

As well as snot-nosed kids rubbing their grubby hands on touch screens, people tearing off volume and shifter knobs, and the voices of significant others that have been dragged to the show complaining about how loud and bright it is.

Yes, this is the North American International Auto Show.

A spectacle of horsepower and performance. Of style and luxury. Of economy and family. All of the above describe the 2016 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS). The yearly event, which takes place at the Cobo Center in Detroit, draws the attention of people all over the world.

"The auto show really shows how the industry is progressing," junior Mitchell Allie said, "and seeing the cars I've been hearing and reading about is pretty cool too."

According to the Michigan Chronicle, the 2016 show received roughly 5,068 journalists from more than 60 countries. And that was just on Press Day.

The NAIAS has been going on every year since 1989 (technically 1907, but it was more of an America-only thing and then it stopped because of WWII before continuing in 1953) and has been a way for the automotive industry to showcase its new and most innovative products.

Every year, automakers bring their newest concepts or big redesigns of fan favorites. These cars and trucks captivate the viewers as they call for the immediate public sale of the presented automobile.

At this year's show, 57 cars were unveiled. Roughly 90 percent of which were worldwide releases ranging from Chrysler's new Pacifica to Buick's Camaro-Chassised Concept named the Avista, to Nissan's Raptor-fighting, off-road truck Titan Warrior concept.

All were met with positive reviews.

"It was awesome," Allie said. "The Buick Avista and Acura NSX concepts were out of this world. Though, I was saddened about the lack of manuals [transmission] in both economy and performance cars."

Not only is the autoshow an important event for the automakers, but for automotive lovers everywhere.

"The auto show gives me the same excitement as opening gifts on Christmas," senior Sean Wakefield said.

The show offers an opportunity for gearheads to experience cars they can only imagine owning. It gives them a chance to compare knowledge with other car guys and gals, and to argue over which brand is best.

The NAIAS is the ultimate event for people of all backgrounds to come together over one topic to create friends and enemies. To create love and war. To experience the best that the automotive community has to offer.

But, most importantly, to enjoy things that go vroom.

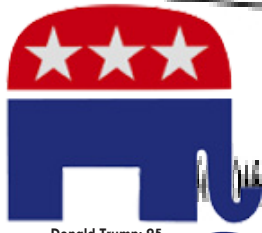
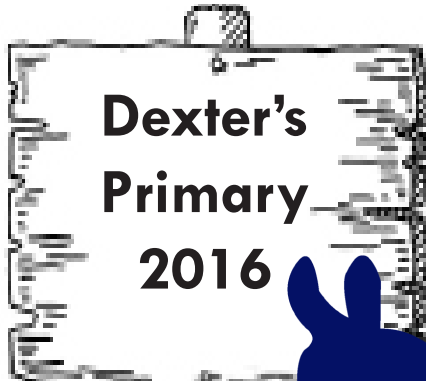
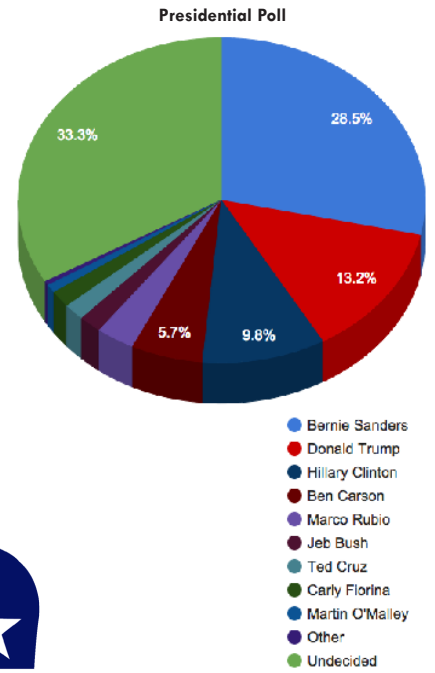
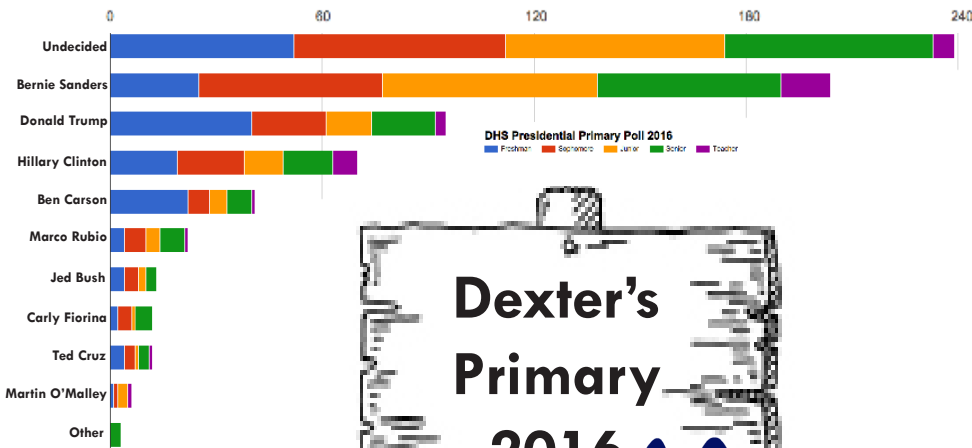


GM

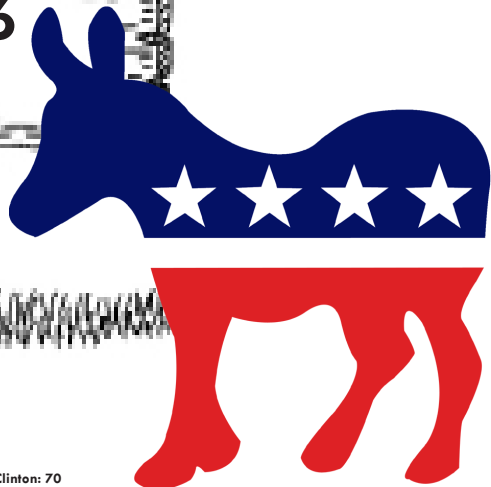


Illustrator - Danny Mitchell

Photographer - Kyle Doyle



Donald Trump: 95



Bernie Sanders: 204



Marco Rubio: 22



Hillary Clinton: 70



Carly Fiorina: 12



Ben Carson: 41



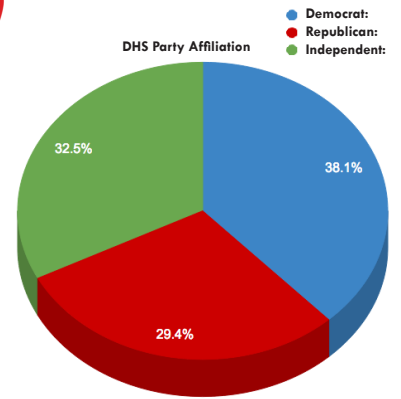
Ted Cruz: 12



Jed Bush: 13



Martin O'Malley: 3



Ben Carson

Age: 64
Birthplace: Detroit, MI
Occupation: Neurosurgeon

Donald Trump

Age: 69
Birthplace: New York, NY
Occupation: Businessman

Jeb Bush

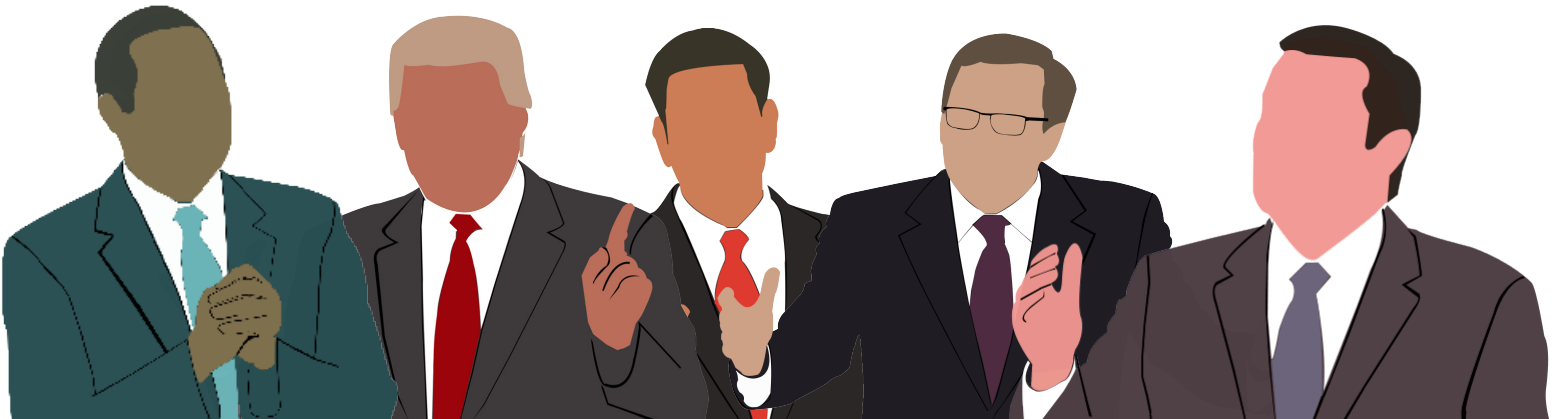
Age: 62
Birthplace: Midland, TX
Occupation: Former Florida governor

Marco Rubio

Age: 44
Birthplace: Miami, FL
Occupation: Florida senator

Ted Cruz

Age: 45
Birthplace: Calgary, CA
Occupation: Texas senator



The Results are Clear: DHS is 'Feeling the Bern'

Trump this, Trump that. It seems like Donald Trump is becoming the most prominent candidate in the presidential election, as every time you look at the news, he has been quoted saying another controversial remark or calling out fellow running mates.

With the 2016 election quickly approaching, the idea of Donald Trump winning the Republican Nomination and even the Presidential Election could become a stark reality.

This year's race is particularly interesting in that there is a striking contrast between the number of candidates in the Democratic and Republican parties. Currently, the Republican party has 12 candidates in the race for one nomination, which is almost unheard of, while the Democratic party only has three candidates remaining.

The current polls portray that the Republican party race is being dominated by Donald Trump, but based on the number of candidates remaining, it is still believed to be wide open as those within the top eight to nine have a realistic opportunity.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O'Malley are the final three, although Clinton and Sanders are controlling the polls by a steady amount and generally believed to be the favorites.

"At this point in the race, I'm very glad that Bernie Sanders is pulling the most votes in the polls," junior Bailey Lupi said. "Out of all the candidates, he is the one I feel most comfortable with in office."

One of the biggest events during the presidential races are the Republican and Democratic debates. Many students within Dexter High School have started to become heavily invested in the recent debates.

"Since it will be my first time participating in the election, I've become very interested in the debates," senior Micah Berlage said. "I like watching them so I can hear candidates' ideas and what their plans will be if they are elected."

The debates have become major social media events as well, with many people voicing their opinions on Twitter and Facebook, while experts make immediate reactions to candidates' appearances. Late-night talk shows are also a hotbed for candidates during the presidential race season, as many make appearances on shows hosted by the likes of Jimmy Fallon and Stephen Colbert.

The goal of this endeavor is to come off relatable and friendly to the public. Many students enjoy late-night shows, and because of this it allows them to get a good impression of the large number of candidates remaining.

A student's first exposure to politics is a huge step in life, and being a part of the voting process is a new privilege for certain DHS upperclassmen. This year in particular will be challenging for a new voter as there are still many candidates left.

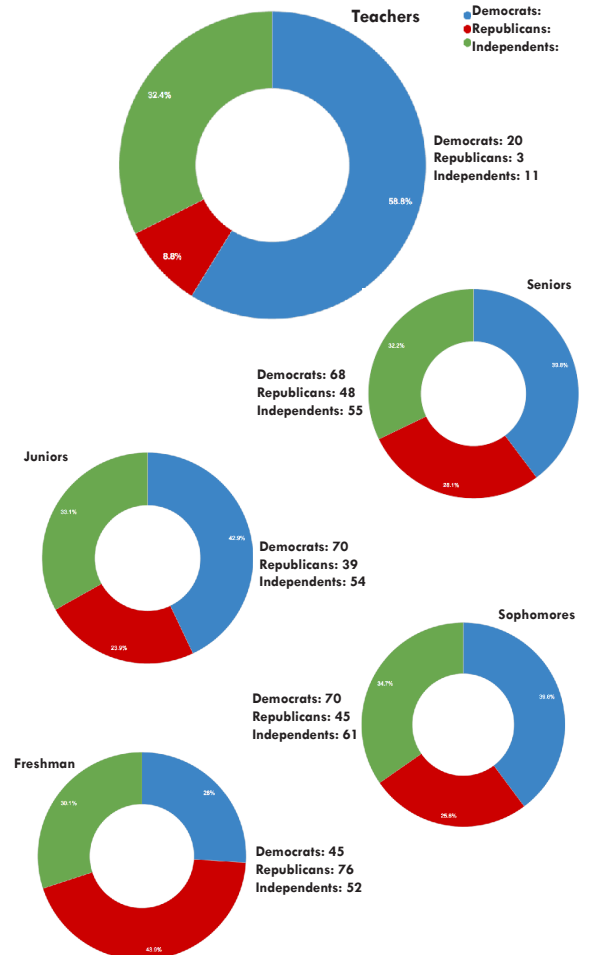
In previous elections, there would have been fewer candidates by now, with the primaries being chosen in February. On the Republican side of things, there has been a huge shift in trend, as previously only a few candidates were still left in the race at this point. The Democrats have a similar situation to years past, where there have typically been three candidates with two dominating the polls.

Even with all the Trump buzz heating up, it is clear that DHS is 'Feeling the Bern.' According to our school-wide survey, Bernie Sanders was the choice from the majority of students and staff.

"The thing about Bernie Sanders is that he talks about the important issues concerning our country without beating around the bush," junior Jeremy Frazee said. "He doesn't completely flip his views around in the opposite direction like Hillary Clinton. He's genuine and a necessary change we need for this country."

Although it seems like Sanders holds the overwhelming majority at this point, there are likely to be many changes of opinion in the upcoming Iowa Caucus and early primaries. With student interest rising, a plethora of remaining candidates, and an always entertaining Donald Trump, all eyes will be watching as this election season plays out.

In a Presidential mock election poll conducted at Dexter High School, 683 students and 34 teachers expressed their opinions as the 2016 Election nears.



Hillary Clinton

Age: 68
Birthplace: Chicago, IL
Occupation: Former Secretary of State

Carly Fiorina

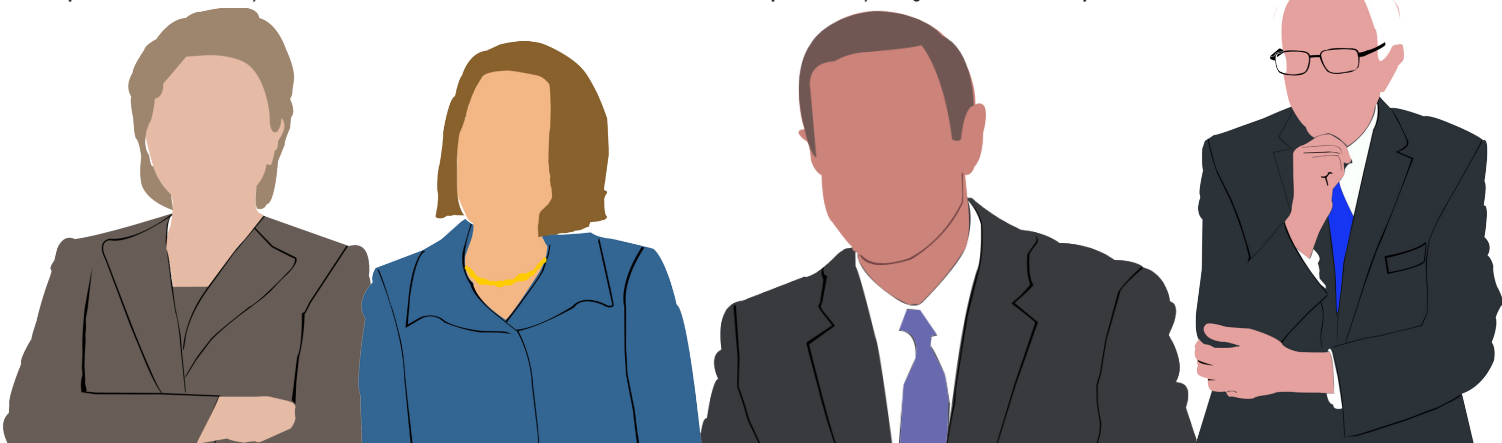
Age: 61
Birthplace: Austin, TX
Occupation: Former CEO of Hewlett Packard

Martin O'Malley

Age: 53
Birthplace: Washington D.C.
Occupation: Maryland governor

Bernie Sanders

Age: 74
Birthplace: New York, NY
Occupation: Vermont senator



A Girl in a Boy's World

Brushing aside negative verbal and physical cheap shots, Diana Milne excels for the Dreads

State champion, 4.0 student, IB diploma candidate, First Team All-State Field Hockey player. You can now add first female Dexter ice hockey player to Diana Milne's star-studded resume.

It was not Diana who made the decision to play hockey for Dexter High School, but rather her brother. Senior Captain Cam Milne, a four-year varsity hockey player, was not going to come back for his final season. He gave his sister an ultimatum, saying "He wouldn't play unless I played," DHS junior Diana Milne said.

With Diana being a multi-sport athlete, her seasons collide. In the winter months she plays on her travel field hockey team, giving her no time for travel ice hockey; however, playing opponents in the SEC on the Dexter hockey team allowed her to stay local and manage both sports.

"This was also the only way I'd be able to play hockey since playing travel field hockey and travel ice hockey is not realistic for me," Diana said.

It may have taken some time, but the team has welcomed Diana.

"I think overall she has started to blend with us," said junior Assistant Captain Brandon Wright. "In the beginning it was kind of awkward, but now it's not."

Although the team has accepted Diana, whether it's separate locker rooms or hitting in practice, there are still moments of awkwardness.

"I think it's definitely evident at practice because she definitely doesn't get hit as much as other people," Wright said, "but no one really wants to say anything about it."

Although Diana is in a unique and challenging situation, the only "special" treatment that she receives is from the opposing teams.

"It depends on the team," Diana said. "I think one guy apologized for hitting me one time. Other teams will say stuff but it doesn't bother me. One team whistled at me. Some say stuff at the faceoffs but I can't hear them. I know they're talking to me but I don't know what they're saying."

Her teammates look to protect her just as they would with any of the other guys.

"Some teams will target her and try to destroy her," Cam said. "We will have guys that stick up for her and try to defend her, but it's usually just another game. Unless there is a two hand (cheap shot) to the back of the neck or something I treat her as I would any other teammate."

Although her teammates protect her, Diana can take the hits.

"She took a pretty nasty hit in the first game of the year where she had a cut in her nose," DHS varsity hockey Coach Donnie Busdeker said. "It scared me a bit, but she went to the trainer for repairs and walked right back up to me and said she wanted to play."

Diana is not just an experiment though; she is a consistent contributor for the team.

Busdeker also thinks highly of her game.

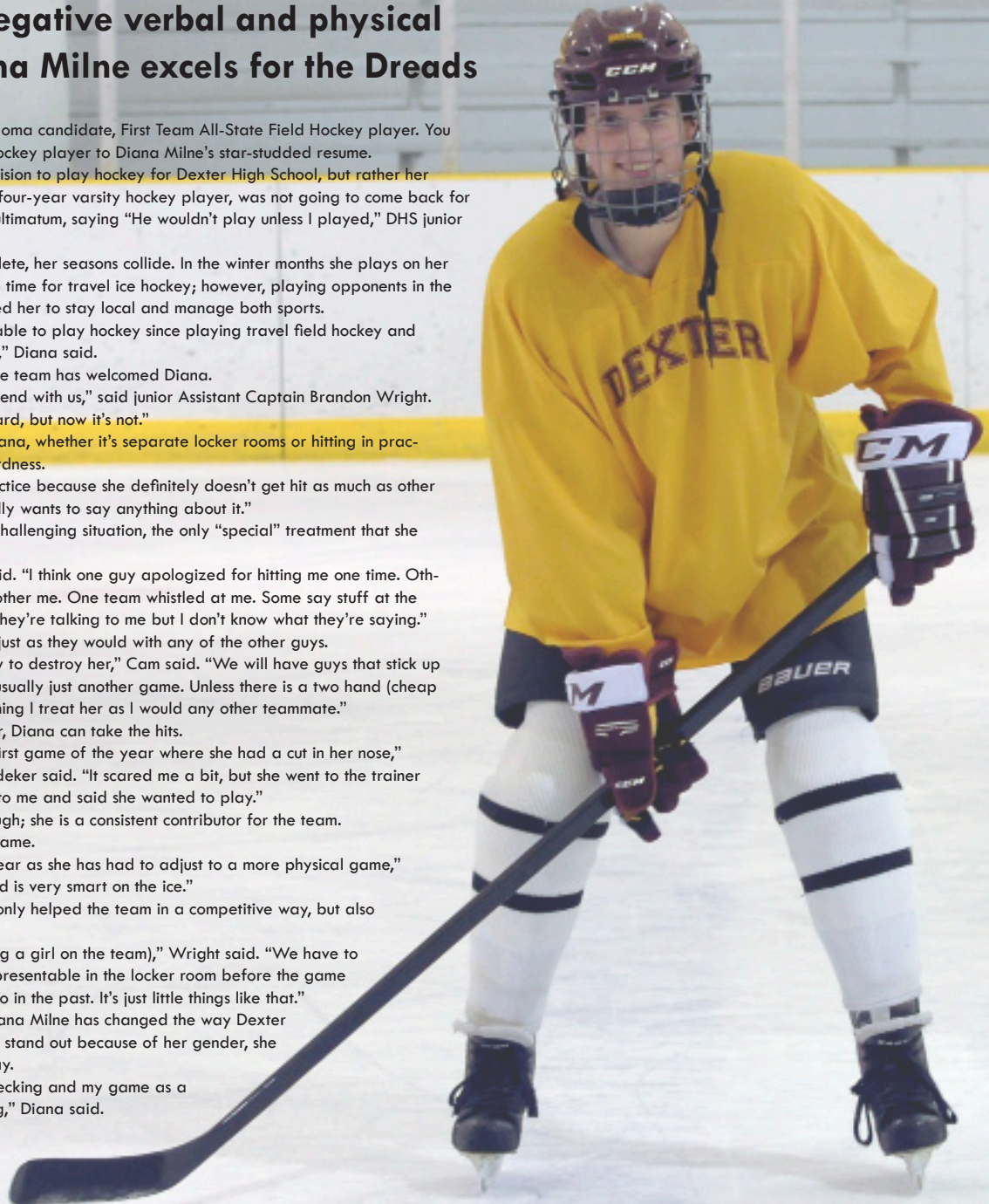
"She has improved her game this year as she has had to adjust to a more physical game," he said. "She sees the ice very well and is very smart on the ice."

Having Diana on the team has not only helped the team in a competitive way, but also from a behavioral standpoint.

"Yeah it's definitely different (having a girl on the team)," Wright said. "We have to compromise for it. We all have to be presentable in the locker room before the game which is something we didn't have to do in the past. It's just little things like that."

From the locker rooms to the ice, Diana Milne has changed the way Dexter hockey operates. Instead of looking to stand out because of her gender, she is determined to stand out with her play.

"I definitely want to improve my checking and my game as a whole - breaking out, passing, shooting," Diana said.



Who is Tim Wise?

Most Dexter High School students are familiar with Tim, but how familiar? When questioned, the majority of students couldn't tell us much about Tim or what he even does.

Intrigued, *The Squall* was determined to discover who the mysterious Tim Wise really is. It may come as a surprise to many that Tim was actually born in the Caribbean.

"I was born in Port Au Prince Haiti. My parents were working overseas at the time within the Caribbean, so I traveled to several of those different islands."

Tim remembers his time in the Caribbean fondly.

"Growing up in the West Indies was very very cool, I've been back since and it just isn't the same. I'd spend a lot of time exploring the caves and going out on the weekends. I remember I would walk the country and climb the mountains to the top, I did a lot of exploring as a kid. We grew up on 20 acres so I had plenty of room. Tons and tons of fruit trees, lots of fruit trees. During the season I would live in the fruit trees eating oranges and tangerines, we grew everything that you could imagine. It was pretty interesting."

Following his time in the Caribbean, Tim spent several years attending college throughout the United States.

"I did my first couple years of college in California and then ended up in Texas finishing up my degree there. Upon graduating I finished the steps and classes required to become an ordained minister. I taught in a private high school and served as a teen pastor for the next five years. After that I devoted my time as a full time teen pastor. That opened doors for me to travel all over the United States as well as Canada, Mexico and Jamaica speaking and giving talks to 1000's of teens at camps, conventions, rallies etc..."

Tim's job here at Dexter is essential, and in his twelve years of doing it he's seen many interesting things.

"I'm here until 11:30 every day. I work out of the office I do tons of little jobs that are important and need to be done

but you can't ask other people to do them because it's just not right. This is probably my twelfth year working here."

"I remember the food fight a few years ago, and it was a real food fight. Several students were suspended for that. When you talk about excitement that's what I remember. I hope it never happens again but it was one of those things that did happen."

"One of the more fun times was the first time the seniors decided to ride their bikes and scooters to school and throughout the school. It was well organized and not destructive. They were a good group of seniors."

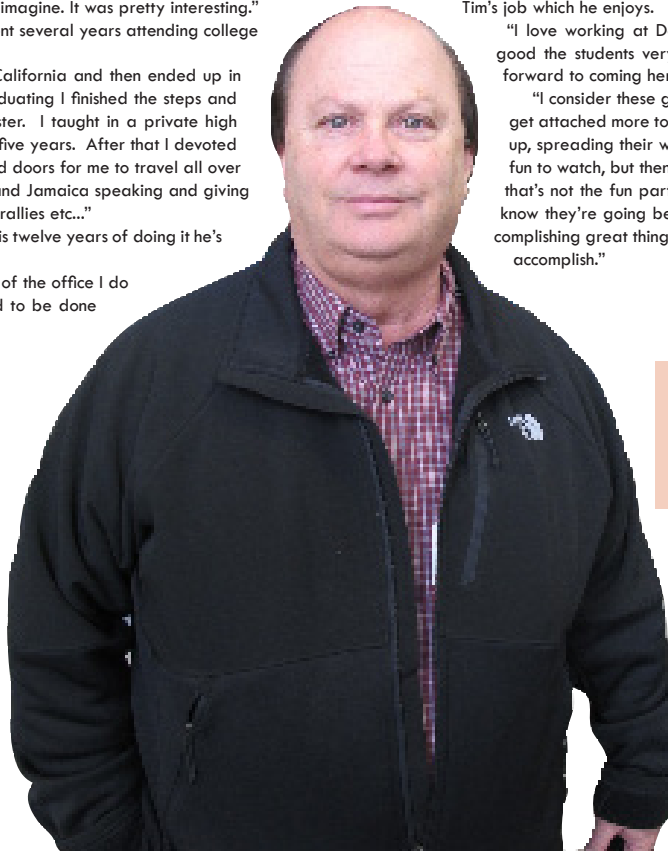
Seniors, even without knowing his entire story, love Tim's personality.

"He's always willing to talk to people at lunch or in the library, and he always has good stories," senior Ally Humpert said. "He always brightens my day."

Watching students grow as individuals is among is one of the many aspects of Tim's job which he enjoys.

"I love working at Dexter it's a wonderful place. The atmosphere is good the students very much impress me. I thoroughly enjoy it, I look forward to coming here when I wake up in the morning."

"I consider these guys family it kind of works out that way. I always get attached more towards the older kids because they're now growing up, spreading their wings, driving cars, and thinking about college. It's fun to watch, but then I get to attached to them and they graduate and that's not the fun part, to say goodbye to them, but it's always good to know they're going beyond the boundaries of Dexter and they are accomplishing great things. It's amazing to see what some of these students accomplish."



Staff Photographer - Brenden Ritter

Favorite Music
Pop and Country

Favorite Colors
Blue, Red and Green

Favorite Movie
Rudy

Favorite Food
Spaghetti



Classic Pizza

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other coupons. Must
have coupon.



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734-424-9140 - ph/424-3558 - fax
email: thehomestoredexter@gmail.com

The Anatomy of Finals

The three main components of finals at Dexter High School

Test-taking

Test-taking is hard enough, especially with all of the pressure of final exams; nevertheless, being confident in an answer should be all it takes for you to fill in the bubble "A", "B", "C", "D", or even that unsavory "E." Sadly, this is not the reality students are met with during tests due to individual thought processes, especially on finals week.

Too many consecutive answers have been a problem with multiple choice tests since their creation. Every time you fill in the same letter, your brain begins to think that the chances of the next one being that letter diminish exponentially.

This concept affects some students more than others.

"It only takes three consecutive bubbles of the same letter for me to second-guess my answers," Junior Tyler Woelfel said. "After four, I'm going to change one of my answers to break the streak, no matter what. Teachers should not be allowed to [create tests with multiple consecutive answers] because it is mean and it tricks you."

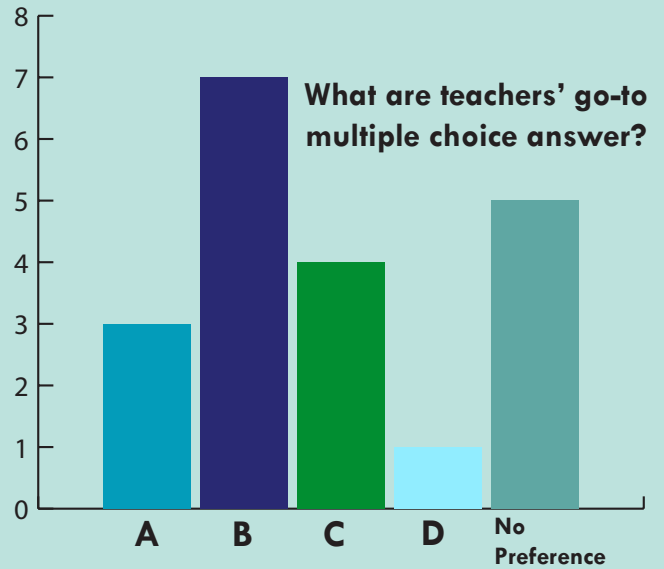
Another junior, Vedhika Raghunathan, is relatively unaffected.

"It takes around six or seven in a row for me to go back and check my answers," Raghunathan said. "Obviously, I think teachers should mix up the answers for questions, but it's not that big of a deal."

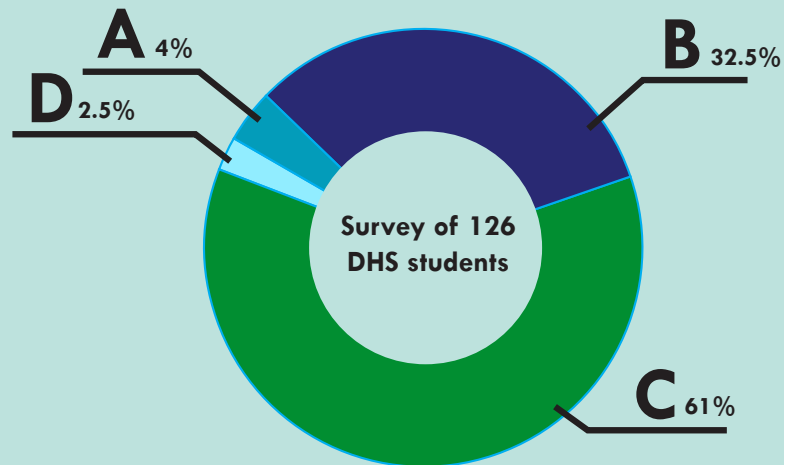
Luckily for students more like Woelfel, students aren't the only ones who are starting to recognize this inconvenience. Some teachers are starting to notice the impacts of inadvertently creating answer keys with multiple answers corresponding to one letter.

"To be honest, when I create a multiple choice test I do not pay a lot of attention to where the answer falls in the letter choices," Psychology teacher Tracy Stahl said. "However, with that being said, I have found that I have a lot of C's and D's on my answer keys. Since this realization, I am trying to be a bit more cognizant of where my [multiple choice] answers fall."

Nobody can deny that most students would prefer school without finals; however, as long as standardized tests are implemented, these problems will most likely linger.



What is your go-to letter when you don't know the answer?



Stress

Stress is a state of mental or emotional strain resulting from extremely demanding circumstances.

According to psychiatrist Robert Leahy, the average high school student experiences more stress and anxiety than the average psychiatric patient from the 1950s.

While high school students experience stress daily from being expected to take rigorous classes, participate in time consuming extracurricular activities, and complete hours upon hours of homework -- there is a dreaded time at the end of each semester which brings students to an even higher level of stress: finals week.

"I've seen kids start crying," English teacher Jill Fyke said. "Kids have physically started crying because they were so worried about their exams."

At Dexter High School students can take up to six final exams, counting as 20 percent of their overall grade in each class, over a three-day period.

"It's really stressful," senior Alexis Benson said. "We have so many exams in such a short period of time. It's hard to focus on each subject when there are so many."

Common responses to stress include tiredness, worry, irregular sleeping and eating habits, inability to concentrate, and shortness of memory.

"If I don't do well on my finals, it would severely impact my grade point aver-

age, my friends, my family, and my overall self-esteem," Benson said.

"If I do poorly on the exam it could lower my grade," junior Will Liskiewicz said. "Which could lower my grade point and affect whether or not I get into certain colleges."

"In the scheme of things, it's pointless to stress out," Fyke said. "There's so much wasted energy worrying. If you care about your grade early on, what you get on your final exam won't matter. You'll be doing well enough in the class."

To a high schooler, getting an A or a C on a final exam can severely impact their acceptance into certain colleges.

"It's a huge amount of points," Benson said. "Knowing that you have this one sitting period to fail or pass is extremely stressful."

According to a survey handed out by The Squall, a Dexter student gets on average six hours of sleep a night and has three to four hours of homework each night.

Out of 160 surveys, 157 students claimed that finals week adds more stress to their lives.

The average DHS student ranked themselves a seven on a 10-point stress-level scale.

"I have to pass all my classes to graduate, and I have to graduate in order to get a good job in life," junior Liz Martinez said. "So, it builds up even more stress."

Study Habits

For high school students, an incredible amount of importance is put on final exams. To ensure a good grade on the final, students have to have good study habits and techniques. Without good habits, students could see all of their hard work over the semester go to waste.

There are various ways students study, and these strategies can be obsolete if they don't study often. It is fairly well known that high school students procrastinate, and this bad habit can lead to stressed, last-minute studying.

Despite this, some students incorporate beneficial techniques like study gum. Study gum is a technique where students chew a particular brand and flavor of gum during studying. Then during the final, the student chews the same gum to help remember what they studied. However, this isn't the only way to study. Many Dexter High School students have different ways of tackling finals.

"I tend to study the review and read the book," junior Tony Seidl said. "I also make sure more time is spent focusing on the harder classes."

Knowing the importance of finals, teachers try and help students prepare and study for finals. A common suggestion from teachers is to study for 20-30 minutes then take a 10 minute break. When students have multiple courses to study for,

small, spaced out study sessions can be beneficial. Nevertheless, teachers don't all have the same advice.

"I don't tell my students to study for a specific time," science teacher Suzanne Spence said. "The amount of time to study is different for every person, and each student should interval their study time until they feel comfortable with the topic."

Depending on the grade in the class, students will form different techniques for studying. Having experienced more finals, juniors and seniors acknowledge the need to study.

"I used to never study, but since I now know the importance of finals, I devote time to study," Seidl said.

Comparatively, underclassmen, admitted to devote less time to study.

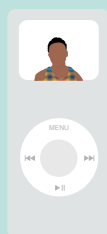
"I hardly study for my normal classes," sophomore Matthew Bellas said. "The only time I spend studying for my finals is for advanced classes."

No matter the technique, students understand that to improve or maintain their grade, they will have to put some sort of effort into studying. But studying for finals isn't purely beneficial. It can also have a negative side effect.

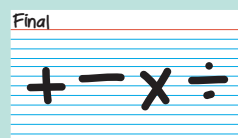
Tips & Tricks



Study Gum



Study Tunes



Study Cards



Study Drinks

MOVIES TO SEE IN 2016



Finding Dory

Release Date: June 17, 2016

Director: Andrew Stanton

Cast: Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks, Willem Dafoe

From the company that gave you the most classic children's movies such as "Bug's Life," "Toy Story," and "Monster's Inc." comes the long awaited sequel to "Finding Nemo." Although the official trailer is vague, we can conclude the premise focuses on Dory (Ellen DeGeneres), Marlin (Albert Brooks) and Nemo (Hayden Rolence) setting off on a journey to find Dory's family.



Neighbors 2

Release Date: May 20, 2016

Director: Nicholas Stoller

Stars: Zac Efron, Selena Gomez, Seth Rogen, Dave Franco

A sequel to the hit comedy from 2014, "Neighbors 2" looks to return bigger and better, adding some new stars that include Selena Gomez and Cameron Dallas. The exact plot is currently unknown, but the one major difference is that "Neighbors 2" is about sororities, unlike the first, which was about a fraternity. "Neighbors" was a very funny movie, and a lot of people are ready to see the sequel.

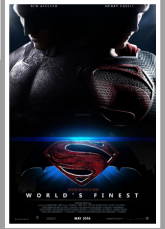
Batman v Superman Dawn of Justice

Release Date: March 25, 2016

Director: Zack Snyder

Cast: Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot, Amy Adams

DC Comics reboots Batman with actor Ben Affleck, combining with the current Superman, played by Henry Cavill. It picks up where the most recent "Superman" left off. The world is in shambles because of the General Zod. The people begin to blame the "alien" Superman, Clark Kent. Bruce Wayne, aka Batman, sets out on a personal vendetta to bring him to justice.



Captain America Civil War

Release Date: May 6, 2016

Director: Joe Russo, Anthony Russo

Cast: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Anthony Mackie

The third installment of "Captain America" is based on a disagreement between two sides of Marvel's Avengers. Captain America (Chris Evans) teams up with his longtime friend and now fugitive the Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan). The notorious Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.), also known as Iron Man, fights against him with the government on his side, leaving a division within the Avengers.

Kung Fu Panda 3

Release Date: January 29, 2016

Director: Alessandro Carloni, Jennifer Yuh

Cast: Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Dustin Hoffman, Jackie Chan, Seth Rogen, Lucy Liu

For the first time ever, Po's long-lost father appears out of nowhere. He takes Po on an adventure to a secret paradise full of hilarious new panda characters that have never been seen before. When the time comes, Po has to train his new village full of young pandas to become warriors to defeat Kai (an evil supernatural character) creating the ultimate army of "Kung Fu Pandas."



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OUR VIEW: Students who have an 'A' in a class should not be required to take the final exam

Should you have to take a final if you have an 'A' in the class?

Individual Student Report

Class: 2(A) AP Macroeconomics			Teacher Name
Final Grade Reporting Term	Letter Grade	Percentage	Final Grade Comment
S2	A	92.5%	
X2	C+	77%	
Y2	B+	89.4%	

Students spend 18 weeks working to get good grades in their classes. They stay up late studying for tests and doing homework, just trying to learn the material and get an A. After almost four months of having their noses to the grindstone, they are happy with the grade they've earned. Then they take the final. This one test has the potential to drop their grade an entire letter, ruining all that they've worked for in the semester.

We believe that once a student has proven mastery of a subject throughout the course of a semester, they should not be required to take a final exam. Mastery of a subject would be shown by having an A (92.5% or above) in a class.

English teacher Jill Fyke agrees with this policy. "I feel like once you have shown mastery in a subject area by use of a summative assessment, there's no need to retest the student," Fyke said. "If you got an A, you got an A. Why do you have to show it again?"

The majority of Dexter High School students would also agree with this statement. Senior Caroline Darr thinks that finals are a waste of both time and energy for students who already have an A in a course.

"You've already done all the work, and you've proven that you know the material by getting A's on all the tests and assignments," Darr said. So why are students required to be tested a second time on material they've already shown they know?

Assistant principal Karen Walls has some answers. Walls is in charge of testing at Dexter High School. "[The final exam policy] has been in place since longer than I was here. I've been here for ten years and it's always been like this," Walls said.

The reason we have to take final exams is understandable. It's mostly about preparing students for college.

"I sat in many classes at Florida State where it was just exam. You had two exams, they didn't really care about your daily work, they didn't care about your homework. It's heavy stakes stuff so I think there definitely has to be exposure to that," Walls said.

Her case is true for a lot of college classes. Grades are based entirely on cumulative exams taken throughout the semester. Final exams in high school are good practice for college classes.

Even students who don't think high school exams are necessary agree on some points about it preparing them for college. Darr thinks that sometimes exams are beneficial, particularly those for AP courses.

"I think that's my exception, just because I do think it's good to study more now if you're taking the AP exam for a first semester final," Darr said.

However, while final exams may help students prepare for college, they play no role in helping students enter the workforce or advancing their careers. "High school is about preparing students for their career and the real world." Every student has heard a teacher or a parent say this at least once, but final exams have no function in "the real world."

Outside of the classroom, there is an abundance of resources available to look something up. If you forgot the formula for the area of a trapezoid, a quick Google search would give you the answer. However, during exams students aren't allowed to use their notes or have reference materials. While some teachers are kind enough to allow students to have a notecard during their test, it's impossible for students to put all the information they've been taught on a 3-by-5 inch space.

This leads students and teachers alike to question what final exams are really testing then. "I think in a final exam setting, we're testing how well a student can remember things as opposed to what they really know, what they've learned, and how they show growth," Fyke said. The nature of a cumulative exam lends itself to testing memorization rather than knowledge or critical thinking skills. Fyke said, "I think showing growth is more important than what you can remember in a 90 minute period. In reality you've already shown mastery, so why do you have to show mastery again?"

Overall, this new policy of omitting "A" students could raise the average GPA of DHS students by adding an additional incentive to work hard and do well throughout the semester. It could reduce stress for already overloaded students and reward them for their good grades throughout the semester.



Casey Dolen
Freshman

"If you have a high enough grade in the class you earned the right not to take the final."



Kaitlyn Lester
Sophomore

"Yes you should, because some people can get away with just doing homework in a class."



Seamus McCurren
Junior

"The finals are weighted too much, so if you worked hard throughout the semester you shouldn't have to take a final that could ruin your grade."



Alexander Kauffman
Senior

"You should always have to take the final. If you have a high grade, taking a final can make it even better."

The Finals Fix: Move exams before Winter Break

You know the feeling all too well. As you head back to school after winter break, fun memories of freedom flow through your mind. You get to your first class. You look down at your notes, and you're not even sure if they're written in the same language. Do you even remember how to use a pencil?

Don't fret, disgruntled student. I think I have the answer.

Consider this: Dexter High School starts and ends the year earlier, so first semester ends at the beginning of winter break. I think this could offer some serious benefits. Just hear me out.

First, let's think about the students. Now, I think we can all agree that getting better grades on final exams is a huge benefit for everyone. When students come back from break, it's hard to even function as a human being let alone trying to recover everything forgotten over the two weeks.

By having finals before break, students will have a better chance at scoring higher on their final exams, which will give them a higher GPA. When they have a higher GPA, they'll be able to go to a better college, hopefully leading them to a successful life so they can feed their children. C'mon DHS, do you really want your alumni to have starving children?

With the year pushed back earlier, the break can finally be a break. The threat of finals no longer looms over your head, and the projects given over break will be no more. Nothing will stand in the way of you, and two magical, carefree weeks. Winter break is a bright

light in the dull existence of a Michigan winter. It's incredibly important to keep a student's spirit up. Also, the entire point of high school is to prepare you for college. And if we're looking at DHS, a fairly academic-centric school, I don't see any reason to not put finals before break considering the fact that almost all colleges follow that schedule.

This scheduling wouldn't only benefit students. It would also help teachers and the district. By having students take finals before break, teachers would be happy to avoid the slump of getting back into the curriculum after break.

"It takes a good day or two to get back into the swing of things," English teacher Jill Fyke said. "And we're just increasing the amount of time from the beginning of the year students have to remember for the final."

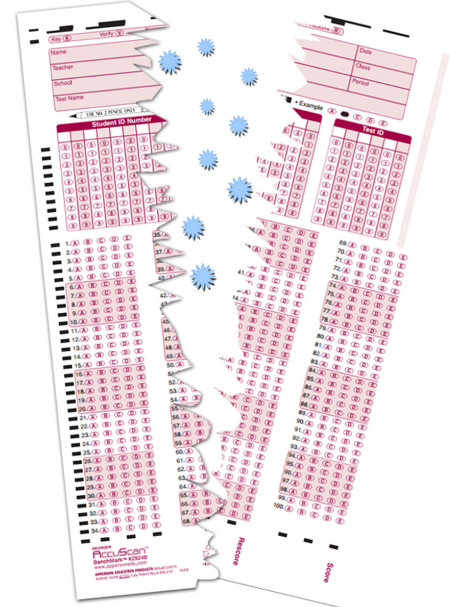
And also, teachers wouldn't be negatively affected by having finals done at this time.

"I have to grade regardless," Fyke said. "I either do it in January or right before winter break."

In the past, Michigan has had laws preventing schools from starting before Labor Day in order to increase tourism and benefit the Michigan economy. However, now that the law is being reconsidered in the senate, this is a perfect opportunity to reinforce what schools are really about: the students.

If we want to see students find success, we need to think of what they go through and put them in a position to succeed.

Please, think of the children.



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Out With The Old, In With The New

Students want a new winter dance, preferably a Sadie Hawkins-style formal

Before Homecoming, Coming Home, and Prom, there were many dances held at Dexter High School. DHS used to host dances with themes ranging from Halloween to Valentine's Day.

However, with the drastic decline in student participation, the administration was forced to put an end to them one by one until the High School was only left with three.

Last year, the Coming Home dance was cancelled, as it will be in 2016, leaving DHS with only Homecoming and Prom as the school-sponsored dances.

Years ago, when the dances first emerged, students from every grade attended, looking forward to a night of fun. But, after many parental complaints regarding inappropriate dancing, the number of students attending began declining at a rapid rate.

DHS Principal Kit Moran sought to compromise the matter by having parents talk to their own kids about dancing.

"I mean, it's your kid and you can tell them 'don't go,' or, 'go dance appropriately,' and if you think they're dancing inappropriately, then that's between you and your kid," Moran said. "You have to talk to your child about that."

However, despite Moran's best efforts to convince the parents that teenagers will be teenagers, the district had to intervene and the school's administrators had to comply.

"What's going to happen is [administrators] are going to monitor [the dances], and we're going to regulate it, and regulate it, and regulate it, and we're going to kill dances," Moran said. "If that's what's going to happen, then that's what's going to happen. And as it turned out, kids didn't come to dances because we really buckled down on dancing."

Junior Danielle Westman has another reason for disliking all Coming Home festivities.

"Honestly, all the Coming Home stuff feels forced as it is," Westman said. "I hardly participate."

It seems that the real issue with the school dances resides in the hands of the parents who demanded that the dances were too inappropriate for their children. Rather than restricting their own children from attending high school dances, they made everyone else's experience boring.

Consequently, when students stopped coming to dances, the high school had to eliminate a majority of them because of funding issues.

"If you get 100 kids to show up, and the DJ costs you \$500, student council and the classes aren't making any money," said Al Snider, head of student council and former student leadership teacher. "So, because the students weren't showing up and weren't interested in it, we decided not to have [a Coming Home dance] for a couple years because student council was losing money. One year, we had refreshments, we had pizza, pop, cookies, a whole bunch of desserts, and we probably lost \$500."

Since the school couldn't afford to lose that much money, dances were eliminated.

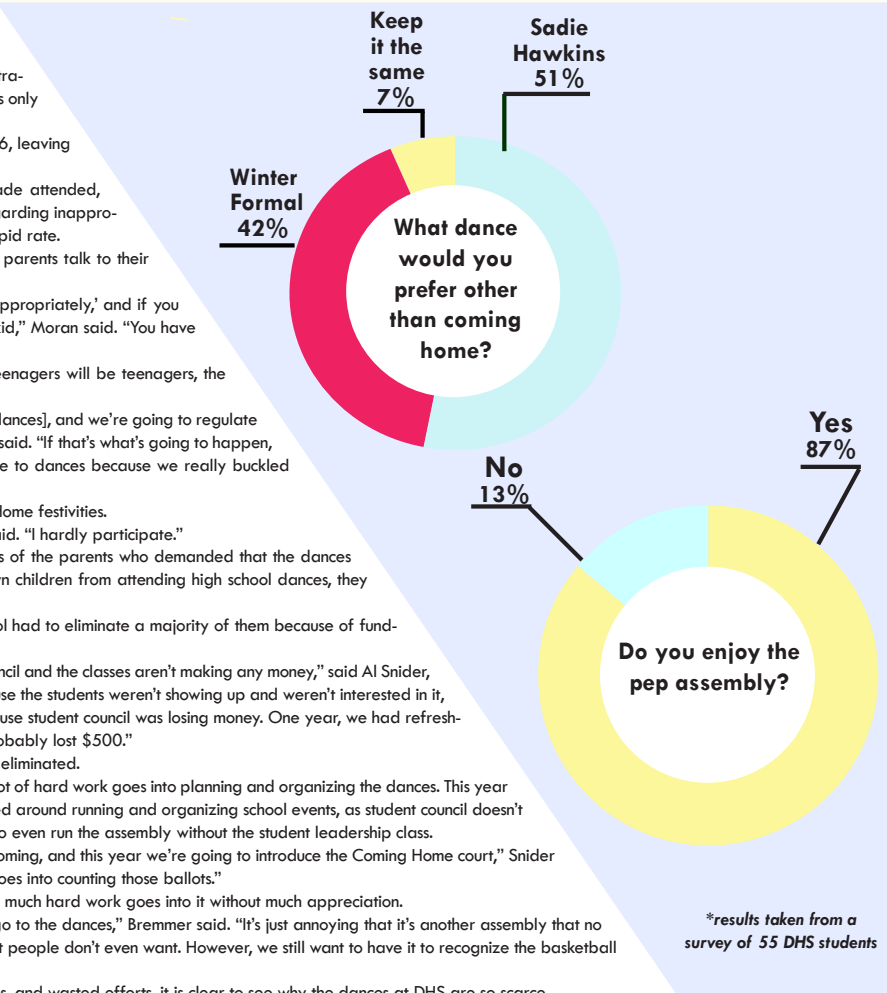
This funding issue is only part of the reason why the events stopped. A lot of hard work goes into planning and organizing the dances. This year there was no student leadership class; student leadership is a class centered around running and organizing school events, as student council doesn't have time to do everything themselves. Snider spoke on how difficult it is to even run the assembly without the student leadership class.

"At the assemblies, we introduce the Homecoming Court during Homecoming, and this year we're going to introduce the Coming Home court," Snider said. "Because we can't get it online yet, there's a lot of manpower that goes into counting those ballots."

Senior Sam Bremmer, Student Council President, is aggravated at how much hard work goes into it without much appreciation.

"We take months to plan it, but nobody ever wants to participate or go to the dances," Bremmer said. "It's just annoying that it's another assembly that no one wants to be at, so [student council] is putting in work for something that people don't even want. However, we still want to have it to recognize the basketball team because we recognize the football team for Homecoming."

With the combination of minimal funds, decline in student participations, and wasted efforts, it is clear to see why the dances at DHS are so scarce.



Student wants for potential future Coming Home dances include:

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Serving Your Peace of Mind...

#Slang2K15

There are certain slang terms that will last a lifetime, and every year new ones arise. They all want to become the latest "cool" or "hip" term. Some things like "Hey, Adam! Lookin' swag today!" or "Hey, Blake, your outfit is so RN right now!" But some slang terms that became big in 2015 should stay in 2015. We have compiled a list of 10 slang terms to leave in the past. But don't worry about your need to use stupid and useless made up words, because we have also found 10 ancient slang terms to not only give you a blast from the past, but also give you freaks the slang fix you need.



Staff Illustrator - Lizzy Merriman

Words to Leave Behind

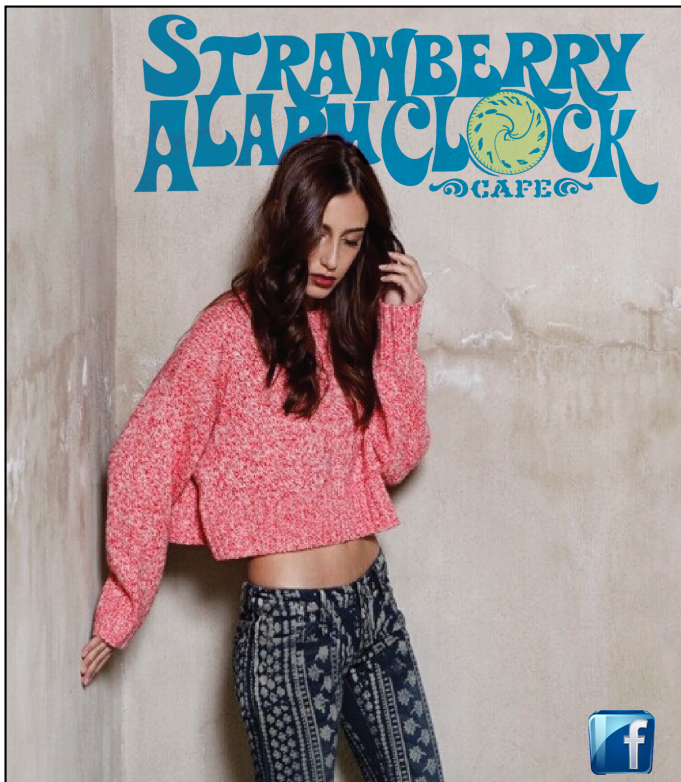
- V (short for very)** - Unnecessary replacement for an already VERY short word.
- Yeet** - A meaningless "catch phrase" that has no purpose in everyday life.
- # (Hashtag)** - Let's leave this in written form.
- On Fleek** - Can be simply replaced by everyday compliments: "Your eyebrows look nice" is sufficient.
- Squad** - This term is overused and applied to every group of friends in 2015.
- Yas** - This word has the same meaning as its normal word, but is spelled differently. No need.
- Rekt** - *See "Yas"*
- Lit** - What's wrong with saying you're having a nice time and leaving it at that?
- Savage** - While cool at first, savage became one of the most overused words of 2015. (Also used almost exclusively to describe one's self).
- No chill** - Similarly to savage, "No chill" was alright at first, but quickly became a self-proclaiming statement, making it almost unbearable.

Words to Bring Back

- Off the heasy (90's)** - Good thing, awesome.
- Crunk (90's)** - Hyped up or excited.
- Man I'm Slammin' (80's)** - It's a good day.
- All That and a Bag of Chips (80's)** - I'm the best, and then some.
- Eat My Shorts (90's)** - Screw you.
- Icy (00's)** - Cool, awesome.
- Raw (00's)** - Something that's cool.
- Wastoid (70's)** - Complete waste of space.
- Boondoggle (20's)** - Waste of time and energy.
- Homefry (80's)** - Best friend.

THE FIVE BY FIVE

 Kristy Maitland Freshman	 Dawson Omer Sophomore	 Joey Hiser Junior	 Courtney Couch Senior	 Albert Einstein Smart Person
What weighs more: a pound of rocks or a pound of cotton?				
A pound of cotton.	It's gotta be a trick question. A pound of rocks.	A pound of cotton.	It's the same, they're both a pound.	Is this a real question? It's the same, obviously.
Your mom has four kids - North, South, and East are the first three. What's the fourth child's name?				
West?	West? I don't understand.	West.	West.	My mother named me Albert.
How many terms did Benjamin Franklin serve as U.S. president?				
No idea.	Two.	Four, wait no zero . . . I should've said eight.	I'm gonna go with two. No, one.	Zero. Are these supposed to be difficult questions?
You have 13 puppies, all but eight died, how many are left?				
None, wait what? Oh, eight!	Five?	Five.	Five, six, I don't know.	Eight. That isn't even math.
What year was the Declaration of Independence signed?				
No idea.	Dude, I quit.	I don't know, dude.	I don't know, 1962? Wait no. I meant to say 1692.	1776, and I'm not even American.



MURALS OF DHS

THE INSIDE SCOOP OF THE ARTISTS'S VISION



1



2



3



4



5



6

1. **Harry Potter:** Madison DeLacy & Gwen McCarthy - "We think that the scene we chose represents Harry Potter. But even if people don't relate to Harry Potter, it is still something they can enjoy walking by. Also, to show our art work" - Gwen McCarthy. 2. **Elephant:** Alex Tu, Mika Brust, Lizzy Merriman - "We liked elephants" - Lizzy Merriman. 3. **Design:** Maddie Easterday - "I saw a similar picture on the internet and I thought it was a really cool concept and was visually fascinating. I figured it would be something interesting on our wall." 4. **Beautiful Mind:** Claire Ward - "I found a similar picture online freshman year, so I recreated the idea with my own designs." 5. **AIS:** Dylan Rafail - "It's to show that we subconsciously humanize the artificial intelligence that run our phones like Siri, Cortana, and Google Now." 6. **Computers:** Sierra Lindskov - "No one knows about robotics, so I thought to put something up. It includes things from our childhood and from the present that people can relate to and talk about."