



The Squall.
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Special Edition

Enjoy the women's swim and dive team's journey to the Div. 2 State Championship with a four-page insert section.



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Letters to the Editor Policy:

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@DEXTER_SQUALL



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THE SQUALL

The Curious Case of Mr. Lindke

Get the look

Sweater:



Lindke version: By Nautica at Macy's - \$50
Student version: Gap - \$26.97

Button Up:



Lindke version: By Stafford at JCPenney - \$18
Student version: JCPenney - \$18



Pants:

Lindke version: By Ralph Lauren at Macy's - \$80
Student version: Target - \$29.99

Shoes:

Lindke version: By Chaps at Khol's - \$70
Student version: H&M - \$39.99



Q&A with... Zach Lindke

What do you do in your free time?

A: "Grading essays are really what I prefer to do in my free time. I assign as many as possible and then grade continually into the night. It's a bum deal in the summer when I don't have as many essays to grade, so I'm trying to find ways to do summer work where I get students to write during the summer. Nobody's really wanted to do it yet but I'm still trying to work on it."

What's the craziest thing that's happened while teaching?

A: "I had a stapler thrown at me once. That was fun. And that's actually a true story but it was misdirected at me and meant for another individual. So in a lot of ways I'm like the secret service. You know how they jump in front of a bullet for the President. That's kind of what happened."

What is your opinion on Donald Trump?

A: "I wish I had his hair, I don't know how he does it. I've contacted his people regarding his stylist, but they won't call me back."

Rumor has it you believe in aliens. Is it true?

A: "I'm not at liberty to discuss ongoing investigations. It's probably the most my legal team will allow me to say about that issue."

Do you get emotionally involved in politics?

A: "I don't have emotions really. You know, it's a sign of weakness, so any emotional question at all would be no. You're best to just internalize things into a ball so it's festering hatred; it's healthy."

Photographer - Riley Doll

The Man Himself

Zach Lindke has been an English teacher at Dexter High School for 13 years. He grew up in Canton, Michigan, and, "technically was enrolled in high school but opted out of going just based on academics at the time." After high school, Lindke attended his own version of college.

"Have you ever heard of Doogle Houser? He was a kid who was a child prodigy and a doctor at age 15. If you watch the show it's a lot like me growing up; I lived at home but was literally a doctor and operated on people and wrote articles. The answer to the question is, I didn't really go to college; I didn't have to."

Why did he decide to become a teacher? "Like I said, the doctor thing worked for a while, but I got bored. Solving health issues was rewarding, but I thought hanging out with ninth graders would be more rewarding, and I was right. It turns out it is way better than curing diseases."

When asked if he could be any profession other than a teacher, he quickly said a fortune cookie writer. "I felt like that's my calling. It's a tough market, there's really one monopoly that makes most of the fortune cookies. But really, I went to school to be a fortune cookie writer and just couldn't get a job in the industry; it's a really tough industry to get into. You'd be surprised how difficult it is. There's really only one or two people that do it and I was good at it. It's just I couldn't get a job."

Life growing up was simple. His older sister despised him because of his success. "She felt overshadowed in every aspect of her life." Lindke is happily married with two kids. Due to his self-proclaimed greatness, his offspring "are slated to be amazing. . . probably. They're 50 percent of my genetic makeup, so they'll be 50 percent as cool as I am. Maybe even 60 percent because my wife's pretty cool. At least half of their genetic makeup will be superior to most people."

WHO IS *Santa Claus?*

There are very few people in the modern day United States that are as influential as Santa. For one month out of the year, we spend our car rides listening to Christmas music, we chop down living trees and stick them in our homes and decorate them with lights and ornaments, causing the biggest fire hazard of the year.

We wear ugly clothes in public because we are in the "Christmas spirit." We send letters to the north pole to a jolly old man with rosy cheeks and a big gut and he responds by putting the things we wish we had under the tree in our homes. We go crazy with Christmas. All the movies, decorations, cookies, it all revolves around Santa. But what have we done for Santa? Do cookies and milk really make up for his entire list he has to make of everyone? To see who's naughty or nice. And checks it twice? That's ballpark three months or so at least. This guy has to be in the "Christmas spirit" literally all the time just to keep our favorite holiday afloat. It's simple. We are awful to Santa.

Let's keep in mind that Santa may be the nicest man ever. So when's the last time we sent Santa a thank you letter for all he does, or even ask how he is doing in the letters we do send. He has to supply gifts to everyone on Christmas, does it every year in one night, and yet none of us thank him properly. It's not a shameful thing that we don't however. The big guy just wants all of us to be happy on Christmas.

I guess the point is, we should change our look on Christmas. Santa is here to give and give and he works year round to give and give for us. He doesn't need thank you's, but maybe we should give them. He doesn't need us to ask how he's doing, but maybe we can. It's time we start treating Santa with the kindness he deserves. So this year, don't lose the Christmas spirit. Watch Rudolph. Make cookies and hang your ornaments on your trees. Just try to be more thoughtful towards the jolly fat man. Write your list and make sure you be extra nice come the 25th, because Santa's making a list and he's checking it twice. And he will indeed find out if you're naughty or nice. Either way, Santa Claus is coming to town.



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DEXTER YOUNG LIFE TAKES OFF

IN RECENT YEARS, NUMBERS HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY GROWN AT LOCAL YOUTH EVENT

People have their good times and bad times, and sometimes those bad times can leave someone desperate for something to cheer them up. One of the things that can bring people out of their bad times is Young Life. Young Life is a national organization of teens who get together to play games, have fun, and talk about their faith. Although it is centered around Christianity, Young Life is more than just that.

"It's a way to learn more about religion but it's not overbearing. You can just let go and have fun and be yourself with kids who don't judge and leaders who are cool," said Senior Megan Paddock, who is a trained Young Life leader, or more formally known as a Junior leader.

Across the country, 1,500,000 kids are involved in this organization. This includes about 50 students from Dexter who participate in a variety of activities with Young Life throughout the year. This time together has created friendships that young life members say may have never existed if it wasn't for Young Life.

"I've formed a lot of relationships with people that I otherwise wouldn't have ever talked to," senior Ally Humpert said. "You can get close with people who you've never met before and people you wouldn't normally get close with at school."

Not only does Young Life allow students to meet other people that they may have never talked to before, but it also allows students to make bonds with adults. The Young Life leaders aren't only there to conduct the clubs, they're also some of the best friends Young Life members have.

"The leaders are really experienced and understanding so they can help me out when I'm most in need," Junior Will Liskiewicz said, "I can tell them absolutely anything and they'll keep it confidential and help me out."

Young Life activities involve weekly club meetings, summer and fall camps at Timberwolf Camp, weekly campaigners, and other community events. Clubs take place once a week and are a great time for students to relax and have fun. Most of the time is spent doing fun activities, playing games, and singing songs. Only about ten minutes is spent talking about the bible, and it is often related to everyday life. This impactful message is given by one of the Young Life leaders from the University of Michigan.

"It gives a really cool perspective of what matters ; it's easy to get stuck in the day to day activities of college and you sometimes forgot what matters, which is caring for others," said Young Life leader Andrew Holmes. "You are going to find moral values that you can identify with, and people want to look out for each other and be nice to one another."

Young Life clubs are judge free zones, and they put students into safe environments. They provide ways for students to go out and be themselves with students from their school, regardless of their religious and social background.

"You don't have to go to church every week. Really, you don't need to know anything about Christianity to be accepted. People aren't biased in any way, they're willing to teach you and accept you and form relationships all while having a good time," Humpert said.

Another big part of Young Life is going to camp. Every summer and fall Young Life goes to camp at Timberwolf. This is one of the most anticipated events of the year. It gives Dexter students another opportunity to connect with people they've never met before.

"My favorite part is going to Timberwolf camp. We do crazy games with the entire camp. You can get close with people who you've never met before and people you wouldn't normally get close with at school, but it's also an opportunity to grow in your faith," Humpert said.

Since Young Life has moved into Dexter, it has impacted the school and the community. Students involved in Young Life have formed close relationships that show throughout the school.

"The group of Dexter kids that we have are all really close. I think it makes an overall better community," senior Sam Bremmer said.



Fall Weekend: Dexter Young Life attends Timberwolf Lake, one of the many Young Life camps across the country, in November of 2015.



Leaders at Work: These five University of Michigan students work together to lead Dexter Young Life.



ISIS vs. Islam

The misinterpretation of a religion and extremists



What is ISIS?

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham, or simply the Islamic State is a Jihadist extremist militant group in the Middle East and North Africa. It has an estimated population of 200,000.

Claiming responsibility for numerous attacks -- the hotel shooting in Libya, museum shooting in Tunisia, mosque bombing in Yemen, peace rally bombing in Turkey, Russian plane explosion, bombing in Beirut, and the recent Paris attacks -- in 2015 alone, The Islamic State is allegedly responsible for nearly 1,000 deaths since January.

"ISIS is a group dedicated to causing terror around the world," said Dexter High School senior Abdul Mohammad, a practitioner of Islam.

Originally claiming territory in Syria and Iraq, since November of 2014, The Islamic State has declared provinces and expanded into Libya, Algeria, Egypt, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. ISIS has sought after formulating itself as a Caliphate: an Islamic state led by a group of religious authorities under one supreme leader, the Caliph.

"To me, ISIS is an extremist Islamic group who uses terror to try and achieve their goal," said a DHS graduate who is currently serving the army and wishes to remain anonymous (Anon). "They want the world to be ruled under Islam."

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the Islamic State, is believed to be the successor of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Claiming direct lineage to the Prophet of Islam, many followers believe him to be the Caliph. Al-Baghdadi demands the faithfulness and obedience of all devout Muslims worldwide.

What ISIS wants:

In May of 2015, the Islamic State released an audio speech by its leader, *March Forth Whether Light or Heavy*. Al-Baghdadi began his speech by stressing the importance, obligation, and responsibility Muslims have to fight the enemies of Islam and die as a martyr for their religion.

"It wants to gain control and cause fear to everyone," Mohammad said.

The Caliph stresses that Jihad and acts of terrorism are mandatory for every God-fearing Muslim. He adds that participation in battle and willingness to die for Allah is God's way of testing his followers, and these dedicated believers will be rewarded in the afterlife.

"They want violence to all the countries," Mohammad said. "They use the religion as a façade."

Al-Baghdadi states that supporting ISIS in war is mandatory for all Muslims, claiming that the Islamic religion is not a religion of peace, instead naming Islam as "the religion of war."

The Islamic State plans on attacking the enemies of Islam, whom al-Baghdadi pinpoints as the Christians and the Jewish. Indicating the people of these religions to be everlasting enemies of Islam who will attempt to harm Muslims and force them to leave their religion.

"They take what they see in the Qur'an and they amplify it," Anon said.

He declares the enemies of The Islamic State are not only their enemies, but are the enemies of all Muslims around the world.

"They think they're doing the right thing because they don't understand," Mohammad said. "In reality, they're only causing terror and havoc."

What is Islam?

Islam is the religion of the Muslim people -- a monotheistic faith believing that there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah; belief in eternal life after death, and the belief that every human being will be held entirely responsible for anything he or she does.

"It's a religion dedicated to promoting faith and keeping peace." Mohammad said.

Muslims follow the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad displayed by the Qur'an (Islam's holy book) and make great efforts to achieve the Five Pillars. The term *Islam* means "surrender," and is extracted from a root word meaning "peace." The term *Muslim* means "one who submits to Allah."

According to the Qur'an, in the seventh century, the Prophet Muhammad was visited by the angel Gabriel. The Prophet continued to be visited by Gabriel for the remainder of his life, lasting roughly 23 years. Gabriel revealed to Muhammad the words of Allah, which were then used to formulate the Qur'an.

As the Prophet gained followers and more people began to follow his religion, there were those who violently disagreed with the new prophet. He had to fight a deadly war in order to survive.

Although at war, once The Prophet felt his people were safe, he devoted all of his attention to building up a peaceful association of tribes and obtained victory with acts of nonviolence.

When he died, he had almost single-handedly brought peace to the war against him.

Islam in ISIS:

Since the Qur'an was written in the middle of an all-out war, several passages have to do with warfare and violence. Due to the war conflicting with God's uprising of His last prophet, Gabriel shared God's tactics dealing with war. As it says in the Qur'an, Muslims were ordered by God to "slay [enemies] wherever you find them!"

Extremists such as the Islamic State, quote these lines exclusively, omitting the strong encouragement of peaceful acts that almost always follow these violent lines -- which are only intended to be followed in life or death situations.

"They [ISIS] simply take Islam and and amplify what it stands for," Anon said. "As well as taking the aspects and twisting it into their own beliefs."

In order to influence desperate, and possibly uninformed Arabs who are considering joining the Islamic State, ISIS omits lines from the Qur'an such as: "Thus, if they let you be, and do not make war on you, and offer you peace, God does not allow you to harm them."

The Islamic State has taken and twisted the Qur'an in order to feel justified for their sins.

"There is no correlation to Islam," Mohammad said. "People of ISIS can claim they are Islamic, but they are the complete opposite of what Islam promotes."

The Islamic State promotes acts such as murder, rape, torture, and kidnapping.

"The interpretation of Islam to the Islamic State is messed up," Mohammad said. "They're using barbaric practices, twisting the religion, and telling people to follow them."

Islam and ISIS in Dexter:

Although the likeliness of the Islamic State attacking Dexter are slim, a recent ISIS threat has been rumored to target America: one of the five states listed includes Michigan.

Michigan, holding one of the largest Muslim populations in the United States, has experienced an increase in prejudices towards Muslim-Americans.

"Everyone is affiliating only Muslims with these attacks," senior Zach Barnes said. "Really, it could be anyone."

A recent FBI report shows that more than 90 percent of terrorist attacks in America have been carried out by non-Muslims.

"I believe through the American side, it's ignorance that allows them to see all Muslims as terrorists," Anon said.

the Home Store

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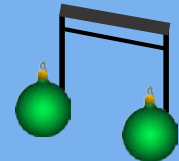


A Christmas Story

Worst



Songs



Best

1. All I Want for Christmas - Mariah Carey
2. Happy Holidays - NSync
3. Santa Claus is Coming to Town - Jackson 5
4. Last Christmas - Wham!
5. Its Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas - Michael Bublé

Worst

1. All I Want is My Two Front Teeth
2. Dominic the Donkey
3. Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer
4. Santa Baby
5. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus

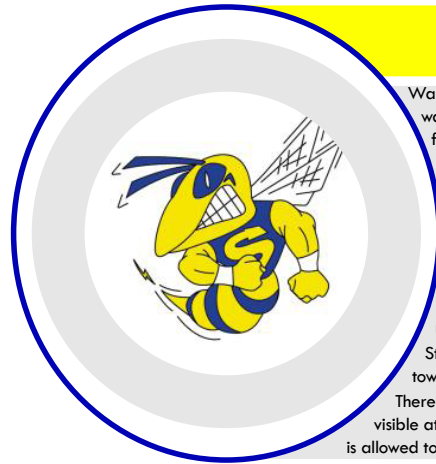
To Do List

1. Decorate the House
2. Go Sledding
3. Ice Skating
4. Make Christmas Cookies
5. Secret Santa



DHS vs. Other Schools The Reasons and Reactions Behind

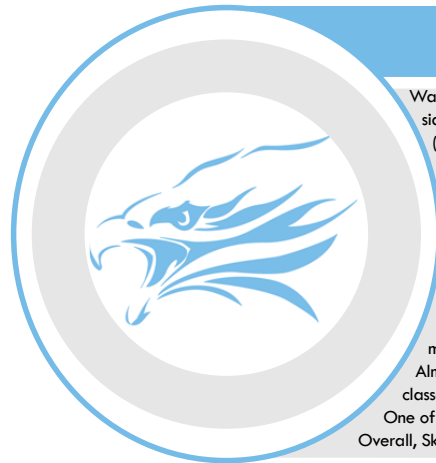
Saline



Walking into the Saline High School (SHS) I was shadowing, junior Abigail Morton, "What from home ec class. Walking through the hallway to people of nearly every religion in. Each class period began with Abigail intro out of five times the teacher enthusiastically contributing me to group discussions, and Two factors that threw me off was that the have more class time to accomplish work, i classes. Seniors unanimously said they preferred more laid back senior year.

Students from anywhere can all agree that sit toward career paths and ACT/SAT prep classes. There were no major shocks with Saline's rules, visible at Dexter, and represents the possible similarities allowed to leave the lunchroom without a pass, period

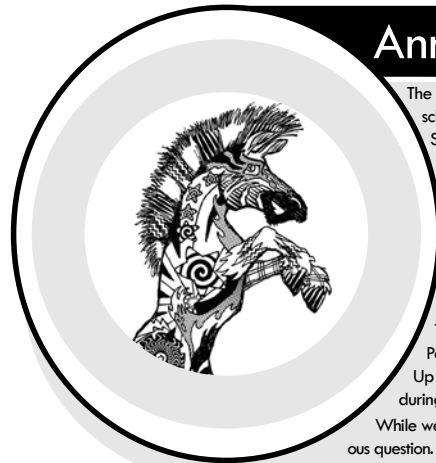
Skyline



Walking into Skyline High School was a little outside. The staircases are spread to the ends of (tall) flights, I was short of breath.

Just being in the school, I was amazed at the DHS (1,501 compared to 1,176) the hallway. Despite this, all the people I met were friendly. As I was there on a Wednesday, the classes larger than Dexter's. Skyline has five classes, the teachers were friendly, most joked around. The classrooms were smaller than the average sophomore to senior year that are structure mostly artificially lit as the blinds were usually. Almost all classes have students sign-out and to classes I never saw students working outside of the. One of the best parts about Skyline was going into. Overall, Skyline was a completely different experience.

Ann Arbor Community



The day I spent at Community High School was shadowing with junior Lyndsey Williams and realized School began with Algebra at 7:51 a.m.

I was informed there were no AP, IB, or access to another high school or go to a local college a qualified instructor. Classes last around a long, so two days of the week are Block A, t. Students have plenty of freedom at CHS. It to Kerrytown and Sweetwaters Cafe. I was goes there at least once a day, including the. The back doors to the school were unlocked : Pop-Lit was next and the teacher, who goes by Up next was forum, each student's "homeroom," during Lyndsey's lunch hour which lasts 50 minutes.

While we were eating I asked the students if there was a question. Lyndsey's fifth and final hour of the day was I work they could leave. So, although school officially releases at 2

Attendance

Most students have been late to class at least a few times, but how much is too much? This is one of the many questions the Board of Education must consider when forming policy on attendance.

At Dexter High School, if a student arrives to class after the final bell, he or she is marked tardy. If a student arrives to class more than five minutes after the final bell, he or she is marked late and is considered absent.

After a student has accumulated either four tardies, or one unexcused absence, he or she receives detention as punishment.

Opinion on this attendance policy tends to vary among students. Sophomore George Deljevic thinks reform is needed.

"I think it's a bit harsh," Deljevic said.

Senior Nick Winston disagrees with George's stance, and claims that the attendance policy at DHS "seems fair enough," and "could be worse."

Winston isn't wrong; Dexter actually takes a more lenient position on attendance when compared to many other schools in Michigan.

At Dearborn High School, for example, a student that has accumulated ten or more absences, excused or not, may receive reduced credit for that semester.

So why is Dexter High School's attendance policy the way that it is? An explanation is provided in the Dexter student handbook.

"It is imperative that students be in attendance each school day in order to maximize their education. Many important learnings result from active participation in classroom and other school activities that cannot be replaced by individual study."

Many important learnings result from active participation in classroom and other school activities that cannot be replaced by individual study. Attendance is important in the development of a high quality work ethic that will be a significant factor in a student's success with future employers."

START TIMES

- Dexter: 8:00
- Saline: 7:50
- Skyline: 7:45
- Community: 7:51
- National Average: 7:59

Start Times

It is generally agreed upon that waking up early is one of the worst aspects of high school. You're probably not alone if you've ever questioned why high school has to start so early, which as it turns out is a pretty good question to ask.

A study conducted in 2014, by Kyla L. Wahlstrom, Ph.D., of the University of Minnesota, found notable evidence that students enrolled in schools with later start times benefited significantly from the extra sleep.

Wahlstrom's study reported that students who started school at 8:30am or later were in better overall health, less sleep deprived, less likely to be depressed, less tardy, less absent, in fewer car crashes, and scored higher on national achievement tests when compared to students in schools with earlier start times.

Many students at DHS, such as Noah Wendt, seem to agree with Wahlstrom's notion that later start times may improve their quality of life.

"Sometimes I have trouble focusing in class because I didn't get enough sleep," Wendt said, adding, "I think if school start times were moved back I'd probably get more sleep."

So why start school so early if doing so seems to be to the detriment of the students? There are several possible explanations, but the real answer may be simpler than one would think.

In conclusion of her research, Wahlstrom suggests that "homeostasis or maintenance of the status quo is probably the strongest force against adopting a later start time for high schools."

Her Schools | Dexter's More Discussed Policies

Staff Writer - Alli Skiba

welcomed with the sound crying babies. Being concerned I asked the person I is that sound?" and she explained to me that it was the sound of the fake babies s I saw diversity that Dexter does not have, and I was later informed that Saline is the world.

ducing me to her teacher by saying, "Mr/Mrs ____, this is Alli, from Dexter" and three y replied with, "Hello Alli, from Dexter." Saline staff was phenomenally amiable at let- d students were undoubtedly accepting me to sit at Abigail's lunch table.

SHS only had five hours in one day and trimesters instead of semesters. This is so they and so each student at Saline is able to take 15 classes a year instead of Dexter's 12 ar trimesters because they are able to get required classes out of the way earlier to have a

hool can be stressful from time to time, but possibly more so at SHS due to many classes aimed s, such as Abigail's second hour.

st of them are the same or similar to Dexter policies. The student's fashion was similar to what is ties to Dexter's dress code policies. One difference posed at SHS is the strict lunch rules. No student

Staff Writer - Claire Ward

erwhelming; the school looks even bigger on the inside than it does on the out- hallways and the back center of the school, and by the time I climbed up three

e number of people around me. Although Skyline only has 325 more students than ays seemed to be more crowded than Dexter's middle stairwell after fourth hour. ndly and included me in their class activities.

is were shortened for Skytime. Even with the shortened hours, each class still lasted lon- each day, but being on trimesters allows them to take more classes than DHS students. All und with their students. You could tell that they cared about their jobs.

ge Dexter classroom, except the magnet rooms (magnets are programs you can take from d around a certain subject [Business, Communication, Design, and Health]). The rooms were y drawn over the windows.

ke a pass whenever they leave the classrooms. The times that I was in the hall in the middle of e classrooms.

i bathrooms with faucets that all worked.

from Dexter.

Staff Writer - Sofia Sokansanj

definitely not what I had expected. The first shock came as I pulled up to the ed there were no school buses, let alone enough parking spaces for everyone.

erated courses. If students want to take a class not offered they can either commute ye. Another option Community offers is to take a CR - a one-on-one private class with 1 hour and a half, and there are only five hours in the day. Community uses block schedul- wo days are Block B, and Friday is a mashup of both blocks.

i fact, during the 10-minute passing time we simply left school and went across the street shocked to see how no one seemed to mind we left school, and found that almost everyone chers.

o students could easily get back in. I was surprised to find that all of the doors were unlocked.

r Tracy, was very kind and welcoming. Every teacher, including the Dean, goes by their first name. that remains the same all four years. Most students have this at the end of the day but this was Students can go to Zingerman's or Kerrytown for lunch; some even go back home.

anything they thought was strict about their school and they all just laughed as if I weren't asking a seri- rench. There was a substitute teacher and the teacher left a note saying that once students finished their :30, we left at 1:20 after completing the work and walked around Ann Arbor for the rest of the day.

Lunch

Dexter, unlike some other schools, has closed-campus lunches. Why?
"It's a liability thing" Assistant Principal Ken Koenig said.
Recently, kids have complained about needing a pass to leave the lunchroom.
"[Open campus lunches] would give students an opportunity to take a break from school and a change of scenery, making it easier to learn," sophomore Sarah Zofchak said.
A recent incident quieted most discussion of open-campus lunches.
In 2007, a DHS student was killed in a car crash during school hours. The student had left the high school with two other students to pick up ingredients for a foods project when they slid off the road and hit a tree. Although the crash was weather related, it was on the school's watch.
Though studies done by the NLCAPT have found that open campus lunches improve learn- ing abilities because it allows students to make a healthier decision for lunch.
"The lunchroom has bad choices and it's never enough food, also it's easier to learn after eating good food," Zofchak said.
Other schools in the area such as Saline, Skyline, and Community have had the similar debates with open-campus lunches, and most have reached a similar conclusion; only Com- munity has an open-campus lunch.

OPEN
CAMPUS ●
LUNCH

Dexter: No
Saline: No
Skyline: No
Community: Yes

Dress Code

For many at Dexter the dress code is seen as more of a suggestion as opposed to a strict guideline. Dexter's dress code, which forbids hats, exposed shoulders, and shorts shorter than fingertip length, is often not followed by students, and most staff don't seem to care.
Opinion among teachers regarding dress code seems to differ in strength.
English teacher Jill Fyke, when questioned on the matter responded with inquiry, asked, "There's a school dress code?"
Others teachers are more outspoken about what should and shouldn't be worn to school.
Senior Kelly Stabler believes that the dress code varies depending on teacher prefer- ence.
"I think it's more the teachers opinion because I know some that really care about hats and tank tops but there are others that really don't care at all," Stabler said.
Given that Dexter high school is a public school, Dexter students, even with a dress code, have more freedom regarding their attire than do students attending private schools.
At Detroit Catholic Central, for instance, students are required to wear a full collar shirt, clean dress trousers, dress shoes and socks; even their hair has to be neat, clean, and remain of natural color.
Stabler appreciates the freedom to choose her clothing at a public high school, and hopes to see it remain at DHS.
"I think the dress code should be relaxed since we're a public school and people in high school should be able to express themselves without any rules," she said.

If I Could Go Back to Freshman Year...

Staff Writer - Riley Gore

"I completely slacked off, and I didn't care about a single thing during my freshman year," said senior Chris Benson, reminiscing on his underclassmen years at Dexter High School.

Many students that attend Dexter, including myself, have similar feelings regarding their earlier years of high school. With the exception of a few golden students, looking back on high school, everybody wishes they did something differently during their four years.

Whether it has to do with school work, athletics, college decision making, or even recruitment processes, everybody has something they would change.

For me personally, I wish I could go back to focus more on my effort freshman year, and try to start off high school on the right foot by getting better grades from the start.

When I started off high school, I had no idea how important homework was. I was so used to middle school work, where I completed assignments on and off, that I didn't realize how much homework would impact my grades.

Since I didn't give much effort into completing my work on time and studying for tests, my freshman year grades were terrible. Because I slacked off at the beginning of high school, I have had to constantly play catch up with my GPA since then.

Even now in my senior year, I still struggle to increase my GPA to get it to where I would like it to be. For many students, not trying during their freshman year really affected their decisions when it came to choosing a college. Many students end up with no other option but to go to Washtenaw Community College.

Don't get me wrong, Washtenaw is a great option; however, a lot of students have visions of going to different colleges when they begin high school. Fortunately, I have been accepted to a few of my top schools, but I can not say the same for some of my classmates.

Some say Senioritis is bad, but people need to realize that Freshmanitis is the real problem in high school.

The Five Things to Know When Choosing a College

Staff Writer - Michael Bradshaw

With the Christmas season approaching, so will the never-ending questions about your college search. To help answer those questions, annoying questions, (and your own), here is a list of things to consider before sending in that final deposit.

Cost: With tuition prices at all-time high, cost is an essential factor to consider when making your final college decision. It is \$58,916 for tuition alone over four years at the University of Michigan. That's just for a public school. Butler University, a private university, costs \$144,200 for tuition over four years before scholarships. Research and apply for as many scholarships as possible to bring the number down. You want to make sure you are going to a school where you will not have a burden of debt when you are entering a career and starting a family.

Academics: You're going to school with an end goal of getting a good job, so it is important that your college has good academic programs in your area of interest. A few resources include the US News rankings to see the academic program rankings, and the placement office at each individual university to see what companies have hired recent graduates in the past. Doing the extra research before you make your decision could potentially help your career significantly.

Location: Do you love the state of Michigan or do you want to get as far away as possible? Do you want to live in the country or in the city? Distance and surrounding areas are important factors when considering what college to attend. If you're planning on going off campus a lot you may want to consider a bigger city like Ann Arbor or Lansing. The more the distance, the more the added cost both financially and in regards to visiting home. On the other hand some people believe that they will be able to have new and different experiences if they go to a school out of state. While this may be true in some cases, every school has opportunities to study abroad, and college is a new experience to everyone no matter how far the school.

Size: Do you want to go to a college the size of Dexter High School (1,176) and reap the benefits of a small school or go to school the size of Michigan State University (38,786) and have the advantages of a large school? No matter which it is for you, you need to know what each provides beforehand. Bigger schools allow for more diversity and being able to meet new people all the time, while smaller schools allow for smaller class sizes and more personal relationships with professors.

Student Life: Extracurriculars are an important aspect of the college experience. Whether you want to be part of legal groups, religious groups, or academic groups, looking into the student life section on each college's website is a good idea. For many students, pursuing athletics in college coaches, playing time, and how good the team are are all factors to consider.

So when your Aunt Sue or Uncle Bob asks you what college you're attending next year just tell them that you're considering all of the options and factors that go into this life-changing decision. Maybe, just maybe this will direct their attention away from you and your future.



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DHS needs more 'middle of the road' classes

In today's age, to get accepted into a competitive college, a senior's course schedule is very important. However, Dexter High School has limited options when it comes to the classes seniors can choose from.

More "middle of the road" class options should be offered.

With the current options, seniors are forced to make a choice: they must choose either a very rigorous schedule that can result in a lot of stress and little free time or a much more laidback schedule.

The lower path does not look as competitive on a college application to highly selective schools, like the University of Michigan. For example, students taking precalculus as a junior have to choose between AP Calculus, a very rigorous and time-consuming class, or elective math classes such as statistics or financial management.

Regarding senior English course options, students have the choice between AP Literature, a class not well suited for avid English lovers, or elective classes such as creative writing. Another senior English option, Humanities, ties you into a full two hour class that includes art history, which can turn seniors off.

The gap of difficulty between these two paths is too large.

Senior Mckenzi Wagner, who is enrolled in both AP Calculus and AP Literature described her schedule as "consisting of a lot of homework," and "very stressful." Other seniors who are trying to get into competitive colleges are experiencing the same stress.

Counselor Kristie Doyle pointed out, "In some areas choices are a little limited because we have gotten rid of a lot of the English electives and other half credit elective courses, which means students need to commit to courses that are year long".

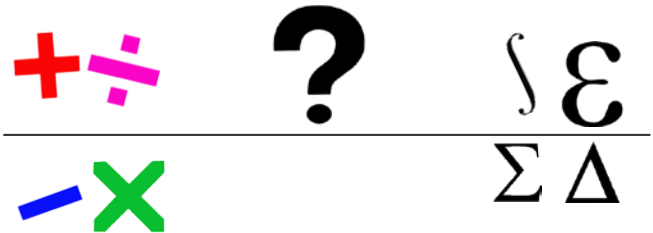
DHS should offer more "middle of the road" classes such as a regular calculus class that furthers the information learned in precalculus, or an English class that challenges the average senior without overloading them.

While there are online options provided by DHS for classes like regular calculus, the online school setting does not work for everyone. This is a big change from classroom teaching, and can make it harder for students to learn. It's possible that one obstacle

preventing broader options for senior classes could be a lack of teachers; however, with less hours of both the advanced class and the elective, there would be room to implement these "middle of the road" classes.

Overall, the new potential class options would be valuable because it would allow seniors to have a challenging schedule without being too overwhelming.

"The classes offered for senior are on complete opposite ends of the spectrum," Wagner said. "There should be classes created to give students a balance."



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OUR VIEW: Open Campus Lunch Opens the Door to Responsibilities

Another day, another [insert DHS meal here]. Many students throughout the high school have been craving the ability to leave school for lunch, finding their favorite spots around town in the pursuit of a tasty meal; however, they have been restricted in doing this. Open campus lunch has been a hotly debated topic for many years, but it is clear that change needs to occur: DHS should offer an open campus lunch.

Other schools in the surrounding area offer some sort of open campus lunch to their students. Some schools grant this privilege only to seniors, others for all students but only on a Friday; however, Dexter has decided to not allow open campus lunch at all.

Students feel that since they are licensed drivers they should be able to drive themselves to local restaurants at their discretion. As students develop a greater level of maturity they should have certain freedoms such as getting their own lunch just as adults do on their break from work. Open campus lunch privileges can be either daily or limited to certain grade levels or days, but students should definitely have access to this freedom.

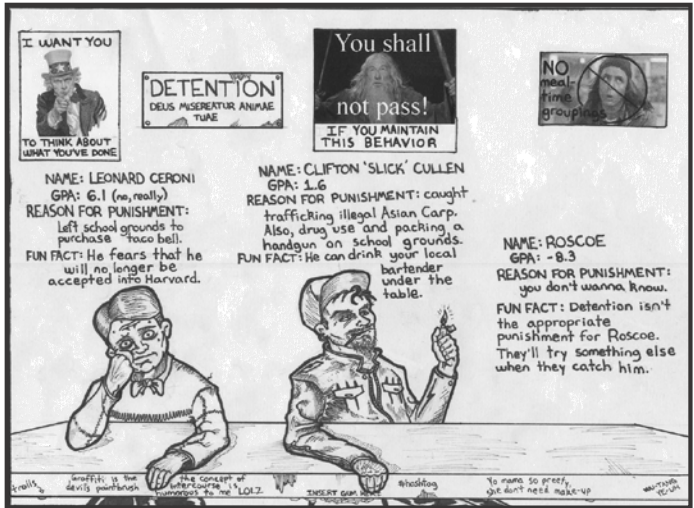
Administrators feel that there are liabilities involved with allowing students to roam as they please during lunch. Parents send their kids to school knowing they will be safe, but when they are out of the school's control they can not guarantee that safety. Students should know that once they leave the jurisdiction of the school, they become responsible for themselves. This includes getting themselves back to school in time for their next class.

"I definitely believe there is liability involved," Senior Alex Norris said. "However, I believe that once students reach their later years, such as juniors and seniors, they should be able to go to lunch as they please."

There are obvious safety reasons that cause administrators to want to restrict students' abilities to have open campus lunch, but it should be realized that these students are adults and should receive the same privileges as such.

Seniors, in just a few short months, will be moving on to live a life of their own. Not being able to leave during lunch is trapping them inside a school that they are quickly growing out of. Older students should be able to ease their transition into college by being given simple freedoms such as open campus lunch.

Going from no privileges at all in high school to living on your own is a huge transition that can be difficult to overcome. The idea of open campus lunch can help streamline that



Illustrator - Kurtis Hansen

experience.

Being able to have access to open campus lunch will help students feel more mature and grant them more control over their lives. A simple privilege such as this will go a long way in preparing them for what their future holds. Although open lunch may be unnecessary for freshmen and sophomores, it should be made available to upperclassmen in order to prepare them for adult life's responsibilities.

Should DHS Allow an Open-Campus Lunch?

- 3 minutes: Subway
- 8 minutes: McDonald's
- 13 minutes: Culver's
- 14 minutes: Panera Bread

Zane Aridi
Freshman

"Yes, it's a time where people can go and do whatever they want for 30 minutes and take a break from school."

Maeve Donevan
Sophomore

"Yes, I don't think the school food is very good."

Braeden Ballard
Junior

"Yes, now that I can drive, I feel like I should be able to go out to get food."

Amanda Breuninger
Senior

"Yes, then we would have more variety of foods to eat rather than the school lunch."

Deep Week

Christmas Break is Only Fun for Some of Us

As school is finishing up for 2015, Dexter High School students are itching to get out for winter break and enjoy a well deserved two weeks off. Without homework and school a large majority of the student body will be enjoying days at home watching Netflix or participating in other winter activities.

This is not the case for the men's swim and dive team. Winter break doesn't mean laying in bed all day; it does mean Deep Week.

"Deep Week is the intense period of the two weeks when we are just in the pool all the time, swimming two and a half hour practices twice a day," senior captain Jimmy Morgan said. "It's also known as hell week, the worst time of our lives, but that's our winter break."

In total over the two weeks and 26 extremely difficult practices, the team swims roughly 230,000 yards which translates to about 130 miles.

"Deep Week is a lot more yards and a lot more fast swimming," senior Matt Bergdolt said. "It takes a greater toll on your physical and mental well-being."

How does Deep Week compare to practices for other sports? Many swimmers said there isn't one.

Morgan said the closest comparison might be any running-related sport.

"A pretty accurate equivalent would be running for hour and a half practices twice a day [nonstop]," Morgan said. "There is no stopping. Just keep sprinting."

Even though Deep Week is extremely overwhelming physically and mentally, all of the work put in over the two weeks will pay off on the swim team's road to states.

"It's awful and horrible and I hate it. But it gets us faster..." Morgan said. "Without a doubt that's what sets us apart from other teams. Everyone works really hard and it's where we thrive and even though everyone is hurting they still give their best effort."

3 FT 6 IN

26

Practices

230,000

Yards

130

Miles

Star Wars 'Awakens' Excitement at DHS

Thirty eight years ago, in a galaxy that was this one, George Lucas released the first installment of the Star Wars series, and started one of the biggest franchises in history.

Star Wars went from being a Sci-fi movie to a huge multi-billion dollar franchise, and it became something that inspired and connected people across generations.

"It was part of my childhood," senior Alaina Whidby said. "My brother and Dad really liked it, so I sort of got shoved into that 'Let's watch Star Wars,' 'Let's play with Star Wars characters' realm. I really liked the movies, I liked playing the games. So, pretty much because of my brother, I'm super into Star Wars. It's a bond between my brother and I."

Unlike some things like acid-wash jeans and hip-hop, Star Wars has been able transcend generations and give people the same sense of wonder upon their first viewing.

"It was 1977 when the first movie came out" said AP Government and Economics teacher Cory Bergen. "It was the biggest thing ever, we'd never seen a space movie that looked that realistic before. They were always pretty cheesy before that and that one looked amazing."

And after 10 years being off the silver screen, Star Wars is coming back.

On December 18th, 2015, "Star Wars Episode 7: The Force Awakens" comes to theaters and fans are beyond excited.

"I'm really excited for it," said Senior Nick Grant, "I'm really glad that J.J. Abrams is taking a step backwards. He's trying to use more practical effects not relying so much on CGI like George Lucas did. And also it's a diverse cast of really young talented actors so, I'm really excited about that."

The excitement shows. According to The Huffington Post, "Awakens" has already grossed more than \$50 million in pre-sale tickets, making it the highest grossing movie for presale tickets, and is expected to gross between \$170 and \$220 million opening weekend.

"It should be really good," said Senior Noah Wendt, "It's not going to be an instant classic like the old ones but the effects and action will defiantly be worth seeing."

The new movie follows a similar structure as the original trilogy. It is starting fairly unknown, promising new actors and actresses, and it is centered around the conflict between the rebel alliance and the empire.

Already before even hitting the big screen, "Awakens" has spawned several new product lines, commercial campaigns, and fan theories. It's hard to go anywhere without seeing "The Force Awakens" plastered on something or being mentioned by someone.

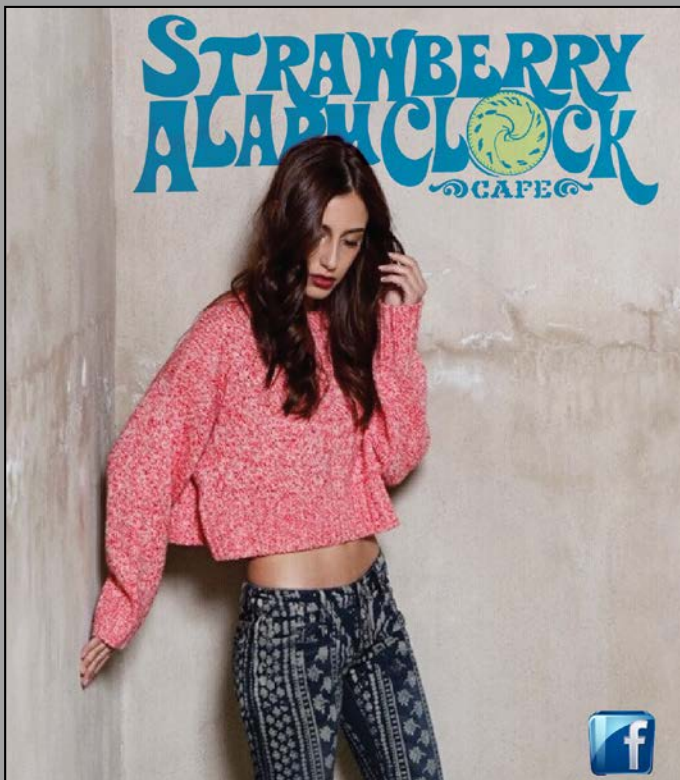
Long time Star Wars fans are probably experiencing deja vu, as the hype fueling "Awakens" is a similar hype to what was experienced around the opening of "A New Hope." And for younger fans, or fans to be, they'll be heading into a fan base unlike any other. "It just seems like it belongs to me," Bergen said. "It belongs to so many people, but it came out when I was in high school. ...it's loved by so many people. In a sense, I really feel like it belongs mostly to me."

So, as people line up at the doors dressed in Darth Vader costumes and adorning their favorite light-sabers, they will get ready to feel the same sense of awe and wonder they felt the first time they saw the Star Destroyer creep across the screen.

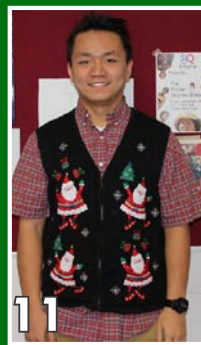


THE FIVE BY FIVE: *Holiday Edition*

 Jordan Maisch Freshman	 Gabi Fracassi Sophomore	 Ben Daugherty Junior	 EJ Gilbert Senior	 Dasher The Reindeer
Are you naughty or nice? And why?				
I'm naughty because that's the only way you get respect.	Are you naughty or nice?	I'm really naughty and you know why Grant ;)	I'm a naughty boy because I like to do naughty things	Naughty, because I'm going to kill Rudolph.
Who do you want under the mistletoe?				
My dog Franklin because he's a really good kisser.	Obama.	Grant Katcher.	Anyone other than Sabrina Rentenbach.	Rudolph's mom.
What is your dream gift?				
Puppies.	Ummm, probably socks.	Grant Katcher.	Anything that vibrates, like a toothbrush...	Rudolph's head in a box.
If you could be one of Santa's reindeer, which one would you be?				
Rudolph because you get to be the star.	The one that everyone forgets. You know, just be in the back-ground and chill	Rudolph, but I would want to be Grant if he was a reindeer.	Rudolph for sure because he has a red nose.	I'm already a reindeer, why would you ask me that?
Would you enjoy being one of Santa's elves?				
Yes, because it would be Christmas all the time.	No, because I work for the whole year without vacation, it's like slavery.	Yes, because I love taking orders.	Yes, because then I could be a dirty elf.	Yes, because no one appreciates my contributions as a reindeer.



Decorating DHS with Ugly Christmas Sweaters



1 - Senior Sam Bremmer. 2 - Senior Jake Nevin. 3 - Seniors Alice Montibeller, Ally Hauke, and Catie Prehoda. 4 - Mrs. Lisa Burgess and Mrs. Jill Fyke. 5 - Seniors Kylie Busdeker, Amanda Breuninger, and Anna Bailey. 6 - Senior Jimmy Morgan and juniors Sophie Kurcz and Alyssa Enciso. 7 - Freshman Lucas Betzoldt. 8 - Freshman Noah Hayter. 9 - Junior Madison DeLacy. 10 - Freshman Mason Loudermilk. 11 - Senior Steven Li. 12 - Juniors Katelyn Niswonger and Austin Graham. 13 - Seniors Kate Monterro and Stewie Weber. 14 - Ms. Mary Perrin and senior Anissa Lovell.