



THE TAG TIMES



TAG STAFF

The Middle School Years

By Juan

I interviewed some of the staff members of Chestnut TAG and asked them which middle school they attended, their favorite part about middle school, and advice for middle schoolers.

Also included in this article, in no particular order, are some middle school photos of the staff. Can you guess who is who?!

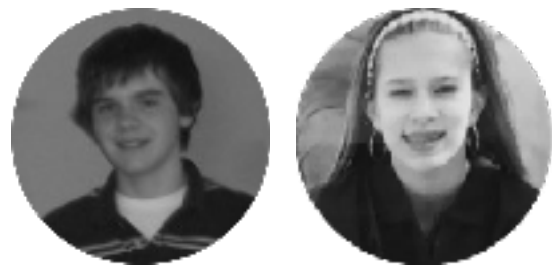
I first interviewed Dr. O'Connor. She attended Pearson Junior High. Her favorite part about attending middle school was being a super-star athlete. Her advice for middle schoolers is that since these years are the toughest social years, you should ask adults for help often!

Ms. St Martin attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Her favorite part of middle school was going from plaid skirt to plaid jumper! She says that her advice to middle schoolers is to save notes from your middle school friends because the memories fade away.



Ms. Perez attended John J. Duggan Middle School. She says her favorite part about middle school was meeting new friends and transitioning from class to class. She says, "I remember I was very excited about not being in the same classroom all the time." Her advice to middle schoolers is to do your best and take advantage of all the help your teachers offer you. Also, don't take anything for granted.

Just like us, Mr. Lessard attended Chestnut TAG! He says his favorite part about middle school was TV studio production class. His advice for middle schoolers is to build organization habits because it is a valuable skill in life.



Mr. McGrath attended Wilbraham Middle School. His favorite part about middle school was being the lead guitarists of a punk rock band. He also says that his favorite part the that during his graduation party, for the entire school in the auditorium, he says it was an amazing experience. His advice to middle schoolers is to try and not get caught up in drama. He also says to focus on school but also enjoy spending time with your friends because in high school, you will miss them.



Mr. Malinoski attended Agawam Middle School. His favorite part about middle school was meeting new kids from around the town. His advice to middle schoolers is to write stuff down and try to be organized!

Mr. Paskov attended Sedgwick Middle School. His favorite part about middle school was being stage manager for the musical, "The Jungle Book"! His advice to middle schoolers is, "Take your work seriously but don't take yourself too seriously. Why so serious?"



I then interviewed Ms. Jones. Ms. Jones attended Ellington Middle School in Connecticut. This middle school was only 7th and 8th grade. Her favorite part about middle school was the different electives she was able to take. She took band, home economics, art, technology shop, and tv communications. These classes helped her be a well-rounded student. She says, "My advice for middle schoolers is go to school and try your best. Everyone is here to support you. Middle School is what you make of it. It can be a great experience if you just embrace it."

Ms. Leveille attended a junior high school called Hampshire Regional. This means that the high school and middle school were not really separate. Her favorite part about middle school was getting to play varsity sports, but also getting dressed up for semi-formals. Her advice to middle school students is to enjoy the social side of it without getting caught up in drama. Oh and to take lots of pictures so you can be embarrassed about them later!

BIG TRIPS 2018

#1 Dominican Republic

By Tia

On April 12th, 2018, a number of TAG students will attend a trip to the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic is a Caribbean nation that shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti to the West. It's known for its beaches, resorts and golfing. Its terrain is made of rainforest, savannah and highlands, including Pico Duarte, the Caribbean's tallest mountain. The capital city is Santo Domingo which has Spanish landmarks like the Gothic Cathedral Primada de America.



Students will be traveling on a plane from the Boston. They will be able to stay 7 nights in the hotels and participate in volunteer, leadership, action planning, and social issue activities. When they arrive, students will follow and itinerary like the one below.

DAY 1: ARRIVE IN SANTIAGO

Meet your Field Director at the airport. After you arrive at your accommodations, settle in and meet your group for the country orientation and safety overview.

DAYS 2-6: SERVICE PROJECT

As communities evolve so do their needs. That's why we work closely with non-profits to better understand the local challenges. Since projects are determined closer to your actual tour date, here's a glimpse at what a typical day might look like.

- In the morning, begin your service project with children in a nearby village.
- Spend the afternoon immersed in cultural activities.
- In the evening, reflect, discuss events as a group, and draw connections between the day's work and relevant global issues.

DAY 7: MANGROVE TOUR or HIKE

Explore a mangrove forest by boat with your local tour guide or take a guided hike on the beautiful North Coast. Later, transfer to Santiago.

DAY 8: DEPART FOR HOME

So there you have it - this is what our TAG students will be up to next April. Best of all - there are still openings for students to attend this trip!

If you are interested in going with us to the DR, please contact the trip leader Mr. Paskov at

paskovm@springfieldpublicschools.com

10 Facts About the DR

1. Dominican Republic cuisines are a combination of Spanish, indigenous Taino, and African influence. Dominican food resembles that of other countries in Latin America, those of the most nearby islands of Puerto Rico and Cuba, though the name of the dishes might differ.
2. The wildlife in the Dominican Republic includes the Hispaniolan Solenodon, a nocturnal burrowing mammal, has a long flexible snout, and resembles a large shrew, dwarf Gecko who is the smallest lizard in world, rhinoceros iguana (threatened), frogs (large capaud, tiny tree frogs), and four types of non-venomous snakes.
3. There are 10,792,000 people in the Dominican Republic. The genetic makeup of the Dominican Republic population is estimated to be 52.15% European, 39.57% Black African and 8.28% Native American.
4. The Dominican republic is home of one of the largest Caribbean marine parks called the Eastern National Park. The Eastern National Park is a prime habitat with hundreds of species of plants and animals including 112 species of birds.



5. The Puta Cana is one of the world's greatest beach strips located in the Eastern part of the Dominican Republic. This stretch of beach goes on for about 20 miles.
6. There are many activities do in the Dominican Republic such as ziplining, dune bugging, cruising, snorkeling, and small-group sailing.
7. The Dominican Republic was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492 and became the first place that the Europeans settled in the New World.
8. The Dominican Republic is a nation that covers two thirds of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. Haiti covers the western third of Hispaniola.
9. The climate of the Dominican Republic is called maritime tropical; little seasonal temperature variation; seasonal variation in rainfall.
10. People speak Spanish in the DR

#2 Washington DC

By Matthew C.

The trip for Washington D.C is like the Dominican republic trip, but costs a little less. There will be chances for fundraising for this trip around fall.

From what I hear, its going to be filled with a lot of fun. The schedule is full of exciting things, for example, "the changing of the tomb of the unknown soldier." I also saw that we could go see Washington's tomb and a dinner and dance down in a cruise on the Potomac River. There will also be a night tour of the Lincoln Memorial and also a theater performance of art scenes first hand and live.

We departure on April 16 2018 and head back for home on April 20, 2018. This trip isn't just about learning about history, but it's also about having fun at the same time. We get to take photo stops at places like the White House, the Washington Monument, Marine Corps War Memorial. The trip also features tours of museums like the museum of National History or American History.

So far there are 16 students already going and also Ms. Leveille and maybe some other TAG teachers depending on how many students are going because every 10 students going another TAG teacher comes.

One student going is Mohammed and he wants to go because he wants to try new things and see places like the Washington monument (also he says Springfield is boring.) The Washington D.C trip is cool and I hope to see many more people going, I think it'd be cool.

If you are interested in going with us to DC, please contact the trip leader Ms. Leveille at

leveillej@springfieldpublicschools.com



10 Facts About DC

1. There is actually a crypt beneath the Capitol Building (there is also a fallout shelter beneath the crypt)
2. Washington D.C was built on a mosquito infested swamp
3. The Washington Monument will sway about .125th of an inch if the wind is at least 30 miles per hour
4. Washington D.C was named after Christopher Columbus
5. There is a marble bathtub in the basement of the Capitol
6. The Smithsonian is named for an Englishman: James Smithson
7. Washington D.C gets more rain than Seattle
8. Washington D.C.'s streets are lettered—but there is no "J" street
9. The pink cherry blossoms in Washington D.C. were a gift from Japan
10. Darth Vader's head has been carved into the facade of the National Cathedral in D.C.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Springfield High Schools

Central

By Jamal D.

Springfield Central High School is a public high school located in Springfield, Massachusetts. The high school is for students in grades 9-12. With an enrollment of over 2,000 students, Springfield Central High School describes itself as the largest high school in Western Massachusetts. It was founded in the year 1898. Many great people like Dr. Seuss and other people have went to Central high school. The street that is on is 1840 Roosevelt Ave. The principal at that school is Mr. Thaddeus Tokarz. The range of ages at Central High is 13 years old to 19 years old. The starting time of that school is 7:35 A.M. and the ending time is 2:20 P.M.

For more information on Central HS. visit: <http://springfieldcentral.com>

Sci-Tech

By Alyssa Dejesus

For all the eighth graders who are looking forward to high school, here's a good one. Sci-Tech! Sci-tech stands for *Springfield Public High School of Science and Technology*. Sci-Tech is a public magnet school. The high school is home to grades 9-12. As of September 2008, the

student count was approximately 1,700 students. This makes Science and Technology the third largest high school in Springfield, behind Springfield Central High School and the High School of Commerce. Sci-Tech has an address of 1250 state street in spring field mass. The principle is Dr. Sara Walsh.

Sci-Tech was founded in 1996, and has majority of classes and specialties. Such as health care science, Film and media, engineering, and finance. With all these classes there are majority of opportunities. Such as getting recognized by colleges and even the mayor. You can also join clubs that help boost your resume. Such as music, math, robotics club, brain storm, and more. All these things can benefit your future and all at sci-tech. For all the students that like sports such as basketball, football, soccer, and etc.



Sci-Tech had defeated Duggan in baseball with a total of 12 to 4. What a game Sci-Tech took the lead by three times Duggan's score. They also beat commerce in baseball but not as much. It was 6-1. For the boys basketball team their overall is a 5-15. For the girls who like to play basketball the girls overall is 17-5. For more info go to masslive.com.

For more information about the whole school go to springfieldpublicschools.com

Commerce

By Danicha A.

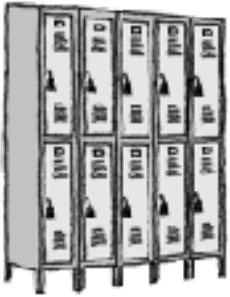
The high school of commerce is located on 415 State street, Springfield MA 101105. Commerce is a public school, the grade level that is taught is 9th through 12th. The principle of Commerce is Diane Bauer. Commerce's school starting time is at 7:35 a.m. and the school ending time is at 2:20 p.m. Commerce has classes that us as middle schoolers don't normally have such as, chemistry, history, physics, etc. They also have sports like cheer leading, soccer, basketball, track, etc. Also, the student enrollment at Commerce is 1,250. The different races of the kids who go there are 19.8: African American, 1.5: Asian, 69.3: Hispanic, 8.2: White, and 1.1: for Muti-race (non-Hispanic).

Renaissance

By Carina

Renaissance is a small school that serves grades 6 to 12 in Springfield and there are about 100 students per grade. The school hour are from 7:35 to 2:20. The students are allowed inside the building at 7:05 so they are able to eat breakfast. The teachers hold office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:20 to 3:20 and the late buses are also available on these days. The school dress code colors are solid red, white, and black shirts, solid red, white, and black sweaters and sweatshirts, and khaki and black pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, and jumpers. All shorts, skorts, skirts, and jumpers must be at least up to your knees at knee length. In Renaissance you can't wear jeans, stretch pants, gym shorts, or sweatpants.

In this particular school there are clubs you can join and activities you can participate in. There are clubs and activities specifically for high school and some for middle school. There is a student council for high school and one for middle school. They also have middle school mathletes and high school mathletes,



Renaissance has 7 character traits. There is Friendship, which is when you help other scholars in school do the right thing and help them in education. Perseverance which is when you work to the best of your ability.

Responsibility which is when you are responsible for your actions and what you did and are doing. Respect which is when you be kind to teachers, peers, and your environment. Self-discipline which is when you control your actions and words you say. Cultural sensitivity which is when you give others a chance to learn about your culture and when others let you learn about their cultures. The last character trait is courage which is when you stand up for yourself and for your peers and when you make the best choices for yourself whether or not your peers like the choices you make.

Duggan

By Carina Reyes

John J. Duggan Academy is a school for students in grades 6th through 12th. Duggan emphasizes high achievement through active learning, mistakes, reflection, character development, and teamwork. In Duggan students participate in hands-on learning, projects-based learning that brings them out into the world to understand how the things they learn in school apply in real life through authentic learning experiences. This year seniors are the first to graduate out of Duggan. There are 548 students who attend Duggan now.

John J. Duggan Academy has thriving sports teams. Varsity teams compete in basketball, volleyball, soccer, track and baseball. The school gymnasium is going to be rebuilt and a new sports complex is going to be built behind the school that will support football, baseball, basketball, and track.



Putnam

By Sierra White

"The mission of the Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy is to provide a world class academic and technical education that will prepare all our students for post-secondary success in the global marketplace. Putnam graduates will continue to be lifelong learners and productive responsible citizens."

The Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy is steeped in a proud tradition of providing outstanding academic and technical education. Putnam's administration, faculty, staff and students work collaboratively to promote a school culture that fosters and supports the expectation of excellence among all our stakeholders, and, at the same time, respects diversity. Additionally, the Putnam Community acknowledges that learning is a lifelong process. Putnam is committed to ensuring that students receive the academic and technical skills necessary to continue their education; secure gainful employment; or pursue both in the global marketplace.

Providing their students with college and career readiness options is the cornerstone of their outstanding academic and vocational programs. To that end, their rigorous academic curricula is aligned to state standards across all content areas, and their Career and Technical Education courses continuously reflect prevailing industry standards. Moreover, all their programs are enhanced and supported by partnerships with parents and families; other educational institutions, local industry, and the community at large. Finally, the Putnam Community is committed to the belief that every student can learn and successfully participate in a rigorous academic and technical education in a supportive, respectful, and safe environment.

Putnam's address is 1300 State St, Springfield, MA 01109. About 1340 students are enrolled at Putnam. The current principal of Putnam is George Johnson. Putnam is a public school. Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy's old building has been demolished in favor of a newer, state-of-the-art building replacing it. The building, featuring the school's new name, Roger L. Putnam Vocational-Technical Academy, was dedicated before the 2012-2013 academic year. The building was originally budgeted at \$125 million but was revised to \$114.3 million later in construction. The Massachusetts School Building Authority is reimbursing the city for 90% of the project's cost. The building is designed to be reminiscent of a shopping mall, with many vocational areas maintaining a storefront where their wares may be bought and sold. Vocational technology has also been updated across the board for all shops.

The uniform colors at Putnam are blue and gold (or mustard yellow). The sports provided at Putnam are football, basketball, wrestling, track, baseball, softball. Putnam goes from grade 9-12. Roger Lowell Putnam (December 19, 1893 – November 24, 1972) was an American politician and businessman. A member of the prominent Lowell family of Boston, he served as Mayor of Springfield, Massachusetts, from 1937 until 1943, and as director of the Economic Stabilization Administration from 1951 until 1952. During his short tenure in federal office, the nation's steelworkers struck—leading President Harry S. Truman to seize the nation's steel mills.



CLUBS & TEAMS

What TAG students are doing after school this spring

VOLLEYBALL

By Sergio

Do you like volleyball? Well Chestnut has its own team. There is a girls and a boys team. The coach is

In volleyball there are 6 people on the court at all times. There is a setter, outside hitter, right side hitter, opposite hitter, middle blocker, libero, and defensive specialist.



The boys have won 3 games and the girls have won 1 game. The boys have lost 6 games and the girls have lost 8 games. The girls did well this volleyball season so did the boys. They all worked hard and like a team. Chestnut's volleyball team wasn't just hitting the ball over, they were actually playing volleyball. This season was great because we all had fun and learned.

S.T.E.A.M

By Ada

Do ever wonder what S.T.E.A.M means? Do you ever wonder what steam is? Do want to find more about it? Keep reading to find out.

S.T.E.A.M stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Music.

It is an after school program, created to aid students in science. It has different activities that are entertaining and motivates students to think logically.

In S.T.E.A.M, students participant in fun activities designed to help learn more about different aspects of science. Sometimes students work with partners or in groups to accomplish a task. Students also calculate, record, and explain experiments that are conducted.

It has a schedule of events or projects for their participants. Currently, students are choosing different scientific projects to work on: They have a length of 3 weeks to complete the project. There will be a judge to decide which student's project is the best.

I have interviewed two students and asked them what they think about steam and here are their responses:

"S.T.E.A.M is a really fun program that I recommend to any and everyone. It helps you explore challenging concepts that will be on MCAS," says Gary Zheng (8th grader).

"I think S.T.E.A.M is a good experience for anybody who even mildly likes any of the five topics it stands on.(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math)," Says Dereck Arroyo (7th grader).

S.T.E.A.M students meet up at in Ms. Nelson's lab and it occurs every Wednesday and Thursday after school. On average, there are about 12-16 participants.

S.T.E.A.M is run by LizMarie, Science Expert and Lauren, Director.



In the most basic terms, S.T.E.A.M is just a place where you have fun, do a little work, and relax.

By Dereck Arroyo

Are you interested in science? Technology? Engineering? Arts? How about Mathematics? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you might be interested in the STEAM program. The STEAM program is all about hands-on projects with all of this topics, making it a really fun experience for even the roughest of minds. This program is after school in Ms. Nelson's class room. You also must have signed a permission slip to enter the 16 slots that are available. It was very popular.

This program is extremely fun with the teachers Liz and Lauren - Don't just take my word for it, take former STEAM participant Catherine. I asked Catherine how would she describe the experience in the short period of time she was in, and she said "!" I also asked Tandy Brownell the same question and he answered " It was very educational, and fun too!"

LIBRARY

By Amy

Libraries are a big part of our community. They provide books for us to read and learn from. Getting a library card to take out a book is very easy and they are free if you're a Springfield student. According to the American Library Association, 58% of adults in the United States have a library card. Benjamin Franklin invented the first library.

Did you know that Chestnut has a library in the building? It is actually a public library called Brightwood, and the 6th grade visits it every month, but you can also go after school.

Fun Facts About Libraries:

- The world's oldest library is the oldest running library in the world is at the St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai, Egypt.
- The largest library in the world is The Library of Congress, with more than 158 million items on approximately 838 miles of bookshelves.
- The smallest library in the world has appeared on the streets of New York City - and it has space for just one reader at a time.
- The most stolen library book is the Bible.
- The first floating library service started in 1959 using a range of ships. The first custom-built ship was put into service in 1963. It is built at Oma Yard and is 24 m (80 ft) long.



STUDENT ADVICE

How to approach next year

Incoming 6th Graders

By Mehki

The most important thing that the new sixth graders will need to do is get good grades. Make sure you're not failing your core classes like Science, Social Studies, Math, and ELA.



Another thing you would need to do is respect your teachers because if you don't, you could end up getting lunch detention or detention after school detention.

Something you shouldn't do is swear at teachers because that is a way you would end up getting kicked out of TAG. You should also respect your friends because if you don't and if you do something bad to them, then they could tell the principle and then the principal will call your mom.

Hang out with the right people. If you don't and you get into some trouble with them, they will just blame it on you because all the fingers would be pointing at you and also because they would do something dangerous which could get you hurt. For example, say if your friends wanted you to come with them on top of Gerena, you could end up falling off and break a bone.

Don't get in trouble for stupid stuff! If you get in trouble for something stupid and if you were

already close to getting suspended you shouldn't go and TP (toilet paper) the bathroom. If you do that you could get suspended because some people this year got suspended for doing it.

Do your work in class, and do NOT use your PHONES during class or especially during a lesson. If you use it during a lesson you could distract the people around you and they won't be able to be able to get their education and they could start to fail that class you're in. Also if you use your phone during class a teacher could catch you and take your phone until either the end of class and the end of the day.



Next-year's 7th Graders

By Carina Reyes

A lot of people may ask how students survived their 7th grade year. Here are some steps you can follow to save your social life and academic life in 7th grade.

Social Life

Step 1: Always be yourself. Being yourself is one of the important thing you can do for yourself in order to save your social life. Some people think that they can pretend to be something that they are really not. The thing is if you have ever tried that, you will know that if someone finds out that you are not who you say you are, everyone in the school will end up finding out, then you might lose all your friends and things can become very embarrassing.

Step 2: Always have a small, close group of friends. In your group of friends you will be able to tell them anything and you will be able to know that a small argument wont ruin your friendship. This doesn't mean that you have to limit how many friends you have. You can still have plenty of friends but just make sure that you have a small group of close friends to share your laughter, sadness, and many more.

Step 3: Don't let social life ruin your academic life. Most kids get too involved with their friends at school, and forget the reason why they are at school. They get in fights and they start to think that school is just a place for them to hang out and talk.

Step 4: Don't be concerned with what other people think of you. If you try too hard to be a "cool kid" or "popular" other people will just start to laugh at you and you might have a tough year.



Step 5: If you care about what people think about you, don't change yourself. Take a deep breath and walk through school confidently. Be who you truly are. Smile, laugh, joke, and play. People want you to be who you really are.

Academic Life

Step 1: Stay on top of your homework. In elementary schools, some teachers didn't care if you didn't have your homework completed that day, and it wouldn't hurt your grade. In seventh grade, it does. Just one missing homework assignment might get you after school detention, lunch detention, or you might get in trouble. For most schools missing seven or more homework assignments might get you into summer school.

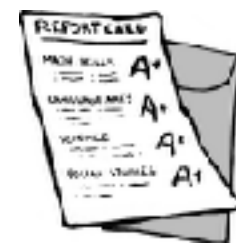
Step 2: Know that some teachers can be very strict. Lots of teachers will not approve silly behavior and slacking in class. Some teachers will even send you



to the principal's office or give you detention without a warning when you do something they don't like.

Step 3: Try as hard as you can. When you try your hardest you will probably get a good score on a quiz or test and get a good grades in your classes. If you don't understand something in class you can stay after with them for extra help or go to them at lunch so they can explain it to you. You may dislike the teachers, but when it comes to learning and asking educated questions, teachers can have a soft heart.

Step 4: Do all your classwork and homework. In elementary school if you didn't do your work, didn't turn in something, or if you had a D or an F for your grade, you would still move on to the next grade. That doesn't happen anymore. If in any of your classes you have an F, you can bring it up if you try hard. One failure won't make you stay back another year, but if you get an F in most of your classes and don't do anything about it, you might have a problem.



Step 5: Aim for an A. Get all the help you need in school when you don't understand something. Study at home either with friends or alone when there is a test

or assessment coming up. Try your hardest to do something to enhance your education if you need help in school.

Step 6: Try to invite friends over and study for tests so you can get a good grade. This is a good idea since you can have fun and study at the same time. You and your "study group" can all ace your tests and quizzes if you work together on your spare time.

Next-year's 8th Graders

By Nefmary

My name is Nefmary and coming to Chestnut TAG was a very superior experience. It wasn't all easy at first, but it gradually became less challenging.

Academically, it all started with responsibility, making sure you come to school prepared. Being prepared is one of the most important traits in becoming a scholar. Without your agenda or your pencils



you can't complete a task. I remember I didn't write down my homework in my agenda and I forgot to do it. My advice to others is to always do your homework, it may be little but it still counts and study for tests. Some may think you don't have to study for tests but it's always a good thing to do while it refreshes your thoughts. My struggle began in 7th grade. I had a lot to handle and many tasks had to be done but if you are determined you can finish anything.

My advice about social life would be don't let others bring you down. Always put academics before anything and don't follow others. While you have fun with friends don't let it interfere with your schoolwork because it may get harder to stay productive during class. Your friends might not always stay the same because it comes to a point where you might not talk in every class, not be partners for every project or even not sit at the same lunch table. It's always good to make new friends and also its middle school, after 8th grade ends we all go to different high schools and restart your school life. When I realized my friends and I picked their high schools I got excited and I was ready to begin 9th grade. I wasn't worried about my friends leaving because as long as they got what they wanted that's all that really mattered.



NEED MORE ADVICE?

By Bella

Hello I'm Chatty Patty! I am your new advice columnist. I will take anonymous questions and answer them to the best of my ability. If you want to ask questions you can write a question on a piece of paper and sign it with an anonymous name and give it to Mrs. Trujillo room 111.

I've already received one question that honestly was really hard to answer because of the topic. The question was, "What would/ could I do if my friend is trying to hurt themselves?" Like I said before this question is really hard for me to answer but what I would do is first tell them to tell an adult that they trust. If they don't have an adult that they trust they set him/her down and have a talk with them. Tell them that they are worth living that things may get hard at times but they'll get through it. The only reason why they might want to hurt themselves is because they feel alone or they don't feel safe. Ask them what might be triggering that, is it something at home? Be there for them; don't block them out because of the thoughts that might push them over the edge. Please let them know that they are loved. If it gets too bad or serious tell Mrs. Jones or contact an adult.



10 THINGS THAT REQUIRE ZERO TALENT

By Nicole Z

Did you know that Ms. Leveille has ten things that she encourages us to do that require zero talent? If you did know, then you should be following these ten things. After all, they require zero talent. If not - read on!

Being on Time: If you want to be on time for your classes then start packing up for class at least two minutes before the bell rings. Some teachers hate when your late for class so if you want to improve your grade because you always late then pack up early.

Effort: Do you put effort into your work? If not then you should start, because studying, paying attention, and being a participant are all simple ways to show effort.

Body Language: Instead of shouting out the answer in class then you should raise your hand. "The reason why it's disrespectful for students to shout out in class is because it negatively impacts the learning of other students in the room. Raising hands is preferred because it gives every student the opportunity to grapple with the question/content. This is important because every student works at a different pace, but deserves an equal chance to participate in class," Ms. Smith in enrich reading.

Work Ethic: You should show work ethic in everything you do because then you can get better grades. Persevering has a big role in work ethic so if you follow the six pillars then you will have A's and B's.

Attitude: Having a positive attitude will please the T.A.G staff and will earn you a good reputation. Negative attitude can result in consequences.

Energy: Everyone has energy, but can there ever be too much energy? Yes, as many staff members agree. Having energy is great for staying awake in class, but having too much can get you into lunch detention, or written up.

Being Coachable: Teachers enjoy teaching kids like us because every teacher makes a difference in a person's life because the person gets to learn so much and get a good job. But

they can't do this without you, they need you to be coachable.

Passion: Everyone has a passion. For instance, my passion is music because it calms me if I'm stressed, and I love being a part of orchestra because I can play a variety of songs on my violin. Your passion doesn't have to be something important, it just has to be something you love doing, sort of like a hobby.

Doing Extra: By doing extra, your helping yourself get better grades and become smarter. This includes, staying after for extra help for you preferred classes, or simply just doing extra if you finish your work early.

Being Prepared: Are you prepared for your classes? If not, then you should start being more organized. You should have a specific order for your papers so you can easily get your homework out for your classes because you don't want to be that kid who everyone's waiting for.

OPINION

New York Giants - The Best!

By Jamal

Guess who was the only team that beat the Patriots at the Super Bowl in NFL, the NY Giants. They won four championships(aka The Super Bowl) in 1987, 1991, 2008 and 2012. The New York Giants is a professional American football team based in the New York metropolitan area.



The Giants compete in the National Football League. They are in a member club of the league's National Football Conference East Division. The Giants were founded in 1925 by original owner Tim Mara with an investment of \$500. Legally named "New York Football Giants" (which they still are to this day) to distinguish themselves from the baseball team of the same name, they became one of the first teams in the then five-year-old National Football League. The team plays its home games at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, which they shares with the New York Jets in a unique arrangement. The Giants holds their summer training camp at the Quest Diagnostics Training Center at the Meadowlands Sports Complex. The Giants were one of the five that joined the NFL in 1925, and is the only one of that group that still existing right now, as well as the league's longest established team in the Northeastern United States.

Later School Day Start Time?

By Hannah N

Many schools start school early in the morning but that isn't the best for students. Students need at least nine hours of rest per night, the timing of sleep is very important for health. Less sleep can cause eating disorders, depression, anxiety, and



behavior problems. Sleeping longer could reduce health-related issues. Teens may also less likely to depend on caffeine in the morning before school. At school, kids who are tired

can't learn as well and focus to the lesson as much, so the more sleep students get, they will most likely be able to focus more during class. These are some reasons why school SHOULD start later in the morning.

There are also cons of starting school later as well. It would mean that school will end later in the afternoon. Teens have responsibilities after school and so if school starts later it would end later, and it would cut down the responsibilities and chores they have. This isn't a good thing for parents also because parents may come home late and they need things to be done. If school starts later in the morning, parents who drive their kids to school might need to find another way to get them to school. Teens also might stay up later if they know they don't have to wake up early in the morning and also rely on coffee in the morning before leaving the house. These are some reasons why school SHOULD NOT start later in the morning.

There are many reasons why school should start later and why school should keep the time the same as well.

Year-round School?

Alexangeliz

So, my opinion all school all year round is a really bad idea, but still it may have one or two good things. So, one of the bad things about all year school is

students and staff won't be able to spend time with their families. Family time is important to help with people's mental health, as having school everyday can add stress. Also, during summer vacation, students are able to get more freedom and learn things they can't learn by sitting there in a classroom. It would also affect the school in general. During the school year, new things can't be added to the school to make it better and more convenient for students. It's like a science project you're working on. You need to take time off of school to actually work on it and make it better. Now a pro to all year school is that students won't forget anything they've learned over the school year.



Why We Hate Middle School

By Feras

Middle schoolers hate school for many reasons. Maybe because of school lunch or the teachers are mean or it's just boring. But why do middle schoolers really hate school. I have interviewed middle schoolers who don't like school. Almost all of them said that they hate schools for several reasons and homework is one of them. In middle school you get about 1-6 homework's sometimes even more and students hate to just waste the rest of their day sitting down and doing homework. Another reason is the teachers, students hate the teachers because they are so strict and the student just want to leave the room or scream back at the teachers themselves. But they don't because they know if they do they will get in serious trouble such as detention, suspension, or the worst getting expelled.

My second to final reason is the time that we have to get up in the morning because school starts earlier than elementary. Students like to get up nice and rested because they are able to focus more on their work than when they wake up feeling horrible. My final reason is that the tests. In middle school you would expect to do more than 10 regular tests and more than 10 quizzes and about 6 big tests like MAP, PARCC, and MCAS. In quizzes and tests they expect you to get more than 75% percent in test and in big test such as MAP, PARCC, and MCAS teacher expect you to get like a proficient or advanced. These are the reason why almost all students in middle school hate school.

THIRTEEN REASONS WHY

By Inari-Jade

"Thirteen Reasons Why" is a show that appeared on Netflix in March. The show has gained popularity on almost every social media platform. Over a short period of time, the show has acquired many fans, eager for the second season to come out.

The reason why the show is so popular is because it is creative and engaging, and it leaves watchers on the edge of their seats. Binge-watching feels as though it is a must when watching this show. The show is about a young girl named Hannah Baker as well as who, and what led to her suicide. The story unfolds from the perspective of Clay Jenson. Clay is a boy who worked with Hannah and who's feelings for her grow throughout the show. As the show effortlessly jumps back and forth from the past before Hannah's death to current time, pulling the viewers closer, we discover the reasons for Hannah's death from the tapes she records before taking her own life. The show at no point feels redundant, which can happen with some shows.

The suspenseful show, however, has generated lots of debate. People argue that the show glorifies suicide and that it makes suicide seem like an option. Others defend the show by saying that suicide needs to be discussed and brought under the light because it is a subject people often ignore. I personally do not have a particular opinion on it, but I will say that suicide is something that needs to be discussed more.

The show seems to have demanded the attention of nearly everyone. Kids from ages 12 to adults seem to be enjoying the show. The show is not, however, appropriate for all ages. It shows explicit images of sexual abuse and use of drugs. There is also explicit language, but that is not much to be worried about, considering the fact that the general audience includes people who use language of the same sort. Throughout "Thirteen Reasons Why" characters argue whether or not Hannah is telling the truth on the tapes, whether or not people did what she claims they did. The show does not make clear who is the protagonist, this adds an essential element of reality to the show.

All and all, "Thirteen Reasons Why" is a very successful show. There is rumored to be a second season! To find out more about the show, you can watch "Behind The Reasons," which is a documentary on Netflix that features the director of the show, Selena Gomez.



Hugh Jackman's Wolverine

By Dominic M

After eight movies, Hugh Jackman was having a hard time finding a reason to return to the Wolverine lead. What was there to say about a rapid-healing, 150-year-old mutant? He kept coming back to his conversation with Mangold. What did one last Wolverine movie look like? The pair had multiple movie references such as , The Wrestler, Shane—but one truly known classic: Clint Eastwood's Unforgiven, which came out in 1992.

Jackman imagined doing for the superhero genre what that 1992 film did for Westerns. "The tone was very clear to me from the beginning," he said. "But think about pitching that to the studio." Really, the only reason why Hugh Jackman isn't being wolverine, is because there

is really nothing else to talk about, like Jackman said a 150 years old mutant, and he rapidly heals, really there is nothing to talk about. Hugh Jackman finds nothing else to talk about through the 9 X-men/Wolverine movies.



Back in 2016, Hugh Jackman announced that Logan also known as Wolverine 3, would be his last onscreen turn as Wolverine. A year later, with the release of Logan finally here, a lot of people are wonder whether or not Jackman intends on keeping his word. We have seen it before, actors proclaim they will never again revisit a popular character, only to star in a sequel a few years later. So, will Hugh Jackman play Wolverine again? After Logan, the odds aren't looking to good.

On a practical level, it is easy to see that Hugh Jackman has no intention of returning to everyone's favorite Marvel clawed superhero. Though in Jackman's countless interviews promoting Logan, he has repeatedly stated that this is his last time as Wolverine. In a recent interview with The New York Times, Jackman confirmed that Logan was his last on screen adventure as Wolverine, saying, "As I sit here today, yes" when asked if it was, indeed, the end. He did, however, add a very interesting after thought, telling the paper, "God knows how I'll feel in three years, but right now, absolutely." So, if you're holding onto the hope that Jackman might change his mind sometime down the line and return to the X-Men franchise, there might be some hope. Although, the ending for Logan doesn't really bode well for Jackman's possible return. (Spoilers ahead don't read ahead if you haven't seen Logan you were warned)

In Logan the ending makes it pretty difficult to see a future where Jackman's Wolverine would be returning. (Major spoiler alert) Wolverine dies at the end of Logan, providing a perfect ending to the character as we've come to know him. But what about the rebooted X-Men films that take place in the past? Well, technically yes, Wolverine COULD return at any moment, though it would throw off the entire Wolverine storyline. Heck more than X-Men: Days of Future Past which likely, already has done. Furthermore, a return to the franchise in films meant to take place after Logan would also cheapen Wolverine's death and arc in the film.

And based on the level of care with which Jackman treats the character, something tells me that he'd rather avoid that at all costs.

The odds high that Jackman won't return to the Wolverine franchise, and that Logan is indeed his last time playing the role. However, I personally wouldn't rule out the odd charity skit or event. Jackman really can't resist a good show, so if it's fun enough and needed enough, I'm personally certain he will come back, at least for a little bit.

Why Singularity is a Threat

By Josh Johnson

Singularity is the technological singularity is the hypothesis that the invention of artificial superintelligence will abruptly trigger runaway technological growth, resulting in unfathomable changes to human civilization.

Singularity is going to happen quicker than you might think. With the speed of new technology robots will come in a few decades maybe sooner. And that means quicker thinking. Also perfection in things something that isn't human.

According to this hypothesis, an upgradable intelligent agent (such as a computer running software-based artificial general intelligence) would enter a 'runaway reaction' of self-improvement cycles, with each new and more intelligent generation appearing more and more rapidly, causing intelligence explosion and resulting in a powerful superintelligence that would, qualitatively, far surpass all human intelligence. John von Neumann first uses the term "singularity" in the context of technological progress causing accelerating change: "The accelerating progress of technology and changes in the mode of human life, give the appearance of approaching some essential singularity in the history of the race beyond which human affairs, as we know them, cannot continue". Singularity is going to kill all of the human race eventually.

Thoughts on Life After Death

By Driss

When you hear the word "death," the first things that usually come to mind are graveyards or fear. Fear is a major part of death because it has shaped the way people see death. For example, some people see death as an escape, but most see death as an end point that could come at any moment and which causes them to value the time they have. The question is - what's after death?

A team of researchers found that nearly 40% of people who "died" before their hearts were restarted, describe a feeling of awareness. One of the men they interviewed recalled leaving his body and watched the doctors trying to bring him back to life in the corner of the room. This claim sounds like a hoax, but the man explained what was happening in the room for the 3 minutes that he was dead in great detail.

Others say they feel relief and peacefulness, while some said time slowed down or speeded up. The answer I find most interesting is that a lot of people experienced bright lights or the sun beaming on them, while the unlucky ones felt fear or the sensation of drowning or being dragged.

Finally, the idea of the "Grim Reaper" plays a big role in life after death and has many names through cultures like Samael, Sariel, or Azrael in Judaism; as Malak Almwat in Islam; as Yama or Yamaraj in Hinduism; and as the Grim Reaper in popular fiction. The most common form of Death is a guider or collector of souls. Death guides the newly dead to their final destination or he comes and gets your soul when you die like a trade. Another depiction of Death is that he is an angel sent to watch the last moments of a person. Some believe death gambles your life with an angel to determine if it is your time.

Depending on how you view it, death can be sad end or just a part of life.

Fidget Spinners

By Mohammed

Hello my name is Mohammed from the Tag Times and today I am going to tell you if fidget spinners are a yay or nay.

According to my research I found that fidget spinner are one of the most popular toys in America. First they were people that has





ADHD but now it is just a toy. Teachers claim it is a distraction unless if you have ADHD.

I had talk Ms. Smith and Ms. Leveille (aka teachers) because they have banned fidget spinners in their classroom just like 200 hundred school across America. Why have they banned these fidget spinners? Well Ms. Leveille and Ms. Smith say "that fidget cubes are ok because they are not as distracting" it has even become distracting for the teachers" says Mrs. Clarke. Students love fidget spinner because they spin fast and they're super addicting. Most people that buy it don't even have ADHD and they still buy it.

What do you think: are spinners a yay/nay?

THIS vs. THAT

Students compare and contrast random topics

Justice League vs. Avengers

By Meshach

First up THE AVENGERS they have a team of Captain America, Thor, The Incredible Hulk, Iron Man, Hawk Eye, Quick Silver, Black Widow, Ant Man. Hulk is strong enough to lift 100 tons. He weighs 1,400 lbs. Hulks powers Superhuman Strength, self sustenance, superhuman speed, superhuman durability, regenerating healing factor. Captain Americas powers are agility, endurance, speed, strength. Iron mans powers are super strength, flight, pulse blast, chest beam. The powers of Thor are super strength, Thunder, god, flight. quick silvers power is super speed he can travel at the speed of sound. Ant man can strink and grow to a super size.

Grizzly Bears vs. Polar Bears

By James M

The match is on. In one corner a 600 pound Grizzly. In the other corner a 990 Polar bear. Only one will survive. Blood shed will happen one will lose a lot of blood the other has all of its blood drained out. Who will survive it is all about luck. Also a little bit of strategy.

Will this one win grizzly or this one polar?

Only one has survived which one is it you can pick on which one did a tragic failure the other the one winner. You think of the answer and that maybe the one that might win.



Some things to think about on this topic is. How fast they are. Their sense of smell. Their diet may be an important part. Another thing is their color but we already know that. How long their claws are. Finally is that you may need to know is they can stay alive on a regular bases.

A grizzly speed is that they could go 27 miles per hour. The grizzly sense of smell is that they can smell something 20 miles away. There is also a diet to know if they would fight each other is that they are both omnivorous. The grizzly bear claws are 12 inches long. A grizzly can live for 18-25 years.

For polar bears their speed maybe 25 miles per hour. The polar bear has a sense of smell is good enough to smell something 20 miles away. We kind of know what a polar bear is a omnivorous since it is in the grizzly part. A polar bear has its claws at 12 inches long as well. Their life span is 15-18 years. So it is really a thing where you make the decision.

Samsung vs. iPhone

By Danicha A

As we all know the Samsung and iPhone are like the 2 best phone companies and the 2 main phones people mostly have. iPhone and Samsung are the world's largest phone venders. People mostly like iPhone because of the camera quality, but on the other hand people mostly like Samsung because of the amount of space, how fast it is and things like that. Samsung have sold more phones/products than iPhone have. " Samsung have shipped 1.12 billion smartphones since 2010".Apple has sold a total of 774 million iPhone in the U.S since 2007 launch".

The iPhone 7 plus is the newest iPhone that they have out and the Samsung Galaxy s7 is the newest Samsung out. The Samsung Galaxy s7 Product Type: Android Smartphone. The iPhone 7 plus Product Type: Smartphone. Both phones Form Factors is : touch. The Samsung Galaxy s7's protection is: Dust proof and water proof. The iPhone 7 plus's protection is: Dust proof, splash proof and water proof. The iPhone 7 plus's Integrated Components is: Rear-facing camera, front-facing camera, audio player, voice recorder, stereo speakers and navigation. On the other hand the Samsung



Galaxy s7's Integrated Components are: Rear-facing camera, Front-facing camera, FM radio, audio player, voice recorder, heart rate sensor and navigation. Most of their components are very similar. The width of the Samsung Galaxy s7 is 2.7in and the iPhone & plus's width is 3.in. The height of the iPhone 7 plus is 6.2in and the height of the Samsung is 5.6in. The depth of the iPhone 7 plus is 0.3in and the depth of the Samsung galaxy s7 is 0.3im. Also, the Samsung Galaxy s7 weights 5.36oz and the iPhone 7 plus weights 6.63oz. The Samsung Galaxy s 7's Battery Life is 28 hours and the iPhone 7 plus's battery life is 21 hours. The digital zoom on the Samsung galaxy s7 is 8 and the iPhone 7 plus is 10. The Samsung s7's front-facing camera is 5 megapixels and the back-facing camera is 12 megapixels. On the other hand for the iPhone 7 plus the front-facing camera is 7 megapixels and back-facing camera is 12 megapixels (and so is the 2nd back-facing camera the 7 plus has). Both phones have the same amount of Internal memory which is 32 GB. The messaging services on the iPhone 7 plus is: SMS and MMS. The messaging services for the Samsung galaxy s7 is: Google+, Hangouts, SMS and also

MMS. Also, both phones have fingerprint reader for security. The Samsung Galaxy s7 colors are: Silver, Black, Gold (Rose Gold and Blue was shown in images). The colors for the iPhone 7 plus are: Red, Jet Black, Black, Silver, Gold and also Rose Gold.

Also, as we all know iPhone has "Facetime" and "Imessage Games" and Samsung has "Video Call". Other facts on the iPhone 7 plus is that the Min Operating Temp: 32 degrees farenheight and the Max Operating Temp: 95 degrees farenheight.

Lastly, iPhone and Samsung are both 2 very good phone companies some people likes one over the other (me personally, I prefer iPhone), but each one has their Pros and Cons.

Around the School

Important Issues at TAG

STUDENT CONFLICT

By Angel C

As you may have noticed this spring, there have been lots of conflicts in this school - fights with your peers, arguments with your teachers, or just crossing the line in general. Because students decided to cross the line there were consequences for those students: either detentions or suspensions. Because of all this, we decided to go to Ms. Jones to talk to her about all of these problems and to get her thoughts.

We started off asking her how she felt about what was going on. She responded saying, "Not good!" with a further explanation about how she knew when she signed up for this middle school there was going be drama, but not like this. Ms. Jones told us that everything that happened this year does not exceed what happened last year. So there have not been that many arguments compared to then.

She said when there are a lot of fights and arguments they can usually ruin the culture that you're in. So we asked Ms. Jones if the fights and argument that have been happening negatively affect the culture that is built in the school. Her response to us was, "I think we built a good enough culture that this doesn't have that much of an impact, but it's still good to talk to your teachers about it."

Students sometimes believe that when something has happened there's no way to fix it and to just face the problem yourself, but its best to speak up and let someone know what is going on. Most likely an adult would be best in any situation, like your teachers or a counselor, but in case something ends up happening, Ms. Jones want you to know, "This isn't what makes you... you should just learn from your mistakes!"



By Hastihka

Kids in school have conflicts with each other and sometimes those kids don't really want to get into fights. This is a result of peer pressure and/or the origin in the conflict.

Fighting is actually a thing that happens in the brain when a substance called "amygdala," which



is a liquid in your brain, takes over your body and sends it into survival mode. This is a result of lots of emotion that is mainly from your limbic system. Your body is in a state of self-defense or violent actions that causes you to fight. Also, stress, depression, bad environment in the house, anxiety, peer pressure or no peers and social media can cause fights.

As bystanders, to prevent school fights, the best thing to do is to tell a teacher what is going on and never encourage any violent behaviors between the two or more people in the conflict. When the conflict is out of reach of an adult, then try and reassure your peers with calm and assuring words. Never try to grab or make physical contact with them, which can actually make them start a physical conflict with you. If possible, separate the two offenders and ask them some questions that will clarify what started the ordeal. When trying to resolve a problem, it tends to make them think clearly if you use "I" statements other than "you" statements, because those make them become defensive and most times aggravated.

In the end, being a bystander is very different than a person who stands by. These procedures can help yourself be an active bystander and stop a fight from getting to physical. REMEMBER never result to these actions unless adult assistance is unavailable. Now you know what to do to prevent a fight or to stop one.

MS. JONES

Because we included her in the last article, and because you may need her help in the future, here is some information about our guidance counselor - Ms. Jones.

By Michael Montanez

I interviewed Ms. Jones to learn about her and her job as a guidance counselor here at TAG.

Ms. Jones has many roles in this school that you might not know about. Ms. Jones' role in this school as the Guidance Counselor is to be there for ALL students. This includes scheduling, grading and reporting, social/emotional support, and student life/culture.

Ms. Jones attended AIC (American International College) for her undergraduate and Springfield College for graduate school. Ms. Jones attended college for a total of 6 years. She has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in education.

Ms. Jones became a Guidance Counselor with the help of her High School Guidance Counselor. Ms. Jones likes being able to help students more on an individual level than a whole group. She says that the role of a Counselor can be very complex at times and there is always something new to do and learn.

Ms. Jones has been at TAG for two years. Ms. Jones has worked at The Springfield Renaissance School to complete her Counseling Practicum. If Ms. Jones were not a Guidance Counselor she would most likely be a pediatric nurse. Ms. Jones' favorite subject in school was Social Studies/History because she enjoyed learning about important events.

FINISHING STRONG

By De'Jour

It's the end of the year and everyone is acting up and getting all wild for summer break, but your trying to stay calm and do what you are supposed to until summer break. What should you do?

Keeping your grades up, can be one thing that helps you finish strong. If you keep your grades up then your parents wouldn't mess up your summer by keeping you in your room while your



friends are showing you pictures of them at six flags, or at a basketball court or something like that. You should always try your best to keep your grades up, but at the end of the school year can be the hardest because you want to finish as best as possible. You should focus on doing your homework and completing class work for the best possible grade you can get.

Sometimes if you are in third grade and up you'll have MCAS at the end of the school year. That might give you butterflies and make you nerves because it's a big test, but really if you paid attention all year and you learn what you need to you'll be alright because MCAS is just to tell your progress and you should try your best because you could get you to a great school next year. You might not think so, but all the big test you take affects you and what school you go to. So if you are feeling nerves on a big test just take some deep breathes, relax, and try your best.

Last but not least, you could stay active and productive to finish strong. All these things can be one of the best ways to finish strong at the end of the year especially if your trying to do your best.

THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

By Jeremiah and Pablo

The teachers that teach in the science department are Ms. Eisermann, Ms. Nelson, and Mr. Lessard. I think that they are all really cool teachers. We asked the science teachers a few questions and this is what they said. I asked How long have you been teaching at Chestnut and they all said that they have been working at Chestnut for two years.



I asked Ms. Eisermann and Ms. Nelson: Do you love your job? and they said that they love their job they say that they both are able to be themselves all the time. I asked Who is your favorite student so far and they both said that they know who they are and that they love all of their students. Another question that I asked them is if you were able to teach any other subject what would it be. Ms. Nelson would choose Geology and Ms. Eisermann would teach Marine Biology. The final question that I asked them was what was their favorite project and event that they have done with their students. Ms. Nelson said that her favorite event that she has done with her students was whatever one we that we chose. Ms. Eisermann said that she liked the egg baby drop when we had to save our egg baby's out of the egg baby hospital.

HOW TO PASS MS. NELSON'S CLASS

By Alondra D

Ms. Nelson is a 6th grade science teacher. I believe that her class is very easy to pass since I had her class last year. Here are some ways to make it easy for you to pass her class:

She expects you to always be at your best behavior when you're in her class. She also expects you to always do your homework so that you can be prepared for class the next day. She expects you to participate in class discussions. You have to be kind and you should always respect your peers and the teacher. The main factors in passing her class is to turn in all of your homework and all of the assignments she gives. You should also keep up with your work and if you can't, you should talk to the teacher about your understanding in her class and ask

questions. Ms. Nelson likes students who care about the quality of their work, kids who are friendly, don't start a lot of drama, and come to school (class) prepared.

When you do projects, Ms. Nelson expects you to go the extra mile (work hard on it), she believes you should also be creative and to not give up. You should also follow all the specific directions to be able to get full credit. Some of Ms. Nelson's pet peeves are when students are not prepared for her class, when kids don't communicate when they need help or have questions, and when students don't care about the quality of their work.

These are the percent worth your grade:

Homework: 20%
Classwork: 20%
Quizzes: 10%
Tests: 20%
Projects: 30%

HOW TO PASS BAND

By Aleishka

You might be wondering what band is. Band is taught by a teacher named Ms. Rivard. Ms. Rivard has been teaching in Chestnut for 2 years. The schools that she had taught are Chestnut Talented and Gifted, Chestnut North, and Chestnut South. She also has a band camp that she does during the summer. She had said that you need no experience to be able to be in band and play an instrument.



Thing that you should know will be told. Learning music is like learning another language. It's very difficult in the beginning to learn how to play the instrument. But once you get the hang of it it's the most fun thing in school. If you have her class you should get a good night sleep, informed by Ms. Rivard. The way that she would want you to behave is to be able to feel empowered to speak your mind in a respectful way. The biggest thing is to build up your peers' confidence. And to just be able to have fun and learn in a safe supportive way. Whatever her students' best on an instrument is what she can expect you as her students. Everyone's best is different, but daily everyone's best changes. For example, if you haven't slept the amount that you should you are going to be tired and if you're tired, your best won't be that great. But if you had a good sleep you will be on your best. But as long you're giving Ms. Rivard your best that's all that she can expect from you... but still expect that she will push you to achieve more than you can imagine.

Around the World

South Korea

By Henrietta

South Korea is an east Asian country in the southern half of the Korean peninsula. South Korea is a very beautiful country. The capital of south korea is Seoul. One of the largest city in South Korean is Busan. The south Korean flag also known as the taegukgi has three parts. The

white rectangular background, a red and blue targuk in center that symbolizes a balance, and four black trigrams, which are selected from the original eight on each corner of the flag. South Korea became independent on August 13th 1948. The president of South Korea is Moon Jae-in. Moon Jae-in is the 19th term and current president. He is 64 years old born on January 24,1952. The types of food that are in south Korea are kimchi, samgyeopsal, Samgye-tang, Japchea, Bibimbap, Neangmyeom etc. In South Korea the holidays they have are seollal, buddha's birthday, Children's day, liberation day there are also more holidays. The cultural clothing in South Korea is the hanbok. One fun fact about South Korea is that the adults cheer on high school

Bir Tawil

By Leverett

Bir Tawil is a small 800 square mile piece of uninhabited land between Egypt and Sudan, and is claimed by either country. Why does Bir Tawil exist and why is it unclaimed.? Well, with almost every badly drawn border, it starts with the British. In 1899, Britain, who owned the land at the time, drew a "political boundary," which was straight, between the two countries.



Then years later, In 1902, Britain drew a new, squiggly "administrative boundary" to better reflect cultural differences. The second border caused Egypt to own Bir Tawil, but the first gave the rights of Bir Tawil to Sudan. Why is this a problem? I doesn't actually have to do with that neither country wants Bir Tawil, it comes down to the land that both countries do want. The Hala'ib Triangle. The Hala'ib Triangle is a 20,580 square foot coastal area of land that is actually inhabited and is wealthier than Bir Tawil. Why does this matter. Well, due to the two borders, if Sudan or Egypt claimed Bir Tawil, they give up the Hala'ib Triangle. Today, Bir Tawil remains the only disputed place on Earth where both sides insist it's not theirs.

FYI

Random information - Because why not?

WHY PEOPLE SKYDIVE

By Ian R

If you're the age under 18 then you might question if you're going to skydiving. Well this is why people skydive and why you might want to go. One reason why people skydive is because it brings risk to your life and without risk then your life would be dull and boring. People do it for the rush and feeling of falling down about 10,000 to 14,000 ft. and then surviving! Which might be scary but it's exotic and exciting. These people who have skydived are most likely going to skydive again and it's 100% from the feeling when



first skydiving. And this is 1 reason why you might want to skydive. Another reason why people skydive is because of the view when above Earth. When in the middle of skydiving you can see that Earth looks so beautiful in the sky and it's something that people might want to see. And you might too. Lastly because it's fun! It might be scary or frightening to jump off a plane that is about 10,000 to 14,000 ft. off the ground into the ground with a low chance, but still a chance, of your parachute not working but that's what an instructor is there for. Also after jumping off I bet you're excited and having fun. These are reasons why people skydive and why you might want to skydive.

ZODIAC SIGNS

By Alexangeliz

I will be describing something good and something bad about each zodiac sign. If you don't know your zodiac, I put the dates for all 12 zodiac signs. Just warning you now, these may not be accurate, and if they're not, don't complain to me about it.

Aries March 21- April 19- One good thing about Aries is that they are very artistic, but they are also very mystical. What this basically means is that they are mysterious with a mystical air around them.

Taurus April 20- May 20- A good thing about this sign is that they are caring. But, the bad thing is they are the king/queen of sarcasm and smart comebacks.

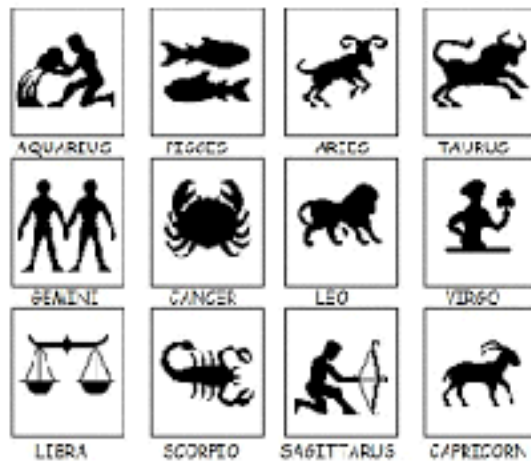
Gemini May 21- June 21- A good thing about the Gemini is that they are humorous and know how to make people laugh. Yet, they are really arrogant and egotistic.

Cancer June 22- July 22- A single good thing about Cancer is that they are smart and they normally get good grades. Their temper just so happens to be explosive and they can get triggered/of ended easily and will most definitely make a big deal out of it.

Leo July 23- August 22- One of the good things about Leos are that they are very passionate and can easily express their thoughts and emotions. The bad thing about this sign though, is that they can be very offending while expressing their emotions or opinions.

Virgo August 23- September 22- Something good about Virgos is that they are creative. Something bad is that they are very insecure and tend to think lowly of themselves.

Libra September 23- October 22- A good thing about this sign is that they are funny. Even then, they still tend to be a bit basic with things.



Scorpio October 23- November 21- The Scorpio are adventurous people, which is their good trait. Scorpio just tends to be selfish, taking things for themselves.

Capricorn November 22- December 21- The Capricorn are unique and come up with one of a kind things. The bad thing is they are

unconfident in their skills, judging even the smallest of flaws.

Sagittarius December 22- January 19- A good thing about this sign is they are loving and open to PDA (Public Displays of Affection). Something bad is they are insecure, like Virgo.

Aquarius January 20- February 18- Something good about most all Aquarius is they are very passionate like Leo, easily being able to express them self. Unlike the Leo though, Aquarius tend to be more aggressive while expressing themselves and in general.

Pisces February 19- March 20- A good thing this sign often expresses is they are calm in most all situations. Even though they may be calm, they tend to be very confused about many things.

WHY KIDS LIKE SIX FLAGS

By Janiya

Why do kids love to go to Six Flags? Is it because all of the rides, or is it because kids want to go to have fun with their friends? Sometimes it makes me wonder so I interviewed a couple of people to see why they like Six Flags. These people are Emaley M. for 7th, and Alyssa for 6th. Here is what they had to say:

Alyssa

- Favorite ride: Superman
- Amusement park or Water park: Water park:
- Do you like their food: YES!
- When is the best time to go: Right at the end of summer
- Who do you go with: Family and friends
- How often do you go: First 2 weeks of summer
- Why do you like going there" Because it's fun and I like the rides.



Emaley

- Favorite ride: Everything except for Superman
- Amusement park or Water park: Both
- Do you like their food: YES
- When is the best time to go: When it's not hot out so a lot of people won't be there.
- Who do you go with: Friends
- How often do you go: A lot
- Why do you like it: Because it lets me get away from home and I get to go on fun rides and eat junk food



So I guess that's why people like going to Six flags. Good to know!

CLASS SUPERLATIVES

By Alyssa D

A class superlative is when students can vote on adjectives to represent another student. It can be a joke to laugh about with people, but could quickly escalate and some students may get their feelings hurt. This is usually because of word choice, such as "best," "worst," "most likely," etc. So they may not see it as a little joke. Most times it's not too bad with teasing, but conflicts do happen. Students may be laughed at or think they being laughed at and feel like they are being bullied. Sometime bullying does occur with superlative but not as often.

Other students may not see it that they are being mean or unkind, in their mind it's a harmless joke. It's not common for students to

be bullied by class superlatives but it does happen. Most students think that because it doesn't happen frequently it doesn't happen at all but it does. So when a class superlative happens make sure everyone agrees especially the students on the list.

I asked some students around TAG to give me their input about superlatives. Some students didn't think much of it, others thought it was inappropriate. Their reasons were that some students weren't asked for their consent before they were labled. They were put up as "worst ____" or "heartbreaker." So that proves my point of class superlatives are only fun when everyone agrees on it.

TRUMP'S RATINGS

By Sangay

Trump is the currently the 45th president and is the president with the worst 100 day approval ratings in American history. Trump's approval rating is 20% below average. Trump's approval rating was at 35% while his disapproval rating was at 65% in late March. His approval rating is 13% lower than Bill Clinton who previously had the worst approval rating. Trump ended his 100th day where he started with more people disapproving his presidency than approving it.



Trump hit his lowest point in late March at 35%, setting a record for the lowest approval rate! His approval rating is continuing to decrease. His highest approval rating is at 46% in January 23 and January 25 2017 . Trump is beginning to lose some of the demographics that pushed him into the White House. People are approval rating is starting to drop because of his decision to launch U.S missile strikes against the Syrian regime. More than half, 52%, said that they disapprove of the way Trump is handling the economy and a majority, 59%, also said they disapprove of the way he's handling the foreign policy.

LIONS

By De'Jour

Lions can be very important creatures in the wild. Have you ever wondered about an animal that lived in the wild. Well today you should wonder about the lion.

The scientific name for a lion is Panthera leo. Lions are vulnerable, their population keeps decreasing. Lions live up to 10 - 14 years. The male lions weigh about 100 more pounds than the female lion. Male lions weigh up to 420 pounds as an adult, while the females weigh up to 280 pounds as an adult. Wild lions exist in Sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia. About 10,000 years ago the lions were the most widespread large land mammal after humans. They inhabit savanna and grassland, although they may prefer the bush and forest. Lions are unusually social compared to the other cats. Groups of



female lions hunt together. Lion don't typically hunt humans but some may do so. Lions are the big

carnivore cats that live in groups, known as prides.

Lions are on the top of the food chain. The female lion, or lioness, does most of the hunting, but males also hunt. Lions are a tertiary predator. They are at the top of the food chain in the African savanna. Lions mainly eat grazing animals like zebra, antelope, wildebeest and sometimes elephants. Lions have sharp teeth to tear apart meat of fthe bones so they can eat it. Their sharp teeth also help them kill their prey wants they pounce on it, making it become its dinner. Sharp teeth can also be used for showing other male lions who's boss. The lion's sharp teeth is a big advantage to their lives.

Lions have four feet if you never noticed. There's five toes on the two front feet and four on the two feet in the back. The claws are their feet are retractable. The claws are one reason they are known to be at the top of the food chain. Retractable claws help lions not break their claws when they aren't in use. It also helps lions stay more quiet when trying to hunt because the claws can be banging on rocks making noise. The lions feet never touch the ground, they tiptoe all the time. Their claws are similar to the cats but much bigger. The lions paw print help us tell how old it is and if it's a male or female. The lion claws also help it grab its prey. The claws are meant to grip and hold the prey. Lions use claws for lots of reasons, maybe even more!

Lions might be more important than you think. Just because their carnivores and they attack us sometimes, doesn't mean lions aren't important creatures. Just because they roar and look scary to some people doesn't mean they want to scare us. Maybe we even scar them, have they thought about that? Lions aren't a part of this world for no reason, everything has a purpose!

ALL ABOUT SOCCER

By Ava

WHAT

This article is about soccer. Or as people is England and Central America call it football. Or even fu'bol for Spanish speaking people.



WHERE

No one knows for sure where soccer was started. Greece, Rome, parts of Central America and Asia all claim to have started soccer but most people say England started the sport.

WHEN

Soccer was started 2,000 years ago. Although, some people say 3,000 years ago. The one people know is that it started back in ancient China time.

WHY

Have you ever wondered why people call soccer all different things? Well, it's all because of the British. Everyone was calling the sport soccer and out of nowhere the British started to call it football. For Spanish speaking people fu'bol means soccer just in Spanish.

HOW

Most of you are probably wondering how soccer was started. Soccer was actually started in a simple way. People just started to dribble and kick a leather ball into a small net and then they started to call it soccer.

RANGOLI

By Julie

Rangoli is a form of art in Nepal, India and Bangladesh. It is art in which patterns are created in the living room, courtyard, or on the floor, with materials such as colored rice, dry flour, colored sand, or flower petals.

I learned what Rangoli is in 5th grade. My art teacher told me Rangoli is a pattern that is mostly created by Indians on their front porch or back porch or in a courtyard. Rangoli is kind of like a big flower that has different patterns and colors in it. It is usually made/used in events such as Diwali, Onam, Pangol and other Indian festivals.

This is what a Rangoli looks like:



One important reason for drawing Rangoli in the back/front porch is to avoid insects coming into the house by giving them the food they require at the entrance of the door such as the kitchen storage areas so that they don't mess up the stored food. Another use for Rangoli is as a colorful design made on the floor near the entrance to a house to welcome guest at Diwali, when Hindus draw bright Rangoli patterns to encourage Lakshmi to enter their homes. Rangoli in English is known as Kolam.

One Day at TAG

A Student Photo Diary

By Aleishka

TTO is a new program that Chestnut TAG that started in the beginning of 2016-2017 school year. Today there's a class of TTO working on a task packet. A task packet is like a math project that you work on with the whole class.

This is where all the Chestnut TAG students



line up in the morning with their advisories to go to their homeroom. This is also where P.E. goes on.



This is the 6th grade Social Studies classroom where Mr. Paskov teaches. Right now, students are working on a place in the world that experiences a Monsoon. A Monsoon is a place in the world where it rains for 6 months.



This is the newspaper class. This is the class that has been making the newspapers for our school. Students have been working hard to give our school creative writings that they completed by themselves.



This is the band room. This is where our school practices for performance's. This is orchestra where they are work on a song that they just started. The instruments that they use are violin, viola, cello.



This is where all the students have lunch. They get nutritious and good tasting foods, which most of the time they would want more of. Students do not have to pay for lunch.



This is a science classroom that Ms. Nelson teaches in. Right now the students have been working on a project that helps clean up the Connecticut River. Students get to go outside for the class.



This is the Art classroom that is lead by Ms. Cruz. Students of all grades get to come here and work on their projects. Right now students are painting and working on their color swatches and primary colors.

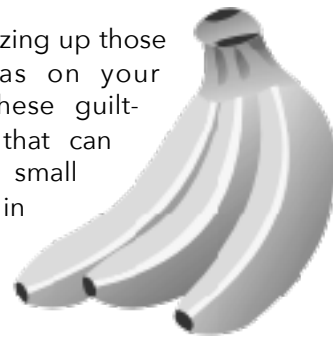


HOW TO

MAKE SUMMER TREATS

By Amarie & Olivia A.

A clever idea for jazzing up those plain-Jane bananas on your kitchen counter, these guilt-free frozen treats that can easily be made by small hands and dipped in a variety of fun flavors.



To get started, use bananas that are ripe, but not over-ripe, and to stick the Popsicle stick into the bottom before placing your fruits in the freezer for an hour.

For dipping and toppings, we recommend nuts, toffee, peanuts, coconut, and some Smucker's Magic Shell dipping chocolate.

All in all, a fun summer treat that's sure to be an absolute hit with the little monkeys in your home!

SURVIVE SUMMER HEAT

By Naima, Tyshae and Kiah

Massachusetts weather is very weird. You'll never know what's going to hit you. One day it can be as sunny as California and the next it can be as rainy as Florida (Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana are the wettest states in America) You will never know. So here are some tips we came up with just for the summer.

1. Always bring water with you at all times. If you don't the sun might dehydrate you.
2. Bring or wear short sleeve shirts and shorts/skirts.
3. It's the summer - live a little. You are stuck in school for nine and a half months. You get to express yourself at any time so live a little.
4. Come prepared with a bathing suit just in case you want to go swimming.
5. Put a pair a pants and a long sleeve shirt in a bag, just in case it gets a little chilly outside. Remember we do live in New England.
6. Put fan on high or extra high. Unless you have a AC you need this step. The summer's heat over takes you without a fan.
7. Buy a can of sunscreen and bug spray. Bugs are everywhere in the summer. So wear bug spray to prevent them.
8. Sandals are the right shoe to wear in the summer.
9. Always bring money with you in case you want a cooling snack like ice cream when you're hot.
10. Enjoy your summer vacation!



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	7				5		8	1
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WELCOME SUMMER

Newspaper Next Year!

By Ms. Leveille

Good news everyone! The TAG Times is back on for the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Leveille's schedule will allow for the class to take place again during the school day and will be immediately available to 6th and 7th graders as an ELA Enrichment course.

That being said, if the class does not fit into your schedule, but you still wish to contribute, Ms. Leveille will make herself available after school. As always, you can just email Ms. Leveille a copy of your article as well.

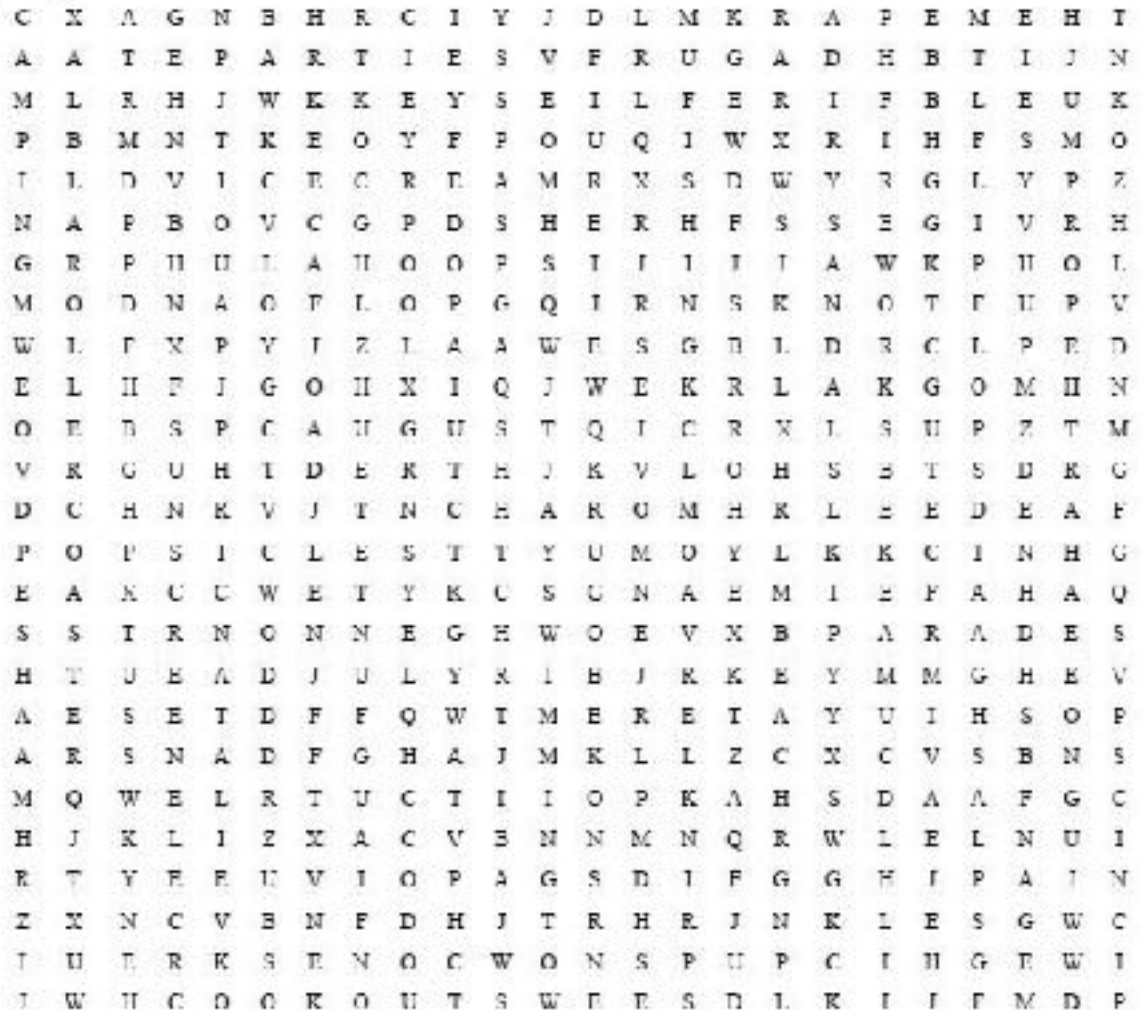


As we get better at creating and managing the paper, and as the number of students who wish to participate in the program grows, the demand for higher quality articles will also increase. This is something to keep in mind when participating next year. The TAG Times wants the best of the best!

Our readers can expect us to get off to a quick start next year as the first issue of the next volume of articles will be out October 1st following our first month back in school. In the meantime, keep track of all of the exciting things that happen to you this summer as we will most certainly have reporters out gathering the vacation experiences of our students.

Until next year!

Ms. Leveille



AUGUST
BEACH
BIKES
CAMPING
CARNIVAL
COOKOUTS
FIREFLIES
FIRWORKS
FISHING
FLIPFLOPS

FUN
HULA HOOPS
ICE CREAM
JULY
JUMPROPE
JUNE
MOVIES
PARADES
PARTIES
PICNICS
POOL

POPSICLES
ROLLERCOASTER
SANDALS
SPLASH
SPRINKLER
SNOWCONES
SUNGLASSES
SUNSCREEN
SWIMMING
THEME PARK
VACATION

