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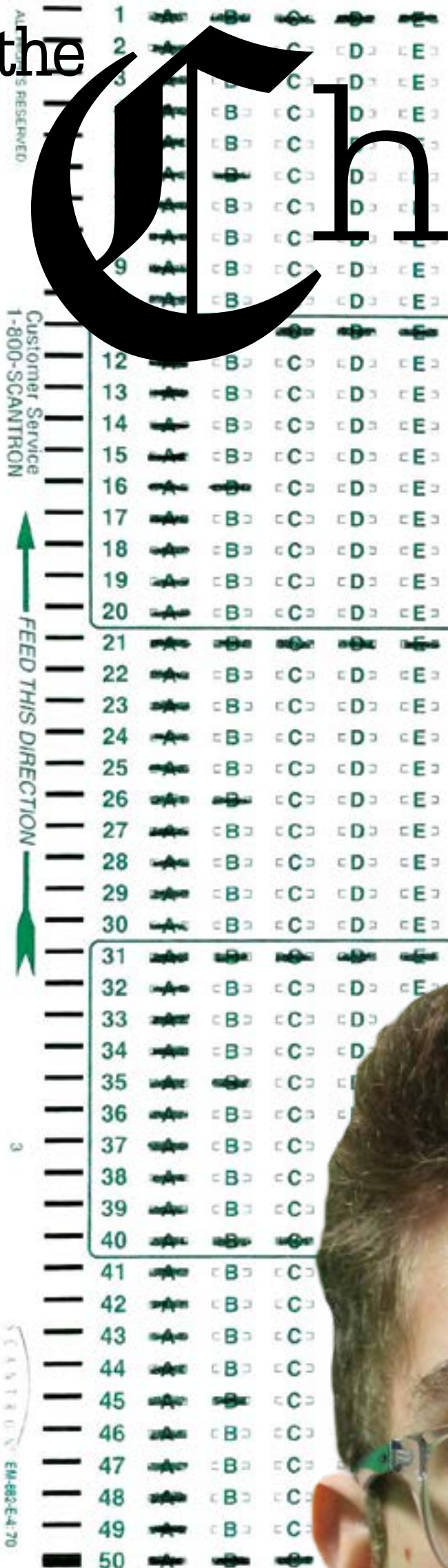
Volume 12, Issue 9

Chronicle

how we

measure

UP



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[see pages 16 & 17]

TRENDING Now

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GMC Track Meet

The Comet Track & Field team takes on the GMC meet today at 4 p.m. Check thecspn.com for coverage.

Science Fair

Sophomore Sreeram Venkatarao is presenting his project at the prestigious INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair this week. Check thecspn.com for an interview with Venkatarao.

Destination Imagination

The Destination Imagination team competes in the Global Finals May 20-23 at the University of Tennessee. Check thecspn.com for coverage.



Photo contributed by Sabrina Patel
Destination Imagination team compete at Globals in 2014.

compiled by Jessica Sommerville

THE BIGGEST LOSER

New budget proposal has Mason taking financial hit

Duncan MacKenzie | Staff Writer

It turns out the sheriff of Nottingham didn't bring down Robin Hood—it was postcards and protestations from the Mason community that put a halt to Ohio Governor John Kasich's latest attempt to find a solution to the school funding formula in Ohio.

Earlier this year, Governor Kasich proposed a plan with "Robin Hood" qualities, to equalize resources available to rich and poor school districts alike. If it had come into effect, Mason City Schools would have lost \$7 million over the next two years in the form of reductions of TPP (Tangible Personal Property Tax) reimbursement. Because Mason was one of the biggest receivers of TPP tax reimbursement, it would in turn become one of the biggest losers if this source of funding were to go away.

This tax would be replaced with funding from the CAT (Commercial Activities Tax). Recently, Ohio's House of Representatives passed a new version of the biennium budget, called House Bill 64, which keeps the district's funding at its current level for the next two years, without reduction.

This change was greatly influenced by Mason community members, who sent thousands of emails and letters to state representatives voicing their opinions about Governor Kasich's proposition. According to Public Information Officer Tracey Carson, Mason community members made sure their voices were heard at the state level in numerous ways.

"(This) has an impact for all Mason residents, and really Ohioans."

— TODD HENDERSON
MASON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT

"Folks wrote emails to members of the House Finance Committee, they wrote emails to members of the House Education Committee, they wrote letters to our own Representative Zeltwanger and Senator Jones, and we also had a 48-hour postcard campaign where thousands of people flocked to our schools to make sure that they signed a postcard," Carson said. "Then fellow parents went with us to the House Finance Committee to deliver them."

Todd Henderson was one such community member who made sure his voice was heard. Henderson has children in Mason City Schools and said he is concerned, as a Mason resident and parent, about the future of the district. Henderson said that one of the reasons that Mason appealed to him as

a place to raise his family was because of the top-notch schools, and he intends to keep them that way.

"The challenge that we're trying to overcome is helping people realize that it has impact for all Mason residents, and really Ohioans," Henderson said. "Mason is a pretty big draw and attraction for Ohio. I'm certainly one of the people that responded to that attraction and moved my family here from Pennsylvania because it's a good place to live, good schools, good health care, good quality of life. That good quality of life is tied to the schools."

"We're concerned because even in the House version, in year three, we could lose \$7 million."

— TRACEY CARSON
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Carson said that the new plan is a move in the right direction, but it only protects Mason for the next two years. After those two years are up, she said it's back to the drawing board.

"We're concerned because even in the House version, (in) year three, we would lose \$7 million," Carson said. "We want them to put in, like they did in 2011, a measure that would say districts that are disproportionately impacted would see a permanent reimbursement in perpetuity for the TPP tax."

According to Ohio Representative Paul Zeltwanger, the real difficulty that the bill will have to overcome is that each school and student has different needs, and catering to everyone's needs isn't going to occur with one collective bill.

"From my perspective, the issue becomes that we have three very unique categories within schools: urban schools, suburban schools and rural schools," Zeltwanger said. "They all have different needs, different demands, and different challenges. The problem becomes when we try to produce a state funding solution to address each of those, even though they are unique. That's one of the biggest hidden challenges in it all. I am probably more of a proponent that state funding should be set based on a certain amount per student and the funding should follow the student."

The bill also has many more obstacles to overcome before finally becoming law. Carson said that the battle is yet to be won and the community's assistance is still needed.

"We had a lot of support from the community and we will continue to call on their support throughout this process," Carson said.

GAS STATION DEBATE

Crooked Tree gas station sparks debate among residents

Arnav Damodhar | Staff Writer

Get off my lawn.

For the past several years, the proposal for the construction of a gas station has been an ongoing battle between the residents of Crooked Tree and the Mason City Council. Residents have come together and protested construction of a Shell gas station on the roundabout at the intersection of Mason-Montgomery and Bethany Road.

According to Crooked Tree resident Scott Stevens, the residents in this area have spoken to the city council and county court to protest.

"When it went before City Council in 2011, the entire neighborhood protested this and lost," Stevens said. "The City Council favored the developer. It has already been approved and there is nothing else we can do."

According to City Planner Brian Lazor, the gas station will actually serve the community better.

"The developer did a marketing study and it showed that area was underserved," Lazor said. "The gas station will provide the residents in the area shopping option. There will also be a convenience store."

Though the gas station is approved, it doesn't follow the stipulated ordinances according to the City of Mason, Stevens said. According to Stevens, he knew that the zone was a commercial zone, but never expected a gas station.

"I knew that when I built my house in 2002, that there would be a business in the area," Stevens said. "There is an ordinance stating that gas trucks aren't allowed to travel on any routes in the City except for Route 741 or Route 42. This gas station is not on either of the routes. We always knew that a light business like a dry cleaner's, or a doctor's office would go there, but never a gas station."

MUSICAL REIGN

Santos set to retire from esteemed musical kingdom



Choral director Elaine Santos conducts Honors Concert Choir students in her classroom.

Photo by Madison Krell

Jessica Sommerville | Staff Writer

Choral director Elaine Santos, ruler of Mason High School's musical empire for 16 years, will relinquish her crown next year as she retires.

Since her coronation, she has crafted a legacy infused with successes, including superior, state-level recognition and the first three-discipline concert.

According to Santos, she was hired under former Superintendent Kevin Bright to grow the music program.

Its development included an increase in enrollment; Santos said the music department reaches over 1,000 students, or "about a third of the school".

Santos said she challenges students to be their best selves which allows them to both realize their pursuit of music and add to the program's prestige.

"When they feel a sense of pride, that pride emits from every single one of them to the greater population," Santos said. "So there's another level of prestige that's being built."

ment because a lot of what we do is individual," Young said. "Once a year, we get to really come together and collaborate (for) the spring musical. That's one of the nicest times for us...I'm going to miss that with Mrs. Santos particularly because she's such a good colleague."

"I've done what I can do, and I'm very eager to find out who the winner of this interviewing process will be. I know it will be someone outstanding."

— ELAINE SANTOS
CHORAL DIRECTOR

This acclaim may propel students to music careers in which transitions in colleagues are common, according to theater teacher Allen Young.

"I've worked with (her) for 14 years...and she teaches very good vocal technique," Young said. "Somebody new (will) bring a whole new philosophy and approach, (but) it's good if you are training for a career to work with different people and learn different philosophies."

Young said that it will be up to the current staff to acclimate the new choral director, but he will miss collaborating with Santos.

"It's been great to work with Mrs. Santos guiding the depart-

While Santos is an integral member of the music team, she said that her successor may have the potential to elevate the choir and pursue national recognition.

"I've done what I can do, and I'm very eager to find out who the winner of this interviewing process will be," Santos said. "I know it will be someone outstanding, and I know it will be someone who can move the program to the next level of recognition...someone who has the energy and the foresight to see: 'This is where they are now, and this is big. I think this is where I can take them which is even bigger.' That would bring me such joy."



THE CHRONICLE'S POLICY

The Chronicle is the official student newspaper of William Mason High School.

The Chronicle promises to report the truth and adhere to the journalistic code of ethics through online and print mediums.

The Chronicle is produced by students enrolled in Journalism I, II and III.

Editorials reflect the staff's opinion but do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the school administration or the Mason City School District.

The Chronicle is published monthly. Call 398-5025 ext. 33103 for information regarding advertising in *The Chronicle*. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to refuse advertising it deems inappropriate for a high school publication.

As an open forum for students, letters to the editor are welcome, but are subject to be edited for length, libel, obscenity, clarity and poor taste. Letters to the editor may be dropped off in room C103 and must be signed.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Civic journalism adds its voice to the media maelstrom centered on police brutality

It happened in Walmart.

Amid lurid yellow 99-cent tags and bleeps of scanned merchandise, John Crawford III, a young black man, wandered the aisles of its Beavercreek location. He chatted with the mother of his children on the phone, carrying an air rifle at his side. A police officer, called in to investigate Crawford and his weapon, shot him when he did not drop it.

Beavercreek isn't Mason, but it is only 35.7 miles away.

It's a 39-minute drive, but it only takes 39 seconds to find Walmart's online surveillance footage of the day Crawford died—four days before the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

A media maelstrom has enveloped cases like Crawford's—black culprit, white cop—until we no longer see police as valiant, navy suits that stand between us and danger but another potential threat. We no longer trust them like we used to, and for a man in South Carolina, the distrust was deep enough to record a fatal confrontation between Officer Michael Slager and Walter Scott.

That person has given to the public both the evidence and the power to convict an officer that may have gotten away clean—though they may still get away clean. In Crawford's case, the surveillance video was not enough to indict the officer, but media has since warped perception of the police to a heightened degree, and a forgiving public may no longer be available.

A civil journalist is responsible. That South Carolinian was there to record a video that would later circulate both Twitter and the world. The Information Age has turned us into individuals with the capability to expose all the wonders and horrors we witness—tools like CNN iReport encourage us to contribute the shaky videos we capture of burning buildings, approaching tornadoes and, of course, police encounters—leaving us wondering if this is our new responsibility: advocating change with our smartphones.

We could dispel racism in the police force all because we were there. That could lead to an indictment; that could lead to accountability.

The media may have morphed our perception of the police, but officers are scared, too. The body cameras that they begin to don are as much to weed out negligent and racist behavior as they are to prove that other police tactics were indeed self-defense. The police are still the only barrier between us and criminals, but as protestors have taken to Twitter, the streets and city halls, the entire force will remain under scrutiny.

Because any police officer could find him or herself face to face with a black criminal, and any police officer could act from racism rather than self-defense. Beavercreek is 35.7 miles away. Any of us could have been there. Any of us could have had our cameras rolling.



EDITORIAL CARTOON



FOUR MINUTES AT THE DRIVE-THRU

Abbey Marshall | Staff Writer

Working at a Culver's drive-thru, I've seen a variety of people: anything from a whiny kid demanding custard after an arduous rec basketball game from his mom's minivan to an old woman hauling a tractor with her seemingly out-of-character Ford truck. Despite the wide range of characters, everyone can ultimately be categorized into two groups.

There are those who whiz by in a flurry of impatience, a rude demeanor and permanent frown etched upon their faces, and there are those who have the decency to make eye contact and say, "Thank you". The second type of people is extremely rare.

With today's constant hustle and bustle, politeness is forgotten while curt and impolite behavior runs rampant. When we want something, we want it now—because that's what we're used to. We can refresh a page and receive breaking news, we can Google a question and have an instantaneous answer. In a world of notifications and ringtones, simple face-to-face communication is lost because there simply isn't enough time.

Outside the realm of technology, person-to-person encounters are all I experience at my job. It brightens my day when someone takes the time to glance at my nametag and personalize their "thank you"s, or when someone smiles and compliments me. On the flip side, I become irritated and quickly upset when someone harshly comments on pricing of which I have no control, or rolls their eyes because I took too long to scoop a chocolate cone.

The way I see it, you can either spend the four minutes of drive-thru wait time one of two ways. You can cheerily chat with your passengers, crank up your favorite song, roll down the window to enjoy a nice day, and kindly thank the employee who hands you your meal when it's ready, or you can restless drum your fingers on your steering wheel, glare out your window at someone who is trying to do their job, and snatch your bag when it's ready and drive off in a huff.

Either way, you still wait those four minutes.



BEYOND BILLIONAIRE

Gina Deaton | Online Editor

World-famous Harry Potter author, J.K. Rowling, was kicked off Forbes' list of the richest people in the world because she lost her status in the all-exclusive "billionaire" club—she's a mere millionaire now, and Entertainment Weekly said it was because she "broke a few rules of how to stay rich", the biggest of these being that she donated so much of her money to charity (close to \$160 million). Her hefty donations, combined with British taxes, inspired her plummet from the charts, and she is now a member of Forbes' shameful "Billionaire Drop-offs" list.

Rowling is being stamped as a poor money manager, not because she spent it on expensive items, beauty treatments, or even traveling experiences, but because she donated so much of it—she is estimated to continually donate 16 percent of her income and regularly support around eight charities. The fact that her selfless giving is putting her in a bad light is absurd—it's exactly what she should be doing.

Once a single mom living on welfare and now the first female novelist to become a billionaire,

Rowling said, "You have a moral responsibility when you've been given far more than you need, to do wise things with it and give intelligently." I don't think she could have emphasized it better, and in a modern world of materialism, we need more people like Rowling who do know how to manage their money. She knows it isn't about letting your money sit in the bank so that you can make some prestigious list. She knows it isn't about buying things you really don't need. It's about giving to those in need, and personally I think Rowling's view on money management makes her the richest woman in the world.

Business Insider wrote, "Maybe next year, Rowling," in response to her disappearance from the list. What they don't realize is that, chances are, she doesn't care one bit whether her name appears on that list. She doesn't care because she knows that she doesn't need a billion dollars—no one does. Rowling is a walking example that giving is the best way to feel rich. If more wealthy people on that list were like her, a lot more problems could be solved.

But as for now, it's just Rowling and her magic.

GRADUATION MARATHON

Grads plan how to kill time during ceremony

Jessica Sommerville | Staff Writer

Graduation survival kit: ready-to-toss cap and large-sleeved gown; 4G LTE smartphone; Subway sandwich; and four years' worth of patience.

This year's senior class has 828 students, making its graduation a marathon. According to senior Leyla Ashraf, this makes food crucial.

"I'm probably going to stick some snacks in my sleeves, honestly," Ashraf said. "I really will. The sleeves are huge."

Senior Faryaal Zindani, the last member of the class of 2015, said she will tweet pictures and chat to pass time, but her family is not as optimistic.

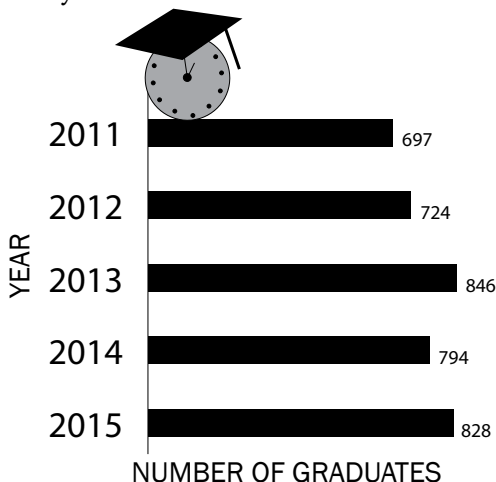
"A lot of my cousins (have said), 'Hey, we're just going to come the last 30 minutes of your ceremony,'" Zindani said. "But they're going to suck it up because we had to do that for my brother."

When Zindani at last crosses the stage, she said it may be difficult to return to her seat in time for the final festivities.

"(My brother) didn't make it back to his seat," Zindani said. "He was still getting his diploma when they turned the tassels in the air. So we're talking to administration and making sure that we're seated before the confetti and everything goes off because that would suck not being able to turn your tassel with the entire class. And it would be awkward just walking back from getting your diploma while everyone's standing up."

Despite this possibility, Zindani said she looks forward to being this year's last senior to graduate.

"I think it's awesome because...people are going to be so excited toward the end anyways to announce the graduating class," Zindani said. "I think it will be exciting to be the last one and that everyone will cheer on that we're finally done...it gives (me) something to look forward to while I'm waiting for everyone else."



Infographic by Gabrielle Stichweh

TICKETED

Drivers faced with limited options as lots overfill



Assistant Principal Dan Distel patrols the parking lots in the mornings.

Photo by Matthew Marvar

Matthew Marvar | Staff Writer

It's 7:10 and junior Madison Miller is pulling into the first lot. Miller, who paid for a spot there, said that in a perfect world, there would be one open for her. But there were none.

Under the impression that she would receive a Saturday school if she parked in the teacher lot, she went for the only spot in the first lot that wasn't taken—the handicapped spot. Miller, however, said she wasn't trying to take advantage of the handicapped spot—she simply needed a place to park.

"If I was trying to benefit from getting a handicapped spot, I would park right next to the school. Parking in the pool lot (handicapped) spot, (is not) benefitting from it," Miller said. "A handicapped person would not benefit (from that spot) in walking to the school...(Even though) I parked there, I was not intentionally trying to take a handicapped spot."

Junior Andrew Boeres faced the same dilemma. He felt that the handicap marking could be an exception in this situation.

"The only spot left open was the handicapped spot," Boeres said. "And I thought to myself, 'If the pool isn't being used right now, then why do the handicapped spots matter?' because there are handicapped spots for the students in front of the school—so it's like those spots are just off-limits for no reason. Especially at 6:00 in the morning—who's going to the pool?"

Despite this technicality, both Miller and Boeres got slammed with a \$350 fine from the police.

Miller speculated that the source of the parking problem lay in the hands of the new student drivers who drive to school and park without a pass.

"I'm guessing there are probably more sophomores who have gotten their licenses recently," Miller said. "Who...probably haven't paid for (passes)...who are just now starting to park in first lot and are probably filling up second and third lot."

Assistant Principal Dan Distel, who is in charge of parking, said that because there are so many kids who use the parking lots, enforcement is a

difficult task.

"We do not have the manpower to be out there every single day," Distel said. "When somebody is out there, it's typically me—trying to be more visible, and to help kids to understand (the injustice) when you take another kid's spot or when you park in the wrong lot that you aren't paying for."

Nevertheless, according to Distel, victims of a filled first lot have an out.

"I thought to myself, 'If the pool isn't being used right now, then why do the handicapped spots matter?'"

— ANDREW BOERES
JUNIOR

"They'll go and park in the teacher lot," Distel said. "They'll come see Mrs. Wood and say, 'Hey, I had to park here because there was no parking over there.' She records their license plates, identifies that the person does have a pass, and we're okay with that."

For the future, administration is exploring ways to police the lots more effectively. Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Principals Annette Wood said she advocates for the system used in the senior lot because it's more effective than anything else.

"It would be much easier for a student whose spot has been taken to come to me and say, 'Mrs. Wood, this car is in my spot and this is the license plate number,'" Wood said. "That's what happens in the senior lot. And the number of infractions in the senior lot are so much less because of that. Because the seniors can help us police their lot."

Boeres said that it all comes down to convenience.

Everyone wants to come to school as late as possible," Boeres said. "And if they see an open spot, they're being lazy, but they just take it. They don't think they're going to get in trouble."

"I loved all the activities with the Spaniards"



"She was like a sister to me"



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DESTINATION: REACHED

Mason Imaginator Team strives for first place at Globals



The Mason Imaginator Team at Globals in 2014, where they took home second place. Photo contributed by Sabrina Patel

Erin McElhenny | Staff Writer

Mason's Destination Imagination teams are destined for greatness.

Destination Imagination is a non-profit organization that prides itself on inspiring students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. According to DestinationImagination.org, the program encourages students to have fun, take risks, incorporate the arts and incorporate STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) into their challenges. The program strives to teach the participants patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect and problem-solving skills.

Out of all the Destination Imagination participants in Ohio, seniors Dillon Drozd and Sabrina Patel have been part of the organization the longest.

"I was in kindergarten and it was one of those flyers we took home," Drozd said. "My mom said to my dad, 'Why don't you do this? It seems like it'll be fun', and I've been doing it ever since. I think it's very beneficial because you're learning to work as a team, time management skills and how to collaborate, which you will need in life after high school."

Destination Imagination pro-

vides all the teams with challenges labeled A through F, and each challenge is geared toward a certain type of group. According to senior Sam Hodge, his group likes to take on the theatrical challenges.

"Our challenge was a C level challenge for Destination Imagination this year," Hodge said. "We had (to) come up with an eight-minute presentation of a character that deals with a phobia and show how they got the phobia and how they overcome it in that eight minutes. It's sort of like a play. We took the fear of music and incorporated it into a sequel of the story of the Pied Piper. The main character has to deal with a fear of music because the Pied Piper took his sister, so he goes on a quest to find his sister and overcome his fear along the way."

This team of Dillon and Sophie Drozd, Sam and Emma Hodge, Patel, Matthew Terry and Vinny Cevasco has been together for close to eight years. They've learned each other's strengths and weaknesses and are taking their efforts to Globals in May.

"In sixth grade, we made our team that we've had for eight years and we went to Globals and we placed in the top 10, which was an irreplaceable experience," Hodge said. "I think it created a bond between the seven of us

that cannot be broken. My hope for Globals this year is to win. We got our highest score at state this year; we're hoping we can go to Globals and get first place."

According to Patel, Destination Imagination has helped her find herself and what she loves to do.

"We got our highest score at state this year; we're hoping we can go to Globals and get first place."

— SAM HODGE
SENIOR

"I've learned a lot of different skills I thought I would never be doing," Patel said. "I used to be very to myself and then I surprised everyone when I would be the one who, after we performed, would answer the judges' questions. I also learned a lot of skills; like working with power tools."

Patel said Destination Imagination has provided a way for her to interact with all types of people.

"At Globals, I learned to talk to people from other countries I never thought I'd meet in the near future," Patel said. "Learning about their story and how DI has impacted them is really cool."

LASTING LESSON

Holocaust survivor preaches forgiveness

Sonia Rayka | Staff Writer

On May 5, Mason High School students experienced a history lesson that went beyond the textbooks.

Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor spoke at an assembly in front



Eva Mozes Kor

of students and community members. At age six, Kor, her twin sister Miriam and her family were sent to Auschwitz where she and Miriam suffered through the twisted experiments of Josef Mengele, a Nazi doctor known for experimenting on twins. Kor said there was immense chaos the first day they arrived to Auschwitz.

"Everything was moving very fast," Kor said. "There was a lot of yelling and crying. I looked around and realized my father and two older sisters were gone. Never ever did I see them again...no longer did (Miriam and I) have any family and (we) had no idea what would become of us."

According to Kor, her ability to persevere through hardships she faced stemmed from the sight of three dead bodies in the camp, something she had never laid eyes on before.

"I've never seen anyone dead before, but it became clear to me that children would die so I made a silent pledge that I would do anything and everything within my power to make sure that Miriam and I would not end up on that floor, that we would actually survive," Kor said.

Since the liberation of Auschwitz camp, Kor has become a public speaker dedicated to sharing her story and teach lessons she has learned as a Holocaust survivor, one of them being the importance of forgiveness. Kor said her views about forgiveness were dramatically altered after Miriam's death in 1993. Kor said that her first steps toward forgiveness began with a friend suggesting that she write a letter to Dr. Mengele and forgive him. According to Kor, the ability to prevail against her own ghosts of Auschwitz had far greater strength than Mengele's acts of violence.

"(Through forgiving), I had power over Mengele and I wasn't hurting anybody, and if I could forgive him, I decided to forgive everyone who has hurt me," Kor said. "I was no longer a victim of Auschwitz, nor was I a victim of my tragic past. I was free of Auschwitz."

According to Kor, the formula for violence starts with anger and must be stopped by spreading ideas of peace and forgiveness.

"Anger is a seed for war," Kor said. "People who are at peace with themselves and with the world could be called seeds for peace. Forgiveness is a seed for peace."

MAKING BANK

Graduation parties used as elaborate ruse to stockpile funds

Kylie McCalmont | Staff Writer

Another graduation party invite means another trip to the bank.

Senior Rahul Sandella said he is not only looking forward to graduation, but his grad party where he anticipates cashing in on the generosity of friends and family.

"I remember going to my sister's friends' grad parties; my parents would always give money to people who they knew well," Sandella said. "It would usually be relatively substantial amounts because they might not have given a lot of money for a 16th birthday or something like that."

Sandella has a full ride to the University of Cincinnati so rather than the money being used towards college, he plans to spend the money from his graduation

party on a trip to Europe.

"I'm interested in the money aspect because obviously money is awesome but I was lucky enough to get a full ride to UC so I don't have to worry too much about undergraduate costs, but I would like to pay for that trip if there was any extra money," Sandella said.

Unlike Sandella, senior Katharine Hoover said she decided not to have a grad party because of the hassle to plan.

"For me a graduation party would be difficult to have because my parents are divorced and it's just really inconvenient because there's so much to figure out and so much to plan and so much to get," Hoover said.

By deciding not to throw a graduation party Hoover is giving up on a popular reason to have one: the money. Although

it isn't a common decision, she said she isn't bothered by earning money for college herself.

"I will have to work a lot over the summer and help save my own money to pay for college and I know my dad and my mom are both willing to help pay for things," Hoover said. "I just don't have a problem working for the money that I need to pay for things that I need for college like laptops and textbooks."

Although people may feel pressured to empty their pockets when attending a graduation party, Sandella said that generous gift-giving is not necessary.

"People feel the obligation (to give money) if they are family and we're really close with them," Sandella said. "(But) I wouldn't be offended if someone didn't bring anything except a nice message."

According to Hoover, giving

gifts at every graduation party can become expensive and hide the true meaning of the celebration.

"That's definitely something people put together," Hoover said. "(The fact that) I'm going to a graduation party so I must bring something but you're just celebrating the fact that you graduated from high school, I don't get why that can't be enough."

Despite the pressure to plan a party or the unnecessary money obligation that looms overhead, Sandella believes a graduation party is truly about the experience because, after all, everyone only gets one chance to graduate high school.

"You could have multiple graduations but your high school graduation is going to happen once so you might as well make the best of it," Sandella said.



Senior Rahul Sandella said he is looking forward to his grad party to receive money from friends and family.

Photo by Madison Krell

POLICE PERCEPTION

Trust in law enforcement takes hit as brutality incidents surface

Abbey Marshall | Staff Writer

Michael Brown. Freddie Gray. Eric Garner.

After the events that transpired with these men in Ferguson, Baltimore, and other cities nationwide, media has flocked to report on incidents of alleged police brutality. These situations have caused a decline in public trust of police, according to a 2014 poll taken by USA Today, which reported that two out of three Americans say officers don't do a good job when it comes to "force, fair treatment and accountability". Growing tensions in response to the deaths of African-Americans by the hand of police officers eventually erupted into violent riots in Baltimore, where Freddie Gray passed away in police custody. These riots urge people to address the topic of police and public relations, according to junior DeAngelo Simmons.

Simmons said he believes that police brutality is an issue that is age-old, but is just now being brought to the forefront because of information that is more readily available today than in previous years.

"Police brutality is something that has existed for many years, but it's just coming to our attention because of the social media age," Simmons said.

According to Mason Police Officer Drew Herrlinger, the media's portrayal of these events doesn't necessarily depict the full story.

"It's hard to ignore stereotypes when those stereotypes involve you dying or living...But every cop isn't bad just like every black person isn't a thug."



— DEANGELO SIMMONS
JUNIOR

"There's a rush to judgment," Herrlinger said. "The media is going to publish what sells without looking into it further...They're a business, so they're going to sell what works for them and that's protesting, riot-

ing, things of that nature. Rarely do we see the good that people do every day."

"Are there bad apples? Absolutely...This career field is no different than any other field, it's just that we're out in the public so there's a lot more (attention)."



—DREW HERRLINGER
MASON POLICE OFFICER

Junior Alex Eatrides, however, said the media's interference isn't the issue. According to Eatrides, this topic wouldn't be receiving as much attention without continuous coverage from news outlets.

"I don't think the media has really been blowing it up; I think communities of people are blowing it up and the media is forced to show that," Eatrides said. "The community of Baltimore is really starting to step up and say they've had enough...The media is just showing that it's getting very violent because people have just had enough."

According to Simmons, the growing mistrust of officers is a popular opinion for a particular demographic. Because most coverage has been of the abuse of black citizens, many African-Americans have developed an unfavorable view of law enforcement, Simmons said, and this is largely attributed to the media's presentation of these events.

"It is a race thing," Simmons said. "The black instances are being put to the forefront. I'm sure it happens too with a white cop and a white guy...I don't think (trust of police has) ever been up with black people. There's always been some type of inequality...Most of these police officers have probably been brought up (hearing) stereotypes and it's hard to ignore stereotypes when those stereotypes involve you dying or living...But every cop isn't bad just like every black person isn't a thug."

Herrlinger said he acknowledges that there are a few officers that dis-

respect the profession by creating situations that need to be investigated.

"Are there bad apples?" Herrlinger said. "Absolutely...This career field is no different than any other field, it's just that we're out in the public so there's a lot more (attention), especially with social media and recording devices."

The few police officers that taint the image of law enforcers will be dealt with to the full extent of the law, according to Herrlinger.

"Those people that tarnish the badge are dealt with swiftly and succinctly in the sense that they go through the process and they become a criminal," Herrlinger said. "We are not above the law...Those that don't do the right thing...will be disciplined probably greater than most civilians will be."

"Those people that tarnish the badge are dealt with swiftly and succinctly in the sense that they go through the process and they become a criminal."



—DREW HERRLINGER
MASON POLICE OFFICER

Simmons said he believes the rocky relationship between law enforcement and the public can be mended by a public apology.

"The police and the government definitely owe the people--and when I say people, I mean everybody: white people, Hispanics, Asians--an explanation and a reassurance that we can trust in them (and) in the future, the proper precautions will be taken," Simmons said.

According to Herrlinger, if both citizens and law enforcement attempt to fix currently poor relations, unity is a possibility in the near future.

"If I had my way...I would make the chiefs of police more accountable," Herrlinger said. "We would have to (do something like) a unity rally...When people come together and they're united, I think that's a powerful statement...America's a powerful country."

Nationwide Incidents

•Cleveland (2014): Cleveland police were suspected of misconduct by the Justice Department after many incidents, one of which included the shooting of two unarmed citizens on a high-speed chase. 137 shots were fired.

•Albuquerque (2014): Justice Department investigated 21 shootings by police. A \$4.25 million settlement was reached for the family of a victim of one of these incidents.

President Obama's plan for police brutality

•"Establish a task force on police accountability": He wants to create an organization that will work with state governments to implement practices to increase police accountability.

•"Demilitarize the police": He wants the government to more closely monitor the use of deadly force and review the program currently in place in response to the killings.

•"Fund body cams for police": A proposed solution to decrease police misconduct is the use of body cameras, however, this is an expensive plan. Obama wants federal funding to be used for these cameras.

•"Convene community meetings": The attorney general is initiating community conversations about the topic of police brutality to discuss possible solutions.

Information from NBC news and colorlines.com



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The logo features a green pennant on the left with the word "senior" written in white cursive. To the right of the pennant, the letters "MAP" are displayed in a large, bold, dark green sans-serif font.

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Samia Adamjee	Miami University
Aminat Adewumi	Ohio State University
Christopher Adkins	Unknown
Brittney Adolfsen	University of Cincinnati
Kylie Agin	Ohio University
Priyanka Agrawal	University of Cincinnati
Megan Akiba	University of Colorado
Ayiana Alatishe	Central State University
McKenna Albers	Butler University
Shelbie Albritton	Unknown
Meghan Alexander	Unknown
Rachel Allen	University of Kentucky
Robert Allen	Unknown
Abdulaziz Alyousef	Unknown
Baemnet Amare	Unknown
Himaja Ampolu	Unknown
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Gabriella Bennett	University of Cincinnati
Maxwell Beres	University of Cincinnati
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Daniel Blust	Ohio State University
Daniel Boateng	Miami University
Ashleigh Boeres	Miami University, Hamilton
Bradley Bogan	Unknown
Winifred Bohls	Grand Valley State University
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Robert Boop	Unknown
David Borden	Rose-Hulman Institute of Tech
Andrew Boreing	University of Dayton
Nadim Boulous	Miami University
Jace Bovenzi	University of Cincinnati
Elizabeth Bowden	University of South Carolina
Michael Bowling	Unknown
Ciaran Boyd	Unknown
Mark Brackman	Northern Kentucky University
Matthew Brackman	University of Cincinnati
Connor Brady	University of Cincinnati
Vaishnavi Brahmadamam	Indiana University
Nicholas Branco	Unknown
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Meghan Brase	University of Missouri
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Gabriella Braxton	Bowling Green State University
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Jackson Brown	Indiana University
Jacob Brown	Unknown
John Brown	University of Cincinnati
Sabrina Brown	University of Cincinnati
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Hayden Bruser	Indiana University
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Dylan Bryan	University of Cincinnati
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Matthew Fadden	University of Cincinnati
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James Falcone	Unknown
Jevasia Ferguson	Unknown
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Jonathan Firsdon	Navy
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April Kniffin	Liberty University
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Raghad Kodwawala	Ohio State University
Morgan Korte	Unknown
Tyler Korte	Florida Institute of Tech
Tyler Krabbe	Unknown
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Caleb McDonald	Unknown
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Maeev Morris	University of Cincinnati
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Lincoln Moser	University of Northwestern Ohio
Mishka Moser	Wooster University
Morgan Mottashed	Northern Kentucky University
Kate Mroczka	Cincinnati State
Aaron Muegel	University of Georgia
Keegan Muff	Ohio State University
Umer Muhammad	Unknown
Fiona Mulvey	University of Cincinnati
Melissa Murawski	University of Cincinnati
Asher Murray	Unknown
Michael Murray	Miami University
Gokul Muruganantham	Ohio State University
Mpoki Mwalupindi	Ohio State University
Carver Nabb	Ohio State University
Morgan Nadler	Northern Kentucky University
Miheer Naik	University of Kentucky
Christina Napier	Career Education
Reanna Nartker	Ohio State University
Alberta Negri	University of Wisconsin
Alyse Nelson	Kent State University
Garrett Neu	University of Dayton
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Isaiah Nkansah	Grand Valley State University

Kelly Noriega	Ohio State University
Colleen Oberg	Army
Denney Odil	Career Education
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Gabrielle Omoregie	Northeast Ohio Medical University
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Paige Osterwisch	Miami University
Timothy On	University of Illinois
India Owen	University of Cincinnati
Yash Padhye	Ball State University
Rebecca Palmer	University of Cincinnati
Priya Pandey	University of Cincinnati
Caitlin Parigen	Ohio University
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Haley Parker	Unknown
Simran Parmar	Ohio State University
Graham Parrish	Ohio University
Mihir Parshionikar	Georgia Institute of Tech
Prianca Patel	University of Cincinnati
Sabrina Patel	Unknown
Adish Pawar	Unknown
Rhys Peck	University of South Carolina
Cassidy Peebles	University of Cincinnati
Ricardo Riquelme	Unknown
Cindy Peng	University of Cincinnati
Kris Pento	Ohio State University
Kaija Perkins	University of Cincinnati
Danielle Peters	University of Cincinnati
Ethan Peterson	University of Dayton
Matthew Peterson	Unknown
Jillian Petrina	Ohio University
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Colleen Pezzutti	Ohio State University
Allison Phillips	Xavier University
Cameron Pitts	Malone University
Brianna Poirier	Sinclair Community College
Rachel Poller	Wright State University
Mattea Pond	Unknown
Reece Pontious	United States Air Force Academy
Kellen Pontius	Unknown
Jacob Poole	University of Cincinnati
Garrett Popovich	Cincinnati State
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Grace Prescott	Xavier University
Charles Prieve	Miami University, Hamilton
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Noah Puckett	Indiana Tech
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Scott Purvis	Furman University
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Hira Qureshi	Kent State University
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Sheila Raghavendran	Indiana University
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Sydney Rebella	University of Kentucky
Katelynn Reckers	Xavier University
Joshua Reddington	Ohio State University
Keerthi Reddy	Ohio State University
Jacob Reed	Unknown
Evan Reeder	University of Kentucky
Jacob Reeder	University of Cincinnati
William Reeves	Ohio University
Derek Regan	Ohio University
Sydney Reid	Miami University
Andrew Reinert	Bowling Green State University
Krishan Renfrow	Eastern Kentucky University
Anna Rheinfrank	Career Education
Griffin Richards	University of Cincinnati
Diarra Richardson	Ohio State University
Shelby Richie	Unknown
Monica Riedell	University of Dayton
Edward Rigelsky	UC- Blue Ash/Clermont
Eric Rigelsky	Other
Brayden Ringel	Ohio State University
Ariel Robbins	University of Cincinnati
John Robbins	Ohio State University
Hannah Robinson	Unknown
Robert Robinson	UC- Blue Ash/Clermont
Dalton Rogers	Butler University
Blake Rom	University of Cincinnati
Nicholas Rook	University of Cincinnati
Aubrey Rose	Ohio State University



Jonathan Rose	University of Notre Dame	Samuel Sprague	Ohio University	Michael Waggoner	Ohio State University
Kayla Rotundo	Ohio Dominican University	Erica Springer	Sinclair Community College	Caleb Walden	Sinclair Community College
Abby Rudd	Kent State University	Jacob Stamper	Malone University	Matthew Walker	Columbus College Art & Design
Michael Rueda	Ohio State University	Matthew Stark	Hondros College	Abigail Walouke	Savannah College Art & Design
Anthony Ruotolo	UC- Blue Ash/Clermont	Alexandria Steadman	Work	Christina Walsh	Miami University
Logan Rush	University of Dayton	Bethanie Stecher	Ohio State University	Harrison Walsh	Ohio State University
Zenas Rush	Unknown	Isaac Steiger	Miami University	David Wang	Duke University
Wilson Russell	Miami University, Middletown	Stephen Steinhauer	Unknown	Jessie Wang	Boston University
Landon Sagle	University of Alabama	Alexander Stephenson	Ohio University	Seth Warwick	Azusa Pacific University
Raphael Sahayaraj	Ohio State University	Kiara Stepter	Mississippi State University	Noah Waters	Miami University
Tia Sakelios	University of Cincinnati	Nicholas Stevens	University of Cincinnati	Lindsay Watkins	Bowling Green State University
Sarah-Jane Sambor	Ohio State University	Adam Stewart	Indiana University	Matthew Romaker Watkins	2-year LDS Mission
Kinza Sami	Ohio State University	Tessa Stewart	Davis & Elkins College	Manly Watkins-Williams	Unknown
Rahul Sandella	University of Cincinnati	Thomas Stewart	Miami University	Amanda Watts	Unknown
Tajreen Sandhu	Xavier University	Gabrielle Stichweh	University of Cincinnati	Noah Wein	University of Cincinnati
Roshini Sankar	University of Cincinnati	Holly Stokely	West Virginia University	Andrew Wells	Ohio University
Tricia Santos	Unknown	Abby Stretch	UC- Blue Ash/Clermont	Samuel Wendell	University of Cincinnati
Logan Sargent	Unknown	Foster Stulen	University of Cincinnati	Zachary Westfall	Columbus College Art & Design
Amit Sathe	Ohio State University	Daniel Stull	Unknown	Matthew Whipple	Purdue University
Morgan Schaffer	Miami University	Julianne Su	University of Cincinnati	George Whitaker	University of Cincinnati
Emily Schardein	University of Cincinnati	Claudia Sullivan	University of Cincinnati	Benjamin White	Sinclair Community College
Nicole Schlimm	Miami University	Jordan Sullivan	Ohio University	Chloe White	Miami University
Amber Schultheis	Miami University, Middletown	Thomas Suter	Miami University	Nicholas White	West Virginia University
Samantha Schussheim	Ohio Northern University	Aaron Sutton	Miami University, Middletown	Lauren Whitehead	University of Cincinnati
Timothy Schwietert	Unknown	Andrew Sutton	Miami University, Middletown	Zachary Whitmore	Ohio Northern University
Claudia Scully	Wittenberg University	Oriel Swensen	UC- Blue Ash/Clermont	Andrew Whitney	Wofford College
Elizabeth Seile	University of Toledo	Jamila Sylvester	North Carolina A&T State University	Cari Wicker	Work
Madeline Seiller	University of Dayton	Nicholas Sylvestre	Xavier University	Glen Wiedenbein	Unknown
Zachary Sempsrott	Unknown	Joseph Szymkowicz	Unknown	Sydney Wiegel	Ohio State University
Brian Seppelt	Ohio State University	Kayla Tager	University of Cincinnati	Brenden Wiles	Unknown
Eric Sette	Union University	Divya Takkellapati	University of Cincinnati	Emily Wilhelm	University of Cincinnati
Nathan Sette	Miami University	Tina Tang	Washington University	Amy Wilkinson	University of Dayton
Pallavi Sharma	University of California, LA	Nina Tavernier	Vanderbilt University	Brandon Williams	Unknown
Rishabh Sharma	Miami University	Mariel Teigen	Unknown	Robert Willis	Year Off
Adam Sharrah	Unknown	Joshua Terribilini	Church Mission	Avery Wilson	Unknown
Alexei Shea	Unknown	Matthew Terry	University of Cincinnati	Colton Wilson	Unknown
Evan Shearer	University of Cincinnati	Joice Thekkethottiyil	University of Cincinnati	Jessica Wilson	Drexel University
Caroline Sheets	Wheaton College MA	Andrew Thieken	Ohio University	Kyler Wilson	Ohio State University
Lauren Shen	University of Michigan	Courtney Thierauf	Urbana University	Shane Wilson	Unknown
Rebecca Shepard	Shawnee State University	Jared Thomas	Ohio State University	Blake Winton	Marines
Nathaniel Shepherd	Kettering University	Sabrina Tinoco	Miami University	Carter Wise	Pennsylvania State University
Paul Shepherd	Army	Chaitranjali Tirumalaraju	University of Kentucky	Emma Wittman	Ohio State University
Steven Sherrill	UC- Blue Ash/Clermont	Jillian Tischer	University of Cincinnati	Russell Woehrmyer	University of Dayton
Leo Shi	Boston College	Taylor Tolle	Unknown	Nicole Wood	University of Cincinnati
Amanda Shumate	Campbellsville University	Elizabeth Tomassoni	Tusculum College	Taylor Wood	Miami University
John Shutrump	Unknown	Katherine Tomassoni	Tusculum College	Victoria Wood	UC- Blue Ash/Clermont
Rachel Siegrist	University of Cincinnati	Kenny Tran	University of Kentucky	Austin Woodside	UC- Blue Ash/Clermont
Bradley Siekmann	Ohio State University	Sang Tran	Miami University, Hamilton	Veronica Woodson	University of Cincinnati
Nika Sigler	Bowling Green State University	Ryan Traut	Ohio State University	Abby Woolum	University of Dayton
Emma Simendinger	Shawnee State University	Zachary Tremblay	Miami University	Ashley Woxman	University of Cincinnati
Adrienne Simmons	Case Western Reserve University	Andrew Trenaman	University of Cincinnati	Sydney Wright	Central Michigan University
Justin Simpkins	Army	Jessica Trester	Unknown	Jacqueline Wu	Washington University
Kaitlin Simpson	Western Washington University	Emily Trinh	Northeastern University	Emily Wyenandt	Ohio University
Sheldon Sims	Unknown	Elizabeth Troy	United States Naval Academy	Yiqi Xiang	Carnegie Mellon University
Alec Singer	Unknown	Jonathan Truong	Unknown	Yiyue Xiang	Columbia University
Siddhartha Singh	Northeast Ohio Medical University	Sean Turecky	Unknown	Judy Xie	Ohio State University
Eva Skanse	University of Cincinnati	Justin Uth	Capital University	Allison Yan	Harvard University
Elliot Skindzier	University of Cincinnati	Sydney Varner	Miami University	Nancy Yao	Northwestern University
Michael Slater	University of Cincinnati	Vivek Vattiyam	Rose-Hulman Institute of Tech	Sonia Yeolekar	Carnegie Mellon University
Blake Slay	Unknown	Maneesha Verma	University of Cincinnati	Alexander Yermakov	University of Cincinnati
Chandler Sloan	University of Kansas	Michael Verma	Ohio State University	Jessica Young	Miami University, Hamilton
Hannah Sloan	Unknown	Jill Vetere	University of Louisville	Summer Young	Unknown
Caroline Smith	Manchester University	Madison Vincent	Unknown	Taylor Young	Miami University, Hamilton
Darren Smith	University of Louisville	Alexandra Viterisi	University of Indiana	Ann Yu	Ohio State University
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EDITOR'S NOTE: All information in The Chronicle college map was compiled from the Naviance Graduation Survey. All spelling of names and post-high school plans were submitted by students in the class of 2015. The Chronicle college map is not a production of the Mason City School District or Mason High School.

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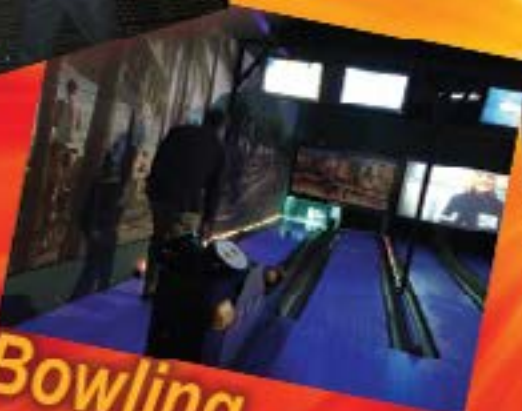
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How We Measure Up

Standardized testing fails to represent skills unmeasurable on scantrons



Nathan Coates, English department head

"If you can survive this battery of tests and these different disciplines over that long period of time, it's showing that you can, again, read something at a college level or something that you might have to read in a workplace."

"The Columbus College of Art and Design—it doesn't require test scores. UC DAAP, on the other hand... they don't look at your portfolio at all, they only look at scores, and your GPA, and your resume, and your essays and all that traditional college application stuff."



Aaron Roberts, Digital Image Design teacher



Bob Bass, Band Director

"The creativity that is involved in the arts is not as measurable as something that's concrete. What is concrete in music? Well, rhythm is concrete. There's only one way it should go, and that can be measured."

"Work ethic, and determination and fighting through failure—these are all things that you learn as an athlete that if you're going to continue in athletics you have to persevere through those tough times, and I think as a student that's often the case as well, particularly if you're not a good test taker."



Curt Bly, English teacher

Sheila Raghavendran | Editor-in-Chief
Gina Deaton | Online Editor

This year, approximately 1126 students took a total of about 2185 Advanced Placement exams at Mason High School. Their scores may reflect their knowledge of the subject, but these standardized tests are just a few of many that do not measure a student's inclination for art, music or athletics.

The number one ACT and SAT myth is that "the SAT and the ACT are tests of intelligence, and my scores are a good indication of how I will do in college," according to The Princeton Review.

The article debunked this myth because "your test scores reflect how good you are at taking the SAT or ACT, as well as how much time you spent preparing—and that's about it. Your score does not measure how intelligent you are, serve as a final grade for your four years of high school, or predict how successful you will be in life."

Former President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 set the requirements for yearly standardized testing in reading and math for students between the third and eighth grades. On top of this, students in grades 10-12 must be tested once. This year, Ohio implemented Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing and Ohio Air testing, two series of exams students in the third through ninth grades are subject to take—being told that it will predict their performance in college.

According to Cleveland.com, for students, PARCC testing counts for "nothing, officially." But according to Assistant Principal Dave Hyatt, it is now a graduation requirement.

"The state has chosen to eliminate the OGT for this year's freshman class and those grades below," Hyatt said. "They've actually created three different pathways to meet a graduation requirement, with the first, and probably the most important (being) the end-of-year or End of Course exams that students have to accumulate scores—it's not a pass/fail—but they need to accumulate a certain number of points over the seven tests to meet the graduation requirement. So it's still a graduation requirement per se, but there's also two additional

pathways kids can go through if they don't meet this 18-point requirement."

The Washington Post listed 33 flaws in standardized testing, including that standardized testing can "lead to neglect of physical conditioning, music, art and other, non-verbal ways of learning", can "penalize test-takers who think in non-standard ways" which it said is common among high school students, and that standardized tests cannot predict future success.

Digital Image Design teacher Aaron Roberts said this neglect of art is seen on standardized tests like PARCC, which fail to represent creativity.

"Creativity is really hard to mark on a scantron," Roberts said. "...One of my bigger issues with standardized testing...is that it's completely unindividualized, while art is a great opportunity to be extremely individual."

Band Director Bob Bass said he agrees—musical "subjectivity is very hard to measure", even impossible. But according to Bass, each music college or university weighs ACT and SAT scores differently.

"If you're looking at a conservatory and they're all music students, I would say the ACT score and the SAT score (have) no basis whatsoever because it's purely based on talent," Bass said. Conversely, for example, at Northwestern, standardized test scores are "major piece(s) in order to be accepted as a musician. You have to be talented and you have to meet the criteria for that university...Basically it depends on what institution you apply for."

Freshman and Honors Concert Choir member Sam Terribilini said that PARCC testing is "ridiculous" and he wishes he could have his talent better recognized on a scantron.

"College prep tests are important, because they focus on the building blocks for specialized talents, but they fail to give credit for talents where credit should be given," Terribilini said. "...Would I want to express my love for art and poetry and singing? Of course."

Terribilini said that though he cannot reflect his musical ability on standardized tests, he understands and values their purpose in measuring college readiness.

[story continued on page 17]



[story continued from page 16]

“The basis for...the bigger subjects (that) we believe need to be understood...can’t rely on just talent,” Terribilini said. “That is why we are tested on regurgitated information, because the hope is we will apply it to everything else we do.



“The ACT score, coupled with GPA is very, very important. It’s one of the first things they look at before they even decide it’s worth recruiting the player.”

— Curt Bly, English teacher

Similarly, English teacher Curt Bly said that although standardized tests do not measure the “kinesthetic talent or skill” that “athletes excel in”, it is important for athletes to be equally skilled in performance on the field and on a test, especially for scholarship consideration.

“The academic picture is really important in every sport,” Bly said. “In baseball, there are fewer scholarships than there are in football or basketball where pretty much the entire team—certainly Division I level—is on scholarship, full scholarship. Baseball’s not like that. So when there’s only 11.75 scholarships for 35 players on the team, the academic picture weighs very heavily for coaches because they’re making an investment. So the ACT score, coupled with GPA is very, very important. It’s one of the first things they look at before they even decide it’s worth recruiting the player.”

According to English department head Nathan Coates, while “10 hours for one test is excessive”, the English portion of the PARCC test is a fair measurement of a student’s skills.

“Does the diploma mean something? It’s your diploma, it should mean that you’re ready for the next step.”

— Nathan Coates, English department head

“It’s a good test,” Coates said. “It’s a hard test. Like all tests—I can speak for English and language arts—they give you a difficult text that’s worth reading; I think that’s important. Some texts aren’t worth reading and you know, on past standardized tests, it’s like, ‘Why am I reading them?’ and it’s about wagons or something. These are legitimate literary texts; they mat-

ter and they have value. And then the questions they ask are rigorous, and that’s what we want: our students to interact at a rigorous level with complicated texts. So I think that part of it is good.”

According to Coates, although there are many aspects that standardized testing doesn’t measure, there’s one very important aspect that, in theory, it does: college and career readiness.

He said colleges had been reporting that students “weren’t doing enough heavy lifting intellectually” in high school, while employers said that students were applying for jobs “who can’t read the kind of manuals that need to be read”. Students were unprepared, and according to Coates, this is what sparked college and career readiness tests like PARCC.

“That’s what they’re intending to measure: are you ready when you get out of here?” Coates said. “Does the diploma mean something? It’s your diploma, it should mean that you’re ready for the next step—whether that is a four-year institution or a two-year training college, entry right into the workforce; wherever you want to go, it should be us giving you the ‘okay’ that you’re ready.”

According to Bass, the next step is not the same for everyone, though schools tend to mold students to fit a certain template.

“A lot of times (students) are forced into this narrow path: We all have to be college-bound, we all have to do it this way,” Bass said. “But not all of us are like that. Yes, we all have to be educated, but it doesn’t have to be down this narrow path. Because we’re not all going to go down that narrow path.”

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CULTURE SWAP

Spanish, American exchange provides memorable experience



Live 'n Learn Spanish students from summer 2014 experiencing American lifestyle.

Photos contributed by Robin Hunsucker

Meghan Pottle | Staff Writer

This year, approximately 45 Mason High School families are letting strangers sleep in their homes, eat their food, and teach them about their culture.

Live 'n Learn is a program where Spanish students have the opportunity to get a taste of American culture by staying in the Cincinnati area with host families during the summer. Robin Hunsucker began preparing the company in the fall of 2012 and Spanish students first came to the United States in the summer of 2013.

"When the Spaniards come here, they come for one month and they live with host families who have students with the same age and gender as them, and they have similar personalities, interests, or hobbies," Hunsucker said. "During that month, they do classes three days a week and one day, the Americans come to class and the Americans practice Spanish, and the Spaniards practice English."

For the rest of the time, the Spaniards and host families participate in fun group activities, such as going to Kings Island, playing laser tag, and doing other typical things in the area.

Freshman Avery Brown hosted the same Spanish student for two consecutive years. Brown said they bonded over their shared interest in soccer and still keep in touch over the phone.

"We got along really well and he's like a Spanish brother to me," Brown said. "Our ages were a little off because he was 18 and I was 14, but I have a brother who was 17 at the time, so it was good. Even though there was a big age difference, he would hang out with me and my friends."

For the first time this year, 14 MHS students are traveling to Spain with chaperones, including Spanish teacher Debbie Perry. They will visit six cities in seven days and then the next week they will stay with host families, similar to the program in America.

"I'm hoping to inspire students in the United States to continue studying Spanish and to see it as more than a subject."

— ROBIN HUNSUCKER
LIVE 'N LEARN CREATOR

Freshman Bailey Nix is traveling to Spain this summer to stay with the Spanish student she hosted the previous year.

"I've talked to the family and they said that there's a bunch of fun activities we're going to do, like we are going to go all over Spain to different tourist spots," Nix said. "I'm going to be there during the

Running of the Bulls, so I am going to be able to see that and that will be really fun."

This year, Live 'n Learn was launched as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and even though it is a fun experience, students can get volunteer hours from hosting because they are volunteering their time to help Spaniards learn about our culture and improve their English.

According to Hunsucker, she decided she wanted to start Live 'n Learn after studying abroad and also teaching English in Spain for four years.

"I started because I love Spanish and for me, it was really eye-opening to travel abroad," Hunsucker said. "I'm hoping to inspire students in the United States to continue studying Spanish and to see it as more than a subject. It's something that can be useful in their life, that can help them travel, to see the world and to meet people."

CYBER STALKING

Social media creeping has dangerous potential

Juliana Discher | Staff Writer

Stalking is all fun and games until you accidentally hit the 'like' button.

There is a new image being associated with the term 'stalker' now-a-days. No longer is it a person in a trench coat, clutching binoculars, peering into your window, but rather a person huddled behind a phone screen, scrolling through your daily life. Creeping or stalking online occurs when a person views someone else's social media page for an extended period of time. In a study conducted by the National Center for Cyberstalking Research, 70 percent of stalking victims know the person stalking them. While some may not admit to the act, junior Kim Lyon said she feels online creeping is a rampantly occurring event in the high school age range.

"It's so common," Lyon said. "The thing is that most people don't start out with the mission of stalking, but you click on someone's picture, and then you click on the likes, and then you click on a page, and then you click on someone tagged in a picture. Next thing you know, you're creeping on someone in Australia."

While stalking can be innocent and lighthearted, sometimes things can turn for the worse, according to Lyon.

"One of my friends was in an online chatroom and was talking to someone and became Internet friends with them," Lyon said. "She let them come into her social media, and eventually she started getting notes from this person outside her house. He would mail her gifts. She used to run in the park and she would see him standing by the playground sometimes."

At a certain point, Lyon said that there is a line to draw between casual creeping and harassment stalking.

"It's okay if you go onto social media with the intent of finding out more about someone, but when it turns into constantly watching a person through your computer screen, I think it's no different than watching someone through their window screen," Lyon said. "Just as if hiding behind trees and watching someone live their life is stalking, so is hiding behind a username and watching someone's social life. It's when this cycle repeats with a stranger that the line between casual stalking and Internet creeping becomes apparent."

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SERIOUS SLUGGER

Ellis smashes conference and school home run records

Erin Brush | Managing Editor

Senior Hailey Ellis puts fear in the eyes of every pitcher in the conference. With the school and conference record of 12 season home runs under her belt, rival pitchers have good reason to shake on the mound. According to Ellis, she can sense her opposition's nervousness when she steps up to bat.

"Reading the defense that I hit off of, I can tell that they're scared when I walk up," Ellis said. "I see it on the pitcher that she's nervous. I see it from the coaches when they try to intentionally walk me and the pitcher misses her spot. The second I hit (a home run), they usually try to pull their pitcher. I think seeing the weakness in the defense and the cheers from the dugout and seeing my mom in the stands, everything builds up and I feel like I can do it."

As of last week, Ellis resides at number 12 on the all-time home run per season state leaderboard. This year's success story is a very different tale from the 2014 season in which Ellis had a season total of one home run. According to Ellis, the difference between this year and the last is a mystery to her.

"I don't know what the difference has been," Ellis said. "My swing is a lot smoother. We started this thing called The Program. It's physically challenging and mentally. No matter what pitchers we face, I know the pitchers we hit off of at practice are better than any team in the GMC. That kind of confidence really helps."

According to Ellis, her quirky new swing gets its fair share of criticism.

"The only comparison of my swing I could do is compare it to Derek Jeter," Ellis said. "I have a lot of movement in my swing and people think that I start my hands too high and people think I can't get through the zone. I have a really high swing. If it's a quicker pitcher I'm already set, but if it's a slower pitcher I build up a lot of dirt in the back of the batter's box and then I just stroke it."

Ellis said she has a sixth sense when it comes to her hits.

"When I hit home runs over dead center, I know they're gone," Ellis said. "You can just see it and you can hear it from the crowd. I usually know. When we're playing Lakota West and I tie the game in the bottom of the ninth and we are in extra innings, that feels good."

As her home run total continues to climb upward, Ellis said she refuses to be satisfied with her current stats.

"A solid goal for me is to get to 16 (home runs)," Ellis said. "I'm going to make it happen."



SMALL SCHOOL, BIG RUNNER

Mars Hills student new asset to distance track

Eric Miller | Staff Writer

In any given race, track runner Joe Thistleton will compete against more people than he has in his entire graduating class.

Thistleton is senior at Mars Hill Academy, where the 2015 graduating class is just four students, including himself. Thistleton has taken advantage of new OHSAA legislation that allows him to compete for Mason since Mars Hill is not officially OHSAA recognized. Mars Hill does offer track and field, but Thistleton said he wanted to be a part of Mason's track program to help him run at the next level.

"I joined Mason track because I am hoping to run in college," Thistleton said. "I knew that Mason would give me the right training I need to be an elite runner."

Thistleton began his running career at Mars Hill but just last year he was training to be apart of the cross country program for one of Mason's biggest rivals.

"The spring track season of eighth grade was when I began running," Thistleton said. "I ran with Mars Hill in track and cross country all the way through eleventh grade. I trained with Sycamore High School for my twelfth grade cross country season, but I still had to wear a Mars Hill jersey because I didn't live in the Sycamore school district and therefore couldn't be a part of their team."

Assistant boys track coach Tom Rapp said he has only had one instance in his coaching career that is comparable to Thistleton's.

"(I) had one runner in cross country one time who was a homeschooled kid," Rapp said.

"That legislation just changed a couple of years ago and he was the first one."

Rapp said there is only one disadvantage to Thistleton not attending Mason, but that it has an easy fix.

"The con is it is fun to see your athletes during school," Rapp said. "There can be a 'Hey, can you drop by my class after third period?' That's a little harder. But obviously with texts and phones we can communicate."

Thistleton said even though he started the season as somewhat of an outsider, he said his teammates have helped him become better oriented to Mason's team and bond with the boys who were once strangers.

"I completely feel like a part of the team," Thistleton said. "The guys have been awesome, distance runners and sprinters included. I came in knowing Tommy Stewart really well and he made it really easy for me to transition into the Mason program. I became friends with a lot of the guys quickly and can definitely say that I now have some of my best friends on the team."

Rapp agreed with Thistleton and said that his maturity helped him transition into Mason.

"(Being new) would affect a lot of people but Joe is very socially mature," Rapp said. "He's outgoing and enjoyable. He enjoys being on a team of our caliber. I think he's having as much fun as anybody on the team."



Joe Thistleton

Photo contributed by Mike Kreil

24

Senior Tyler Krabbe leads the baseball team with 24 runs this season.

97

Junior volleyball player Jacob Grove leads the conference in defense with a season total of 97 blocks.

85

Sophomore softball pitcher Elle Buffenbarger is top three in the GMC with 85 season strikeouts.

48.31

Senior Amit Maity took first in the 400-meter dash at the Mason Invitational with a time of 48.31.

Results as of May 10.

The Chronicle Sports

MVP: NADIM BOULOS

Sport: Tennis

Class: 2015

Claim to Fame: First singles on varsity A

Best thing about tennis: Both a physical and mental game

Worst thing about tennis: People assume it's an easy sport but it's not

Toughest Opponent: Sycamore

Motto: Play every opponent like he's a champion

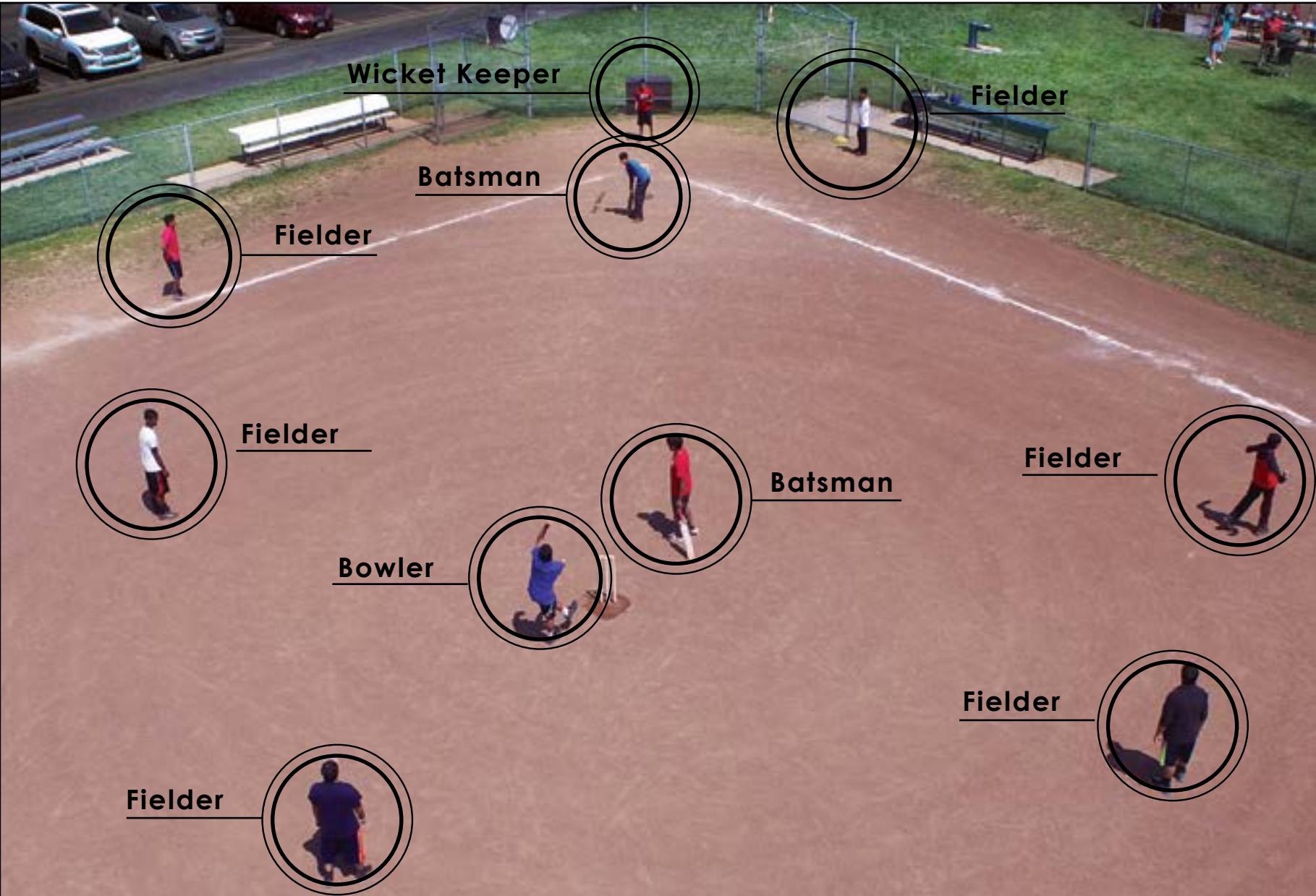
Celebrity Crush: Roger Federer

Embarrassing Moment: I broke all the strings of my racket and had to borrow a racket from my opponent

Netflix Addiction: Sherlock



Photo by Charlie MacKenzie



WICKET CRAFT

Cricket club brings popular international sport to local parks

Charlie MacKenzie | Staff Writer

Students are chirping about cricket. Cricket is a popular sport in India, and has been brought to Mason High School by a group of 30 students. The club meets every Thursday to discuss club activity and practices every Saturday at Heritage Oak Park. Cricket is played on an oval field by two opposing teams of 11. Senior member of the club Amit Sathe said the sport isn't too distant from America's favorite pastime.

"It is kind of like baseball in a way that you have two bases instead of four," Sathe said. "One person is running and another person is batting at a time. There are wickets, which are stumps. The guy who is throwing the ball is trying to hit the wickets, and if he hits those then the person is out. The two people work together and they run to each side. If you can't make it before they hit the

stump, it's an out. Also if you catch (the ball) out of the air then it's an out."

A point is scored when both runners make it to the bases without being tagged out. Multiple runs can be scored at each bat. According to freshman and founder Durga Mishra, his love for the sport and the difficulty to organize games convinced him to create the club.

"A lot of my friends and I have played cricket when we were young but we were never able to play often, maybe only once a year at a party," Mishra said. "We all really enjoy the sport and we wanted to make something that we could play on a regular basis."

As cricket is a very rare sport in the United States, it is hard for the sport to spread. According to Sathe, his parents made him join a cricket team when he was in sixth grade.

"I was on a team in sixth grade," Sathe said. "I used to live in Louisville, Ken-

tucky and back there my dad was friends with a guy who knew Sachin Tendulkar, the best cricket player of all time. My parents made me join and then I played and it was pretty fun. When I realized here that a freshman was starting a club, I had to join."

The school doesn't technically sponsor the club, however the school board approved the club meeting on school grounds. Sycamore is the only other school in the area with a cricket club, and as of now the club is playing and practicing amongst themselves. Mishra is trying to expand the club to other schools in hopes that they can play against other teams this fall. Mishra said that he is reaching out to his friends at other schools and attempting to convince them to organize their own cricket clubs.

"We have 28 people in Sycamore starting a team and what we are trying to do

right now is expand to Lakota and other schools," Mishra said. "We have friends there and we are able to contact them as they are starting (a club)."

According to Mishra, the club will be hosting cricket camps over the summer in order to give young kids a chance to play the sport.

"We really want to have fun but we also want to give back to the community," said Mishra. "This summer we are going to be doing cricket camps to teach little kids how to play the sport."

Cricket is a large part of the Indian culture and Sathe said he hopes that America will eventually adopt cricket as a more popular sport.

"In India, cricket is really the most popular sport," Sathe said. "...Wherever you go, whether it is colleges or high schools, you'll find someone playing cricket out on the field. I hope it spreads even more and gets bigger."

Cricket club members prepare for a game of cricket on a baseball diamond at Heritage Oak Park.

Photo by Madison Krell

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