

Chronicle

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Fall Play Review By Naomi Harris

This year's fall play, *This Murder Was Staged*, was incredibly unique and distinctive from other plays in the past. It was full of flashbacks, breaking the fourth wall, and crowd work. It was very interactive to say the least. Along with including the audience, the comedy and drama was raised to the max which increased the enjoyment for everyone.

We start off by watching a murder mystery play within the play where a body is discovered, not the fake one they were supposed to find, but the body of the director of the play. The audience is pulled into the story because some of the actors of *This Murder Was Staged* sat in the auditorium, disguising themselves as normal audience members. As the play goes on, we are taken through the suspects and their possible murders by many flashbacks and a "detective" who sat with the audience for the first couple minutes of the show. We learn that everybody hated the director and had a motive to kill her. More actors are pulled from the audience giving the mystery many more layers and suspects. It concludes with a surprise twist and a double ending akin to *Clue*.

The performances of the actors were outstanding and exceedingly funny. Everyone worked very well together, making the audience appreciate the humor even more. Actors who sat in the audience for more than half of the duration of the performance had to stay in character and not talk to the audience members even when sitting right next to them. As someone who probably would've broken character immediately, that was very skillful of those actors.



The lighting changes and sound effects worked perfectly with the comedic beats in the scenes. There were also no noticeable delays, mistakes, or oversights within the technical aspects of the production. Everything went very smoothly and surpassed expectations. The set was stunning and very professional as well. It was a type of living room/sitting room with weapons scattered throughout, reminiscent of *Clue*.

It had a working door that was colored a vibrant red which was very pleasant to look at. Overall, the practical features and small details did not disappoint.

Many people liked the writing and the script. The absurdity of the situation and the story making fun of itself was hysterical. However, with how over the top and meta the whole story was, some said it was hard to follow at times, but they eventually got back on track through the exaggerated, theatrical dialogue.

Overall, the show was unexpected and different from the plays we've seen at APHS in the past. It was a mystery show of humorous dialogue emphasized by the technical production with flashbacks. Viewers enjoyed the plot, the performances, the characters, and found the show to be a great hit.



The Big Red Apple - Democratic Socialism in NYC

By Theodore Hart

This fall the first Socialist mayor since 1990 was elected in New York City. Zohran Mamdani ran a heavily involved campaign focused on affordability, aiming to address concerns through a variety of government regulations and programs. He also ran on an explicitly anti-Zionist, pro-Palestine platform, which is relatively unique for American politicians. Although he faced accusations of anti-semitism due to his criticisms of Israel, he attempted to assuage people's worries by pointing to his support of and from several Jewish individuals and organizations. He ran a co-campaign in the Democratic primary with Jewish man Brad Lander, received support from *Jewish Voice for Peace*, and was endorsed by Haredi rabbis Moshe Indig and Moshe Hoffman following visits to the Satmar Hasidic community of Orthodox Jews, which he performed remarkably well in. Mamdani also acquired 33% of Jewish voters. His campaign promises include freezing the rent on rent stabilized apartments, tripling the production of affordable rent frozen housing, cracking down on negligent and abusive landlords, adjusting tax rates to more accurately reflect the burden from gentrification, a series of city owned grocery stores with an emphasis on low cost and a lack of profit seeking, faster and free buses, and free childcare for children 6 weeks to 5 years old. Mamdani plans to pay for this agenda by matching New Jersey's corporate tax rate of 11.5% as well as a flat 2% tax increase on the top 1% of New Yorkers.

His campaign involved heavy on the ground action, involving walking all across Manhattan, intense door knocking campaigns, and a wide reaching polished internet presence. Following his victory, many other Democratic party candidates have attempted to co-opt his campaign strategy, with a charismatic online presence and an emphasis on affordability. Many critics of establishment members of the Democratic party point to the fact that many of the copycats do not have the policies to back their words up, with many of them simply promising to uphold the status quo.

Mamdani ran against incumbent mayor Eric Adams (who was recently indicted for 5 federal corruption charges including wire fraud, bribery, and conspiracy after it was discovered he accepted gifts from Turkish officials for alleged preferential treatment), Andrew Cuomo (who resigned from his position as state governor in disgrace after 15 sexual harassment allegations), and Curtis Sliwa (leader and member of the vigilante group the Guardian Angels).



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Eric Adams dropped out of the race and endorsed Cuomo due to low polling. President Donald Trump endorsed Andrew Cuomo in the race, and dropped all charges against Mayor Adams, whereas Zohran promised to resist Trump and ICE action in the City. Most of the Candidates aimed to address soaring costs of living, with Cuomo promising to expand free use of the Subway system for low-income residents, expanding benefits for food, and raising the minimum wage to \$20, as opposed to Mamdani's proposed \$30. He and Adams also promised to visit the nation of Israel as their first visit as mayor, with Mamdani emphasizing his agenda was focused on New York City, not foreign countries. Sliwa's agenda focused on reducing crime by increasing the police presence in the city. He also wanted to increase homeless outreach, and he and Mamdani are the only candidates to place an emphasis on homelessness and talking to several homeless individuals. Sliwa wanted to increase outreach, and Mamdani called for an end to sweeps of homeless encampments, where people face violence and the loss of shelter and the few belongings they have.

Zohran Mamdani is the first Muslim mayor of New York City, and was sworn in on the Quran. One of his first acts was to overturn Adams' executive orders following his indictment, including the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which describes criticism of the State of Israel as anti-semitism and the banning of government agencies from engaging in the Boycott Divest and Sanction movement. Although this again prompted accusations of anti-semitism, Mamdani has pointed to the support of prominent Jews for him and his campaigning with Jews and Jewish organizations such as *Jews for Racial and Economic Justice*, actor Mandy Patinkin, Senator Bernie Sanders, as well as several Orthodox rabbis. The establishment political landscape resisted his ascent into power and several critics described him as a "terrorist sympathizer" that would be "cheering" in the face of another 9/11. Many have attributed these statements to Islamophobia, but proponents of the statements claim it's due to his support of the Palestinian cause and association with prominent left-wing internet personalities perceived as radicals. His agenda was previously unique for American politics and has inspired several similar campaigns, such as Omar Fateh in Minnesota and Graham Platner in Maine. As his term continues the political landscape as well as acceptable discourse is likely to change.

Conflict In Venezuela

By Lana Valachovic

On January 3, 2026, President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela and his wife, Cilia Flores, were captured by the United States Army Delta Force and taken from their residence, a military complex in Caracas. The two were first detained on the USS Iwo Jima and later held in the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York. He was taken based on the accusations of a narco-terrorism conspiracy, a cocaine importation conspiracy, and possession of weapons. There is a significant amount of evidence supporting these accusations, however, the events around his capture can be described as a kidnapping or even an act of war. Trump has publicly and openly admitted that he had intentions to seize Venezuela's "oil, land, and other assets that they previously stole from us." Trump has not provided any factual evidence supporting this statement.

Is this legal or constitutional? Well, no. This act would have required congressional approval for military force to be used, stated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the Constitution. This act also certainly violates the United Nations Charter in Article 2(4) which prevents the use of force that threatens the independence of the nation involved. Additionally, even if someone is a terrible person, leaders such as Maduro tend to have immunity from foreign courts. Despite all these laws and protections, the previously stated still occurred. During the strike, explosions started around 2 A.M. in Venezuela lasting for about an hour. The Defense Minister of Venezuela, Vladimir Padrino López, said civilian neighborhoods were hit and the interim president Delcy Rodríguez reports that both civilians and service members have been killed. Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello said more than 100 people were killed during the operation. Cuba confirmed that 32 of the people killed were Cuban civilians.



There were many strikes leading up to this event. The U.S. has carried out many strikes against Venezuelan vessels because they allegedly were carrying drugs to the U.S. and Trump said "Every boat that we knock out we save 25,000 American lives". There is no evidence provided and this figure does not match or add up to reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These strikes have actually led to about 115 deaths since September. So, what is the state of Venezuela now? Venezuela is now under the control of Delcy Rodríguez, the former Vice President. The U.S. says it will control Venezuela's oil sales "indefinitely" using their blockade, regulating every oil tanker entering and leaving. The blockade has already seized multiple tankers including a Russian-flagged vessel. Trump has used this display of power and military action to threaten other nations such as Greenland and Colombia. It is uncertain what action our government will take next, but it shows us that our President believes that he no longer needs congressional approval to act in this way and he is willing to use more force in the future.

Get to Know New Faculty at APHS

By Anna Pelov and Harper Savage

This school year at APHS, we have a significant number of new faculty and staff members. You may come across them throughout the building whether you're wandering in the science wing, the English wing, or if you're looking for an ice pack in the nurse's office. We had the opportunity of visiting these new staff members to help you get to know them a little better.

Ms. Krug has moved into Mr. Minkler's old classroom in the science wing as a new earth science teacher. So far this year, she has felt very supported by all of her new colleagues. She made a comment about loving Averill Park and all it has to offer. Prior to working at AP, Ms. Krug taught at Maple Hill, in Schodack, for seven years. When asked about why she wanted to become a teacher, she told us that she is an AP alumna, and during her time here she had lots of wonderful teachers. They provided a support system and guidance to help her grow from a very young age. Now that she has grown up, she wants to take all that they gave to her and "pay it forward" to a new generation. While she was in college, she "fell in love with the idea of sustainability" and decided that earth science was the pathway for her to take in order to prepare kids for the future while also encouraging a safe and sustained planet. At home, she enjoys playing sports like football and dancing. In her free time, she watches sports on TV and has an appreciation for reading. In the coming year, she is excited to see how her students grow, and connect with her coworkers.

After student-coaching with Coach Medici during the spring last year, Coach Marchello has joined our PE department at the high school as a PE teacher. She told us that her first year as a staff-member here has been going very well. She is very appreciative of her coworkers' support, has enjoyable classes, and is having fun getting to know all of her students. When Coach Marchello was younger, she worked as a camp counselor; she also has been involved in sports since she was a young kid. While she was in school, her teachers had a very big, positive impact on her as she grew up. Her PE teacher was someone she could always go to for advice or guidance, and Coach Marchello wants to be that kind of figure for her own students. When she's not in school, Coach Marchello loves to stay active. Playing various sports, working out, snowboarding, and simply being outdoors are all hobbies that she enjoys. Over the course of the year, she's excited to meet new students and build on the relationships she has with her current students. In addition, she is looking forward to improving her teaching skills, and to introduce and try new activities and lessons. Being able to watch students grow and have them feel comfortable in gym class, as well as trying new things to step out of their comfort zones, are also some aspects of the coming year that she is looking forward to.

Ms. St. James and Ms. Kipp are two fantastic new additions to the English department here at the high school. They both stated that their first years are going great, and they feel very supported by all of the other faculty members. Ms. St. James emphasized how engaging and helpful her students are. This is the first district she's ever taught at full time, but last year she was a substitute at Maple Hill and did a sub leave position for about a month and a half at Bethlehem.

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She believes teaching is a very rewarding job, and to see her students be inspired and become the best versions of themselves is a gift. She loves to read, write, ski, work out, and cook - she even used to make cooking videos on TikTok. Ms. St. James thinks that English class is a way to learn the skill of critiquing and critically thinking about sources and different forms of media. It is important to teach kids that they need to formulate their own opinions about things, learning to stop taking everything at face value and read between the lines. She sees English as a way to problem solve because we're always trying to figure out what the author is telling us. She is excited to go on a girls trip to Ireland with her sister this year!

This is also the first full time teaching position Ms. Kipp has had, but last year she student-taught for the entire year at Albany High School and Albany International Academy. "It was disorienting from having a teacher right there in the classroom with me where I could ask questions to then becoming the authority figure", she explained to us. She says that AP is definitely a lot different in terms of student population and size, but she loves the small community feel of the school and the way everybody helps one another. She wants to thank Ms. Gaboury especially for her love and role as a mentor. Ms. Kipp shared with us that she always knew deep down that she wanted to become a teacher. She wanted to be the same kind of cool and supportive teacher that she had during her own high school years for her students. However, she didn't take the traditional path - she wasn't 100% sure what would be best for her, so she started to explore her options at Siena College. After working in communications for a while, she decided to teach in Spain for a year; to dip her feet in the water and see how she felt teaching in a classroom. She found that she loved working with students and that it could be what she was meant to do, so she went back to Siena to get her Masters in teaching. She loves spending time with her two golden retrievers, her friends, trying new restaurants, going to concerts, and reading. She loves doing anything creative, and one of her goals is to write a book. She also makes jewelry, which she got into during the pandemic when she had nothing but free time. She has traveled to 16 countries, and hopes to put together a school trip to another country, which was another reason she was so excited to begin her new job. She is excited for the summer, but also to see how the rest of the year shakes out. She thinks it will be very interesting to compare where the students were in September to how they will be in June.

Ms. Finkel is the new Student Assistance Counselor. So far, she loves Averill Park. This is her first year officially working here, but she had an internship for two years prior. She also spent some time at Schenectady High School. Before she became a counselor, she started in communications. She came to the area for News 10 and later realized that communications wasn't for her, so she moved into education. For a while, she worked in higher education at St. Rose and Bryant & Stratten Colleges. From working with students all the time, she realized that she wanted to assist their plans and their futures, so she got her Masters in school counseling. This job, she says, is a little bit different from traditional counseling jobs and was a little bit unexpected, but she loves it. Her hobbies include playing with her son, watching her little sister cheer, spending time with her friends, cooking, and crafting. She also has a moms podcast with her best friend, where, together, they talk about how to support new moms. This year, she is going into the health classes here at the high school to talk about substance abuse and social and emotional learning. She is excited to bring in guests for the pre-prom assembly with the S.A.D.D. club. Be sure to check it out! Continued on page 6



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Down in the nurses office, we also have a new face! Ms. Hamilton joins us as a school nurse here at AP, which is her first district. She really likes AP, and feels that it was a good transition back to a 9-5 job after previously working in the hospital. "I wasn't sure how I was going to deal with the schedule," she admitted, "but it's been really nice!". Initially, Ms. Hamilton started out in law enforcement, spending a lot of time with psychiatric patients in the hospital as well as sexual assault victims. The work that she did during her time in the hospital made her realize that she didn't want to enforce the law, but she did want to help people. In her free time, Ms. Hamilton likes to run, hike, and read as much as she can. Besides that, she enjoys spending time with her husband and kids. As for the coming year, she is feeling pretty optimistic overall, but more specifically she is most excited to go on more hikes and travel to Boston for a baseball game. She told us to let students know that she is looking forward to meeting everybody, and is trying her absolute best to remember everyone's names.

Last but not least, Mr. McCarrick joins us as the new business teacher in room 227. He believes that his first year has been going very well so far. He was and still is impressed by the student body, the staff, and the sense of community here at Averill Park despite the smaller environment, which was a big change for him coming from work at Guilderland's district. As an undergraduate, Mr. McCarrick studied at his college's business school, but after working in software development for a while, he decided to switch to teaching. He didn't want his career to be defined by "key performance indicators" or "how much money [he] was making"; he wanted to make an impact. He is a big sports fan, and enjoys watching college sports. His favorite teams are the Yankees and the Bills. He also has a love for a wide range of music, and highlighted the Billy Joel and Bruce Springsteen posters hanging in his classroom. He is excited to continue revising his curriculum in order to make his course as engaging and interactive as possible, as well as expanding the business department to reach out to more students.

All of our new teachers and staff are so excited to be here at AP, and are looking forward to meeting everyone! They want you to know that it is okay to not know exactly what you are going to be doing or where you are headed in life. It is okay and important to take time to figure this out for yourself, you could end up where you least expect it and love it. Their doors are always open for anyone who is wanting or needing help, or even just somebody to chat with. They care about your success, and hope they can help you get there. Feel free to pop in, say hello, and get to know the new amazing staff that our school has gained this year!

French and Spanish Students Take a Trip Down to NYC!

By Spencer Sweet



On November 13th, Spanish and French 4 and 5 students took a trip down to New York City to explore the city and tour certain attractions that might relate to their courses. Averill Park's International Club paid for 50 French and Spanish students in both grades 11 and 12 to visit, along with Ms. Scheidel, Ms. Clark-Apalenz, Mr. Brown, Ms. Kipp, and Ms. Park, who accompanied students on this trip.

French students' first stop was for lunch at Paris Baguette, a French bakery, cafe, and sandwich shop known for their pastries, cakes, breads and coffee. Other French students went to an authentic sandwicherie. After getting some lunch, students embarked on their adventure to The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Students explored ancient Roman sculptures from the early BC's, including busts, coins, and even a sword! They also had an opportunity to view early impressionist works including some Monet and Van Gogh.

After exploring the Met, students took a trip to Upper Manhattan to view a disconnected part of The Met called The Cloisters. The Cloisters is a museum that is dedicated to the art, architecture, and overall culture of medieval Europe. The Cloisters features work from the 12th-15th century including stained glass windows, sculptures, and tapestries (most notably the famous Unicorn Tapestries).

The NYC trip for language students was a major success. Although it doesn't run every year, given the strong demand, there is potential for the event to be held again in later years.

SNAP Benefits - Building a Reserve Army

By Theodore Hart

The main sticking point for the government shutdown this fall was the continuance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). The administration cut SNAP benefits funding in retaliation to Democrats in Congress not approving a financial plan. This plan doesn't maintain the previous ACA (Affordable Care Act) subsidies for healthcare as more and more Americans struggle to stay afloat. The plan finally got approved after several democrats, such as Senator John Fetterman, caved following the lapse in funding. Rural areas are overrepresented on SNAP benefits and are typically bastions for Republican support. In addition to this, nearly 80% of counties with the largest food stamp increase voted for Trump in the 2020 election. In the United States, the federal government is the top employer of US citizens, with 33% of federal employees being military. Joining the military is one of the few ways to gain consistent social safety nets, such as free room and board, as well as college. This conflict comes as war with Venezuela approaches, and makes poor people in rural areas much more vulnerable to recruitment propaganda in their search for a better life.

Despite the Democratic party's prior and continued refusal to resist the Trump administration, the one time they attempted to stand their ground largely would have benefitted Trump voters themselves. The Trump administration is actively harming its own supporters. Looking at the facts, the president doesn't have the country's best interests in mind, and in fact he is even willing to undermine his own base of support in the name of austerity. Interestingly, this same level of financial scrutiny is never applied to the funding of the police, DHS, or military, despite the 8th consecutive audit failure of the Pentagon in 2025.

Also a factor to consider is the increased benefits to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers as deportations continue to escalate and power is centralized and advanced. These benefits, according to the ICE recruitment page, include health, dental, vision, life, and long-term care insurance, a retirement plan, a Thrift Savings Plan (similar to a 401(k)), a flexible spending account, an Employee Assistance Program, personal and sick leave days, and paid federal holidays. Other potential benefits are flexible work schedules, telework, tuition reimbursement, transportation subsidies, health and wellness programs, and access to fitness centers. As a large portion of the Trump voting bloc loses their access to food, a new opportunity to stay afloat and subsidized healthcare are offered to those who want to be part of his personal occupation of U.S. cities. These benefits have helped to more than double the number of ICE agents.

The coming imperial expansions (and subsequent military recruitment and funding) don't stop at Venezuela. Nations such as Cuba, Mexico, Greenland, Syria, Nigeria, and even Canada have had their sovereignty threatened by U.S. officials, either through direct military action or by stated goals. On Christmas day, Nigeria was bombed. On January 10, a series of "large scale attacks" on Syria were ordered. In Latin America, threats have been made to several governments, such as Cuba, Colombia, and Mexico, as part of an ideological return to the Monroe Doctrine after facing condemnation for the kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.



Trump stated that Cuba was "ready to fall" and officials have floated the idea of sanctions on the Island. Stephen Miller, a top aide to the president recently asserted that "We live in a world, in the real world, Jake, that is governed by strength, that is governed by force, that is governed by power. These are the iron laws of the world since the beginning of time.", when asked about the future of Greenland as it relates to the administration.

Although these potential conquests may seem potentially unrelated, we live in a nation where the military is one of the few paths to economic stability for many individuals. With this in mind, gutting social programs such as the ACA medical subsidies and weaponizing welfare programs such as SNAP benefits even further in conjunction with an increase in aggression can only mean so many things. The Trump administration needs foot soldiers for its pursuits both abroad and domestically. This can be achieved through several means, such as tightening the leash on the press, increasing nationalistic and "nativist" propaganda, and increasing desperation among the needy. Trump's advisors know very well the benefits given to ICE agents and the military, and they also know very well what making their base lose access to simple necessities of life can force people into doing in their search for social safety nets. An increase in aggression abroad and tightening authority in U.S. cities are not coincidences, and the motivations of these officials should be questioned.

Getting Ready for Your Trip to England/Italy or France

By Morgan Dier

Some of our lucky students at Averill Park are getting ready to make the incredible trip to England/Italy and France this April. This is an extremely exciting opportunity to explore and learn about a new and different culture; what's not exciting is being in a foreign country completely unprepared. So, here's what you need to know: The current exchange rate of the US Dollar to Euros (as of 1/1/26) is .85 euros per dollar. For the trip to Paris, Normandy, and Brittany, students will be provided with both breakfast and dinner, but should bring money to account for lunch, souvenir shopping, personal shopping, and emergency money. For a 9 day trip, a typical cafe or restaurant should run you about €10 to €30, while upscale restaurants and notoriously expensive airport food can range from €30 to €120+ depending on where you go and what you order. Overall, assuming you need 7 lunches with one or two high end meals, a safe bet would be to bring around €400, or \$470. Of course, if you spend your money right you can easily keep that number as low as €100 to €200.

Keep in mind you need to budget and save if you're looking to do some personal shopping in France in your free time. For moderate shopping (some clothes, accessories, and cool finds), a good budget would be around €100—about \$120. If you'd like to splurge a little, I recommend closer to €200. Souvenirs should run you about €100, with small ones being about €10 per item. That comes to about €800 on the high end or €400 if you spend smart. It's always a good idea to have extra money put aside in case of emergencies.

The best place to transfer your money would be at a bank or ATM in France. You could also get a debit card that doesn't charge transaction fees. Stand alone ATMs and airport kiosks tend to charge extra for foreign transaction fees, and it saves a ton to just avoid that all together. Make sure to not keep your money all in one place, and have a safe place to keep your money. Keep little cash in your wallet and extra cash and cards in a concealed pocket or pouch you can keep under your clothes. Don't exchange all your money at once and keep your cash in at least two different places for safety.



For the London and Rome trip, students will need to pay in both pounds and euros. In Rome, street food meals will end up being around €5, but casual, sit-down meals can run up to €30. Upscale restaurants can end up being €50+. In London, £10-£15+ will get you a cheap meal. More formal dining will cost you £25+, and fancy dining will end up £100+. The current exchange rate of US dollars to GB pounds is £0.75 per dollar, and students should either exchange money at a local ATM in London or get a card that doesn't charge foreign transaction fees.

Rome is typically considered to be slightly cheaper than Paris, with food, souvenirs, and personal shopping generally considered more affordable. That aside, high-end personal shopping and luxury goods tend to be sold for about the same. Rome is renowned for its high quality leather and its Italian coffee and espresso beans, so if you're looking for some nice souvenirs, those are some things that are worth looking at. Souvenirs and personal shopping in London tends to be significantly more expensive than that of France or Italy, with small souvenirs being £10-£25+. Keep in mind you should account for any personal spending you plan to do in your budget.

Common sense and general safety will keep you out of bad situations, but it's a good idea to stay alert and aware of your surroundings. Despite this, remember to enjoy yourself. Travelling with your friends and peers is an incredible opportunity to have before you graduate high school. Take photos, buy souvenirs, and embrace the local culture. This is a chance to experience a whole different country and try new things. Try the local foods and beverages that might not be available here in NY. Experience the foreign fine dining experience and go to local supermarkets. Be prepared for the culture shocks of being on an entirely different continent and do your best to be respectful and have fun.

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Getting Ready for Your Trip to England/Italy or France...continued

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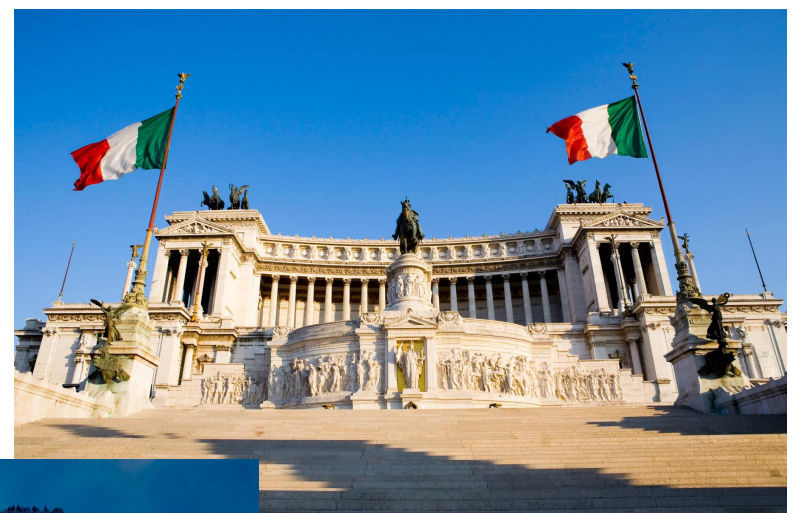
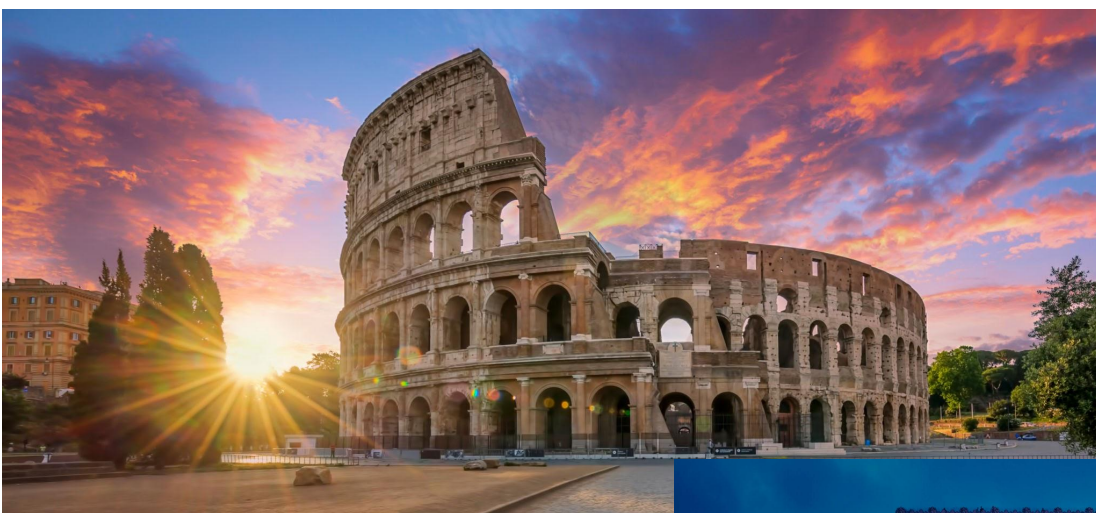
Travelling with tech can get pretty tricky, so consider some of these tips to be more prepared. Bringing a spare portable charger or two can save you from dead devices at any point during the trip, as there won't always be available outlets. These MUST be kept in carry on bags, as they typically aren't allowed in checked luggage. Make sure to bring a couple of charging cables and an adapter to plug in to foreign outlets. France and Italy primarily use type C and type E/F sockets, but Italy also quite commonly uses type L. The UK exclusively uses type G sockets. There are international outlet adapters that have multiple types of sockets in ones. You might also consider buying a voltage converter as all three countries use 230V voltage (the US uses a much lower voltage—120V).

Always assume that you'll need cellular data, and consider buying international phone service. The seemingly best overall service would be eSIM, and these usually charge about \$10-\$25 a week. These are convenient because you don't have to swap physical cards, but local SIM cards should be available at airports. Apps like Facebook messenger, iMessage, and WhatsApp allow international calls and texts using wifi, and don't have an extra charge. Downloading offline maps of the area you're in is a good idea in the case that you can't get a signal. Plane trips can get pretty uncomfortable, and from my personal experience can get pretty miserable. A couple purchases I'm planning to make are a foot-hammock for the plane and a pillow/headrest.

April in France is pretty warm, ranging from 40°F-65°F. It's pretty mild weather, with some rain showers. Brittany is the coldest and most spontaneous of the three France regions, with frequent rain and showers. London will almost definitely have almost constant light rain, with occasional showers. An April day in London ranges from 45°F-60°F, and can be pretty windy. Rome can have occasional showers as well, but rain will be much less common than that of London. Evenings will be cool, but overall it'll likely be a little sunnier and warmer than London. Make sure to pack a waterproof jacket and a small, foldable travel umbrella.

Skincare and hygienic supplies can be bought at the airport when you arrive, but if you plan on bringing your own, make sure they are packed in travel-sized containers no more than 100mL and in one clear, resealable quart-sized bag. In a checked bag, the restrictions are a little more lenient. You can pack sealed liquids, gels, creams, and aerosols of any size, but they have to be secured and sealed to prevent leaks. Highly flammable items are obviously prohibited.

Tourists are easy targets for scams, and safety is important for trips like this. Pickpockets and street ATMs are common things to be aware of, but some are a lot more creative. One that seems to be weirdly common in Paris is the panhandler-cup scam. They'll place a clear cup of coins in the middle of the sidewalk, in hopes that someone will kick it over. If this happens, just keep walking. The tamer version of this scam is that you feel bad and obliged to give money, but in some cases the person will yell at you and demand you pay them for knocking over their cup. Avoid strangers offering free stuff (bracelets, flowers, souvenirs, etc.) or dropping things seemingly innocently in front of you. Often, scammers will charge you or pressure you for cash immediately afterwards. Streetgames and knock-off designer goods are also pretty common scams. A cross-body bag that can fit under a jacket or sweater is a good idea to protect your phone and wallet. Keep your bags zipped and in front of you.



Local Elections

By Lana Valachovic

The November 2025 Rensselaer County local elections led to many changes in local government seats and there are many highlights to cover. The 2025 General Election included the races for positions such as county executive, county legislature, county clerk, family court judge, and state supreme court justice. In order to vote in elections you must be 18 years old, a US citizen, and a resident of the county for 25 days. We have a 19-member county legislature and a party needs at least 13 members in order to have a two-thirds majority which would allow it to vote and act in its favor. Republicans have held the majority since 2014, however in this election they lost two seats and their majority position. Republican Robert Troiano stepped down to take a post in North Hempstead. He will be replaced by Democrat Siela Bynoe who serves on the Westbury Board of Education and ran on the Working Families Party line. This means that when she took office on January 1, there were now 11 Republicans and 8 Democrats, pushing the Republicans further away from the majority. These legislators have four-year terms and are elected in every other general election. Approximately 40,000 people voted in the Rensselaer County election with about 40,034 votes for the two executive candidates, Steve McLaughlin and Tiffani Silverman. The race between these candidates was close with 53.9% going to Republican McLaughlin and 45.98% to Democrat Silverman. McLaughlin will be serving his third term. Participation in elections is important and determines the way our county, state, and country is run. One vote has a larger impact than we think. So when you turn 18, register to vote!



Halloween Costume Contest at APHS

By Harper and Vivian Savage

Last semester, on October 30th, our Journalism advisors put together the Halloween Costume Competition where students showed off their spooky spirit; with a chance to win amazing prizes!

Some students chose to dress as characters, while others stuck to more traditional, classic costumes. There was a noticeably big turnout from the freshman class, who received the most awards. The award for “Most Unique” went to Charlotte Montgomery, a 9th grader, who wowed the judges with her Mad Hatter costume. The winner for “Funniest” goes to Princeton Richardson for his Fat Albert costume. The “Scariest” award goes to Dakari Garo, who was decked out in full zombie attire. The “Best Duo” was Kimberly Gallagher and Isabella Garner as an Angel and the Devil. Last, but definitely not least, the “Best Teacher(s)” costume award goes to the Science Department Gnomes. We would also like to include two honorable mentions; Emily Bauer as a Slasher Victim, and Connor Hughes as a Medieval Knight.

There were three prizes awarded to those selected for the categories of Most Unique, Funniest, and Scariest. These recipients were given the choice of gift cards from our local sponsors including the Sand Lake Merchant, Unbreakable Nutrition, and Crossroads. A major thank you goes out to these businesses for their kind and generous support.

The Halloween Costume contest continues to be an outlet for students to express their creativity and festivity for the season. We are proud to provide opportunities for kids at school to create a fun environment for everybody. Thank you to all of our dedicated participants!



“Ceasefire” In the Gaza Strip

By Theodore Hart

With the oversight of the United States, Qatar, and Egypt, a ceasefire between the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and Hamas has been brokered. A ceasefire is an agreement to *pause* military operations for a time, as opposed to an armistice which would signal a formal end to the conflict. Ceasefires, however, are often a first step in de-escalation, as well as an important time for civilians to receive relief and a respite from violence. Aid organizations such as Doctors Without Borders, the Palestine Children’s Relief Fund, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency have welcomed this, taking it as an opportunity to provide lifesaving care as well as food and supplies into Gaza, which has been under siege since Oct. 7, 2023. The ceasefire was officially approved on October 10 of 2025, following Israel’s acceptance after a long period of belligerence. However, Israel has violated the ceasefire agreement at least 969 times from October 10 to December 28, 2026 according to the Government Media Office in Gaza. The office also reports that Israel shot at civilians 298 times, raided residential areas beyond the “yellow line” 54 times, bombed and shelled Gaza 455 times, and demolished peoples’ properties on 162 occasions. The nation also detained 45 Palestinians over the past month.

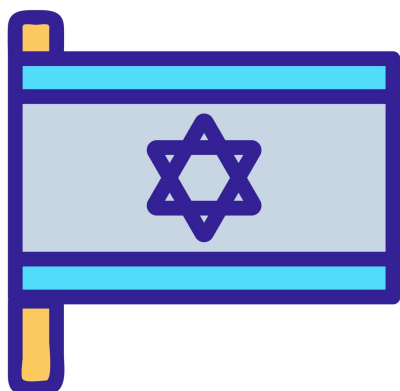
Many organizations such as Islamic Relief, as well as several United Nations Countries, such as South Africa, have been calling on the international community to demand a ceasefire to provide relief to civilians. Recent increased pressure from the U.S. and Qatar contributed to the current passage. As part of the ceasefire, the Rafah crossing was reopened, allowing for displaced Palestinians to return to their bombed out homes. The ceasefire also entails hostage exchanges, with Hamas releasing the 20 out of 251 still surviving hostages from the October 7 attacks (the rest of whom have been killed by Israeli military action in the strip). Israel has released almost 2,000 Palestinian hostages from its jails in addition to starting the process of corpse returns to the Gaza Strip. The ceasefire also entailed the Israeli military pulling out of the Gaza Strip, but over half is still under occupation by the IDF. In Gaza, 1.6 million people are expected to face severe hunger problems through next April. This represents a staggering 76% of the 2.1 million people estimated to still be alive on January 1st, 2025. In October and November, 100,000 people faced starvation. Famine has been declared in Gaza City. Despite this, aid into the strip is still heavily limited. The ceasefire allowed for some aid to make it to bomb-weary Palestinians, but according to Oxfam, almost \$50 million worth of food, water, tents, and medical supplies is being held up by Israel at border crossings and warehouses.



Phase two of the ceasefire involves disarmament talks. The phased plan suggests the disarmament of Hamas. However, the leader of Hamas abroad, Khaled Meshaal, has said that the Palestinian people face a threat from the guns of the IDF, which have killed at least 424 Palestinians, and injured 1,199 since the ceasefire as of Jan 7, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Meshaal has a “vision in which we have guarantees that these weapons are hidden, kept, not used, and not paraded. And we offered a long truce of seven or 10 years”. Palestinian voices, while understanding that violence is cruel and should be entirely avoided, feel that they are unfairly targeted, as the Israeli government (the main source of casualties, including many civilians and children) does not have the same asked of them, and fear disarming could be opening themselves to further violence at the hands of the IDF. Despite the many flagrant violations of the ceasefire by Israeli operatives, Donald Trump has stated Israel has, “lived up to the plan 100%.”

Absent from most coverage of the ceasefire, the West Bank is still under occupation by Israeli citizens in search of living space protected by IDF soldiers. Their presence there is illegal under international law. The Israeli citizens set up large settlements, and Palestinian farmers and citizens in surrounding areas report beatings, destruction of property, and verbal abuse. However, these Israelis fall under the protection of the IDF, so retaliation of any kind, even simply defense of property and self, can lead to disastrous consequences for residents of the West Bank. The Knesset, Israel's governing body, has also passed a resolution to illegally annex the territory currently governed by the Palestinian Authority.

The ceasefire was a welcome break from death and bombing for civilians, but as Israel continues to violate the terms, the longevity is unclear. The “yellow” line that marked Israel’s current limits of military occupation has been expanded, and bombing has resumed in the South, including in the city of Rafah. Palestinian citizens wish to live normal lives governed by themselves, and the possibility of that shrinks with every new civilian shot by an IDF soldier. It also provokes more action from Hamas, retaliating against the violations of sovereignty and continued ethnic cleansing shown to them by the Israeli government.



A New Program at AP... Or is it?

By Spencer Sweet

This year Averill Park implemented a new program, the Business Program. The introduction of the Business Program is especially interesting because the program isn't entirely new to Averill Park. The program is returning after a 15 year gap. With aims to allow more variety within our programs and offer students more opportunities and pathways to enrich learning.

This program is offering 4 different courses all taught by Mr. McCarrick, a new teacher at APHS this year. The courses include Personal Finance, a half year class which promotes financial literacy for students and grants them basic knowledge of business. Marketing is another course offered, also a half year course. It covers the history of marketing, developing new products, managing brands, advertising strategies, and global markets. Entrepreneurship is a half year course, which includes learning about business planning, market analysis, types of business ownership, and the legal environment of owning and operating a business.

Finally, the Career Exploration Internship Program which can be either a half year or full year course, allows students to intern at local businesses and be trained by those in the field they have chosen. This internship program allows students to work alongside professionals and explore career options at real job sites. Nora Ring, a junior, is one student taking CEIP. Nora says, "It gives me the chance to try out different parts of a job, and help determine which tasks are enjoyable to me and which are not, so that I can get an idea of a future career." Nora is interning at Love Story by Angela's Bridal, a wedding dress boutique in East Greenbush. Nora also states, "This class has provided real world experience that helped me explore my interests with business. I was able to build skills, and make more informed decisions about career paths..."



Before working at Averill Park, Mr. McCarrick worked at Guilderland High School as a TA for special ed classrooms. Previously he worked in software sales for tech startups. He attended SUNY New Paltz, where he earned his degree in marketing and management. He is also currently working on his masters for business.

Mr. McCarrick believes that he missed out on the opportunity to learn about financing and business when he was in high school and aims to give all of his students the job readiness skills acquired from his classes. He wants all of his students leaving high school with financial literacy and specifically with his CEIP class, an idea of what their career will look like. Mr. McCarrick hopes to expand the business program in upcoming years. Not only in offering more blocks of currently existing classes, but also with the implementation of new courses. He brought up the idea of a sports marketing course, as well as a finance business and law course. Mr. McCarrick ultimately has felt very welcomed in the district, with eager students and a kind faculty.

Charlie Kirk's Assassination: What Does This Mean for the State of Politics in America?

By Spencer Sweet

Recently, there has been a lot of traction on the internet over the assassination of Charlie Kirk. Charlie Kirk, born in 1993, was a Christian, right-wing political activist. He was a very prominent figure in right-wing media, hosting his own show, *The Charlie Kirk Show*, as well as writing several books. Kirk also founded Turning Point USA, an organization that advocates for conservative politics on high school, college, and university campuses.

Kirk was most famously known for his debates held at college and university campuses. He often spoke at TPUSA (Turning Point USA) events in which he would invite students with differing views than himself to “prove him wrong”. Through these public events, which were often also published online, Kirk gained a lot of followers. He was described as “symbolizing hope for the Christian right” by *The New York Times*. While gaining popularity, Kirk also faced much criticism, and was described as racist and overall xenophobic.

On September 10, 2025, while presenting at a TPUSA event at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, Charlie Kirk was fatally shot in the neck. Two days later, 22-year-old Tyler James Robinson was arrested for the suspected murder of Kirk. He was charged with aggravated murder, a felony discharge of a firearm causing serious bodily injury, two counts of obstruction of justice, two counts of witness tampering, and commission of a violent offense in the presence of a child.

In general, Charlie Kirk was a very influential figure. He was both beloved and criticized by many people. However, his assassination speaks volumes about the political state of our country. Trump blamed Kirk's killing on radical left wing advocates, before the killer was even convicted, which shows the political division in our country and how fast even our President jumps to conclusions. Political violence is only growing in America and even becoming normalized. In these past few years, political violence has seemed to cross a line. Issues of differences in politics are now solved through violence. There is a lack of common bonds between Democrats and Republicans, which makes it easier to jump to such drastic decisions which result in tragic events such as this. Our ability to compromise has been lost and threatens the very democratic nature of our country. It begs the questions of whether or not religious pluralism can even exist in the US. The death of Charlie Kirk truly shows the division of politics in the US and is a sad reflection of how our society now functions.



APHS 2025 Educators of the Year

by Naomi Harris and Morgan Dier

The 2025 Education Foundation Gala celebrates education and community in the Averill Park Central School District and honors two educators in the district who have gone above and beyond, inspiring others with the work they do. Auction proceeds and donations go to supporting innovative education projects that aren't funded through the normal school fund channels.

At our annual Education Foundation Gala, Sean Organ was given the award of Educator of the Year for his dedicated work in and out of school. Mr. Organ is a social studies teacher at Averill Park High School teaching classes like sociology and participation in government, but he also spends lots of time on the court as our girl's team's varsity basketball coach. In the classroom, he teaches a very relaxed class using many different techniques like telling stories or watching videos to help his students understand the material. With an important class like participation in government, we're glad that he finds a method to convey information in an engaging way.

The time the student athletes He has led these athletes this season and many He's even been inducted into the Upstate New York Basketball Hall of Fame dedication to our girl's team. Mr. Organ does lots to make sure his students are on *and* off of the court which makes him incredibly deserving to receive this award as

Michael Blostein one of our Educators of the Year for his hard work and passion in making the APHS its fullest potential. He one of his students to grow as musicians, and not just music theory and notes, but life lessons that they may carry with them into their future. He gives his everything towards his work: teaching 3 ensembles, conducting for the community orchestra, conducting the pit orchestra (and often arranging the parts himself), and even teaching private lessons on his own time—all while performing at his own gigs and shows.

His dedication has not only inspired students and teachers alike, but the growth that the music department has seen under his guidance is monumental. The jazz ensemble alone has almost doubled in size, and the growth of our other ensembles is incredible. Most all of his students can attest to his devotion to his work, and he carries with him the memories of all his former and current students that have brought him here today. Mr. Blostein goes above and beyond in everything he does, and we are honored to recognize him as a 2025 Educator of the year.



Mr. Organ spends with doesn't go unnoticed. to victory four times times in the past years. into the Upstate New of Fame for his basketball team. Mr. sure his students are on *and* off of the court incredibly deserving to Educator of the Year. was also honored as the Year for his hard making the APHS its fullest potential. He one of his students to people, teaching them notes, but life lessons

Propositions - Beyond the Yard Signs

By Anastazia Valachovic

Though most high school students aren't yet old enough to vote in local elections, we still hear all about them. We always see commercials advertising for campaigns, are mailed flyers telling us about candidates, and hear of fundraising events and canvassing efforts to appeal to voters. One thing you cannot miss are those especially striking yard signs that plaster the sides of roads with tons of names. However, what people mainly don't think about are the Propositions on the back of the ballot. We always hear a number, but don't necessarily know what it means. Except for a couple of vague sentences on the ballot, there's not much to help us understand what people are voting for. This past year, when local elections were held on November 4th, New York voted to pass Proposition 1. Most students cannot vote, but what happens now determines the world we will soon take over. Which leads me to the question; what was Prop. 1, and what does it mean for New York?

This amendment authorized the expansion and usage of land at the Mt. Van Hoevenberg Olympic Sports Complex. With the passage of this proposal, 323 acres of forest preserved land was granted to the Sports Complex, to be used for Nordic skiing and sports training. However, at least 2,500 acres of new forest land must be added to the Adirondack Park Forest Preserve. So why was the amendment on the ballot in the first place? The Sports Complex is actually inside the Adirondack Preserve, but New York law said this land should be kept as "wild forest lands." Being built on protected land, the Complex violated the state constitution, and environmental activists pointed this out. Though reserving 2,500 acres for nature preserves will strengthen the goals for protecting wildlife, this amendment just permits the work that was already done (and illegally). Is it worth it to sacrifice a small amount of land to gain much more land? The Adirondacks are quite a popular place for tourism, which in turn supports Lake Placid as a world class training site. Around 52% of NY residents voted to pass the proposal, while 48% rejected it. Though the vote was very split, I cannot help but wonder if people really knew what they were voting for. This just used our state constitution to "fix" a mistake after it occurred!

It is insanely important to learn about and understand what resolutions are being passed. Two years ago, in 2024, we saw a similar struggle to understand what was going on with the Equal Rights Amendment. The proposition appealed to amend section 11, article 1 of New York's constitution. This section had previously prohibited discrimination based on only race, color, creed, and religion. The proposed amendment would add ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and its outcomes, and autonomy and reproductive healthcare. Yard signs in support of this proposition exclaimed "Protect abortion & our freedoms," while those in opposition pressed to "Save girls sports." Both these messages sound promising to someone ignorant of the situation, but sadly, things are easily twisted without context. This proposition only sought to improve upon constitutional rights. Someone who truly knew what this amendment meant would know that to shoot it down would be to deny our loved ones constitutional protections. Though the amendment passed with over 62%, 37% still voted to reject it.

These two propositions are so much more than a few sentences on the back of a ballot. And it's not just these two. Whether the argument on the table is about a few acres of land or our inalienable rights, we need to understand the intricacies. Enjoy your yard signs, but know what they really mean. Our future depends on it.

Interview with Veronica Cardillo '25

By Anastazia Valachovic

Veronica Cardillo, who graduated in 2025, was a previous editor of Journalism club, and loved being a part of creating the Chronicle. Now, she is a first year student in college, and is pursuing her passions in Communications and Journalism. I interviewed her to see how college is going, and asked if she had any helpful advice for students who were interested in learning more about college life.



What are things you wish you had known before coming to college?

“In this moment, I really wish I had asked on a college tour or during Freshman Orientation, how the bus system, printing, and mailing works. These are basic questions that I went into the semester without fully understanding and I wish I had asked them earlier on. With this, I advise you that if you have a question nagging you, just ask it. It is better to have a question answered in the moment than not.

As I am registering for classes for next semester, I am realizing that you don't have to comprise your course load only of major classes. Take the opportunity to try new classes and expand your horizons. After talking to my older sister who is a senior in college, to my parents, and my adviser, I feel comfortable allowing myself to have fun and try new classes. I would absolutely love to take an astronomy class and psychology or sociology class in the near future, and I don't want to shy away from those opportunities.

When packing for college, it might be a good idea to bring fall clothes with you, especially if you know you aren't coming home until later into the semester. You want to be as comfortable as you can be! Also, when packing, be sure to bring a thermometer, a heating pad, cold medicine, a first aid kit, and hopefully you will never need it, but it is a good idea to bring a bucket if you ever get the stomach flu. It's always best to be prepared than not.”

How do you get involved in clubs, and what advice do you have to more easily make friends?

“At the beginning of this semester, we had a club fair outside of our student union. What was really fun about the fair is that there seemed to be a club for almost everybody. There was an Italian club, Club swim, TV club, and Astronomy club, just to name a few. I think just putting yourself out there and just signing up for even one club is a good idea. As a reminder, I think it's important to remember that just putting your name down on an informational sheet doesn't bind you to a club but opens the door up to a new opportunity. These are truly spaces for you to socialize, have fun, and expand your horizons. Another easy way to get involved and socialize on campus is by attending campus and residence hall events. For instance, just a few weeks ago, my residence hall threw a game of Granny which I attended, and I can definitely say I had a blast! I had so much fun running around on our fifth floor and bonding with my fellow residents. As a piece of advice, if you are running away from Granny, do not wear slippers, I have learned my lesson.”

“All in all, I think putting yourself out there and trying new things is important. There will always be spaces for you to move out of your comfort zone and socialize. And remember, everyone is in the same boat and just trying to get their footing.”

How are your studies going for your personal major?

“This semester I am taking four classes, two courses specific to my major and two core classes that every student has to take no matter what their major is. My professors are great, and I am truly enjoying my classes. Already, I feel like I have learned so much and am excited to continue my academic journey. I have truly enjoyed being able to take classes pertaining to my major, Communications-Journalism. I have always loved writing and over the past few years, I have just fallen in love with journalism. And I am just beyond happy that I have been given this opportunity to study journalism and have it be a part of my academic life.

I will say that I have learned that time management is extremely important in college with the balancing of school and your personal life. It certainly has felt different from high school with how I tackle my workload. There has definitely been an adjustment period. I have found that using a planner, a physical calendar, and Google Calendar can be extremely important in scheduling my days throughout the week.”

Continued on page 16...

Interview with Veronica Cardillo... continued

What advice would you give to high schoolers who are worried about college?

“Looking at the college process as a whole I feel like there are generally two big worries: how do I start the process (applications, letter of recommendations, essays, etc.) and what do I do after applying (choosing a college, worries about the weeks leading up to college, etc.).

If you are worried about the application process of college, I highly recommend that you start early. When I was going into my senior year, I started my personal essay for the Common App over the summer, which I found to be quite helpful. Overall, I would give the advice to start early and stay on top of everything, so it doesn't pile up on you. Give yourself this grace, even if it's just making your Common App account or writing a paragraph of your personal or supplemental essay. I would also give the advice of asking for letters of recommendation early on into the school year as to give your recommenders enough time.

Once you have submitted your applications and start hearing back from colleges, you are then left with the question, what school will I choose? This is a question that could be quick to answer or take weeks, or possibly even months to answer. Personally, I found it helpful to make a spreadsheet with all the colleges I applied to and compare/contrast them. Beyond the spreadsheet, I found it helpful to research the courses offered by each college for my major and compare them. It is a hard decision to make, but at the end of the day listen to your heart and trust your gut. You'll get there and you'll make the right decision.

After committing to a school, you are then left with another list of unknowns. If you are worried about the actual process of going to college, first take a deep breath. As exciting as it is to go to college, you may feel nervous and stressed about a variety of things, whether it's about being far from home, living by yourself, being placed in a new atmosphere, or for something entirely different. It's both a liberating experience and stressful experience all in one. But trust me, you'll get through it. Over the summer, to quell my college nerves, I just stuck to my checklist of college necessities and tried my best to live in the moment. Now, I won't say when I moved into my dorm that I was a hundred percent calm, cool, and collected and was without any stress, because that isn't true. There were plenty of unknowns that filled my mind, however, as I moved through orientation and the first few weeks of classes, my jitters began to dissipate. In all, it is completely natural to be worried about college at any point in the process but just know that you will get through it one step at a time.”

Have you found there to be any major differences between high school and college?

“There have definitely been some big differences between high school and college. The biggest one I have found is time management. In high school, I would often make sure that every assignment I did was perfect. However, in college you will need to draw the line somewhere – honestly this advice can be applied to high school as well. As I said earlier, if you spend too much time on one assignment then you might be taking away from time that could've been spent on other assignments. It truly is a balancing act. With this, I would say time management is very, very important!

At the beginning of the semester, your professors will give you a syllabus that may have exam dates, paper deadlines, and assignments on them. Sometimes your professors will remind you of these dates, but it is ultimately up to you to stay up to date on deadlines. What I have found to be helpful is writing important dates from the syllabus onto my calendar, so I won't forget.

In high school, I didn't really have an established sleep schedule, but I will say being well-rested is extremely important in college. Don't push yourself to work late nights, especially if it's not needed, again time management is a necessity. If you aren't a coffee person and don't want to become one, then I suggest you take care of your sleep schedule.”

What should upperclassmen remember when preparing for and eventually attending college?

- Even though it may feel awkward, on the first day of classes ask for somebody's number from each of your classes. It's helpful to have another person's number in case you miss a class.
- What I have found to be helpful is making a folder in my Google Drive for each class. As well, I have made google docs for each of my classes that are dedicated to lecture notes.
- When going on college tours (or you could call about this), I think it is important to ask about the meal plan. For instance, at my school when I enter the dining hall, they will swipe my student ID and that will count for one meal swipe, and I can get as much or as little food as I want. However, this isn't the case for every college and university. For instance, at my sister's college they have dining dollars and the cost of their meal is determined by its weight – the heavier the meal, the higher the cost. With this comparison, I think it's worth it to ask about a school's meal plan.
- Check your college's website to make sure that anything you put up in your dorm matches up with fire safety regulations.
- Make sure you have the numbers of public safety in your contacts.
- Remember to find a balance between school and your personal life.
- As a pro tip, pack the car the night before move-in-day and when there is still daylight. You will appreciate it, and your parents will most definitely appreciate it! Then towards the middle and end of the spring semester, if you have breaks leading up to the end of the year, bring things home incrementally that you know you won't need anymore. It will truly make for a much easier trip back home at the end of the year.

Eva's Top 2 Albums

By Eva Santacroce

DeBÍ TiRAR Más FOTOS - Bad Bunny

Bad Bunny's 7th studio album has won 2 Grammys now and has become a staple of Latin music in many homes. The album holds a beautiful meaning of cultural identity, and explores his Puerto Rican roots and the emotions of loss and love.



Art of Loving - Olivia Dean

The Art of Loving is Olivia Dean's 2nd album. Just the other night she won best new artist for this album at the Grammy awards, putting her on the map. The album is smooth and calming with jazzy undertones. It can only be described as beautiful; the instrumentals are perfect and her voice fits her style perfectly.



Eva's Top 10 Songs

1. DtMf - Bad Bunny
2. Nice to Each Other - Oliva Dean
3. Track 10 - Charli XCX
4. Earrings - Malcolm Todd
5. Living Legend - Lana Del Ray
6. Thought I Was Dead - Tyler, the Creator
7. PUNK ROCK - A\$AP ROCKY
8. To Philly -Del water Gap
9. Pushing it Down and Praying - Lizzy McAlpine
10. All Night - Beyoncé

Trivia Quiz

- 1) Name one of the five APHS teachers who are currently teaching in the same classroom they once learned in as a student.
- 2) What teacher's father was an administrator in the Averill Park Central School District?
- 3) What current APHS teacher is married to a recently retired APHS teacher?
- 4) What current APHS teachers are currently married?
- 5) Name an APHS teacher who is also a certified APCSD bus driver.
- 6) Name a teacher whose own children were/are students at APHS.
- 7) Name a staff member whose own children were/are students at APHS
- 8) Which hall monitor is an actual grandma to two current APHS students?
- 9) Which teacher has a father who was a teacher at APHS?
- 10) Which APHS teachers were once/are AMS teachers?

- 1) Ms. Bailey, Mr. Giannone, Ms. Kehn, Mr. Keller, Mr. Kozlowski
- 2) Ms. Marruffo (Dr. D. Wayne Johnson, Asst. Superintendent, Principal)
- 3) Ms. Engel
- 4) Mr. and Mrs. Dutcher
- 5) Mr. Duff, Mr. Kozlowski
- 6) Ms. Bailey, Mr. Kline, Mrs. Gaboury, Ms. Schmidt, Mrs. Agnew, Mr. Zehnder, Mr. Organ, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Archembault, Mr./Mrs. Dutcher, Mrs. Fertito, Mr. Duff, Ms. Scheidel, Mr. Gildersleeve,
- 7) Mrs. Perez, Mrs. Mein, Mrs. Houser, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Napoli, Mr. (Spencer) Hughes, Mrs. Doherty, Mrs. King, Mrs. Wehman, Mrs. Nitz, Mrs. Chambers
- 8) Mrs. Engwer
- 9) Dr. Reddy
- 10) Mrs. Muzakes, Ms. Schmidt, Mrs. Emmons, Mr. Blostein, Ms. Rees, Mr. Reyes, Ms. Caboot