

Interview With the Class Speaker



Pictured: The Class of 2022

By Eleanor Jacobs
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

On June 21st, the Class of 2022 will gather for their graduation ceremony. Alongside receiving their diplomas and a sense of closure, students will also get the chance to hear from several of their faculty advisors and classmates. One of these speakers, the 2022 Class Speaker, is a Senior selected to present a speech

on behalf of the entire grade that will acknowledge and represent the experiences of the entire graduating class. This position is determined through a rigorous process; a 3-4 minute speech is presented to a Selection Committee composed of various faculty members before committing to an in-person audition.

Samantha Renzulli, this year's Class Speaker, aims to leave her classmates

with parting words that will resonate with their collective time at Warde. Her inspiration came from a deal of reflection: "The ideas for my speech came from reflecting on how we grow, and what I determined was that we grow through our questions."

She also hopes to emphasize the power of the questions one asks, and how one can reframe these questions and their thinking. "Our "why" is what propels us,

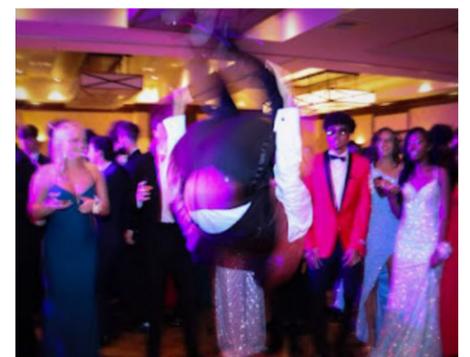
our passions... Those are the questions we should ask."

In addition to Samantha, '22 Valedictorian Sneha Sunder and Salutatorian Karina McMahon will be offering speeches to the class. The Graduation Ceremony will be held on Warde's campus and offer a final farewell to the Seniors before their futures take them elsewhere and beyond. Congratulations!

The Senior Prom Send Off

By Sreejita Patra
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, June 4th, from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M., Fairfield Warde seniors attended their final high school prom. The dance took place at the hotel Trumbull Marriott Shelton, after a ticket-buying window from May 2nd to May 20th. Reception of the event quality was generally positive, with Warde senior and Focus member Evan Papageorge saying he found the food "perfect as a snack to keep [attendees] going" and the music "great for dancing." Due to the pandemic and lack of traditional school events in recent years, prom for the Class of '22 held



deeper significance than prom typically had for classes prior. Another Warde senior and Focus member, Ana Cruz, thought "it [was] nice to be back to somewhat normal, and be able to enjoy prom with all [her] friends and classmates after a lot of uncertainty of what [their] senior year was going to look like." By all accounts, it seems as though senior prom '22 served as a perfect send-off for Warde's upcoming graduates.

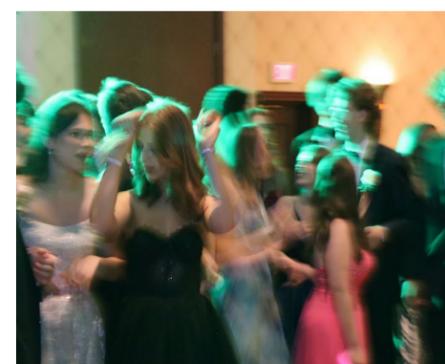


Photo Credit: Gabi Ivaniviciute

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Blood Drive

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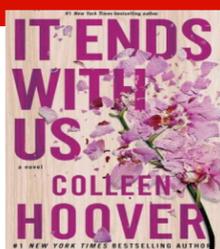
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Congratulations Class of 2022!

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Mr. McGarry and Mr. Donlon

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Readers are encouraged to submit guest articles and letters to the editors. These should be submitted to wardefocus@gmail.com and must be signed, although names may be withheld from letters upon request.

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Student Government Returns to Warde

By Karina McMahon
STAFF WRITER

It has been a long time coming since Warde reinstated student elections. For most students - both current and alums - elections are something foreign, maybe seen in teen movies, but not in actuality. This spring, however, class elections were reestablished, a development which will certainly leave a lasting impact on student government at Warde.

Planning student elections from the ground up was no easy task. Even the smallest details required much deliberation from the individuals who initiated and executed this project. This group consisted of Mrs. MacIntosh, an event coordinator at Warde, and Karina McMahon and Daniela Gomez, seniors who have experience in student government and wanted to formalize it as a part of their senior experience. The group ultimately formed a strong structure for the government that will facilitate Warde's student voices for the years to come.

The government is set up deliberately. First, each class, starting with the Class of 2024 and Class of 2025 (this is not applicable to the Class of 2023), will have four representative members: one president and three vice presidents, one from Fitts, Townsend, and Pequot. Ms. MacIntosh hopes that these roles would bring more "organization and responsibility to the members of each class." Ideally, the president will be a representative on Paul Cavanna's Principal's Council and oversee the VPs of each house, who will

represent both their class and house. These positions have no term limits, however, elected students will have to re-run in each election. The terms consist of one year for ninth grade representatives, one year for tenth grade representatives, and two years for eleventh grade representatives, who will also represent their class in twelfth grade.

To earn their positions, students were required to campaign by creating fliers, social media posts, and promotional videos to inform the student body on their goals. This process was instated largely to avoid the elections becoming a popularity contest by proving that each candidate was passionate and ambitious. During the two-week campaign period, a group of nearly twenty candidates were hard at work; in the month of May, excited chatter about elections filled the halls and the doors of classrooms in Warde were barely visible through all the creative student posters on which they were pasted.

Beyond the structural importance of a formal student government, there is a crucial opportunity to amplify student voice. "We want to give more ownership to students in the school," Ms. Mac states. Not only will students who hope to ignite change have the chance to do so, but students who are less comfortable assuming these large roles have a say in who is being elected to represent their class. Previously, this responsibility was primarily granted to guidance counselors, who played a major role in selecting students for various

school councils.

When election day rolled around on May 23rd, a diverse group of candidates from the Class of 2024 and 2025 were elected. The Class of 2025 student representatives are president Jeremiah Massillon, VP of Fitts Lily Morgan, VP of Townsend Joseph Drew, and VP of Pequot Jayri Engram. From the Class of 2024, representatives include President Sam Jeffrey, VP of Fitts Hayden Lee, VP of Townsend Samantha Wiggetman, and VP of Pequot George Bentley.

Right now, these wonderful students cradle in their hands the beginning of a new Warde, one that champions students and places them on the front lines of change.

As Ms. Mac says, "The impact this will have on Warde is huge." After all, this is more than just student government - it's a step in the movement towards greater student agency.

Congratulations to the Class of 2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian!

By Samantha Renzulli
EDITOR

The Warde Focus offers congratulations to The Class of 2022 Valedictorian, Sneha Sunder, and The Class of 2022 Salutatorian, Karina McMahon. Sneha Sunder will be pursuing Economics on a Premedical Track at the University of Michigan. Karina McMahon will be pursuing Business at the University of Notre Dame. Their dedication to their studies is admirable, and so too is the warmth of both of their spirits. Best of luck to them in their continued education!



Valedictorian Sneha Sunder



Salutatorian Karina McMahon



The Warde Focus is Online!
Scan to read more!

Why Are Students Taking AP Classes?

By Mary Harvey
STAFF WRITER

In recent years, AP enrollment has increased greatly, both the amount of students taking an AP and the amount of AP classes per student. More AP classes have been made available to younger students, causing them to feel the pressure of 'needing' to take more classes. Every year there are over-achievers, taking more AP classes than most. However, the amount of AP classes once considered to be too many is now considered normal. Competition for spots in top colleges has created an atmosphere of pressure, forcing students to take an unreasonable amount of courses to increase their chances.

Students attribute the main source of this pressure to be college admissions. Acceptance rates have plummeted in recent years, and that is translating into course selection for younger grades. Looking at these trends,

students feel that they need to take an exorbitant amount of classes just to be considered for a spot. One teacher who has multiple AP classes says, "The college application process has gotten exponentially competitive over the last decade, and so many students want to stand out." Younger students are feeling the pressure build. One sophomore said, "I feel like I have a lot more pressure than students in past years to take harder classes. College admissions get more and more competitive every year, and I'm trying to keep up and be a competitive candidate." There is a lack of clarity from college admissions officers considering what they actually want to see on a transcript. The student also said, "I also feel pressure from my future self, I would hate to look back and feel like I didn't do enough when I had the chance". Students are left with the idea that if they are rejected, the reason could be a lack of rigor on their transcripts. This causes them to over commit to a heavy

course load without questioning how much work they realistically have time for.

When colleges review a transcript, they look at the courses taken versus the courses available to take. This way if a school doesn't have many AP classes, the students there aren't punished for taking less than another student from a different school. However, this also works inversely. When a school offers more APs, the students there are 'expected' to take more. At Warde, the offered AP courses have increased massively. For example, for the 2019 school year sophomores were able to take 5 AP courses listed in the catalog. For the 2022 school year, that number jumped to 10 AP courses. Some new classes have been created, but many prerequisites have been dropped to enable younger students to take harder classes. Part of this increase in APs comes from Mr. Cavanna's initiative to increase opportunities for students, "I am

for having a lot of AP offerings and limiting the requirements to give students the opportunity to take the courses, especially students who might not have had the opportunity to take the AP course because... you are exposed to the college level curriculum." Though more access to APs can be a positive, many underclassmen are taking advantage of this by loading up on classes just to bolster their transcripts. AP classes have become a numbers game, and the more classes offered, the more classes students feel compelled to take.

Teachers and administrators, however, advise against this. A veteran AP teacher says, "Students should take AP classes if they are interested in the material." To prevent course overload, students should apply the idea of balance to their schedule, "What I'm not in favor of is when students overwhelm their schedule with the AP courses, that defeats the purpose", he says, "We need to

find the balance between taking a rigorous schedule... but also being able to enjoy your high-school experience." In terms of exact numbers, each student has a different threshold, so it can be hard to decide how many is the right choice. One teacher advises keeping a maximum number dependent on extracurriculars, "If a student is taking four AP classes (and other electives), participates in sports or theater, and has a part-time job, that is too much. There is not enough time in the day to be successful in all aspects. I typically say no more than 3 AP courses, but even that can be a stretch." Without considering all commitments, it is easy to overstretch and be unable to keep a steady GPA. The bottom line? Take classes based on your abilities, schedule, and interest level, she says: "Take a class out of interest and passion."

Warde Community Responds to National Blood

Shortage

By James Cunningham
STAFF WRITER

This March 1st, after a two year hiatus, Fairfield Warde High School restarted its tradition of holding an in-school blood drive. The blood drive has been an important part of the Fairfield Warde community for 13 years. Despite its tenure, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the blood drive's yearly occurrence, and threatened to discontinue it entirely. Luckily, thanks to concerted efforts by Fairfield Warde teachers -Lore Berty and Jennifer Racioppo- and the Warde Red Cross Club,

this Fairfield Warde tradition has been revived in an enthusiastic fashion in a time where it is more important than ever. The U.S. is in the midst of a blood shortage. Blood and platelets cannot be manufactured. They can only come from donors. Blood drives are the only way for the Red Cross to collect blood and distribute it to those in need. Car accident victims, cancer patients, and victims of chronic disease are just a few of the many Americans who depend on life saving blood transfusions. However, the need for blood transfusions is growing while the supply

is drying up. In hopes to save lives, the Warde Community has responded to the blood shortage by reviving its tradition of holding the annual Blood Drive.

The American Red Cross set a goal of 35 pints of collected blood for Fairfield Warde High School. Thanks to unprecedented participation on behalf of the student body and teachers, the Warde community smashed this goal, donating a grand total of 44 pints. The Blood Drive became so crowded that people were actually turned away at the end. Organizer Jennifer Racioppo was "ecstatic" about



the "huge turnout," and expressed the importance of this event in addressing the national blood shortage. "The blood drive allows students to donate in a comfortable setting," she explains, which "encourag(es) them to become lifelong donors." Indeed, the drive spread awareness about the national blood shortage while introducing students to the gratification that comes with donating blood, making it essential to ending the nationwide blood shortage.

Despite the strong response from the Warde community, the outlook was less positive on the morning of the blood drive. When they opened their doors in the morning, the Red Cross club had only 30 appointments. The average person gives a pint of blood, so it looked as if the club was going to come up short of its goal. Club leader Julia Minogue recalls that

when collecting permission slips during the lunch period, she expected "a low turnout." In an unprecedented turn of events, the number of appointments shot up to 50 due to "last minute donors". With this, the Red Cross club smashed its goal, collecting 44 pints instead of the goal of 35. After its success this year, the Fairfield Warde Blood drive seems to have returned for good. Though its recent success is cause for celebration, the continued participation of the student body and faculty is necessary. The Fairfield Warde Red Cross club would like to emphasize that giving blood is free and painless, yet it has the potential to save lives. Club leader Julia Minogue encourages eligible donors "to sign up and save a life."



Senior Editorial: The Potential for Progress

By Sarah Green and Samantha Renzulli

SENIOR EDITORS

As a high school student, our scope of progress within Warde is limited to the four years we are inside Warde's physical building. Changes we see appear to occur in the vacuum of our experience. But that is not the case. Progress occurs on a timeline on which we are a small, fleeting part. This begs the question: how do we know if progress is being made? From freshman to senior year, the most we can aspire to do is to create an impact. The impact we make, and therefore the progress we engender, is dependent on legacy; it depends on how our developments are carried forth once we leave Warde. Thus, progress in our school is not achieved in one act or statement. Rather, it is tracked on a continuum, one which can only be furthered by the student voice.

Should high school look different than it does now? To be sure, the touch screen technology at the forefront of most classrooms highlights growth. But the structure of classes, staring straight at the smartboard (or white board, thankfully no longer chalkboard), is still emblematic of Warde High School's beginnings. So too are the way we stack our credits, the bell system we use, and the courses offered and the variety within them. Surely how to

factor binomials has not changed, neither too has the outcome of the Civil War or the branches of the US government. What can change is how these concepts are taught, with students at the forefront of designing their learning. We still must gain fundamental knowledge, and Warde is apt and capable of this task. Many Warde teachers already have made shifts for classes to be more discussion-based and to value tests less. Change on a larger scale, however, renders difficult to beget when the authors of the system are not the students. With bureaucracy like the Board of Education charged with dictating most of the school's developments, the student voice falters behind red tape and antiquated systems.

Things can change, though. It starts with raised voices. We don't always realize changes are needed until some speak up. We aren't aware of shifts in values and perspectives unless we are confronted by them. When we are made aware, we learn there should be more diverse song selections in Carillon. We learn the necessity of history classes that elevate the role of slavery in making America what it is today. We learn that ASL classes should be offered because there is a community which depends on it. When Warde proved capable of functioning without bells during

AP weeks, we learned that maybe we don't still need the bell system. There's always room to grow and we don't know the potential effects of progress until we take the leap. Warde has proved strong in addressing changes when it is made aware. So we must continue to raise awareness.

Unfortunately, awareness conflicts with comfort. Therefore progress is messy: it can only be made when there is discomfort.

The progress we see in high school is often a product of progress and changes in our greater society. We see this in the welcoming of "Mental Health Days" in high schools across the state of Connecticut. The climate of social conversation began highlighting the importance of prioritizing mental health, especially following the decline of mental health nationally due to Covid-19 isolations, and so the conversation in high schools shifted. No longer was the effort to have "perfect attendance," in fact, less than "perfect attendance" was encouraged. So no longer is "perfect" equated with being at school every single day despite illness, mental or physical. The message from school shifted: perfection should not be strived for, but rather, health and a focus on the needs of yourself. When the nation tuned in to the news of frequent mass shootings



Photo Credit: Fairfield Warde High School

in schools, Warde students commanded a walk out to garner the attention of the school to raise awareness. To make progress in the area of protection. High school is reactive. So as students, it is our job to force a reaction.

Societal progress, however, is not universally positive. For example, the progress to demand the preparation for the future. High school has always been a place of preparation, but now more than ever it has been seen as a staging ground for college. While the education system should be a place of exploration and developing passions, with the rise of AP class prominence, it is becoming more focused on the possibility of the future (ie: college) rather than the students' capacity at the present. High school can be a great resource for the exploration of student interests, and it largely is, with various electives and passionate teachers. However, it is yielding to the pressure college holds in society. This effort to enhance exploration is fighting

against the looming pressure of college, which hinders progress of the mind.

Nothing lasts forever. Students graduate, administrators and teachers retire. There's no insurance that changes they make will last. The incoming freshmen don't know what school was like before they were there. Their only conception of school is what they experience. This, however, can be beneficial. New students now only know teenage years where mental health days are a guarantee. Hopefully, ideology like this will seep into adulthood. With the mentality of future adults changing, work culture will change, the government will change. The changes we make now may not be a guarantee for our high school experiences, but they may positively alter the way future students approach life. We hold the power to set the stage for what we want to see in the future. The potential for progress starts with us.

Warde Gymnastics Soars

By Lily Conklin

STAFF WRITER

Gymnastics is a highly impressive sport, one that involves great risks but also great rewards. Warde Gymnastics completed a greatly fulfilling season this year. Caroline Garrett, this year's Captain of Warde Gymnastics, was formative in supporting her team to success and greatly proud of all they accomplished. When talking to Caroline, she informed me that her season went better than she ever could've imagined and she couldn't see her gymnastics career coming to a close in any other way. Although gymnastics is viewed as an individual sport, Caroline emphasized how crucial her team's support impacted her throughout her years at Warde. The hard work behind her and her team's story can be utilized to inspire many to strive towards their passions.

This year, the Gymnastics team made Warde history by winning FCIACs and placing top 3 in both the States competition and State Opens competition. The team reached the New England Championship and demonstrated how much a group of people can achieve with the right determination. When discussing her season, Caroline shared, "I am so proud of the team this year, we had so many outstanding gymnasts and had so much fun." The Warde Gymnastics's motto was "For The Team," meaning all the gymnasts valued each other as teammates and created a family through encouragement and supporting one another for every competition.

Caroline helped me understand how draining gymnastics can be as a sport and how easy it can be to fall into a spiral of wanting to quit. Despite the countless practices, Caroline never lost

sight of her goals and stuck with gymnastics until the end of her Senior year. She explained her persistence by saying, "I have been doing gymnastics since I was 7 years old, and it was my first



The Fairfield Warde Gymnastics Team celebrates another victory

love in life. Each time I felt like giving up, I remembered the feeling of that 7 year old girl which motivated me to keep sticking with the

sport." Caroline allowed her love for Gymnastics to drive her hard work and demonstrated how significant fighting for your goals can be. "I remember standing on the podium this year with tears in my

eyes because all of my hard work and dedication paid off." Reaching your goals after trial and error, and ups and downs, can be one of the

most rewarding experiences of a person's life and one Caroline will keep with her throughout her college experiences. The main lesson that Caroline expressed she learned was "if you want something bad enough, you will one day achieve it." She worked beside her team as they spent 14 hours a week practicing, pushing themselves to their limits in order to win FCIACs.

Caroline says she couldn't have accomplished so much in her high school career if it wasn't for the constant encouragement from her teammates and the loving relationships she built throughout her seasons at Warde. The strong leadership of Caroline Garrett and the dedication of her team lead Warde Gymnastics to achieve their well deserved mention in Warde's history.

Finding My Community At Warde

By Lily Conklin
STAFF WRITER

This past May was Asian Pacific Islander Month. I want to take time to recognize an important club in Warde that supports the Asian-American community and elevate their presence here in Fairfield. I recently learned about the Pan-Asian Association Club and being half Asian American, I wish I had heard about the community sooner. AAPI culture deserves to be celebrated, especially in today's climate of social injustice. The Pan-Asian Association Club is a group at Warde who is dedicated to speaking out and bringing awareness towards Asians and Pacific Islanders who are being targeted solely for their race.

When I communicated with Jenny Moore, the President of the Pan-Asian Association Club, she emphasized the power behind Asian Culture and how the community will not be silenced, no matter how hard people attempt to shut down Asians in society. Jenny mentioned the consistent racism towards the AAPI com-

munity in United States history through the Chinese Exclusion Act and Japanese Act, movements by the government in an attempt to inflict harm and remove people of Asian descent. In 2020, racism and hate crimes began to skyrocket. The world is blaming Asians and Asian Americans for the Covid-19 virus, using them as scapegoats. Growing up, I was always grateful to be in a country with so many opportunities, yet, it's hard to see so many minority groups being stripped of and excluded from those opportunities since the beginning of history. Although progress has been made, it's not nearly enough. Due to the increasing brutal attacks against the Asian Community these past years, now is the time to speak out for the people that are afraid, and hiding to protect their lives. While discussing the reason behind her club, Moore says, "Being able to celebrate AAPI culture after being pushed aside for so long, in a time when there are people out there who hate us enough to assault strangers in the street, feels powerful." There is a real truth behind the power of voices, especially

the young generation who wants to make a difference in today's society. Jenny's club utilizes the platform at Warde to speak up and is long overdue for the attention it deserves.

After speaking with Jenny, I learned that her friend Rosalie Hsu was the one founder of the Pan-Asian Association. Although she graduated last year, Jenny was happy to take over the role as President and keep Rosalie's movement alive. Rosalie felt as though there was a lack of community between Asian-Americans, particularly here in Fairfield. The club was created to build a safe environment for people to share their experiences and grow together. There's so much value in spreading the message that people of Asian descent are not alone and don't deserve to be shoved aside. Last year, the club hosted a Stop Asian Hate virtual rally, and an end of year potluck, to keep advocating for Asian voices, even in the heightened time of Covid. The Pan-Asian Association is hosting a small fundraiser for the Asian Mental Health Collective

(AMHC). This organization works to normalize mental health within the Asian community and give people a place to reach out when in need. Throughout the world, emotions have been perceived as weak and mental health in the Asian American community has been heavily ignored. Shining light on mental health can make an impact and allow people to understand that asking for help and opening up isn't weak as society wrongfully normalizes it to be. The AMHC is an interview series that strives to make Asian American mental health more public and provide aid to people who are struggling. The fundraiser will be matched with the annual end of year potluck where guests must be invited by a member of the club to attend, but anyone is welcome to donate!

I want to move towards a future where people's cultures can be celebrated and embraced by others. The Asian Community has been forced to hide their identities and be trapped in a world that is using hatred and violence against them. This generation of high

schoolers has the power to create change. Every person has a voice and utilizing it can affect our community greatly. Advocating for massively important causes like Asian Hate crimes and supporting the Pan-Asian Association Club is a great way to bring the world one step closer to a hopeful future.

Below, please find links to learn more about the Pan-Asian Association Club and how you can support the Asian community.

Information:

AMHC Donations:
<https://gofund.me/36f72380>

Website on Club Information:
<https://sites.google.com/fairfieldschools.net/pan-asianassociation/home>

Stop Asian Hate Infographic:
<https://create.piktochart.com/output/57440487-stop-asian-hate-project>

Dissect, Art, and Watch: A Few Things to Experience at Warde

By Sarah Green
BLUR EDITOR

I have graced Warde's halls for 4 academic years, minus the class periods I skipped, Covid-19, and the Senior Experience. So I guess it's more like 3.6 academic years. But that's beside the point. The point is, that in the words of Wells Fargo, I know a thing or two because I've seen a thing or two. I'm not going to tell you what not to do, because then you risk escaping the extreme embarrassment and hijinx that defines the teenage experience, but I am going to offer up some things you should definitely cross off. It comes in three categories: Dissection, Art, and Watching.

First up, the Arts: something you've convinced yourself you cannot do after seeing that one kid in 3rd grade level up from drawing a stick figure while everyone else is still struggling to find the macaroni and cheese crayon.

Taste the Arts (Barlows)

There are three ways to go

about this.

(a) Take a cooking class exploring Flavortown

(b) Steal donuts from a friend who put in the hours to make them at 7:30 am

(c) Be a judge for culinary students' final grade because their teacher lost their sense of taste after coming down with Covid-19.

Hear the Arts

You are either in a music ensemble or you are not. If you are not, you are missing out. If you are, no, you are still not practicing enough. Go practice. See what you're missing, non-musical Mustangs? Attend a concert. There is a 1-in-2 chance that you will hear Pirates of the Caribbean played.

Own the art (make something cool in art or force a friend to)

Warde has a renowned woodshop, a dark room photography studio, a graphic design department, and 3D printer. That means you can leave Warde with a yard sign of Paul Cavanna, an ornate sidewalk bench, headshots you forced a friend to take, or a plastic

keychain that resembles a deflated balloon animal that threw up the alphabet. That's not even covering stealing AP Studio Art students' paintings. Highly recommend.

Next up is dissecting stuff. This is one of those kill-3-birds-with-one-stone type of deals. Let me walk you through it.

Literally dissect something. This can be a cow eyeball, pig fetus, sheep heart, or frog. There are many options here at Warde. Now, this may repulse a bunch of people, but it is a great way to learn about the world and strangely impress blurry-visioned people at parties. Nothing like a causal mention, "yeah, I peeled off the iris of a cow eyeball. It's about the size of a baseball, no big deal." People will go nuts.

The second stage is having emotional damage from a teacher dissecting your work. There's always that one paper you thought you did really well on that a masters-educated person accidentally obliterates. To get this done quick and dirty, do a lab

write-up on your dissection and have an English teacher read it. It is an especially good opportunity to contest classmates that you've been given a harsher dose of reality than they have.

The third level of dissection is dissecting your grade to your family. This will require your persuasion skills, so be sure to take notes on argumentative writing in class for when this occasion comes up. Warning: may result in tears.

The last recommendation I will leave you with is The Warde Viewing Experience.

Go to a sporting event. Even if you don't like sports, just go. There's often fresh baked goods for sale, so just let that tempt you.

Hopefully you've already done this one: Have lunch in the courtyard. It's a great opportunity to see strange events, like people tossing oranges around or a seagull releasing feces onto someone. Plus, there's nothing like

friends and fresh air.

Vote on Ruden Report. You can see all the sports fanatics get frantic over whether or not they'll win.

Watch a movie in class. Like, actually pay attention. It's a very peaceful experience.

Nap. This one is technically lacking in watching, but again, a very peaceful experience.

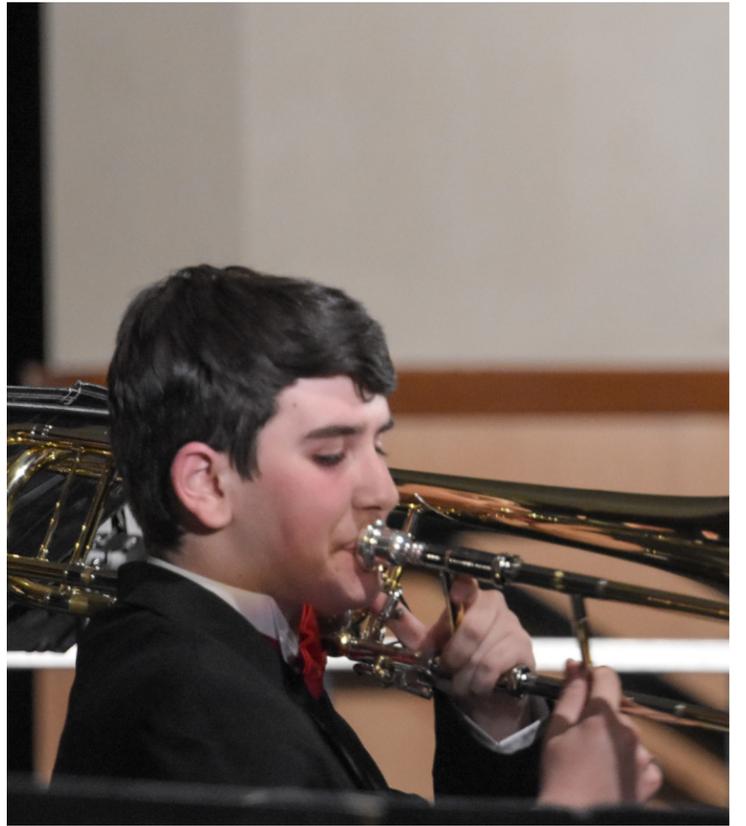
If you do all this, astrologists say you will get a sticker on your next test like you are in elementary school. How great is that?

Year in



Review

All Photos:
Submitted by the
Warde community



Arts & Entertainment

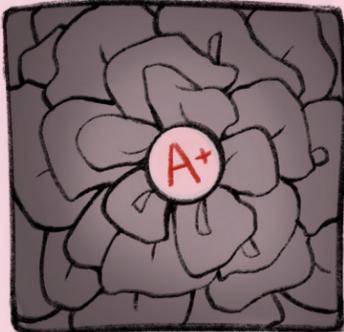
uncertainty.



picture it - it's 2 am. you can't seem to fall asleep. it's late, but your mind's racing a mile a minute.



and of course, it's late, so in your thinking, so maybe you get a little existential. you might even cry a little. or a lot, i don't judge.



maybe you're a freshman and you're crying because you haven't figured out who you are yet. or you might be a sophomore nervous about AP exams.



or maybe it's none of those! there's always plenty to worry about, right? y'know, like "is my stomach flat enough" or "am i gonna have any rights left" or "is the planet gonna explode within the next 24 hours", that stuff.



it's okay. everyone gets like that sometimes. y'know, "modernity has failed us" and all that existential crap.



it happened to me too the other day, actually. i was listening to music and one of my favorite songs came on - Love It If We Made It by The 1975.



the song itself is basically about how the singer feels that the world is collapsing and no one is doing anything about it. but even as he goes on and on about all the nasty stuff that was happening at the time, he still says that he'd love it if we, the human race, made it out of this mess.



he hates where we are and what we've become, but he still holds out hope and wants to believe that we can make it out alive. not even fix it, just make it out in one piece.



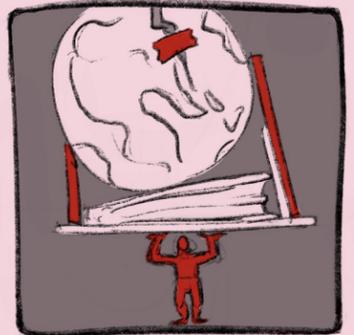
and when i was listening to that, i broke down. **HARD.** in one 4-minute song, he fully encapsulated how i felt about the world in that moment. i think that's how a lot of people feel, actually.



it's difficult to avoid feeling all nihilistic about stuff like this. but even if humanity is truly doomed for good, we still want to believe that we can all fix this.



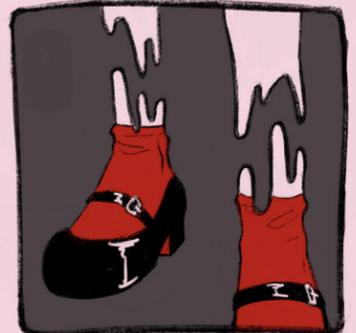
i was trapped in a bit of an existential spiral for a little while. but no one can stay like that for the rest of their lives.



even if you do truly believe that nothing matters and the world is collapsing in on itself, you can't live life like that. even if when we look toward the future, all we can see is uncertainty and dread, we still have to hold out hope that the peaceful end will be in sight soon.



i'm not saying that you can't **ever** feel bad about stuff like this, but no one can live forever in a cycle of doom and fear, no matter how strong or resilient they are. even if we don't know what we're going to be up against, the least we can do is try to keep a smile, right?



even if it just seems like everything in the world is going wrong, you're not alone. it may feel hopeless, but it's gonna be okay, i promise.



actually, i'm sure we'd all love it if we made it.

fin.

julia zagar

Link to Warde Themed Crossword Puzzle:

End of Year Aesthetics

By Sabrina Cassano
STAFF WRITER

It's what everyone's been waiting for. Not this article, of course, but the end of the year. We've all been collectively aestheticizing what Summer means for us either all the way since school started in September or after Winter Break when we realized we were stuck for another 6 months. Anyway it's clear we've been waiting and all have some sort of an idea of what we want to spend our almost 3 month break doing. And even though by the time we're free on June 20th we've forgotten or are too lazy to do most if not all of the stuff on our list, that's ok, because every year our expectations decrease from 3 months of fun activities and get more realistic in that the excitement really lies in 3 months without anything to do. Really, nothing should be happening in this brain till a solid August 31st. But since we have less than

an ounce of trying left in us, we still have to find some aesthetics in what we are desperately trying to end, the school year.

Finals

Aesthetic: The torn feelings of being sad that the last week of school is dedicated to stressing about like 10% of our grade and understanding that without it, we all probably wouldn't go. Also we're all collectively prepping for this so called 10% in about a week, very anticlimactic but after all it is school.

Aesthetic Rating: 6/10

Reasoning: Let's face it we thought we had more time, but now it's June and that's starting to mean less of relaxing than we thought it would and more trying to both study for the remaining unit your teacher is currently rushing to get through and to play a game of, how bad can you do on this final and still end the year with

the grade you want?

Ice Cream

Aesthetic: It's summer, it's the end of the year and finals also means your day is cut short so why not stop for something that is now seasonally appropriate to have?

Aesthetic Rating: 21/10

Reasoning: We love it, we hate the people who hate it, and it's something that will never truly get old (like Mr. Canvannas weekly calls, or at least hearing your parents roll their eyes at it never does, a tradition we will all miss dearly)

Graduation

Aesthetic: A bittersweet feeling that involves probably sadness that can be translated to 'excited to be done with this place' for the seniors and for the rest of us probably pure happiness that that one annoying senior is leaving and fear on what the new generation of freshman will bring, no not even the current freshman are ready

with such a task.

Aesthetic: 8/10

Reasoning: Who can argue with a right of passage? Annoying freshman turn into forgotten sophomores, sophomores turn into stressed out juniors, juniors turn into the people who can't shut up about the fact that they only have one more year left and seniors realize that they aren't actually that old after all, but also finally get to leave so who really wins?

Books

Aesthetic: Unless you're a better reader than me you've been in a slump for a while, and now with this free time you have you can finally read a book that's different from the assigned ones you've been given-or at least the digital sparknotes summary

Aesthetic Rating: 25/10

Reasoning: Technically this is

biased since this only applies to the few who have been sucked in by Booktok, but exclusivity is the best so I'm leaving my top 5 books on a list that have previously been secured in my notes app

Summer Break Itself

Aesthetic: It's so amazing and groundbreaking that it almost makes you fear those articles of people wanting to get rid of it because 'children no longer spend the time working on farms' like it was originally intended to be, and sure we don't do any sort of non consensual hard labor but to be honest we endure 9 months of school so I think we're good

Aesthetic Rating: 100/10

Reasoning: It's 3 months of doing whatever you, your wallet or your college applications want, anyway it's beautifully non math related

Book Review: It Ends With Us

By Sabrina Cassano and Lily Conklin
STAFF WRITERS

There's something special about a book that makes you forget you are reading. A book that takes you into someone else's messy, disastrous, beautiful story. *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover is one of those books that reminds me why I fell in love with reading in the first place. This book was written in a way that makes you feel for the characters like you've known them your whole life. *It Ends With Us* follows one of the strongest women I have ever read about, Lily Bloom, and her heartbreaking story through finding not only romance, but love for herself. I believe that everyone should read this book, especially if you're okay with having your heart broken and put back together in only 376 pages.

It Ends with Us follows 23 year old Lily as she goes through her old journal about her first love, while navigating through her present life. In the beginning of the book, Lily meets Ryle (WARNING: DANGER), a man she seems to connect with immediately. As time passes, Ryle keeps appearing in Lily's life as she opens her dream flower shop in Boston. Her life changes greatly as she falls in love with Ryle in what SEEMS to be the 'perfect' relationship, but when Ryle begins to show the darker parts of who he is, and her first love, Atlas, appears back in her life, 'perfect' begins to unravel. Lily fights

through unimaginable situations of abuse that no one should ever have to go through as the person she thought loved her the most, reveals how dangerous he can be. Lily learns that she deserves to put herself first and that the real love of her life has been waiting for her since they were 15. Two people. The world against them. And the phrase, "Just keep swimming."

Ranking the top 10 best *It Ends With Us* Quotes

"It stops here. With me and you. It ends with us."

I know I shouldn't rate things by tear count, but I promise I have a semi-logical reason, one being that it includes the title of the book. And let me tell you, it includes my favorite thing: the title actually means something that is not a character, random dog's name, or worse: symbolism.

"In the future...if by some miracle you ever find yourself in the position to fall in love again... fall in love with me."

I may be biased because I put this quote on a literal bookmark but you would be lying if you said this wasn't the most beautiful line you had ever read, seen, or heard because let's be honest this quote makes all the senses malfunction. This quote brings me happiness that I can never explain. I had to slam the book shut after reading this one because no one can ever live up to Atlas Corrigan.

"You can stop swimming now, Lily. We finally reached the shore."

Yes, we literally did, and ok I understand out of context this makes no sense and even with reading the past 375 pages I re-read it about three times, but trust

"Life is a funny thing. We only get so many years to live it, so we have to do everything we can to make sure those years are as full as they can be. We shouldn't waste time on things that might happen someday, or maybe even never."

-Atlas Corrigan, It Ends with Us

me once you get it, you get it. And to be honest, if I'm going to have to reread the last line of a book over and over again, it better be this one. TEARS. Colleen had me speechless with this one.

DISCLAIMER: Ellen is name dropped in this book multiple times. READ IT NOW.

"Just because someone hurts you doesn't mean you can simply stop loving them."

Ok, this book made me rethink a lot of things but let me just say I didn't go into this book thinking it would be insightful and yet from this quote alone we can see that this book manages to break your heart and your brain in the meanest way possible.

"There is no such thing as bad people. We're all just people who sometimes do bad things."

The logic is there, but sadly

so is the audacity of the character. Ryle has too many quotes in this book and I want him canceled.

"Just because we didn't end up on the same wave, doesn't mean we aren't still a part of the same ocean."

Again with the ocean/swimming references, but just to make it clear, NO ONE is pictured physically swimming or drowning in this book. However, we can all agree it's a beautiful quote to look at and I somehow manage to feel smart just copying and pasting it from goodreads.

"And as hard as this choice is, we break the pattern before the pattern breaks us."

Not to spoil anything but I think it's safe to say while the pattern didn't break our girl this book breaks all of us a little bit.

"Naked truths aren't always pretty."

Ok, I'm not going to lie, this quote is true but the context of it will literally make you throw this book across the room, from the extent of the gaslighting you will have to endure. But I'm happy to

say by this time you'll be able to see through it, though it takes a little longer for some of us.

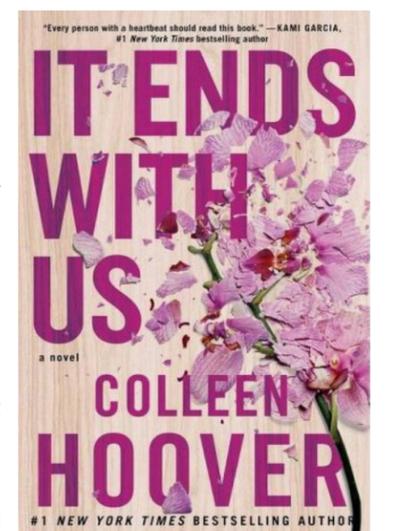
"I smiled. "Where everything is better."

He smiled back. "In Boston." 'I've never been to Boston but I'd be lying if I said this book and quote together didn't make me rethink any plans I ever had moving to New York and looking up Boston apartments on Zillow.

"I figured I might as well try it while I'm young enough to bounce back from failure."

Lily Bloom will forever be iconic for making a career 180 and even though this quote isn't the 'deepest' one on here, it's still a quote to live by.

This book is worth every second. Go read *It Ends with Us*!



THE BLUR



Student Hacks School, Only to be Stopped by Their Own Program!!!

By Evan Papageorge

STAFF WRITER

Recently, a Computer Science student riding the wave of senioritis and post-AP restlessness got bored in class and decided to hack Fairfield Warde High School for fun. The student, self-dubbed “The Sleepless” accessed the school’s mainframe and seized control of Infinite Campus, Google Drive, and Microsoft Word. In doing so, they gained access to everyone’s log-on information, as well as a teacher’s Netflix account. In the end, there were no consequences: By sheer luck, the student could not get past the cybersecurity program the school has in place, which possessed code that was all too familiar.

According to a trustworthy source, The Sleepless came to school the day after their final AP exam and had nothing to do in class. Out of nowhere, they

announced to their classmates, “I’m bored. I’m going to hack the school!” and proceeded to do so. The student spent about ten minutes typing away on their computer before displaying a screen of documents and information containing everything from the original lyrics to Warde’s Colman Connolly’s Trapped and the report card of the Class of 2022’s Valedictorian, Sneha Sunder.

However, their success was temporary (though enough for an eternal ego boost). Shortly after gaining access, the school’s online security service kicked in. The hacker’s screen was flooded with images of the Warde safety cone and the Mustang and they were promptly locked out of their school Chromebook (still locked out to this day). All information was resecured, and no information was copied, tampered with, or saved (i.e. No harm done!).



One of Warde’s most dedicated computer science students, Sreejita Patra, had much to divulge on the matter. She says, “I always knew they would do it, mostly because they always brag about doing it!”

Ironically, the system that protects student information at Warde was designed and programmed by The Sleepless himself! Unable to overcome their own program, they had no choice but to alert the school’s administration of the breach and consequential, yet successful, protection from the school’s online security program.

The good news of this story is that the school’s student information database is both safe and secure. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our school’s IT depart-

ment and student volunteers, the digital plane of Fairfield Warde is safe and sound. According to unnamed sources, The Sleepless will no longer be at Warde next year, so there will be no more threats from them – just the legacy of how they hacked the school, and were defeated by their own program.

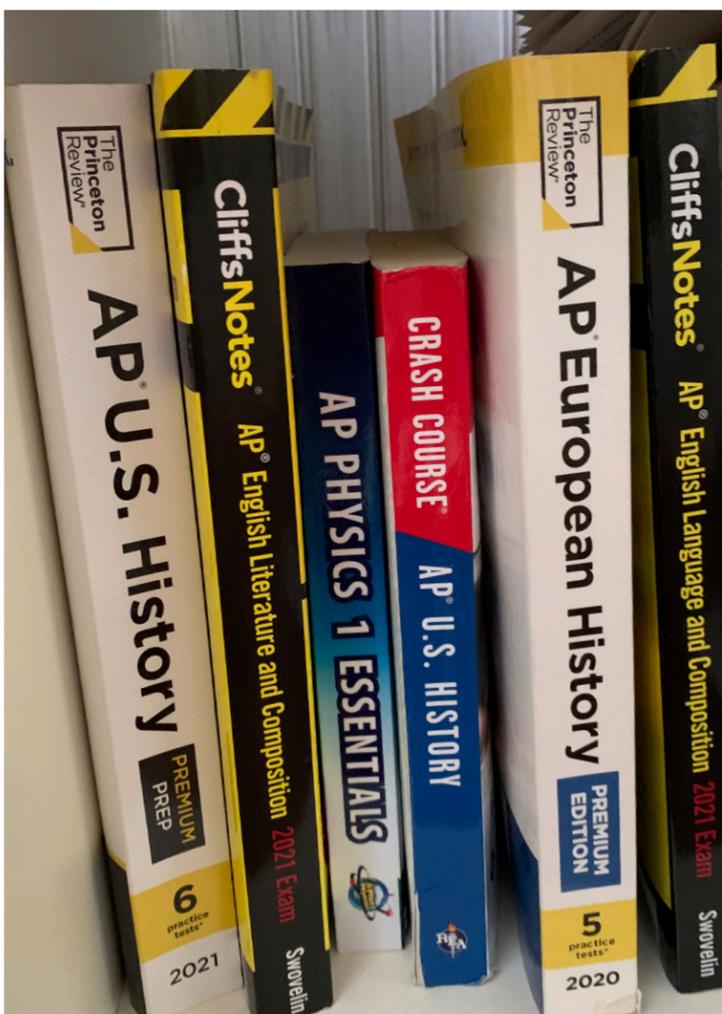
The Post AP Curriculum

By Alexa Papageorge

STAFF WRITER

As many know, AP classes come to a screeching halt in early May, with a massive villain that is the AP exam attempting to step on the hopes and dreams of high school students nationwide. After these exams however, the classes have a more laid back atmosphere until the end of the school year. Popular activities such as movie watching, naptime, and classwide chit-chats are frequently seen throughout the early days of June.

However, these times will soon be coming to an end. In the most recent board meeting, it was decided that Fairfield Warde High School will be implementing a curriculum to be taught and tested on after AP exams. With the addition of these new units, the leisurely days of AP students will be crammed with notes,



homework, and tests.

For a further understanding into this newly created curriculum, we dove into the brand new 10th and 11th units of AP US History. The 10th unit will focus on the pop culture. Teachers will be forced to participate in tiktok trends, create multilayered memes, and start discourse over every single star-studded event on twitter. In addition to being taught in the classroom, the entirety of this unit will be live streamed on Twitch. Unit 11 of AP US History will focus on the future. Using their newly gained psychic powers (which will be given after the conclusion of the AP Exam), students will make predictions regarding the future of the United States.

Unfortunately, these plans have been met with discontent from students enrolled to take AP

classes next year. “It’s just crazy,” says one junior, while taking a break from watching The Great Gatsby. “I would retain absolutely none of that information,” says a sophomore, planning on taking an AP class next year. While rushing out the door to their senior experience, one student was caught saying “That senioritis is gonna hit them so hard.”

Our deepest condolences to those who are taking AP classes next year, and we wish you all the luck on your summer work.