

THE REBELLION

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Walpole High School

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Photo/ Matt Brownsword

Coach Lee thanks everyone who attended Sunday's ceremony.

By Meagan Sundstrom
Class of 2015

On a windy and snowy evening in November, the film crew and announcers of a Walpole High School football game sit on the bleachers – cold and forced to stay outdoors to complete their jobs. Numb fingers and red noses are just the beginning of the symptoms that sports fans experience from harsh weather conditions at various sporting events held at Walpole High.

These unsatisfactory conditions that the onlookers—namely the media— must go through at Walpole's athletic events will now come to an end, for a press box has been constructed on the hill overlooking John Turco Field. The new structure has been completely built— it stands on the far side of the field, surrounded by landscaping additions and a new set of bleachers. On October 6, a private dedication ceremony took place in order to celebrate the people who put in the time, effort, and money to make the

Press Box dedicated to Coach Lee

project a success. The commemoration was held on the turf in front of the new press box, and Coach Lee's family, friends, and players attended to acknowledge his positive impact on the community of Walpole.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to acknowledge Coach John E. Lee and the construction of the press box will be held during halftime of the Walpole High School home football game on October 18, 2013.

The new facility was built in honor of Coach Lee to recognize and remember the retired coach's accomplishments. After a laudable 25 years as a Walpole High School football coach, Coach Lee reached an astounding career record of 212-33-7. His role in the town of Walpole will never be forgotten; as a teacher in the classrooms of Walpole High as well as a coach on the football field, Lee instilled a solid work ethic within his students and players that will help them succeed in the future. Eric Froese— the leader of the project and the son-in-law of Coach Lee— said, "The real story goes way beyond his winning percentage. Coach Lee's greatest success is the influence that he had in transforming 14-17 year old boys into young men."

Dedicated to former WHS Football Coach Lee, the press box will be available for the football team to use this fall. The structure will be used for filming the games of multiple sports and for announcers to make commentary during athletic events held at the school. As opposed to coaching staffs and film crews doing their jobs outside in the unpredictable weather, the press box will ameliorate their jobs by providing an indoor area for them to use. The press box will also be available for use by multiple organizations within the town.

Froese said, "The press box will be used by the Walpole Recreation Department for events. Walpole American Football League and youth lacrosse will also have access to it."

The project expands to more than a press box—a set of visitors' bleachers and a new driveway lead-

ing to it are also part of the addition. Currently, the press box has been fully constructed and the new bleachers are standing. A driveway to the press box is in place, and below the structure is a collection of bushes planted in the shape of a "W." Windows and doors have been installed, and the words "John E. Lee Press Box" will be added to the front of the press box before the dedication ceremony.

All money for the project was provided by private donations and funding— not by the Town of Walpole. The fundraising goal was reached at the beginning of September, and the organizers of the project also hope to raise enough money to add another set of stands to the left of the press box, according to Froese.

At the ceremony on October 6, Gene Lavanchy, as well as Coach Lee's son and daughter, opened by sharing their gratitude and memories of the coach to the audience. Lavanchy said, "Coach Lee brought out the best in his players by giving the best he had."

To start his speech, Coach Lee said, "It is an extraordinary honor to have it dedicated to me." He described some of his favorite stories, memories, and advice as part of his brief discussion. After sharing a story about a football camp, Coach Lee closed with an energetic statement; he said, "My name is John E. Lee and I am proud to be a Walpole Rebel."

Coach Lee said, "Enjoy it while you can," referring to young athletes in the football program today. Coach Lee's service and leadership as a teacher and football coach at Walpole High School will not be forgotten, as the press box will stand as a physical reminder of all of his achievements for many years to come.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for Coach Lee will take place during halftime of the WHS football home game on October 18. It will celebrate the completion of the press box project and recognize Coach Lee for his admirable achievements and positive impact on the town of Walpole.

Changes to school philosophies evoke mixed reactions

By Hannah McLaughlin
Class of 2014

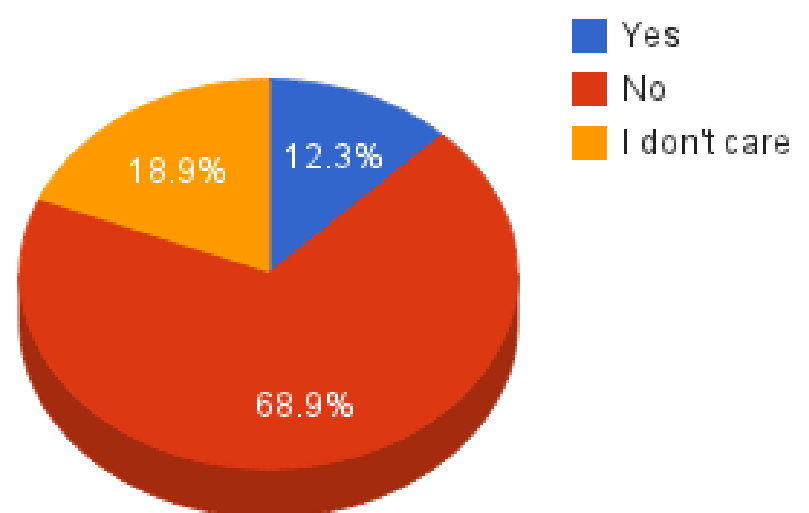
With the advent of each new school year, students at Walpole High School expect to encounter new changes to the dynamics of an average school day. They may discover slight adjustments to the curriculum or notice minor modifications to the student handbook— both of which students accept and adapt to accordingly. Whether it be trivial tweaks (such as adding coffee to the Daybreak Café menu) or major changes (like the implementation of PLC on Tuesdays) the WHS Administration and staff employ new programs, philosophies, and policies intended to improve a student's overall high school experience. This year, students were struck with news of drastically different approaches to homework and retakes than had previously been firmly established in years past. The two philosophies that Administration is promoting are intended to better assess a student's knowledge of subject matter and simultaneously prepare them for success throughout their impending college education.

Unlike that of previous years, the new homework philosophy rejects the idea of briefly checking homework for completion and either rewarding a student with a 100 or punishing a student with

a zero. Instead, teachers are encouraged to collect homework and assess a student on his or her understanding of the subject matter. Therefore, grades are not based on the quantity of questions ostensibly answered, but on the quality and correctness of answers provided by the student. Under this system, a student who forgets or fails to complete homework is instructed to stay after school and finish homework under the watchful eye of the teacher. This mandatory meeting after school ensures that the student remains on task, prevents them from copying the homework of a classmate, and allows the student an opportunity to ask the teacher any questions so that they may better understand the material in a one-on-one setting.

However, the new system raises a multitude of questions among students, parents, and staff. One major misconception is the idea that homework no longer counts. Principal Stephen Imbusch said, "The people we have heard most from regarding the new philosophy are parents. Many parents seem to have been getting an incorrect message about homework." Contrary to rumors circulating throughout the community, Principal Imbusch said, "Homework is very important. It assesses what a student knows and what they can do." As a result, the new philosophy provides

Do you like the new HW policy?



Graph / Matt Brownsword

Of the 120 students interviewed, the majority were against the new homework policy.

a teacher the option to collect homework, grade it, and reward the student with a grade that reflects their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

The new philosophy stems from two salient concerns about the old system: an evident lack of accountability in addition to a distorted perception of academic reality. Walpole High School's responsibility is to ensure that its students are learning classroom material and developing vital skills for use in college. Principal Imbusch worries that students who rely mostly on the extra boost they get from homework completion will be less prepared for life as a busy college student with loads of

difficult homework. Additionally, an inflated or deflated grade provides an inaccurate presentation of how a student is doing academically. While some very knowledgeable students received deplorable grades as a result of having never done homework and constantly receiving zeros, others attributed their startling success to a much-needed "boost" from each 100 added to their respective X2 Aspen accounts. "That boost students receive as a homework grade is not real—it's a hollow grade that in no way reflects student learning. We want to prepare kids for the future," said Mr. Imbusch, adding "we do not want to set anyone up for failure."

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EDITORIALS

Parents vs. Programmers of GTA V: Who is Really to Blame?



By Hannah McLaughlin
Class of 2014

“Alright, Mom, how does this sound?”

Johnny takes his seat at the dinner table and attempts to barter a fair trade. It has been exactly two weeks since the release of Rockstar’s highly anticipated — and highly controversial — “Grand Theft Auto V,” but Johnny’s mother refuses to waiver in her staunch opposition to the graphic video game. “If I wash the dishes without being asked for ten days straight, will you buy me GTA V?”

His mother laughs, dismissing her son’s persistent requests with a roll of her eyes. Johnny has yet to stop badgering her about the subject since the day the newest addition to the GTA franchise was introduced to the public, and his augmenting frustration is evident. Contrary to Johnny’s beliefs — “No, honey, it is not because I hate you” — his mother’s steadfast stance against the purchase of GTA V originates not from an abused parental power, but rather from the highly mature content rumored to reside in the disk’s virtual world of violence.

Since its long-awaited release on September 17, 2013, the GTA franchise finale has garnered massive amounts of global attention— albeit, a vast majority of that attention stems from highly opinionated parents who deem the game utterly indecent and unnecessarily lewd. Declaring it unquestionably unfit for their children, many adults claim that GTA V is an abomination to society as well as an embarrassing emblem of modern entertainment. Teeming with drug

abuse, prostitution, and blatant racism, this action-packed program provides players the opportunity to participate in various heists and a myriad of formidable missions; hence, it obviously serves as fodder for profuse parent complaints.

Like Johnny’s mom, thousands of parents worldwide are appalled at Rockstar’s audacity to overstep its boundaries and develop a video game so vulgar and yet so easily accessible for young video-game-fanatics. One day, these children celebrate a virtual touchdown in Madden NFL 25; the next, they hold innocent civilians hostage in a make-believe “Grand Theft Auto”

establishment or pay a pixelated prostitute for her services. Blaming top gaming companies like Rockstar for the corruption of these young, defenseless minds, a multitude of adults attribute today’s moral issues to the desensitizing of society as well as the justification of recklessness and violence through modern interactive technology. However, these parents — while well versed in the everlasting “blame game” regarding the source of their child’s shortcomings and faults — fail to consider the primary source of obscene games that negatively influence a child’s behavior.

Most times, such unfavorable video games to which children are exposed are provided by the parents. Games enter homes by way of birthdays, as gifts for Christmas, and often as reward for a child’s maintaining strong grades in school. Consequently, dreaded “gun games” enter the home one by one, each bought at the discretion of the parents. How does one purchase the unwanted item and simultaneously protest the content that supposedly erodes the specific set of values and morals that a parent has worked tirelessly to inculcate into the minds of their offspring?

Unsurprisingly, avid GTA players as well as prominent gaming companies located around the world argue a radically different case. Complying to government rules and regulations, Rockstar has ensured its products are rated appropriately given the subject matter of each game. For example, “Grand Theft Auto V” is rated M for young adults ages 17 and older — and rightfully so. Regardless government individuals concerned with the safety and mental well-being of their

nation’s youth? Being careful to abide by the judging criteria so as not to land in a legal battle defending its choice of demographic, Rockstar evaluated the content of the game and has decided that the newest edition to its 15 year franchise would not be sold to individuals without proof of proper identification under 17 years of age. However, it is blatantly clear that this policy in no way prevents gamers under 17 from adding yet another xbox game rooted in violence and a total disregard of respect to their ever-increasing collection; friends, older siblings, cousins, parents — even grandparents — are often happy to hand over the money if it means appeasing their little darlings.

So, wherein lies the issue? In recent years, parents have done nothing but berate products that they claim are corrupting young people. And yet, ironically, these adolescents acquire the video game from the parents themselves— not directly from game producers. Consequently, game companies rightfully project the blame on these hypocritical parents. Their holier-than-thou hypocrisy reveals the futility of their argument. If instilling and maintaining the values of respect and etiquette are so important to them, why provide the means for these same morals to be eradicated? If a mother does not wish for her 15-year-old to emulate the violent virtual criminals, why encourage the behavior by purchasing the disputed game if one is only going to complain about it immediately afterward?

Their arguments are further refuted by the reality of the situation. Living in a society that promotes wealth, vanity, sex, and personal gain, the majority of today’s teenagers have already been exposed to inappropriate values that clash with those already established in a family’s moral ideals. Therefore, playing “Grand Theft Auto” poses very few issues regarding the corruption of adolescents; society has already beat GTA V to it. Additionally, if teenagers have been raised with a strong emphasis on morals and values, they are not likely to prove so easily influenced by a mere video game. If a child is mentally stable and understands the clear distinctions between virtual reality and reality, he or she will almost certainly be left unaffected by the immense violence present in the game.

The final installment of the GTA series — equipped with more firearms, peppered with profanities, and containing more needless bloodshed than its predecessors — should not be blamed for the ruination of the younger generations. Instead, the proverbial finger should be pointed at the parents.

Lee’s Legacy memorialized by the Press Box, not flag

By Matthew Brownsword
Class of 2014

“Even if the Press Box was not being built in my father’s name, his legacy lives on in Walpole Football and the whole community,” said Brian Lee, the son of Coach John Lee, the prestigious Walpole football coach.

Throughout the ceremony in which the new Press Box was officially dedicated and named after Coach Lee, the speeches were littered with the lessons of his tenure. Hard work, dedication, preparation, talent, and — most of all — school pride were all mentioned as the foundations for any Coach Lee team. His son told stories of how the kids on the team would never get hours because of the respect and pride they had for the school; Coach Lee himself talked about a ritual in which every sophomore would run down the field, through a makeshift tunnel of upperclassmen, and scream “My name is [John Smith] and I’m so proud to be a Walpole Rebel!”

School Pride was a staple of every Coach Lee team that took the field. With every kid that took the stands with their Confederate flags — after the change to the Rebels from the Hilltoppers because of its association with

“General Lee’s Army” — the pride in the school was palpable on game day. In his day, the town would go to the field, “which [he] could remember as just dirt,” and cheer on the Rebels as they took on rivals Norwood, Natick, etc.

Not a lot has changed since the Coach Lee left: the hard work and dedication is still tangible every day after school on Turco field, the planning is still there in the days leading up to games, the talent is still evident on the stats sheets. The rivalries are still the same; Friday nights are still all about the war going down between the Rebels and whatever team is unfortunate enough to take the field on the opposite side.

And the Confederate flag, the symbol of the Rebels and General Lee’s army, still hangs in the treetops.

“I don’t really have an opinion about it,” said Coach Lee. “It was just something that we did.”

Something that everyone did — the students, the athletes, the fans, the parents, and the coaches embraced the Confederate flag to symbolize the Rebels. But what they were doing, and what they always did, was embody the qualities that made a team come together and have success — love; love of community; brotherly love; love of

school; love of the Rebels. The Confederate flag represented everything about those intangible characteristics of a perennial state championship contender, and continues to do the same today.

But as we remember Coach Lee and all that he did for the Walpole Football program, is the Confederate Flag what we should put on our shirts, our phone cases, our belts? Is the Confederate Flag what we should remember Coach Lee for?

Coach Lee stood for everything that comes with being a Walpolian in any sport — or any venture for that matter: hard work, determination, a will to win, and school pride. And to not only accept but embrace a symbol in the name of Coach Lee that — let’s be honest — symbolizes hatred, oppression, and discrimination, in this day, the community is doing it wrong.

Yes, the young student athletes that take the field every day and look up at that Confederate Flag with a sense of pride are not supporting those other disgusting qualities of it. But for every other kid that walks into the fortress of Turco field, that Flag does not stand for anything but discrimination. So why do we have to look up at the Confederate Flag just to have school pride?

Look at the quote from Coach Lee’s

son above: “Even if the Press Box was not being built in my father’s name, his legacy lives on in Walpole Football and the whole community.” Can we not replace the Confederate Flag with the Press Box? If we take away the Confederate Flag, Coach Lee’s teachings still live on the Walpole Football Field every Fall day after school. The lineman still attack their blocks with the same ferocity, the cornerbacks still climb the ladder to make crucial picks, the quarterbacks still throw tight spirals downfield to streaking wide receivers.

And everyone who puts that orange helmet on, with the “Rebels” decal displayed across both sides, still takes pride in their school. They still love the brothers that they play alongside. When they look at the blue W in the middle of the field, we all get a sense of school pride.

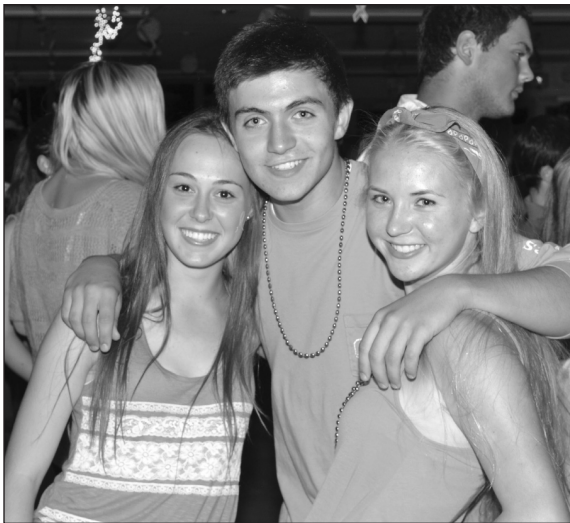
Hopefully, the players can all look at the new John E. Lee Press box and remember the teachings of Coach Lee as they take on whatever team is on the other side of that field. They can see the big grass W in front of the Press Box and feel that school pride that so symbolized the success of the Coach Lee era football teams, year in and year out, and forget about that other symbol in the opposite corner of the field.

Student Council Hosts Second Annual Pink Dance

Photos/ Bryan Kelleher



Students laugh and enjoy the music.



Bailey Tudor, Mike Mazzotta and Claudia Schoenthaler smile for a picture.



Katie Carter, Leah Erwin and C.J. Weinacht hug and grin for the camera.



A group of students dance to D.J. Blaque's playlists.



Nick Morey, Armen Andonian, Garrett Barry, Thomas Heffernan, and Nate Porack pose for a photo.

By Mackenzie Wilson
Class of 2014

Walpole High School Student Council is known for trying to put a new twist on charity events for the high school. Whether it is collecting coats for the homeless in hopes of meeting Ed Sheeran or a “Girl’s Night Out” around prom for the Fairy Godmother project, Student Council is constantly looking for innovative ways to earn money for charities.

Student Council’s second annual Pink Dance was no exception to their creative ideas. On September 28, Student Council arrived ready to raise money for the annual American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk. They hoped to raise over \$500 to donate to the Breast Cancer Walk, and have a great night at the same time. They decorated the halls with streamers, breast cancer ribbons, and twinkling strings of lights. Student Council turned the school into a place a student would actually want to spend a Saturday night with all their hard work. However, the group did not forget to thank those who had helped with the fundraising. They lined the walls by the teacher’s room was posters sporting the names of the students who contributed to the fundraiser.

Inside the cafeteria, Student Council continued to keep the theme of pink and breast cancer awareness going with their decorating prowess. The cafeteria was gussied up similarly to the hallway outside, turning it into an explosion of pink decorations. Then, they lived up to their promise of a fun filled night by adding in DJ Blaque to play music, leaving plenty of room to dance, and as many desserts and cotton candy as a person could eat.

When 7:00 pm rolled around, students bedecked in pink clothes filled Walpole High School’s cafeteria. Outfits ranged from pink shirts to full on pink ensembles, where everything from socks to hats were pink. Some students even showed up with pink hair and pink lines drawn under their eyes. However, no matter how much or how little pink

the students wore, they were all there in support of the same cause: increase in funding for breast care research and awareness. Each payed their \$10, or donated additional money to the jar by the ticket counter, and went off to have a fun night, knowing they had helped out with the cause.

Nonetheless, despite all the advertising and work that Student Council did, the Pink Dance still had a small turnout this year. About 40 students came to support Student Council’s fundraiser. Thankfully, Student Council still reached their goal and made \$600.

For those who did attend, Saturday night was filled with pink-filled fun. Groups of people crowded the dance floor, enjoying the music and going crazy. DJ Blaque played popular hits all night, giving the students plenty of opportunities to bust out their best moves. Eventually, the crowds of people converged into one big group, dancing together in a huge, pink mob.

The students united themselves on the dance floor, and for breast cancer research, on September 28. The \$600 will still be donated to American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk.

THE REBELLION

Walpole High School’s newspaper is committed to informing the public, reflecting the students’ views, creating a public forum and serving as an educational medium.
Check out our new website whstherebellion.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

“We Can’t Stop” the Miley Cyrus Craze

By Lucy Lynch
Class of 2015



Miley Cyrus bares her teeth at criticism.

In an industry known for chaos and competitiveness, the entertainment business is a major catalyst in transforming the lives of naive, young children who dream only of fame and fortune. Networks such as the Disney Channel and Nickelodeon are constantly casting new television shows looking for the next teen sensation. While the lives of these stars appear glamorous and exciting to children, the reality is that these jobs and the pressure these celebrities face is often unbearable. Though many Disney stars such as Hilary Duff and Raven Symone successfully made the transition from lovable child to responsible adult in the public eye, many Disney grads have felt the need to shed the image that was forced upon them. Most recently, Miley Cyrus, who starred in Disney’s “Hannah Montana,” has received backlash from her drastic transformation which included a new haircut, controversial music videos, and a raunchy performance at the 2013 Video Music Awards. In August 2012, more than a year ago, Twitter erupted after Miley Cyrus tweeted a picture of her new haircut. Cyrus had traded in her long, brunette locks for a short, blonde pixie cut, a change that enraged many fans. Among the hatred were comparisons made between her and the Harry Potter character Draco Malfoy, as their haircuts are strikingly similar, and many people just generally referring to her as a man. Many viewed Cyrus’ haircut as no more than a phase she was going through, but the hair was just the start of her transformation. During the months that followed her infamous haircut, Miley Cyrus began using Twitter and Instagram to promote her upcoming album, “Bangerz,” which is set to

be released on October 8. In June, Cyrus released the first single and accompanying music video off of her new album titled “We Can’t Stop.” The bizarre music video featuring giant teddy bears, gold grills, and life sized Barbie dolls now boasts almost 200 million views on YouTube. Similarly, on September 9, Cyrus debuted another music video for her single “Wrecking Ball,” which broke the Vevo record for most views of a music video in one day—19.3 million—and as with “We Can’t Stop,” the art direction of this video was just as suggestive. However, nothing sparked more outrage and confusion than her VMA performance. On the evening of August 25, 2013, at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, the stage was set for an annual nationally televised event—the MTV Video Music Awards. One of the most anticipated performances of the night was Miley Cyrus singing “We Can’t Stop,” but no one could have anticipated the obscenity that would ensue. Scantily clad in little to no clothes, Cyrus danced with giant teddy bears and twerked on singer-songwriter Robin Thicke. The repercussions of the performance were harsh. People around the world were

shocked to see how Miley Cyrus has truly transformed since starring on the Disney Channel. Now, almost a month later, reps for Miley Cyrus have announced that she has broken off her engagement with her fiancé of four years, Australian actor, Liam Hemsworth. It has been speculated that the pair had been broken up for weeks, possibly because Hemsworth was supposedly very embarrassed by Cyrus’ VMA showdown. Despite the fact that Miley Cyrus has been wrecking havoc worldwide for over a year, her transformation has proven to be an unbelievable lucrative marketing strategy. In addition to the millions of people who have helped “We Can’t Stop” and “Wrecking Ball” go viral, both singles have reached the pinnacle of success—platinum status and #1 on the iTunes charts. Though Cyrus’ performance at the VMA’s was almost unbearable to watch, the act generated more tweets than the blackout of the Super Bowl—a whopping 300,000 per minute. Miley Cyrus has redefined the terms celebrity and viral sensation in the past year alone. While many may disagree or be disgusted with the “new” Miley Cyrus in how she looks, acts, and portrays herself in the public eye, it is easy for many to forget the bizarre childhood she has had as a celebrity. Working for networks like the Disney Channel, child actors are sworn into contracts and lifestyles that force them to sell a particular image—one that does not necessarily reflect their real personality. Essentially, it may not be fair to judge Miley Cyrus’ recent behaviors as celebrities like her, Amanda Bynes, and even the late Michael Jackson were forced to give their childhoods away for a difficult career in a brutal industry. People like Miley Cyrus have shown the world, in a very morbid way, the effects of growing up in the spotlight and how such demanding careers will force a child to grow up—with everyone watching.

“Modern Family” premiere displays Emmy standard

By Katie Smith
Class of 2015

After this year’s Emmy Awards, “Modern Family” walked away with one of the biggest awards of the night — Outstanding Comedy Series. “Modern Family” received twelve Emmy nominations this year, and has won Outstanding Comedy Award three years in a row. Gail Mancuso also won best director for her work on the show. “Modern Family” is a force to be reckoned with, and this was evident during the season five premiere on Wednesday, September 25. Two separate episodes aired during the season premiere: “Suddenly, Last Summer,” and “First Days.” “Suddenly, Last Summer” picks up at the start of the summer. Manny, son of Gloria and Jay, prepares for his trip to Colombia to visit Gloria’s family. Mitch and Cam are overjoyed by the new gay marriage laws passed in California. However, they face a major problem—who proposes to who? The episode is hectic as always, for the whole family plots to create the perfect proposal for Mitch and Cam. Their plans are foiled when the couple spontaneously proposes to each other at the same time. Claire and Phil Dunphy—parents of Haley, Alex and Luke—are stressed by the chaos that is created from all three kids being home. Phil attempts to reschedule the kids’ plans in order to create a kid-free week of summer. Little does he know, Claire is trying to create a Phil-free week for herself as well. “Suddenly Last Summer” was the



Cam substitutes in Alex’s AP History class.

tvfanatic.com

perfect start to season five. It had the perfect mix of humor and romance without overdoing it. Although the ending was abrupt, it was an effective seg-way into the second episode of

Wednesday’s premiere, “First Days.”

Now set in September, “First Days” explores Luke and Manny’s first day of high school as well as Claire’s first day of work at her father Jay’s closet company. She struggles to fit in. Cam is called in to substitute in Alex Dunphy’s AP History class, a subject he knows nothing about, so he dresses up as George Washington in order to teach his students. Alex ends up teaching the class and Cam is fortunate to land a gig as the high school gym teacher and football coach. Gloria and Phil spend the day worried Manny and Luke are “too cool” for them now. Their worries are cured when Phil catches Luke using his high school “tips” at the end of the school day.

The premiere did not disappoint, as it provided the perfect combination of hilarity and tender moments. But both episodes felt a little rushed. Despite the abruptness, “Suddenly Last Summer” and “First Days” were promising starts for season five. As for the rest of the season, a highly anticipated event will be Mitch and Cam’s wedding. The amusement will most certainly continue, as Cam, Alex, Luke, and Manny all battle high school together. “Modern Family” grabbed the top spot in September 25 TV ratings, and judging from the premiere, it looks like the reign will continue.

Relatable “The Middle” pokes fun at problems of everyday life

By Karalyn Kickham
Class of 2014

What better comfort is there than knowing you’re not alone? No matter what the scenario, emotions are better handled when they can be shared with and understood by others. This statement holds true whether applied to real life interactions, or, in this case, a comedy television show. ABC’s “The Middle” is the ultimate comfort show for most working-class families, as the show humorously exaggerates many everyday problems American working-class families encounter, leaving viewers laughing and feeling better about their own lives. The first episode of season five of “The Middle” premiered on Wednesday, September 25.

“The Middle” follows a family of five, cleverly named the “Hecks” — Frankie and Mike, the parents; Axl, the irresponsible older son; Sue, the socially awkward and overly-energetic middle child; and Brick, the reclusive younger son with behavioral quirks. Season five picks up at the end of summer on Axl’s move-in day at college. Wanting to experience the milestone of dropping her son off at college, Frankie insists that the whole family drives the 45 minutes from home to Axl’s new school. The show then takes a scenario as ordinary as driving to college and embellishes the setbacks that change the 45 minute drive into a 5-hour one.

The first setback is Axl’s own laziness. Axl has packed only an inflatable palm tree and a few plastic bags of snacks to bring with him to college, so the family has to stop at Bed, Bath, and Between to properly equip Axl. At the store, Frankie buys Brick

a cell phone, despite Brick’s own disapproval of the idea due to his lack of responsibility. No surprise, Brick loses the cell phone and causes the family to turn around and go back for the phone. Later on, Sue freaks out when she learns that her mom never faxed her essay on why she should be the Junior Peer Leadership Advisor. Not wanting to crush Sue’s dreams, Frankie brings the family to the copy store in an attempt to have everything prepared within the next 15 minutes—Sue’s deadline for turning in her essay.

When Axl finally makes it to college, Frankie is disappointed because Axl is away from the family before she has a chance to say a proper goodbye. To make up for the lack of a special moment with her son, Frankie tears up while addressing Axl’s videogame-absorbed roommate, whose eyes don’t veer from the screen once. The Hecks return home only to find that Axl is already back and complaining about the lack of food in the house.

This season opener set the bar high for the rest of the season, as Axl’s ignorance about the reality of college provide a light, humorous atmosphere to what could have been an emotional day for the family. More than anything else, “The Middle” is set apart from other family TV shows by how relatable it is. “The Middle” amplifies both simple and complex conflicts, therefore providing comedic relief to the lives of viewers experiencing similar situations on a smaller scale. With Axl off at college and Sue still struggling to be accepted in high school, this season of “The Middle” should be a memorable one. “The Middle” airs on Wednesday nights on ABC at 8 pm.

SPORTS

Photo/ Heller Photography



Regan takes on a Natick defender.

Regan leads Rebsoc to early season success

By Katie Carter
Class of 2015

A captain of any sports team must be ready to deal with the pressure and responsibility of being a leader. Everyone else on the team, whether an upperclassmen or an underclassmen, admires the hard work and dedication that the captain gives to the sport. Being a good leader is just one aspect of a great captain, but so is contributing to the team's overall success. Senior Captain Lauren Regan has led Walpole Girls Soccer in the right direction by scoring 7 goals in just the first 10 games of this season. Regan truly expresses

her dedication to her leadership role. She inspires others with her unyielding persistence and enthusiastic attitude. She not only is able to communicate well with her whole team, but she leads by example. At every single practice, and every single game, Lauren always possesses a positive attitude. This year, she is not only a soccer captain, but a softball captain as well. "Lauren always comes to practice with a positive attitude and we all lead by example," said fellow senior Captain Abbey Smith. "She exemplifies what it means to be a Walpole soccer player." Regan is not only an ex-

emplar athlete, but also a model student in the classroom: She takes three AP classes—Calculus, Literature, and Physics—with a complement of other difficult classes. Regan is also a member of NHS, maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.65 throughout her 3 years of high school and being accepted via an application. Over her past four seasons on varsity, Regan has become a top contributor for the team. Her powerful kick and quick feet enable her to shine on the field. As an offensive player, it is ultimately up to her to score as much as possible, and she seems to do this with no problem. Thus far this season, she is the leading top scorer on the team as she has scored 7 goals in a short amount of time, a feat which some players can only dream of accomplishing. Regan said, "I'm glad that I have been able to be a contributor to the team's success so far. It's great to be a part of this team". In the first game of the season, Girls Soccer

faced Newton North; the game was very close, but Newton North came out on top with a final score of 2-1 in which Regan scored the only goal of this game. This was the only the beginning of what would become her incredible scoring streak. Regan continued on and scored another goal against Brookline—improving her scoring record to a total of 2 goals in 3 games. Walpole tied their next two games (1-1) against Needham and Natick. Although Lauren did not score against Needham, she did manage to score against Natick. By the end of the first half, Regan booted the ball off a pass from senior Brooke Stampfl which improved her impressive tally now reached 4 goals in 5 games. On Thursday, September 19, the Rebels had their first night game of the season. They played against one of their biggest rivals, Wellesley. The Rebels won the game, the final score being 2-0, both goals scored by Regan. Her first goal was with two minutes left in the game from a corner kicked by junior Annie Gallivan in which Lauren was able to head the ball to the

back of the net. Later in the game, Regan got the chance to take a penalty kick, after a Wellesley player fouled her sister (sophomore Lisa Regan) in the box. With the crowd in complete anticipation, Lauren slotted the penalty kick right into the back of the net. Regan said, "Beating Wellesley was probably the highlight [of the season] so far, as we knew it would be a tough game after knocking them out of tournament last year". Regan is a very skilled player who continuously gives it all she's got. She will charge at every single ball, and never give up without a fight. After being one of the leading scorers for the team for her whole high school career, who knows where she will end up in the next few years. Regarding her last year playing for the Rebels, Regan said, "I am really enjoying my senior season so far, but I do not want it to end." Whether she is cheering on a teammate, or slamming a ball into the back of the net, Regan exhibits the qualities of a true athlete. She is not only extremely talented, but incredibly determined, allowing her to be a very successful captain.

Rebel Review

Boys Soccer (4-4-2): The Boys have fought back to a .500 record after a rough start and look to notch significant wins against tough Carey/Herget opponents. **Volleyball (7-3):** After a tough start, volleyball has rattled off 5 consecutive wins to come close to qualifying for the State Tournament. **Boys XC (4-3):** After starting the season a mediocre 2-3, senior Pat Connell and Boys XC pulled the upset over Weymouth and Braintree (24-31 against Weymouth) to get over .500 at 4-3. **Swimming (6-1):** Walpole Swimming & Diving beat most of the weaker teams. The challenge will be in the next meets, when they face the better opponents. **Golf (5-3):** Walpole Golf is a young team with only three losses — each by three points or less. If they continue, they could make a run in the postseason.

After scoring 7 goals in just the first 10 games of the season, Regan will surely continue to be a large contributor to the Rebels for the remainder of her high school career.

Trio of Porker Seniors Look to End State Championship Drought

By Matt Brownsword
Class of 2014

There's a new trend in sports: ever since the Celtics added Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen to Paul Pierce and created the first modern Big Three, other teams followed suit, most notably the Heat, who's Big Three of Chris Bosh, Dwayne Wade, and LeBron James has become bigger than the Three R's of reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. No team exemplifies the era of the Big Three better than Walpole Girls Field Hockey. Leading the Porkers towards their annual goal of winning the state championship, the three senior Captains Brooke Matherson, Ashley Waldron, and Lina Feeley are integral parts of the field hockey team—and have been for the past three years. The three started their Field Hockey journey freshman year, being chosen to not only play on the team but assume important roles on a team that, as always, was looking to win a state championship. "Being the only three freshman on varsity was really intimidating," said Waldron. "That rarely ever happens. This year we have [freshman Melanie Weber] playing an important role, but giving three freshman important roles on a senior oriented team was a little nerve-racking." However, Waldron became a starter at right-mid halfway through the season and continued to start in that position for sophomore year. Feeley had a similar path, starting at left wing freshman year, then moving to center back sophomore year and finally moving up to center mid for his junior and senior year. Matherson played half the game at forward for her first two varsity years; now she plays the full game up top. Waldron and Feeley command the central positions on the field—Waldron at center back—using their experience to control the entire field. "Being a senior, I'm definitely more calm and collected out there so I am able to guide the younger kids on the field as a captain," said Waldron. From Waldron to Feeley to

Matherson, each third of the field is covered by one experienced captain, leading the defense, midfield, and offense, respectively. All three were Bay State League All-Stars for their sophomore and junior year, with Matherson winning the Bay State Most Valuable Player. The Porkers have dominated the Bay State League for as long as most people can remember, and the years with these three on the team have been no different. "There's nothing these girls have not seen," said Coach Marianne Murphy. This year, the Porkers have gotten off to their characteristic strong start, giving up only three goals and scoring 48 goals on its way to an 10-0 start. Beverley-ranked No. 11 in the boston.com Top 20 rankings—provided the only close test to the No.2 Porkers, only losing 2-1 in a hotly contested match up. Also, the Porkers have had quality wins over No.20 Norwood and No. 13 Franklin, playing strong defense and finding the necessary offense. Normally, the Porkers wouldn't have played teams of this caliber until later in the season or in the tournament, but because of the MIAA's new Opt-Out Rule, the Porkers added two non-league Saturday games to the schedule after Braintree and Brookline opted out. "I like these scrimmages because they prepare us better for the competition that we'll face in the tournament," said Matherson. The Porkers hope that the increased competition in the regular season will help solve their postseason woes. The Pork-



Photo/ Caitlin Campbell

Senior Captains Caroline Feeley, Brooke Matherson, and Ashley Waldron pose for a photo after a hard fought win against Franklin.

ers have not gotten past the EMass game since 2006, so they hope that playing tournament type games in the regular season will help them in the long run. The Porkers have had a state championship drought for their standards, but this year's team hopes to overcome this block and get to and win the big game. "Our goal every year is to win the state championship," said Matherson. Waldron and Matherson have committed to Brown University and Boston College, respectively, for field hockey. Feeley has yet to decide on where she wants to go, but wants to play in college. "There's such a good class of people who have come out of this program and have gone on to play in college. I'd like to experience that," said Feeley. However, all the focus for the three captains are on this season: "We need to take it one game at a time. We have to keep setting our goals high," said Waldron. Because if there's one thing that this Big Three haven't seen, it's the state championship trophy. And that is what they are setting their sights on.

ESPN's Hall picks Walpole to win state title

Photos/ Bryan Kelleher



Needham defender deflects a pass intended for senior Colton Mitchell.

By Michael Fortin
Class of 2014

Every year when summer ends and fall begins there are three things that are guaranteed to happen in Walpole: school will start, the leaves will change, and the Walpole Football team will have, yet again, another great season. This year is no different as the Rebels have started their season off strong, defeating Foxboro in their opener 37-15. And thus, with the talent that Walpole has produced this year, ESPN Boston's Sports Editor Brendan Hall picked the Rebels to win the Division 3 State Championship.

Although Hall said in his predictions that picking the State Champion in mid-August was still way too early, he is well aware of the Walpole Football tradition. Despite graduating 17 starters and the Class of 2013 — which was considered one of the most athletic classes to come through Walpole High — there still are high expectations for the Rebels. But that is just the type of program Walpole has: they don't rebuild; they just consistently reload. With just five returning starters coming back, the Rebels know that they will have trouble succeeding their expectations. On the first day of practice, Head Coach Barry Greener said to his players, "Just because we are Walpole doesn't mean teams will just roll over. We have to work for it."

Hall and many other high school reporters are putting a lot of pressure on the Rebels, who were initially ranked No. 14 in the state in the pre-season poll and ranked



Senior Captain Noah Kung prepares to snap the ball.

in the top 10 in multiple other rankings. Despite all of this recognition, the Rebels know that they cannot pay any attention to it. Senior Captain Will Bolster — who hates the fact that Walpole was picked to win the State Championship — said, "We just can not be distracted by all this because if you pay attention to this stuff you will start to think you're better then you actually are and not play as hard. Then, the next thing you know you're playing sloppy and losing games." Bolster and the rest of the Rebels hope to maintain this mindset because they cannot afford to be distracted.

However, the Rebels did have a setback in their second game against Needham, losing 26-6. Despite the score, Walpole will most likely never have to play a team this strong in Division 3, but the loss showed some of the growing pains the Rebels will have to go through if they want to be considered the best team in Division 3. Needham, a Division 2 contender, ran right through the Rebels with one of the best running backs in Massachusetts: senior Mikey Panepinto. Walpole will also have to play No. 8 Natick before the playoffs begin.

Because of the loss, Walpole knows that a State Championship is a tough feat to accomplish. The Rebels hope that scheduling of strong Division 2 teams will help them when they face off in less-competent Division 3 team in the near future. Also, with each game, the Rebels gain valuable experience as they look to combine this with their talent. Being picked to win the State Championship shows respect to the Walpole tradition, but it also puts a lot of pressure on the young Rebel squad.

Cross Country newcomer Allie Morris breaks school course record

By Mackenzie Wilson
Class of 2014

For an athlete, there is nothing more tragic than finding oneself too injured to participate. It is frustrating, heartbreaking, and an altogether horrible experience. Sometimes, getting seriously injured even cripples an athlete mentally, keeping them from performing at their usual level of excellence. Junior Allie Morris, however, is different.

After suffering an unusual illness called rhabdomyolysis, Morris did not compete for the majority of Spring Track last season. Instead, she recorded times, moved hurdles, cheered her teammates, and quietly grew frustrated with her inability to run. Over the summer when she recovered from her illness, Morris made a difficult decision: she left Walpole Swimming to train for her first season as a part of Walpole Girls Cross Country. Although this decision was not an easy one, she has no regrets.

Against Wellesley and Dedham on an boiling September 11 (the temperatures were in the mid 90's),

Morris came in First Place overall to lead the Rebels to a 28-29 victory over Wellesley. The Wednesday after, on a mild September 18, she broke the school record to lead the Rebels to victory over Milton with a time of 16:05. Then, on September 25, she shaved off over ten seconds to set a new school record of 15:51.

This year, Morris has been a firebrand for Walpole Girls Cross Country. She began her season running in the front pack with senior Captain Kristen Coyne, senior Jackie Applin, and sophomore Alyssa Murphy. By working hard and staying focused, Morris quickly moved to the front of the pack and became Walpole's top female runner.

When Morris joined, the girls were coming off one of their best seasons yet. Last season, girl's cross country won the Bay State Herget Champions title for the first time since 1994, and defeated two very formidable teams Wellesley and Weymouth in difficult races. However, this season, the girls were facing the same difficult competition minus their top two runners — senior Gina Conti and alumni Megan Peterson. Thankfully, Morris came prepared to step up and took over Conti's spot as the girls team's top runner.

This cross country season marked her first time as a top runner. Morris' times in track — including a 5:53 1 mile and a 12:52 two mile — were fast, often better than most of her competition. Although Morris was a good runner and did score points in meets, she never qualified for the Division II State Meet, or ran with the top girls' pack. However, now Morris is doing more than running with them: she is leading them.

Such a change in pace was new for her. When discussing her new role on the team, Morris said, "It's different for me, because I have never really been in this position before. It does put more pressure on me, but

at the same time it pushes me to keep improving."

So far, Morris has played a huge role in all three of the team's wins, and gets better every race.

If a bystander saw her running now, they would not have guessed that last spring, Morris had not ran a single race. In fact, she had not been able to participate at all in track due to a disease called rhabdomyolysis. This disease is caused when damaged muscles release a protein, myoglobin, into the bloodstream. Once myoglobin enters the bloodstream, it can cause serious damage to the kidney cells and, if left untreated, lead to kidney failure. Symptoms of the disease include weakness, joint pain, and muscle fatigue.

However, this daunting illness did not halt Morris in her tracks. In fact, rhabdomyolysis led her to try even harder. "It never really felt like an option to give up running," said Morris "I just decided that once I was able to run again I would work harder and push myself more so that I could improve."

And she did improve. Morris worked hard all summer, changing her diet and making sure to take care of herself properly in order to prevent her rhabdomyolysis from coming back. These little steps towards better health caused her to improve and build herself up to a new level of excellence. When she broke the school record a second time on the course, it became clear to all that her effort had not been wasted. Morris' good friend, junior Kathryn Lawton, was so inspired by Morris' recovery that she teared up after watching Morris beat her old record. "I'm so happy and proud of her success," Lawton said, "She worked very hard this summer to be where she is. She makes it look easy but only because she worked so hard."

As the season continues on, Morris hopes to keep up the level of excellence she has set for herself through her incredible races and competitive nature. She hopes, along with the rest of the girl's team, to qualify for the Cross Country All State Meet on November 16, and thus, become the first team in Walpole Girl's Cross Country history to run there. Undoubtedly, if Morris continues to perform at the standard she made for herself, and the team, she will continue to do great things this season. After all the hard work she has put into her recovery and running, Morris is the picture of a dedicated athlete and is an inspiration to all.



Photo/ Bryan Kelleher

Junior Captain Allie Morris fights for the lead against Needham and Newton North.

What makes a great teacher?

By Peter Hoegler
Class of 2014

What was the best class your ever had? Remember a course you took where you hated the subject, but the teacher was so entertaining, so engaging, so mesmerizing, that you ended up loving the class? Or, how about the class that required toothpicks to keep your eyes open? The notes you took that meant nothing. The times you wanted to pitch yourself out of the third floor window out of sheer and utter boredom.

With the Walpole Teachers Union approval of the new teacher's contract on October 3, the union agreed to adopt the Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation throughout the Walpole School District. The state is now implementing a new teacher evaluation system that will require administrators and teachers to reevaluate what it means to be a good teacher.

"I think this evaluation system is looking for effective practices," said Principal Stephen Imbusch. "One of the biggest changes in this system is that there is a new set of rubrics that all teachers are going to follow. But we will be doing shorter observations and more of them to get a better feel of the classroom."

Teachers will be graded on four standards: Curriculum Planning and Assessment; Teaching All Students; Family and Community Engagement; and Professional Culture. Within each standard, evaluators must provide four grades

(much like a MCAS score): Advanced, Proficient, Needs Improvement, and Unsatisfactory. "We are aiming for our teachers to be in the Proficient category," said Imbusch. "There will be some teachers who will be advanced in certain categories of the rubric, but if you do everything you are required to do, you will be a proficient teacher."

Undoubtedly, the adoption of this new evaluation system is an improvement for the Walpole School District because it will force evaluators to more accurately measure the effectiveness of instruction. However, in looking over the new teacher evaluation rubric after my interview with Principal Imbusch, two questions kept resurfacing: what actually makes a "Proficient" or "Advanced" teacher, and why isn't our faculty aiming for "Advanced"? Most likely, "Proficient" is a first year goal for this process and next year, the faculty may aim for "Advanced." But the second question remained unanswered: what makes an "Advanced" teacher?

Most great teachers are extremely knowledgeable and have high expectations for their students. They are willing to do whatever it takes for every student to be successful. Consequently, great teachers set high standards but hold themselves, and their students, accountable for students' success. They have a 'can do' attitude that instills self-confidence in students. They know exactly what skill or concept students are expected to master and how their mastery will be assessed. Great teachers should be engaging and love

what they do. Students follow this lead. Engaged. Stimulated. Willing and wanting to work.

To test this hypothesis and see how it compares to this new teacher rubric, the Rebellion assessed 120 Walpole High School students about the most desirable trait in a teacher. Surprisingly, "Subject Matter Knowledge" came in third with 16.3%, while "High Expectations" barely registered with 2%. Notably, students ranked teacher's "Enthusiasm" and "Approachability" as the most popular traits, each receiving 38.5% of the vote. In the comments section, many students also referred to student engagement as an important factor when determining what makes a good teacher. Senior Kaylin Hallet summed up the comments the best: "There is nothing more painful than sitting for an entire year with an overly boring teacher. When that's the case, I don't want to learn."

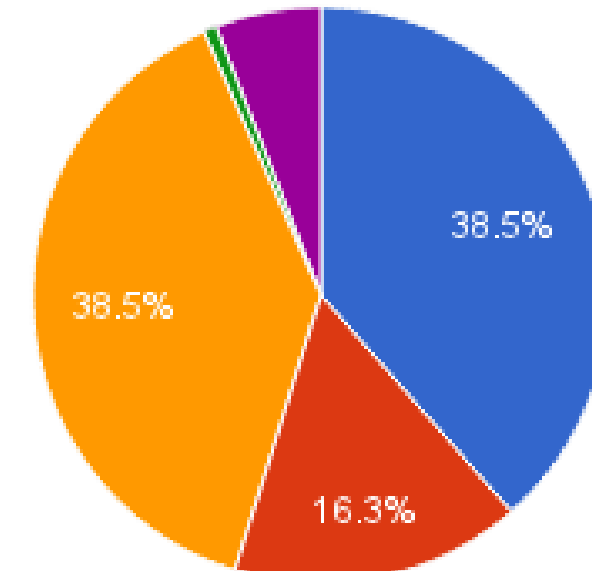
Hence, there seemed to be strong correlation between the new teacher evaluation rubric and the student survey: all "Advanced" teachers use their enthusiasm and approachability to engage students in a meaningful way.

According to the survey and the rubric then, disengagement then — or boredom — is the enemy of teacher instruction. Students who are bored in class learn only one thing: that they are at the mercy of their instructor. Just think about it: did you ever have a teacher who was boring who you also thought was great? Of course not.

Everyone remembers being bored through all

What is your favorite characteristic in a teacher?

- approachability
- subject matter knowledge
- enthusiastic
- high expectations
- other



Students voice their opinions on what makes a good teacher.

most the entirety of some class. It was, without a doubt, our teacher's fault. The teacher was humorless, spoke in a monotone, and gave us busy work that did not teach anything meaningful. School before and after that class made sense, but those nine months in that room were torture. Students yawned, scribbled notes, rolled their eyes, or blatantly broke the school's cell phone policy. The students' collective tedium was

painted on their faces. All the teacher had to do to wake them up was to stop and say something like, "I'm boring you, aren't I? Let's switch gears and try something else." But the teacher didn't. Instead, they just kept on going with their lesson. In short, the teacher Needed Improvement.

With this new teacher evaluation rubric, teachers will be held more accountable to making sure students are engaged. While they may not all be



"There is nothing more painful than sitting for an entire year with an overly boring teacher. When that's the case, I don't want to learn."

-Senior Kaylin Hallet



"When a teacher knows what they're talking about, the student gets more out of the class. Enthusiasm never hurt anybody either."

-Senior Connor Moriarty



"Teachers can really teach if they know the subject well and how to apply it to students."

-Sophomore Alyssa Rosen

"Advanced" (and they should not all have to be advanced), they should at least be more aware that disengagement hampers student learning.

However, while they all should at least be "Proficient," they should strive toward being "Advanced." They should strive to have a passion and an enthusiasm for his or her subject.

Walpole teachers must make their curriculums real and tangible for their students. Those

changes will engage students. In the evaluation rubric, the state identifies "Advanced" teachers — not "Proficient" teachers — as "motivating and engaging," and Walpole has a lot of "Advanced" teachers. However, if Walpole wants to improve instruction, the school should aim for "Advanced" teachers and engaged students as opposed to "Proficient" teachers managing bored teenagers.

Students react to philosophy adjustments



"It is not fair to punish those who do not do their homework with a detention and fail to reward those who make an effort"

-Senior Kristen Coyne

"The new homework policy does not allow for kids to make mistakes and learn from their mistakes."

-Sophomore Ian Fair



"Students get a second chance to show teachers that they understand the material. A bad grade the first time could just be the result of a busy night with not a lot of time to study."

-Senior Karalyn Kickham

Continued from Page 1

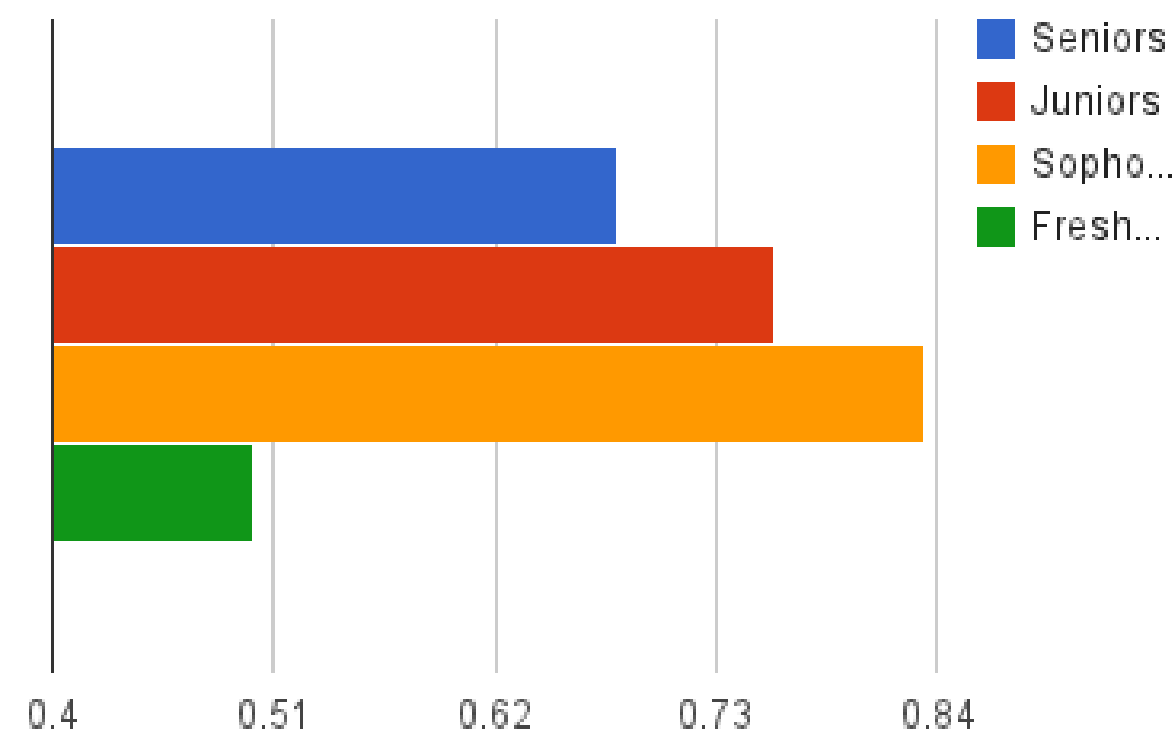
Meanwhile, many students are upset that the helpful "boost" they get from habitually doing their homework no longer exists. For some, it helped to keep grades afloat—for others, it made the ever-so-slight-but-extremely-significant difference between achieving High Honors and regular Honors at the end of the term. Though Administration argues that this safety net of a homework grade actually hampers a student in the long run, a vast population of students — and some teachers — disagree.

After the announcement of a new homework philosophy, many teachers have embraced the new policy while others have denounced it. Not only does the student have to miss their bus or arrive late to some sports practices or club meetings, but the teacher must stay after with them — a condition which creates several issues, as a teacher may not have the time to stay after or must attend to prior obligations. Furthermore, some teachers who wish to give students a homework grade must add a significant amount of work on top of their already monstrous "Things to Correct" pile. Finally, these same teachers (not the whole faculty) view the homework-correcting rule to be somewhat nonsensical, arguing that they like to see their students take risks when answering the homework questions. The new rule, they say, stifles a sense of creativity and the willingness to be adventurous in their studies. Some are calling for a compromise—offer this new philosophy as one option, but allow the individual teacher to make the final call for their class.

As for the students, the feedback reflects staunch opposition. While some have no qualms with the system—"I always do my homework, so it doesn't really affect me," they said—others are up in arms. Regarding the suggestion that homework be graded for correctness, senior Kristen Coyne said, "If a student doesn't understand the subject, they should not be penalized for not doing homework if they put a strong effort into it." Another concern many students had regarding the new philosophy is that it appears to leave little room for error. Sophomore Max Simons said, "The new homework philosophy adopted by most of my teachers does not allow kids to make mistakes. The new quiz and test policy, however, helps kids learn from their mistakes."

This student alludes to the second philosophy that is currently being stressed at Walpole High School—new changes to the quiz and test retake rules. Unlike the homework philosophy, this new system is widely accepted by the student body. Understanding that all students learn at different rates, Principal Imbusch is enforcing reformations to the retake policy that allow a student a second chance if need be. "Let's say Johnny and Suzie are classmates in an honors class," Principal Imbusch said. "Both students are of equal caliber in terms of academics, but Johnny understands a particular unit much faster and in much more detail than Suzie. Both study the same amount of time for a quiz, they take the quiz, and the results come in—Johnny passes with flying colors, while Suzie receives a failing grade. Should Suzie be punished with this grade—a grade that will surely bring

What percentage of each grade did not like the new HW policy?



Students express a distaste for the new homework policy in a Rebellion survey.

her average down—simply because she doesn't understand the subject matter quite as easily as Johnny did?"

Most WHS students welcome this new philosophy with open arms. Senior Karalyn Kickham said, "Now, students get a second chance to show teachers that they understand the material. A bad grade the first time could just be a result of a busy night with not enough time to study."

Despite the mixed feelings regarding the new philosophies, Principal Imbusch maintains that the changes—meant to help the students, not hurt them—are a step in the right direction for WHS. He is convinced that if everyone is consistent, the new philosophies will survive. He

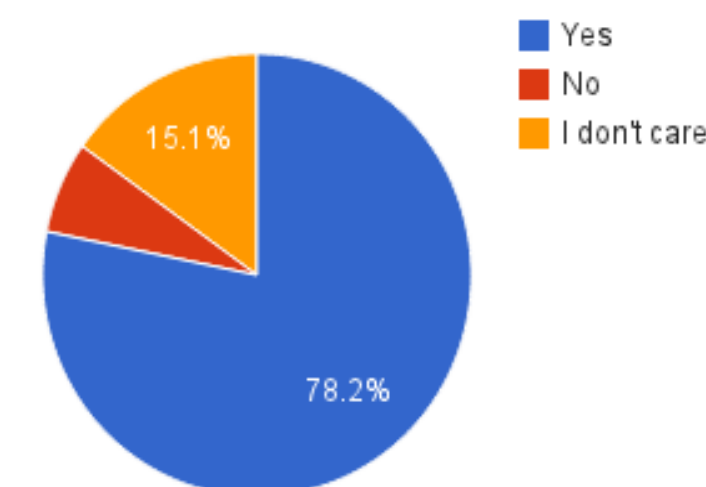
said, "I am open to tweaking the philosophies slightly, if necessary. We weren't preparing kids nearly enough with the old system, and I believe that this year's changes will allow kids to gain much more knowledge and skill in their studies. Every year come graduation, we want to turn out kids who—by the end of their senior year—have reached their full potential," Mr. Imbusch said. "I believe we have found two philosophies that help us to accomplish just that."

While each September most students and teachers adopt the new school policies with complacent obedience (such as the retake policy), this homework policy instead has been met with confusion. Mostly though, this confu-

sion appears to be directly connected with something students and teachers take for granted: learning. What is the purpose of homework? Do students actually learn from homework? Do grades actually reflect student learning, or are they a reflection of a student's behavior or effort?

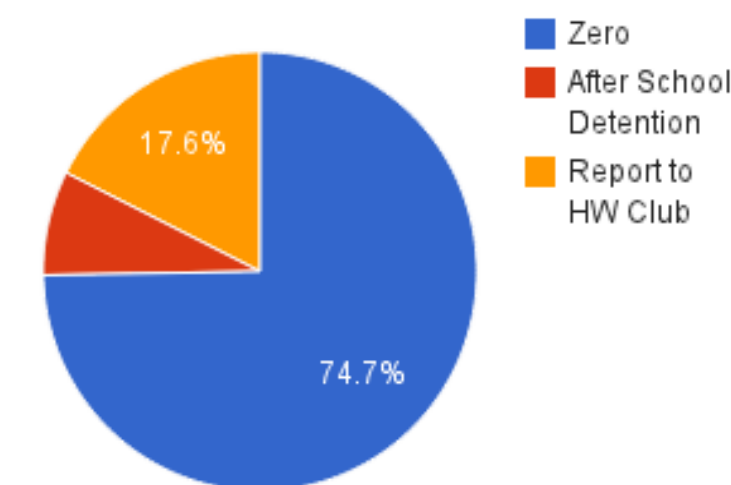
These questions are unsettling to the school community because they force teachers and students to reexamine their assumptions about the learning experience. Subverting those assumptions, Principal Imbusch advocates learning is not a student behavior to be punished, but rather a skill to be measured by meaningful assessments. The question remains though: will the rest of the community agree with him?

Do you like the new Retake Policy?



Students express overwhelming approval for the retake philosophy.

If No, what should be the punishment for not doing HW?



Graphs / Matt Brownword

Students suggest alternative punishments for incomplete homework.