



THE DEVIL'S HERALD

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Avon Grove High School, West Grove, Pa.

Friday, October 27, 2023

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CLASS OF 2024

Class officers plan Mr. Avon Grove, Family Feud

By

Joe Lewis
Staff Writer

The senior class officers are hard at work and are preparing future events this school year.

"Senior sunrise had a great turnout and the cabinet will push in order to make this year a year to remember," says Senior Class Treasurer Addie Driscoll.

Driscoll says that they are going to do fundraisers to lessen the price of a prom ticket. Events such as the annual Powderpuff game would do so.

Senior Class President Zaida Caulder adds that "the more the seniors participate in events, the less a prom ticket will cost."

Caulder says that there are a lot of events to look forward to. The nearest event being Powderpuff.

Powderpuff is a flag football game between senior and junior girls. The game will be held at Red Devil Stadium on State Road from 5:00-8:00p.m. on November 2.

Following Powderpuff is the Holiday Holla, with the winter

dance shortly after. Family Feud, and Mr. Avon Grove are also in the works.

Mr. Avon Grove is a competition where senior boys partake in a talent show. Mr. Avon Grove will take place on February 22.

Family Feud is a game show that has been on television for 47 years. Seniors will be participating in an Avon Grove version. The date for Family Feud is to be announced.

The class cabinet is also hoping to try something new in lieu of After Prom. They are working with the Parent Action Committee in hopes of planning a Senior Class Trip to a beach or a waterpark.

If this trip happens, Zaida Caulder says it might include a DJ, cookout, and inflatables in the water. She also hopes students will be able to release lanterns at the beach.

This trip is in the very early planning stages and there are many logistics and obstacles that will need to be overcome for this to occur.

HOMECOMING

Roaring to Victory

Homecoming celebrates Avon Grove culture, activities, and sports



-Photo by Myles Ruess

Members of the boys lacrosse team dressed up as jungle animals on their float for the annual Homecoming Parade. Avon Grove celebrated Homecoming on Saturday, September 30. Read more on pages 2-3.

SCHOOL POLICY

Grading scales pose problem for seniors applying to college

By

Cailin Maley
Staff Writer

Every school has a certain grading scale they use. Some schools use a pass/fail system, but one of the most common grading systems is the A-F system.

Depending on your school's grading scale, it can be very helpful, or it can be a disservice. When colleges get your grade and calculate your GPA, they do it using your letter grades, meaning the higher letter grade, the better.

Avon Grove High School uses the A-F system, as well as schools near it, like Kennett and Unionville. In this instance, the school can choose what percents are for what letter. For Kennett and Unionville, an A- to A+ is 90%-100%. However, at Avon Grove, an A- to A+ is 91% to 100%.

You may be asking, "Why does this difference matter?"

One of the main reasons it matters is that when students are trying to get into college, they are applying and giving schools their

grades. But the grades colleges are looking at are the letter grades (A-, B, etc.).

This poses a large issue for seniors applying for college.

Senior Catie Weingarten says, "The grading scale has made it more challenging applying to colleges because they don't ask for percentages. They ask for letter grades, and in many other schools a 90% is an A-. I could have the same grade as another student in a different school, a 90%, but college admission counselors would only see a B+ and an A-, which is a big difference."

Even though this grading system seems all bad, there is some good in it, and some reasons it has not been changed.

Avon Grove High School principal Dr. Christie Snead says, "We have a really high achieving school so regardless of the grade, our students definitely meet high expectations, and we haven't had a reason to change it."

Dr. Snead also mentioned that since we have such a high achieving school, students will be rec-

Avon Grove Grading Scale

A+	98%-100%
A	94%-97%
A-	91%-93%
B+	88%-90%
B	84%-87%
B-	81%-83%
C+	78%-80%
C	74%-77%
C-	71%-73%
D+	68%-70%
D	64%-67%
D-	61%-63%
F	0%-60%

Kennett and Unionville Grading Scale

A+	97%-100%
A	93%-96%
A-	90%-92%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	77%-79%
C	73%-76%
C-	70%-72%
D+	67%-69%
D	63%-66%
D-	60%-62%
F	0%-59%

ognized. U.S. News ranks Avon Grove #68 out of over 600 high schools in Pennsylvania.

This ranking helps Avon Grove

students when applying to colleges, so even though the grading scale may be a disadvantage, they have an advantage just be-

cause they go to a higher ranked school.

AG celebrates Homecoming

Homecoming booths provide special experiences, foods, crafts

By
Giselle McCullough
Column

At 9:00a.m. on Saturday, September 30 the activity booths opened. All day long at the Avon Grove Middle School the blacktop was bustling with Avon Grove students, staff, and their families.

The booths lined the walls as the parade floats were flaunted by their respective clubs and sports as they fledged down Prospect Avenue and State Road. All the club and activity booths were incredible and thoughtful, but I'd like to present the ones I feel were the best and why.

The Kids Choice Award was tied by the boys tennis and cross country booths.

The boys tennis team booth had a plethora of games for kids to choose from. "We have a pumpkin rolling and a Plinko board," said junior Mason Walker, a student running the booth.

"We're using points from the games to allow people to win prizes."

Their team objective was to "raise money for team jerseys, bus transportation, senior gifts, and other needed equipment."

The cross country team had a "duck pull" in which "you pick up a duck and there are numbers on the bottom of the ducks that correspond to different prizes," senior Ava Pfaff explained.

They were raising money for "gear and the annual Red Devil 5k."

The Most Creative Award goes to the Art Society booth.

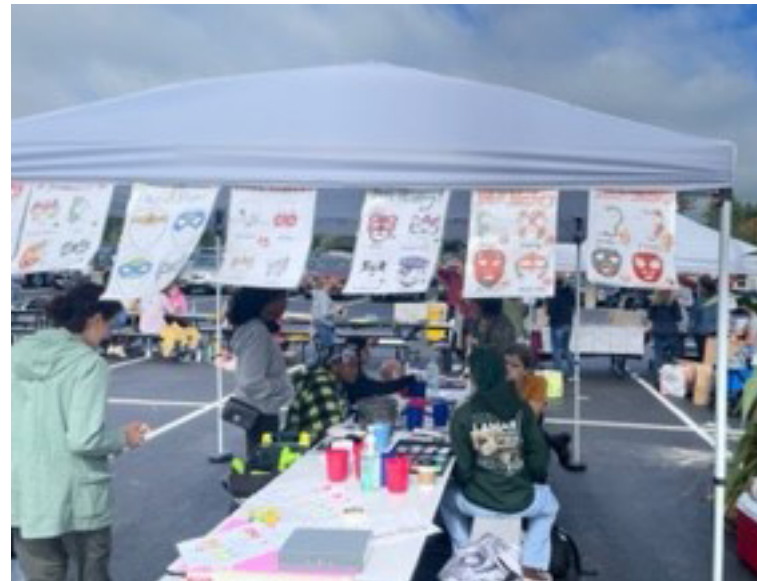
The Art Society booth had face painting. They had options such as super heroes, animals, and other movie characters.

"We want to raise money for supplies, art trips to museums and other art related events, as well as keep our art shows running," Piper Nolte, a sophomore at the booth commented.

The Goofiest Award goes to the boys soccer booth. As endearing as their float was, with their Hawaiian skirts and shirts, their booth was just as captivating.



-Photo by Giselle McCullough
The Sewing Club sold blankets to benefit Ryan's Cases for Smiles.



-Photo by Giselle McCullough
The Art Society offered face painting.



-Photo by Giselle McCullough
Assistant boys soccer coach Brent Coward waits to get dunked.



-Photo by Giselle McCullough
The cross country team hosted a game of Hook-a-Duck.

-Photo by Giselle McCullough
The boys tennis team sold chances to win at a plethora of games.

The boys soccer booth had a dunk tank in which "teachers, principals, and parents" could be dunked, according to parent Josh Titter, who was helping run the booth.

Junior Ryan Lauzon, one of the members of the boys soccer team remarked, "We're fundraising for gear as well as advertising for men's soccer to bring the community a little bit closer."

Their booth gains extra points for the music and bubbles they had.

The Most Considerate Award goes to the Sewing Club booth.

The Sewing Club was selling hand sewn blankets as well as handcrafted lanyards and keychains.

"We want to raise money to buy cotton fabric that we make into pillows that we donate to Ryan's Cases for Smiles," said senior Peyton McNeil.

They get extra points for art inclusivity.

The Most Delicious Award goes to the ACTO (All Cultures Together Overcome) booth. They were selling tacos catered by Daddy's Kitchen.

They get extra points for food selection and community involvement.

What I found interesting was the extent of their fundraising.

"We raise money all year for community events, charities, and the transportation to these events," remarked Ms. Tzortzatos, an Avon Grove High School teacher running the booth.

Last but not least, the Class of 2025 booth won the award for Class Favorite.

Though they were just raising money for the junior class, they were selling the school's favorite.

"To raise money we are selling soda, popcorn, and Chick-fil-A," claimed Sami Calabretta and Liliana Garcia, members of the Class of 2025 cabinet.

I can attest to both hearing and seeing my peers constantly flocking to that booth for Chick-fil-A.



Team spirit builds AG pride floats

By
Myles Ruess
Column

Avon Grove's annual Homecoming Parade was led by the AG color guard and marching band, as floats and cars started to round the corner of State Road and steal the show.

Cheers and cameras were clicking as proud family and friends came together to enjoy their community. Floats filled with students and props glided past the audiences pressed against State Road.

The decorated floats and set themes start as ideas and are brought to reality through teamwork and hard work.

"Someone has to have a float to even start, then you have to buy the materials for it," said senior Nex Crawford. "Then, you have to buy the materials for it which usually we have to split it up between all of our teammates."

Planning for Homecoming Parade floats doesn't start in September, some teams plan over the summer.

"Right before the school year started, someone texted the group chat, 'What should we do for our theme?'" said Crawford. "We just threw out ideas and found the idea that everyone liked the most."

Whether you knew someone on a float or were cheering for a favorite AG sport team, there was probably a strong favorite from the long list.

"The boys ice hockey team really outdid themselves this year," says senior Oswin Chavez. "Their energy was exuberant."

From the loud cheers and creative decorations, I think the boys lacrosse team's float is by far my favorite in the parade.

The safari theme of the boys lacrosse float was vibrant, with inflatable trees, tinsel, and an inflatable zebra. They were dressed in animal onesies and creative explorer costumes.

Their large banners that they held were also creative, utilizing Avon Grove's signature colors of maroon and gold.

Unity and the overwhelming sense of community from the start of the Red Devil 5k race to the end of the football game was an astounding thing to witness and be a part of.



-Photo by Myles Ruess
The Class of 2024 cabinet (President Zaida Caulder, Vice President Matt Moerder, Secretary Kaylei Starsinic) camped down down State Road.



-Photos by Giselle McCullough (above) and Myles Ruess (below)
Boys lacrosse players (left to right) Luke Tyson, Ryan Colello, Macsen Milestone, Rowan Antonio dressed like animals for their Homecoming Parade float (below).





HERALD SPORTS

Oct. 27
Cross Country @ Districts
Football
vs. Coatesville, 7:00 p.m.
Girls Ice Hockey
vs. Kingsway, 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 30
Boys Ice Hockey
vs. Perkiomen Valley, 6:45 p.m.
Girls Ice Hockey
vs. Downingtown West, 7:40 p.m.

Nov. 3
Boys Ice Hockey
vs. West Chester Henderson, 8:10 p.m.

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Fall sports wind down as district playoffs draw near

By **Riley Wiercinski**
Senior Editor

Fall is home to many things: cozy sweaters, falling leaves, that certain smell in the air, and, in our case, a whole lot of rain. It means getting back into the school routine, being constantly overwhelmed, and trying to effectively manage your time.

However, in the mind of an average high school student, fall sports sweeten the whole deal. There is no better feeling than sitting in the student section with your peers, dressing in whatever crazy theme the team creates, and screaming for the athletes who are leaving their hearts on the field, court, or course.

Boys Cross Country
Boys cross country, headed by Coach Langhorne, rode the ChesMont wave all the way to 4th place among 7 teams. Connor Britton led the pack with an overall third-place finish with the addition of Brendan Tester, Lars Trone, and Ben and Shaun Weaver rounding out the season's star runners.

Britton has been a powerhouse for the team since freshman year and has NCAA Division 1 aspirations, though he has not made an official decision.

"As a freshman, he was able to learn from our last state qualifier, Benny Clark. I could tell he was going to be a special runner. [As a sophomore] Connor qualified for States for the first time."

He led the team to the Nike regionals in New York, where he was recognized as third-team all-region, however, his junior year was unlike any other.

"Connor broke the school record for a 5K at the Paul Short Invitational. The record stood for over 10 years."

He ended up placing 13th at states, making him AG's first cross-country state medalist. He broke his own record at Ches-Monts this year with a time of 15:39.

Girls Cross Country
Girls cross country, headed by Coach Iacocca, is winding down a fantastic season led by junior

Lily Schindler and seniors Ava Pfaff, Payton Brown, and Zaida Caulder.

"Ava is a tremendous triathlete and her career at [the University of] Denver will no doubt be stellar. However, she's also an outstanding runner and an asset to the cross country team. It will be fun to watch her college career from afar as she develops into a more experienced competitor," said Coach Iacocca.

Schindler will return as the team's best runner next season and set the tone for several sophomores who have been working hard all year.

"The great thing is that the girls are all committed to working together to get faster as a team, and they are supportive of each other during practices and race. While cross country is a lot of fun, training to get faster means putting in a lot of painful hours together, so it is good that everyone gets along and is committed to the team. As coaches, we couldn't ask for a more supportive group of athletes, so next year will be a lot of fun."

Field Hockey
The field hockey team, headed by Coach Antignani, has had one of the best seasons yet as they have stayed consistently in the top eight of the District 1 3A standings.

"This is the first time we have been consistent with staying that high of a ranking and the coaching staff is very proud of the team for that. We hope that we make it into the playoffs for more than two games. Each year we make it to the second round and it was a goal made by the team to go further," says Antignani.

The team is currently 14-3-1 (as of October 22) after their 2-1 victory over Penncrest on October 19. However, that wasn't the most important game of the season.

"This year we beat Great Valley 10-6, and this was the first time in my seven years we finally beat Great Valley. This is an unusually high scoring game and with this game, the team came together and fought through as a unit with multiple goal scorers."

Avon Grove qualified for the District 1 tournament as the 7th seed.

Sophomore Morgan O'Donnell has flipped the switch offensively scoring early and often on the midfield line.

Senior Cassidy Ashworth is a defensive powerhouse at center back and has done a "phenomenal job as captain" while stepping up to make some great tackles and blocks.

Sophomore Kylee Mellott has ruled the defense and has had more than three shutouts in the goal. She has been making incredible saves against top NCAA Division 1 commits.

"Continuing the team chemistry off and on the field has made a huge difference in the way we play and makes every win feel like a huge celebration along with each loss as a time to learn. Our main goal is to keep everyone on the same page going towards a growth mindset and pushing each other."

Boys Golf
Boys' golf, headed by Coach Socaris, completed the regular season in late September with eight players qualifying for the ChesMont League tournament on October 10.

Among these eight, Jeffery Neil coupled with Tyler and Trevor Sikorski, qualified for districts. Trevor Sikorski went on to reach the second round of districts.

"Both Tyler and Trevor are very competitive, and they always try to push each other to be better. They often practice together and challenge each other to improve their skills," says Coach Socaris.

Boys Soccer
Boys soccer, sputtered down the homestretch of the season and finished 8-10.

FOR THE RECORD

	WINS	LOSSES	TIES
BOYS Football	4	5	0
BOYS Soccer	14	3	1
GIRLS Soccer	8	10	0
GIRLS Volleyball	10	8	0
GIRLS Tennis	10	9	0

RECORDS AS OF OCTOBER 22, 2023

Revenge will be on their minds as they will face West Chester Rustin in the first round of the District 1 playoffs on October 24 (too late for press time). AG lost to Rustin 2-1 on October 17 in overtime.

Last season, the team finished 9-11 with seven senior starters graduating, leaving it to the underclassmen to step up and develop the program.

"The team has come a long way since tryouts in the middle of August. They have overcome the challenges of learning how to play with what was essentially a whole new collection of players while trying to adjust to a new coaching staff," said Herman.

With this, the class of 2024 took it upon themselves to create core values and expectations for the program and take the underclassmen under their wing.

"This group of young men has been holding each other accountable and demonstrating a high level of commitment."

Girls Tennis
Girls tennis, headed by Coach Maund, wrapped up a 4-10 season at Sun Valley on October 2.

They beat the Vanguards 7-0 and finished in fifth place in the Ches-Mont National Division.

"Sabrina Lin, Addie Driscoll, and Sindhuja Kanamarlapudi were our top three players this season," says Coach Maund.

These seniors, with the addition of sophomore Elissa McLean, held their own in the singles matches, while Alena Kurtz, Helike Milestone, Ella McCleary, and Julia Short represented AG during the doubles competition.

Next season, the varsity team will be cut in half with six graduating seniors.

"We are looking forward to our current non-senior varsity players to step up and lead our team next season: Elissa McLean, Ella McCleary, Julia Short, Korrine Mitchell, and some of the newcomers who improved dramatically over the course of the season."

On behalf of the Avon Grove athletics department, several coaches would like to thank the students who displayed immense amounts of school spirit in support of their teams.

Student-athletes strive for success in class

By **Lydia Ramsey**
Staff Writer

When one imagines a model student, they might think of a straight A, hyper academic-focused teenager.

Contrary to popular belief, many successful students participate in athletic activities as well.

One can take a look at a current sophomore Aarnav Behari in order to solidify this statement.

Aarnav is a part of the Math Club, Computer Science Honors Society, Chess Club, and takes math on a calculus level.

Additionally, this student is also a part of the Avon Grove cross country team.

An assumption could be made that students participating in a highly competitive sport adopt a certain attitude that helps benefit them both on the field, and in the classroom.

Daunting tests, overwhelming projects, and homework loads

face high school students of all ages every day.

For Aarnav, tenacity is an acquired trait that encourages him to persevere through races and academic challenges.

When faced with feelings of discouragement or even physical pain, he finds himself going into a mindset of determination in order to finish his run.

Similarly, this attitude can be found in the classroom as well, transferring over this perspective in order to achieve academic suc-

cess.


Overall, Aarnav Behari has been taught perseverance and the encouragement of motivation on the track, and this has been reflected in his greatly successful school career.

According to AtYourOwnRisk.org, not only does participating in team sports result in a higher GPA for both male and female athletes, but physically active children are 15% more likely to attend college.

Additionally, student athletes

earn up to 40% higher test scores than those students who are not a part of any athletic program.

If one were to take a look around at the intelligent students that surround them, they should not be shocked by the fact that a vast majority of them hit the locker room after school in addition to the books.



Upcoming Events

Oct. 31
Halloween

Nov. 2
Powderpuff Fundraiser

Nov. 10-11
Tinkerbell play

Nov. 7
Teacher Inservice

Nov. 20-24
Thanksgiving Break

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Teens gain real-life experience through employment opportunities



Jobs for teens include Giant and McDonald's!

What job is best for you?

By **Hannah Strawhecker**
Staff Writer

Acquiring a job is a common mission for teenagers. The benefits of having a job can include financial stability, responsibility, and learning important skills, such as communication.

Do the pros outweigh the cons? Which local business is the safest and best bet for teens?

According to McDonald's crew member and Avon Grove sophomore LeeAnn Baker, who earns \$10.25 per hour, McDonald's is a safe job for teens who are looking for a job.

Training only takes about 2 days and was pretty stressful. However, Baker soon got the hang of things.

Tasks for crew members at McDonald's often include taking drive-thru orders, presenting food to customers, packaging food, and cleaning the lobby.

"Until workers turn 16, they are considered 'red-hats' and are limited in abilities to cook and work past certain hours," said 15-year-old Baker.

McDonald's employees receive benefits such as a 20% discount, and free meals before, during, and after shifts. Other benefits include significant bonuses after working for 90 days, as well as bonuses for good report cards and college tuition for workers who apply to universities.

Another job opportunity for teens is Gi-

ant.

Senior Joe Lewis is a cashier at Giant in Jennersville. He is paid \$11.50 per hour and tasks include running the cash register, pushing carts and restocking shelves.

Giant also provides some benefits for their employees.

"You receive an associate's discount after working for a certain amount of time," says Lewis, "and a discount on the holidays."

Scheduling is very flexible which is convenient for students-athletes who need to take time off of work spontaneously.

Lewis claims that, "working as a cashier helps you meet new people."

Although, working at a grocery store has its stressful moments. For example, "Sunday mornings are really busy, but other than that it's not that bad," said Lewis.

Concord Pet Food & Supplies in New London is another job opportunity for teens.

Myles Reuss earns \$10 per hour to restock shelves, run the cash register, and clean the store.

Reuss experiences benefits such as flexible scheduling and an employee discount of up to 25% off.

The job includes a lot of customer service. Customers are sometimes short and complain, however, this is a problem that will occur at any retail business.

According to Reuss, business at Concord is often "slow and relaxed." This makes the job enjoyable and laid-back.

Banking can build teens' savings

By **LeeAnn Baker**
Staff Writer

Ka-ching! This is what your bank account could sound like if you make the right financial decisions best for you.

"I have been a teacher for 20 years and ran my own small side business for a few years to earn a little extra money. My older sister taught me the value of saving at a young age, when I started babysitting," explained finance teacher Mrs. Carin Zecca.

According to Zecca, her sister taught her to take half of the money she earned and save it, then use the other half for spending money.

"This is how I was able to raise money to travel throughout Australia for six months while I was in college.

"If I could have had the following tips when I was in high school, I think I would have made more money faster and easier: talk to people who make money and learn from them, have a savings and checkings account in high school to deposit half your earnings into each, and find a financial planner."



Mrs. Carin Zecca stated that the following books, *Rich Dad, Poor Dad* by Robert Kiyosaki and *The Wealthy Barber* by David Chilton was "one of the most important financial books I have ever read" and that "these books changed the way I saw and used money completely."

According to accountant Karen Adams at Steel Ledge Advisors LLC, a good way to save is by using the envelope system if you don't have a savings account. The envelope system is when you label different envelopes with different goals such as; home repairs, birthdays, and a car.

"At sixteen I purchased a CD- certificate of deposit. A CD is an account like a savings account but it generates more interest. I had this CD account for about 5 years and saved up just under \$10,000 for a car," said Adams.

Karen Adams stated that there are pros and cons to a CD.

"You have to look at the interest rate and terms."

The longer the term the higher the reward because the income that is generated for longer will make more money.

CDs start from one to ten years and generally need a minimum deposit of \$500. Once you put money into a CD you can not add or take away from it. If you withdraw money from the account then you will need to pay a fee.

"I feel that teenagers should look more towards credit unions but I also think it depends on the accessibility that they want. For instance, certain banks require that the parent is in charge of the savings account," stated Karen Adams.

"I use Citadel Banking for my savings account," stated sophomore Ava Travaglino.

Citadel Credit Union offers teen accounts for ages thirteen to seventeen. This includes a checking account with a debit card.

A parent or guardian must be a joint account holder. Citadel is accessible online or in person.

Their teen savings account offers a 0.05% APY (annual percentage yield).

An APY is the interest you earn in one year by putting your money into an account. The higher it is, the faster your money grows.

Citadel offers a mobile app to effectively keep track of users' balances. This can be helpful for teens trying to manage their finances.

"For every paycheck I get, I put \$100 into my savings. My work offers an app called ADP (automatic data processing) which helps me keep track of the money I'm making," said Travaglino.

ADP is an online payroll system including features such as direct deposit, tax forms, and tax filing. This system can be a great way for working teens to manage their money efficiently.

Capital One offers a kids savings account up to age eighteen. The APY is about 0.30% for any balance. There are no fees and do not require a minimum balance.

You can go to their physical locations or access your account online through their mobile app. The kids account must be owned by an adult alongside someone under the ages of eighteen.

Alliant Credit Union, unlike the previously stated banks, does not have any physical locations and is a digital credit union. However, there are Alliant ATMs that people can access.

Members thirteen to seventeen are eligible for a teen checking account at Alliant, which also comes with a savings account. There must be joint ownership for parents and the owner must be an Alliant member.

There is no monthly service fee or minimum balance. With the teen account they offer a debit card for the adult and teen. The APY is about 0.25%.

PSATs go digital for first time

By **Mary Kate D'Ambrosio**
Staff Writer

Since 1959, high school students in their sophomore and junior years have been sitting in a classroom for 2 hours and 45 minutes to take a 139 question practice SAT (PSAT).

For nearly 70 years students all over the world have taken this test with paper and pencil. This year, the PSAT has a more modernized look to it.

Taking on a digital format, all students, unless they had previously approved test taking accommodations, took the PSAT on their school issued chromebooks at Avon Grove High School.

To prevent the sharing of answers, The College Board introduced a new feature where once a student completed the initial module, based upon your calculated score, their test consisted of different questions, giving each student a personalized version.

There were mixed reviews on what students preferred.

Junior Izzy Pefia Martinez said she liked

taking the test on paper rather than online.

"I noticed that I was a whole lot quicker than I was on paper because of time management. I don't hate it, but at the same time, I did not enjoy it," Martinez expressed.

Ultimately, students will be forced to take digital PSATs and SATs throughout the remainder of their high school careers.

The Eras Tour never goes out of style

'Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour' is in theaters

By
Maddie Butler
Column

For the many who weren't able to obtain tickets for Taylor Swift's The Eras Tour, the release of a movie version of the performance has been a saving grace.

The movie originally was set to have its opening night on Friday, October 13, but this date was changed to a day earlier due to a large demand for tickets, which was announced by Swift in an Instagram post on Wednesday, October 11.

Taylor Swift filmed the movie during the first three nights of her six-night stop in Los Angeles at SoFi Stadium, the last location for the United States portion of the tour, and it allows the viewer to attend her concert in a virtual atmosphere of a movie theater.

The movie also offered an amazing experience for those who did attend the concert live, as a closer look could be taken at Swift's wardrobe and dance moves.

Additionally, Swift has changed outfits throughout her tour, so some of the outfits worn by Swift during her stop in Los Angeles were completely different from those she wore in Philadelphia.

For example, the dress worn

by Swift for the *Speak Now* set was different for her Los Angeles and Philadelphia stops, so the movie allowed for more people to see costumes that they wouldn't have been able to witness otherwise.

Although, a couple changes were made that definitely offset the authenticity of this viewing experience such as the removal of five songs from the setlist.

These songs include: "The Archer" from *Lover*, "no body, no crime" from *Evermore*, "Long Live" from *Speak Now*, "Wildest Dreams" from *1989*, and "cardigan" from *Folklore*.

The transition between costumes and sets are also shortened, which means the movie with a run time of two hours and forty-eight minutes is significantly shorter than the almost three and a half hour concert.

Despite the reasoning behind these revisions, the removal of some of Swift's most popular songs came as a disappointment, especially to those who were unable to see them performed live.

Each of the albums that lost a song within the movie featured other performances, so the feeling of each era was definitely not lost as a result of the change.

The movie still includes forty songs in total as well as two surprise songs: "Our Song" from Los

Angeles night 2 and "You're On Your Own, Kid" from Los Angeles night 3.

The inclusion of "Our Song" as a surprise song has pleased many fans who were hoping for a song from *Debut* to be included within the movie, as no songs from the album were included within the original setlist.

As someone who loves "Our Song," the sudden eruption of excitement that occurred when the song began to play was one of the best moments of the movie.

Reactions from the crowd within the theater made this concert experience feel much more realistic, even though it definitely sparked some questions over the boundaries of movie theater etiquette.

Some videos that have been posted onto online platforms such as TikTok and Instagram depict audiences clustered on the floor level mimicking a pit-like setup that can be seen at most concerts.

This has caused controversy as the movie is not an actual concert and, therefore, the theater was not intended to be used as a stadium.

The distinction was hard to draw, in my opinion, between having fun and upsetting the experience of others until I attended a viewing of the movie myself.



-Photo courtesy of Emma Schmidt

Taylor Swift has performed in front of thousands during The Eras Tour.

While most stayed seated and sang along with the music, some chose to stand which ultimately didn't affect the quality of the experience for those around them, and allowed for people to enjoy the movie in the way in which they preferred.

However, some people chose to scream rather than sing the lyrics within my theater, and had a tendency to mess up lines, which I can't say allowed for the same unimpeded experience.

Other than that, the movie was a perfect addition to The Eras Tour, as so much planning and detail was put into it that a more comprehensive view of her performances was needed in order to appreciate all of Swift's hard work.

The *Folklore* set is a prime example of how the movie works to compliment the live performance as the main scenery for this era was a house in which Swift sits on the roof, and then moves throughout during the rest of the set.

From my seat in the lower bowl, it could be difficult at times to fully see everything going on in the house, and all the dancers surrounding it, which was shown perfectly in the movie.

In addition to the benefits gained by watching *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour*, this movie will ensure that this history-making tour will remain timeless.

ASTRONOMY CORNER

NASA analyzes asteroid sample

By
Adam Swift
Column

Everything in astronomy is exciting if you can appreciate it, which is to say that this month is quite exciting! There is news to be seen and things to see!

The first item of this edition is of utmost importance to the scientific community. The OSIRIS-REx sample has been safely returned to Earth and analyzed!

The OSIRIS-REx mission was launched a few years back. Its goal was to land on a possibly hazardous asteroid named Bennu.

A couple years after the craft was launched, it landed on the ominous asteroid and collected a sample of its soil. Just at the tail-end of September, the OSIRIS-REx capsule containing the sample entered Earth's atmosphere and landed safely in Utah, ready for collection.

As of October 13, the sample has been fully analyzed by NASA geologists and astrogeologists.

The results are revealing of Earth's formation. The few grams of recovered material revealed a

high carbon content and water. To the layman, this doesn't seem very special, though to NASA, this is more than we could ever have hoped for.

Carbon is the element upon which all life on Earth is built. Not to mention, it shows how water would help life form. If the studied asteroid is not an outlier, this means that life might not be so uncommon in our universe.

Our second issue of the month is ongoing, and we may never see a resolution, satellites.

Satellites are visible to the naked eye just after sunset and just before sunrise. If it is visible to the naked eye, it is visible to a million dollar observatory or telescope.

Anyone with a backyard telescope can see stuff like planets and the moon, observatories and telescopes are made to see what our eyes can't. These things include nebulae, galaxies, and star clusters.

Some backyard telescopes can see the brighter of these objects, termed as "deep sky objects," though observatories and expensive telescopes are for research and taking pictures.

The pictures they take are exposed for hours to gather the most light possible, which is how you get images that you might see online.

The issue with satellites and astronomical research arises when you try photographing a large nebulous object or gas cloud like Rho Ophiuci and there are many streaks across it, from the satellites reflecting sunlight.

As more satellites are sent into orbit, the worse this problem will get. The typical stargazer may want to look for satellites in the sky because the problem only affects those taking long exposure images.

Now to end this on a lighter note, it is time for the events portion of this month's edition!

The Orionids meteor shower is peaking as this is published, at around October 20. If you missed the 20th, don't worry, the shower is lasting into November.

Use an app to look for the Orion constellation to see the shower. Be warned, Orion rises late into the night, so I suggest a weekend viewing.

At its peak, there are an ex-

pected 20 meteors per hour. This means you can see a shooting star every three minutes!

By the time this is published it will have passed, but the annular eclipse was on October 14.

This is like a total eclipse but the moon is not fully covering the sun. It is also named a "ring of fire" eclipse, so eclipse glasses must be worn the entire viewing.

We sadly weren't in the path of totality and only saw maybe 20% of the sun being covered, but it was still very meaningful.

As for planetary viewing, Jupiter and Saturn are visible after sunset. Jupiter will just have begun rising at about 8:30p.m. as a bright object in the western sky. Saturn will be slightly less bright, looking like a brighter star, and you can find Saturn along the ecliptic about a third into its nightly transit.

The ice giants aren't visible to the naked eye around here, but they are slightly visible with a telescope in clear conditions.

Neptune is halfway between Saturn and Jupiter along the ecliptic.

Lastly, Uranus is rising about

20-30 minutes after Jupiter. The final piece of this edition is a personal favorite of mine, a huge open star cluster very close to Earth (448 light years) that goes by many names, Pleiades, the seven sisters, or the Maya nebula.

Pleiades is made up of seven visible blue stars in a shape recognizable as a tiny little version of the Big Dipper. Having four form a rectangular shape with another in the top left forming the handle, and the resemblance. It rises after Jupiter around Uranus.

You'll see it if you know where to look! It is seen in this image as the bright group of stars.

Apple's iPhone 15 causing controversy

By
Will Gorman
Staff Writer

The iPhone 15, Apple's newest phone, was released to customers on Friday September 22, 2023 adding to Apple's large inventory of iPhones.

Ever since 2007, Apple has released iPhones each with its own unique features and have evolved every year.

There have been many revolutions to the iPhone and this is no more apparent than with the new iPhone 15.

The iPhone 15, according to Apple, has a brand new charging

port and is also supposed to be the first in a new line of the next model of iPhones.

This iPhone is supposed to set the standard for the next generation and many have praised the new iPhone.

"It has amazing camera and video quality as well as a real clean display," said Tommy Conahan, one of the students who has bought the iPhone 15.

Conahan also added that it met the expectations for it as he said, "It uses the new USB-C port and charges quicker and lasts longer than my old phone with the old charger."

Some of the models have been

hits, including the top selling model of all time, the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus, according to History-Computer.com. These models were revolutionary compared to the 5 with a new camera as well as other graphic improvements.

However, even if some models have been successes, some have also been failures.

Apple's two lowest selling iPhones according to Medium.com were the iPhone SE and the iPhone 5C. The SE did not endear customers because of its size and awkward shape, and both models lacked features and were considered a cash grab by some.

While some agree with Cona-

han's opinion on this new phone, others do not, including sophomore Alex Gorman.

He does not think as highly of the iPhone.

"This phone is not worth buying because of how easily broken it can be because of the back glass," he said.

This has been a common consensus among popular opinion as so far many on this side of the argument have talked about this.

Gorman also believes that "it is mostly the same as the iPhone 14 with what it does."

While some of this is not true, it largely has the same features including the same camera lens the

iPhone 14 used, the 48 megapixel camera.

Along with easily breaking, the iPhone 15 also has a problem with overheating and Apple is currently trying to fix the software. While this may be the case, the iPhone 15 has the most premium material according to Apple.

It'll be interesting to see if this can fuel a new generation of iPhones and be in the long line of successes or be alongside the iPhone SE and 5C in Apple's phone failures.