

*Flip the page and get engaged!*

# Observer



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 5 - MARCH 2019

BEING A SCIENCE  
TEACHER



THE SCIENCE BEHIND  
SOUND



SCI-FI MOVIE  
REVIEWS



MODERN TECHNOLOGY  
IN SOCIETY





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## Dear Readers,

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the March issue of *The Observer*. Our staff is honored to present you with an issue filled to the brim with interesting stories that encompass a variety of topics. This issue covers everything from zodiac signs to the effects of technology. We incorporate sports stories with national pertinence, like March Madness, and schoolwide importance, like Bump-a-Palooza, in order to keep our teachers and students up to date on the history of March Madness upsets, and our school's annual fundraising volleyball tournament.

Our involvement with school does not stop there. It also extends to the talent show, our Academic All-stars team, and the spring musical. We also provide insight to help ease the daunting college selection process with an article that breaks down the search into small, digestible pieces because we all know this stress is relevant throughout the year. The Observer team hopes you enjoy reading and learning with us.

Sarah Johnson  
& Hanna Tormey

## Mission & Vision

### **Flip the page and get engaged!**

The Alfred-Almond Observer strives to inform, entertain, and unify the members of our school and our community. Our aim is to provide local and national stories that relate to our readers, are unbiased, and engage our audience through truth and transparency.

## Observer Staff

### **Meme-Stream Media**

Co-EICs	Conner Griffin Hanna Tormey
Copy Editor	Nora Looney
Design Managers	Joe Milette Wesley Dennison
Staff Writers	Ali Fancher Olivia Ormsby

### **The Newsies**

EIC	Sarah Johnson
Copy Editors	Alex Comer Spenser Ormsby
Design Managers	Davon Bloom Dylan Guthrie
Staff Writer	Lindsey Allen

### **The Write Brothers & Sisters**

EIC	Gabe Empson
Copy Editors	Gabe Marcus Parsa Rashidi
Design Managers	Amya Snyder Abigail Tarun
Staff Writer	Arnold Saint-Phard



# Announcements

Check out  
these  
events  
occurring  
from



March 18  
to  
April 8

**ALFRED UNIVERSITY DANCE PERFORMANCE  
FOR 5-8 GRADE AT ALFRED ALMOND  
CENTRAL SCHOOL ON MARCH 19**

**JUNIOR AND SENIOR CHORUS POP  
CONCERT AT ALFRED ALMOND CENTRAL  
SCHOOL AT 7:00 PM ON MARCH 21**

**ACADEMIC ALL-STARS COMPETITION IN  
THE AUDITORIUM AT 6:15 ON MARCH 25**

**NHS CEREMONY AT THE ALFRED LAKE LODGE  
ON MARCH 28 AT 7:00**

**ACE FRENCH TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY  
ON MARCH 30 TO 31**

**MARCH MADNESS  
FROM MARCH 19 TO APRIL 8**

**SAINT PATRICK'S DAY  
MARCH 17**





# What's up with the world

By Hanna Tormey  
Co Editor-In-Chief

## BREAKING NEWS

Image from  
overkillsoftware.com

## What's Up With Venezuela

There has been a lot going on in the news recently, but one of the most covered, yet confusing stories is the one involving the current turmoil in Venezuela. The issue involves the rightful president of the country of Venezuela, and the humanitarian crisis of Venezuelan citizens. On January 10, Nicolas Maduro was sworn in for the second time to serve as the President of Venezuela with a term that would end in 2025. The legitimacy of the election that elected Maduro has been called into question by many around the world. The United States does not recognize Maduro as the true president, but instead recognizes Juan Guaido as the interim president of the country, according to the New York Times. Currently Maduro has the support of the Venezuelan military and is not letting aid into Venezuela to help its struggling citizens. According to Fox News, in Venezuela hyperinflation is doubling the cost of “basic necessities” every 19 days. Vice President Pence was sent to Colombia on February 25, to meet with Guaido as well as other member countries of the Lima Group (a coalition of Latin American countries as well as Canada), as reported by NBC. This meeting has resulted in sanctions to the Venezuela “state oil company, PDVSA.” The state of Venezuela and its citizens is in the hands of the negotiations between Guaido and Maduro. As of March 12, the United States will be removing its Diplomats from the Venezuelan Embassy. Furthermore, the country has been experiencing crippling power outages, according to npr.

A Country in Turmoil

*Protests have erupted in Venezuela in support of Juan Guaido.*

Photo from [bbc.com](#)



**Out with the old?**  
*Maduro, pictured, claims that he is the rightful winner of the latest Venezuelan election. He is a member of the socialist party.*

Photo from  
[britannica.com](#)





# What's Up With the Wall

On February 15, President Trump declared a state of emergency on our southern border in order to secure funds for his border wall. The New York Times reports that the President declared this state of emergency due to the “flow of drugs, criminals and illegal immigrants from Mexico”. Furthermore, this declaration allows for the president to channel \$3.6 billion from military construction, \$2.5 billion from counternarcotics programs, and \$600 million from a Treasury Department asset forfeiture fund. On February 27, the United States house of representatives voted to overturn the declaration of national emergency by a vote of 245 to 182, according to CNN. In this vote 13 Republicans joined Democrats to vote down the declaration. In a 59-to-49 the Senate voted to overturn the declaration. This vote will be faced with a veto by the President, which would only be overturned by a 2/3 vote in both chambers of Congress.



Wall design

Photo from reuters.com

*A construction or constructed emergency?  
President Trump issues a  
declaration of national emergency  
in order to secure funding for his  
border wall.*

Photo from npr.org



# What's Up With North Korea

The United States and North Korea have a hostile relationship that is being addressed by the Trump Administration. On February 26, President Trump arrived in Vietnam to meet with Kim Jong-un to address the nuclear weapons program of North Korea that is a threat to the United States, according to CNN. Just one day later, talks fell apart between President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-un in Hanoi. The Guardian reported that the Chairman was willing to “dismantle” the Yongbyon nuclear facility if the President was willing to lift all sanctions, which he was not willing to do. President Trump summed up the summit with the phrase, “Sometimes you have to walk.” It is unclear how, when, or if these leaders will meet again to discuss nuclear disarmament, but the meeting was described by President Trump as “friendly.” When the President was asked when the pair would meet again he responded, “It might be soon. It might not be for a long time.”

*Did you know  
that the peace sign  
was originally a  
symbol for nuclear  
disarmament.?*



*What a pair  
Two master  
negotiators met,  
but sadly came  
away with little to  
no progress.*

Photo from  
thehill.com





## Insights From The Social Studies Department

Why is it important to remain knowledgeable on the current events of our nation?

How do you personally stay up to date?

Mr. Turner

"Corny, but true - knowledge is power. Being informed as much as possible reduces the likelihood that other people can manipulate you. Being informed can motivate you to help facilitate change, or motivate you to resist it. Knowledge helps you recognize bias."

"I stay current with American politics by watching the Nightly News and cable news. I also listen to political radio stations and NPR. Political/Current Events **discussion** is also very important."

Mr. Dineen

"Something that I say often on this subject when we talk about it in class is that democracy insists on two things: education and participation. If we want to keep our representative democracy strong we need to have citizens that are educated and willing to participate. This includes all your subjects in school but it also includes staying informed and up to date with what is happening in our democracy day-to-day and the willingness to care enough to vote and exercise your rights that allow us to participate in our government (an idea that is relatively new to the world)."

"A great way to stay up to date on what is happening in our country is to watch the news. Of course you want to be careful where you get your information when it comes to reliability. Another tip that I would give when trying to stay informed, would be to use a variety of sources. Don't only watch Fox news and listen to conservative (Republican) podcasts and don't only watch MSNBC and listen to liberal (Democrat) podcasts. What I do is I have my go-to conservative sources, independent-libertarian sources, and democratic sources and before I make up my mind about something that has happened I try to see what all those sources have to say and get as much information as possible before I make up my mind on how I feel about whatever it is I was curious about."

Mr. Donlon

"I believe it is important to be knowledgeable on current events because each of us play a role in current events. Each of us are indeed current and shape the events around us either by our reaction to the events or participating in the actions ourselves. Its is important to try as best we can to understand fully each side and each issue as we absorb information. The hard part about this is that it takes time to do that, which is generally not a strong suit for our current population. Many take snap shots and make snap judgments or worse let their favorite news anchor tell them what to think."

"As a history teacher we have to be ready to discuss these daily, to prepare for that I watch news every day and read news every day. It is mostly national and world news. When there is a particularly hot topic I make sure to look at how the extreme left, extreme right and moderate news organizations are covering it."



# The Actual Framers

By Gabe Marcus  
Copy Editor

Hate in America is one of the most important issues in the United States. Most Americans can agree that hate against a group just because of their characteristics is absolutely not condoned. Because of historic hate in America, politicians have designed and passed hate crime laws, allowing someone to be prosecuted if they commit a crime on the basis of sex, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, age and other characteristics. What is also wrong and illegal is to accuse someone of a crime they did not commit, or frame someone in a crime. In recent times, specifically, February 2019 when American actor Jussie Smollett was arrested for staging a hate crime because he was upset about the political environment and his salary concerns.

Smollett, an American actor from Chicago played Jamal Lyon in the FOX series *Empire* and acted in many other films as old as 1991. Smollett came out gay on the *Ellen Degeneres Show*. In 2007, Mr. Smollett was arrested and given two years of probation for using a false name and giving false information during a DUI case.

According to the Chicago Police Department, Smollett reached out to two of his fellow actors, two brothers from Nigeria. In the alleged event, Smollett paid them \$3500 to stage an attack by placing a noose around him and then beating him up.



Acting Out! Jussie Smollett, left next to the two brothers from Nigeria Photo from [sde.co/ke](https://www.sde.co/ke)

Smollett went on national television and told the public that the attackers were shouting racial slurs and yelling “This is MAGA country.” Numerous politicians began to send social media messages out to their supporters calling out the act. At first, President Trump called the act “horrible,” and California Senator Kamala Harris called the act a “modern-day lynching” with racist and homophobic intentions. When I contacted the Southern Poverty Law Center, the city of Chicago, Smollett's lawyer Todd Pugh, and the Anti Defamation league, not one entity has returned my contacting of them as I expected them not to.

Lawyers for Mr. Smollett have been recently defending Smollett and the two Nigerian Brothers. According to Fox News, Smollett's lawyers have been pointing out that the defendant is innocent until proven guilty, as stated in the due process law of the 14th Amendment. The Chicago

Police Department, on the other hand, has condemned the defendants and told the media “this publicity stunt was a scar that Chicago didn’t earn and certainly didn’t deserve.” President Trump made remarks on Twitter against Smollett. The *Empire* cast has stood with Jussie and celebrities such as Tyler Perry have also stood with him. In the end, however, he was eventually dropped from the cast of *Empire*.

According to Fox News, in early March, Smollett was indicted on 16 felony counts for framing a hate crime. As this story is ongoing, there will be more details as the trial goes on that will not meet the time limit in the *Observer*

You can make the decision on who to believe when it comes to this controversial case. The moral is that people need to take responsibility for their actions and follow the golden rule, to treat others as if they would treat you.



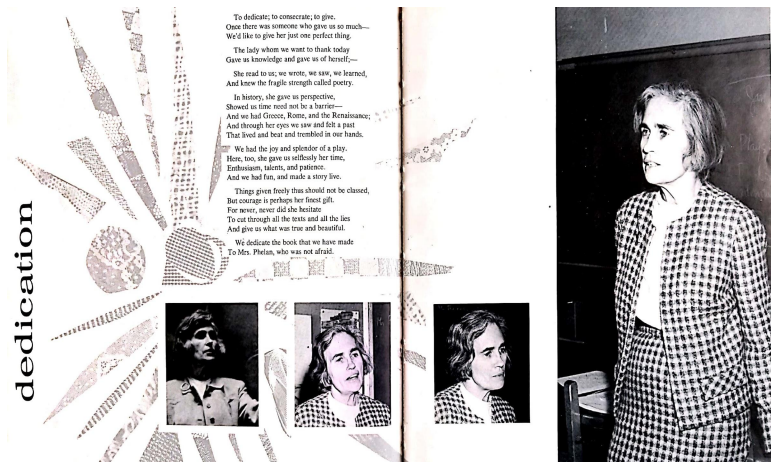


# The Book Lady of Alfred-Almond, Helene C. Phelan (1911-2004)

By Mark Hall  
School Librarian

Writing about the legacy of Helene C. Phelan, teacher, writer, historian, parent, and community resource, is an intimidating task, because this is one lady who deserves the best efforts of any writer who attempts to describe her accomplishments. The bare facts about her teaching, research, writing, theater directing, historical site reconstruction, and promotion of literacy have been set down before by more skillful writers than I, but the purpose of this piece is to give the readers a sense of her cumulative effect. Having met her twice in person, and having experienced the impact of her personality I feel the urgent need to go beyond the cold summary of her deeds. The fact is, she had a gift for making other people better than they might have been without her.

You only need to look through ALCEN s from 1958 through 1971 to document her powerful influence on students. In dedicating the 1964 ALCEN to Mrs. Phelan, one anonymous student wrote that Mrs. Phelan “gave us knowledge and gave us herself” with the result that “We read, we saw, we learned, and knew the fragile strength of poetry” in English while “In history she gave us perspective, showed us time need not be a barrier.” The writer added that “...courage is perhaps her finest gift, for never did she hesitate to cut through all the texts and all the lies and give us what was true and beautiful.” As drama director “she gave us selflessly her time, enthusiasm, talents, and patience,” so that, in productions of “Arsenic and Old Lace”, “The Importance of Being Earnest”, “The Thurber Carnival” and many others, “we had the joy and splendor of a play... and we had fun and made a story live.”



The Local Legend

Shown above is the yearbook dedicated to Helene for her efforts and contributions to the school community.  
Photo from the Alfred Almond 1964 Yearbook

Retired Allegany County Historian Craig Braack fondly recalls getting his chance to be Walter Mitty under Mrs. Phelan's direction in 1967. According to retired Alfred-Almond Latin teacher Mary Ellen Westlake, Mrs. Phelan was respected for having the widest knowledge of history and literature. Six published books about local history on our library's shelves give eloquent testimony of Helen C. Phelan's energetic and insightful research and writing after her retirement from teaching. “And Why Not Every Man”, her book about the underground railroad, and abolitionist activities in New York, provides a vivid account of real people (many of whom lived in our own local communities) who opposed slavery while explaining why so many local people were inspired to actively serve in the Union army during the Civil War. “Tramping Out the Vintage”, and “Who Only Stand and Wait” provide edited and annotated primary sources for those who want to understand the thoughts and experiences of local residents who served in that war. “And a White Vest for Sam'l”, and “If Our /earthly House Dissolved” preserve living records of the day to day lives of people who lived in this county during the 19th century. “Allegany Uncommon Folk” is an extremely readable

collection of true stories about Allegany County people who need to be remembered. My personal favorites are Moses Van Campen, an Indian fighter and Shongo, a Seneca war chief who met in combat during the Revolutionary War, then lived to tell each other war stories as old men in retirement. Anyone who reads these books will look at our local roads, bridges, farms and hillsides and see the shadows of past lives as they travel from site to site.

In addition to writing books, Mrs. Phelan helped stock the local public library with donations from her own collection. Some people called her “the book lady” because they often saw her carrying armloads of books from her home to the library.

Helene C. Phelan was also generous to me as I started my career in education. As a local historian she allowed me to interview her for a graduate school project on local history teaching resources. I was astounded to learn that she had actually known Jane Adams, founder of Hull House. Years later she was a guest speaker when I taught creative writing at Hornell BOCES. Like everyone else who ever knew her, I was enchanted, enhanced and inspired by Helene C. Phelan. Her legacy will live on in the memories of her students and in the minds of her readers.



# AAAA!

By Wesley Dennison  
Design Manager

## The Advertisement

If you've ever watched an episode of Jeopardy and thought, "I wish our school had some way for me to flex my knowledge in a game show-like format." Well you're in luck. Academic All-Stars is our district's version of the classic game show Jeopardy and Trivia Pursuit combined, where you answer questions based on the course material in grades 7-12, as well as art, pop culture, current events, and various trades. If while reading this article you find that it seems like a cheesy commercial, that's because it is! I am a part of Academic All-Stars, and you should absolutely join us in Mr. Donlon's room on Tuesdays to show off your academic prowess.

*"It's all about having fun, you know?"*

## The Team

The team currently has about 40 members, and while the team is large, already in only two matches, over half of the players have been on the stage. I asked Mr. Donlon himself how he decided which players were going to play on what day, and he said "Well you know, we've already



## A Team of Scholars

*During our practices, everyone is welcome in the room to answer some of our practice questions.*  
Image courtesy of: Wesley Dennison

If you're anything like me, you're curious about what happens during activity mod, beyond frantically doing the homework that's due in 45 minutes - 44 minutes and 55 seconds actually, so you'd better do your homework before reading this (I'm one of those kids too). In case you *have* set aside an adequate amount of time to read this, I'm here to inform you about what happens in some of the clubs at AA, and help encourage more students to join.

Many, if not all, high schools have in-school organizations, or clubs, and Alfred-Almond is no exception. Our school has numerous teacher and student organized clubs to join if you're looking for something fun to do for a break in an otherwise drab week in school. Each month of the *Observer* will feature one such club, in order to better acquaint yourself with the Alfred-Almond environment.



## The Hammondsport Lakers

*A Laker, Hammondsport's mascot, is actually a pirate*  
Image from:  
hammondsportcds.org

had 27 kids play and it's only been two matches in the season...it's all about having fun, you know?"

## Our Arch Rivals

Over the years, our school's team has been in close competition with the Hammondsport Lakers for the championship. The rivalry between us was born "Out of respect." says Mr. D, since he started coaching the school's team only nine years ago.

## The Game

In Academic All-Stars, the goal is to out score your opponent in a quasi-trivia game. The competition itself is played by two teams of up to 16 people with two sections, A and B, that go head to head in two rounds. Both rounds usually have a panel of 4 students. The first round is called the "3 minute round" where one team has three minutes to answer up to 25 questions, and any questions that are unanswered are given to the other team for a chance to steal half the points. The second is the "buzzer round," where the first team to buzz in gets a chance to score points.



# Adding Hart To Science

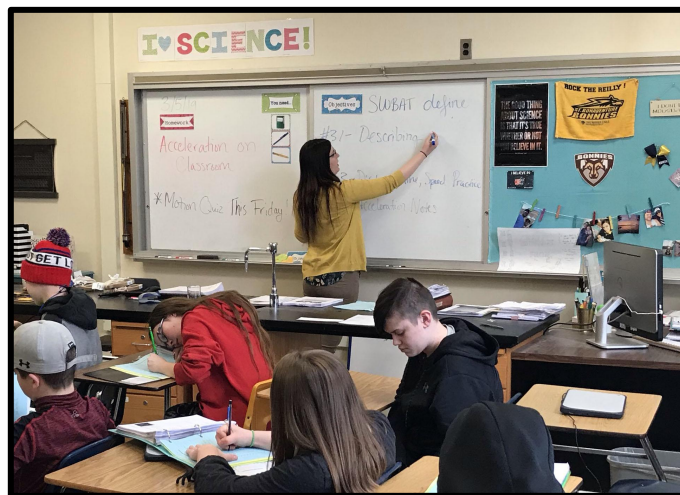
By: Joe Miletti, Design Manager

## EARLY YEARS:

Rebecca Hartnett was born on December 21, 1989. She grew up in Elmira, New York. She graduated from Elmira Free Academy. Some of her favorite memories from high school and college are going to football games, dance rehearsals, and cheerleading. She still has an interest in dance and cheerleading.

## EDUCATION AND EARLY JOBS:

After graduating from Elmira Free Academy, she first attended The College at Brockport and later transferred to Saint Bonaventure. She then attended graduate school at Bonaventure and got her masters in teaching there. She later got her first job in her field, teaching at Scio. There she taught 7th and 8th grade science. She says that her ultimate goal was to come work at Alfred Almond.



**Super Science**  
*Ms. Hartnett teaching her eighth grade class about oscillation.*  
**Photo courtesy of: Joe Miletti**

## EXPECTATIONS VERSUS REALITY:

Miss Hartnett teaches 7th and 8th grade science. I asked her why she always wanted to work at Alfred Almond. She promptly answered, “because it’s the best school around, as well as being closer to where I live.” She said she expected the students to be of a higher caliber. She also expected there to be high expectations from teachers and students. She says this school has met all of her expectations.

## WHAT IS IT LIKE WORKING WITH MISS HARTNETT?:

- “She’s doing really good things that students will benefit from in future science classes.” - Mr. Rech
- “She is watching for good curriculum ideas and adds them to her class work in a way that really benefits her students.” -Mr. Rech
- “Has good expectations for students that match AA’s expectations.” -Mr. Rech
- “She’s a joy to work with and easy to talk to.” -Miss Carretto
- “Hard working and well organized. -Miss. Carretto
- “Her methodologies are similar to mine.” -Miss. Carretto



**Terrific Trio**  
*The second floor science trifecta in their usual spot.*  
**Photo courtesy of: Joe Miletti**





# Meet your Science Teacher upstairs, Mr. Rech

## INTRODUCTION

Steve Rech has been working as a teacher for 16 years now. He spent seven years in Wellsville teaching chemistry, living environment, and computer applications. Afterwards, he started teaching chemistry and physics here at Alfred-Almond. However, before Mr. Rech became a teacher, he spent three years of his life working in industry in Michigan near Detroit. The company he worked for at the time was named Guardian Industries, which is currently a worldwide company.

## JOY IN TEACHING

I asked Mr. Rech what he enjoyed most about teaching at a school like Alfred-Almond, and he answered by saying that in a smaller school, everyone knows each other well and people can interact with others around the school easily. For example, Mr. Rech has been able to work on projects with Mr. Levey. Mr. Rech elaborated by saying that what he enjoys most about working as a teacher is sharing what he has learned about science, and helping students to be observant and ask good questions. He hopes that students will find a way to appreciate science while thinking with a more scientific mind.

**By Parsa Rashidi**  
Copy Editor



*Photo courtesy of Parsa R.*

## DAY IN THE WORK

Mr. Rech's day-to-day work consists of thinking how he can organize demonstrations or labs to help students learn science in a more understandable manner. His thought process behind this is that all the things he is doing should be helping students interpret science to the best of their ability. The remainder of his time spent working at school usually resides in grading papers, labs, exams, quizzes, etc.



*Lab tables: Photo courtesy of Parsa R.*



## SKI CLUB

Outside of school, Mr. Rech really enjoys being involved with the ski club here at Alfred-Almond, and has been doing it for nine years. His job is to help students become better skiers and challenge them. Skiing can be enjoyable well beyond your school years!

## FUN FACTS

During his teenage years, Rech also joined the army reserve to help pay for college. He achieved the rank sergeant E.S. and worked in the medical unit as an E.M.T. in the army and civilian hospitals. Rech was also part of the bowling team and concert band at his high school. He averaged over 200 in bowling matches, and played tuba in band.



Lab materials: *Photo courtesy of Parsa R.*



Lab area: *Photo courtesy of Parsa R.*

## INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN HIS LIFE

Growing up, Mr. Rech had two main people in high school that influenced him to pursue a career in engineering. These people included his high school chemistry and technology teachers. Later however, Rech came out of working in industry and he realized that teaching could be a good career choice. Neither of Rech's parents went to college, so their main priority was making sure that he and his siblings could go. The support Rech received from his parents and teachers helped carve the path for him to become a science teacher.

*"It's important to pay attention to the details and think carefully about what you observe."*

**- Mr. Rech**



## Ending Results of The Talented

By: Arnold Saint-Phard  
Staff Writer

The talent show at A-A started only a year ago, but not many people know how much work goes behind the scenes, especially with such a young group of people running the show. I went to speak to Mr. Levey, who I thought was the leader behind the success of the talent show. After the interview, I learned that all the success come from this year's eighth graders and the help of a few teachers. These young people formed a committee and put themselves in groups, like audition judging, stage crew, tech crew, etc. Mr. Levey believes he barely does the work, he just advises the kids and believes he is just "the guy who just signs the papers." The talent show is to help the class of 2023 gain money for their senior years. This year, the talent show was expected to exceed last year's expectations.



**It's Time To Judge-** from top to bottom the judges are Ms. Hatch, Faith Agnello, Mrs. Kenney, Miss. Karr, and Ali Fancher

Photo courtesy of Arnold

### EXPECTATIONS

*I can't wait to see what talent our great students have in store for us*  
- Ali Fancher

*I don't look at the list of talent till the day of, I walk in with without pre determined thought to be surprised and not pre-determine a talent* - Miss Karr

The Talented





**Lucian Fioretto -**  
Who played a beautiful guitar medley and also winning First place the high school division.

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss*



**Samantha Quick -** Winning second place with an awe-inspiring solo dance.  
*Photo courtesy of Samantha Q.*



**Sierra Sanchez, Morgan Trudell, Abigail Quick -** Who had a great dance routine and winning in third place.

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss*



**Sarah Butts -** Who sang and played a guitar at the same time one of her favorite songs from *Green Day*.

*Photo courtesy of Arnold Saint-Phard*



**Ellie Burdick-** Singing a song close to heart by We The Kings, Singing it with grace, elegance and beauty.

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss*



**Jake Schultze, Isaac Little, Amber Trudell -** All three playing instrumental tunes as everyone enjoys every toot of each instrument.

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss*



**Anna Curtin, Mr Ruch, Miles Muhleisen -** All three playing instrumental music, with Mr. Ruch forgetting to play with a different instrument, but still making it work.

*Photo courtesy of Arnold Saint-Phard*



**Alexis Kuhn and Noelle Emerson -** Winning third place with their awesome dance-duo-flip combo.

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss*



**Maddie Levey, Lillie Perkins, Noelle Hildreth -** a three person group of elementary students, who won first place for their dance for national women's month.

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss*



**Brittany Minder -** Who sang her heart out, with one her favorite songs.

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss*



**Bella Valley -** Who sang with just her own voice, there was no need for an instrumental.

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss.*



**Dena Clark -** An elementary student, who took second place in the elementary division of talent with her dancing.

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss*



## Beauty and the Beast: Behind the Scenes

By: Amya Snyder, Design Manager

With the spring musical coming to an end, the hard work of the cast and crew will be remembered. For most viewers, they only see a fraction of what was involved to bring “Beauty and the Beast” to life. To discover more about the production of the musical, I went behind the scenes and talked to several different members.

### Cast:

With 42 cast members, each of them has their own duties to make this musical possible. To learn about their experience behind the curtains, I talked to Beauty and the Beast’s very own Gaston and Lefou. Joe Milette (Gaston) described to me his journey to becoming his character: “I have to be boastful and arrogant. So I have to become what I tried not to be...There are a lot of awkward parts and kind of scary parts. In the end I have to die, so I fall off this platform that’s seven feet high while standing, it’s a pretty far drop.” While having these difficulties, Joe continues to explain that he loves hanging out with his friends and enjoys playing as his character because his friend in the show (Lefou) is also his friend in real life. Zach Patterson, the actor behind the silly character Lefou, describes his experience as “fun but tough at the same time.” He loved becoming such a fun loving character on stage and also enjoyed being able to spend time with one of his close friends during the show. One of the hardest obstacles he faced was trying to obtain the squeaky and cartoonish voice viewers would recognize as Lefou.



Alfred Almond’s  
Gaston and Lefou  
showing their friendship  
on stage.

*Photo Courtesy of Amya  
Snyder*

### Stage Crew:

Stage crew may not be the most obvious part of the musical, but it is a very important one. Miss Acker, who is the faculty stage manager, gave me some insight into what it’s like. “I help come up with the set, design/create it... I organize getting props all set up, oversee all of the booth guys (people in charge of running the lights and sound), and the backstage crew.” She continued to describe to me what it’s like on show nights for backstage crew members, “It’s active back there... Even after we do scene changes we’re working on getting other set pieces out so they’re easy to move for the next scene change. We also might be doing mic changes in between scenes and helping with costumes if there are problems.”

Backstage Crew: Maggie Griffin, Noah Napolitano, Paul Drake, Elizabeth Yanda, JT Ormsby.

Booth Members: Conner Griffin, Cameron Claire (lights), Nora Looney (spotlight), Nathan Grove (sound) who is also training Ella Napolitano in sound.



Booth Members,  
preparing to run the  
cast’s first dress  
rehearsal.

*Photo Courtesy of Amya  
Snyder*





## Stage Design:

Something most viewers might not think about when enjoying the musical is the creators behind the set pieces. After talking to Mrs. Powers, I found that there was a lot more involved than I originally thought. “Our first Saturday off during break, Mr. Levey, Mr. Calkins, myself, and Miss Acker were building the set the whole day,” Mrs. Powers added, “the main design work comes from what Ms. Karr’s vision is, and Miss Acker starts to transform it and we make a plan for how to build everything.” Mrs. Mix is also mentioned as being instrumental with the painting, as well as students that come in and out of the art room looking to help Mrs. Powers. To make scene changes faster, one of the set pieces they created is a two-sided wall. “We made the boards transform from outside to inside. Windows on one side and bookshelves on the other.” Mrs. Powers said, describing it as a project that took a lot of time and effort.



Mrs. Powers taking some final measurements for the show.

*Photo Courtesy of Amya Snyder*

## Costumes:

Not only do all 42 cast members have to act like their characters, but they also have to look like their characters. Miss Mormino and her mother Dawn took on the important role of bringing the cast to life. “Katy (Miss Mormino) has a concept book where she draws her ideas for each character. Then we search for pieces to match or turn into what she sees for that character’s costumes. We always shop at The Christ Church Thrift Shop, The Op Shop, and different Salvation Army Stores,” says Mrs. Mormino. To keep things organized, they assign each cast member a number at the beginning of the show. They then label their garment bags and shoe bags with that number, along with their name and their character’s name. Miss Mormino adds, “There is a lot of trial and error that happens before a costume looks the way it is when you see it on stage during a show... Once we have the ideas and pieces, we need the actors to try on pieces and costumes multiple times before we get it just right. It is a long process to get everything just right, but it is well worth the effort.”



Miss and Mrs. Mormino taking time to step away from putting together costumes to snap a photo.

*Photo Courtesy of Amya Snyder*

## Director:

On top of all jobs, the director is seen in all aspects of the musical. When talking to Miss Karr, she describes her job as being the person who oversees the entire show. “Directors make sure that the ‘vision’ is consistent and cohesive. They are also responsible for all on-stage action (which in theater we call blocking).” Miss Karr adds that her job this year has been the best yet, and thanks her amazing team for backing her throughout the production. She also mentioned how much she loved seeing the cast become their characters, “it leads to really fun moments and extremely meaningful ones too.” To get more of an insight for next year’s show, I asked Miss Karr if she had any musical ideas in mind. To that she explained that she does have some ideas, but wants to keep them a surprise for now.



Ms. Karr helping the cast tie up some loose ends before show day.

*Photo Courtesy of Amya Snyder*





**Intro:**

When choosing the right college there are many factors that play a role in where a person will continue his or her education. This can be one of the most stressful decisions that people in high school have to make. However, by breaking down the categories, and determining what aspects are the most important, students trying to decide where to go to college will have the tools to successful in picking the right choice for them.

**Academics and Specific Majors:**

One of the first things to think about when choosing a college is what do you want to study. If you are unsure of what you want to study that is ok, and it is completely normal. It also means that your search for a college is much wider, compared to a person who has picked a specific career. Most colleges have undecided or undeclared, which allows students to explore many different fields of study to hopefully find what suits them best. In order to tell if your school degree is worth the price, here are a few tips to quickly assess a potential college of interest. First, if your college is accredited from outside sources it is a good sign that they are meeting high standards. Second, look at the return on investment. This means that college is an investment, where you put in a substantial amount of time and money in order to graduate with a degree and attain a job. If you see that many graduates of a college are not getting jobs after graduation that should be an immediate red flag. Lastly, look at the retention and graduation rate. These rates are good indicators as to how well students perform at the college, and how many students return to the college each year. If many students are leaving the college or dropping out, it is another red flag to keep in mind.

**Size of Population:**

The three ways that universities are categorized are: small, medium and large. A small college is defined as having under 5,000 students. One example of a small school would be Colgate University. A medium school is anywhere from 5,000 to 15,000 students, such as the University of Tampa. A large university is one that has over 15,000 students. Auburn University would fit into this category. Lastly, there are a few universities that fit into the super-category which is over 30,000 students. The University of Buffalo would fit into this category. One of the major advantages to going to a smaller college, is that there is a better student to teacher ratio. For example, in a small college the ratio may be twenty students to one teacher, whereas in a large school the ratio could be as high as five hundred students to one teacher. In a small school you are more likely to know the professor personally and not just be considered a "number" on a list. However, there are also benefits to choosing a school with a large student population. With a large student population there are more people, which may increase your options when trying to make friends. There may also be more clubs, sports, activities, and opportunities due to more resources at a bigger school.

**Finances:**

The financial package that a college offers plays a major role in the decision of where a student decides to go to school. There are many resources that aid students in paying for their secondary education. At Alfred-Almond, there are many scholarships that students can apply for.. See counselors for more on financial aid.

**Emotional Aspect:**

When leaving for college it can be hard to move away from home and the town that you grew up in. It is also a time when you are becoming more of an adult, and independent from your siblings and parents. Many people are trying to determine what they value, who they are, and what they want their purpose in life to be. There are many people that influence the choices that students make when considering where to go to college, or when deciding not to go to college.

**Location:**

Do you want to live at home? How far away do you want to be from home? Do you want warm or cold weather? The location of the university is very important because that is where you will be living or going for approximately the next four years of your life. The location of where you live at college is also important. Do you want to live in a traditional dorm, suites, triple, quad, or single? When looking into a college make sure to check out the living situations that are offered. Some colleges require freshmen to live on campus for at least the first year and sometimes more.

**Clubs and Greek Life:**

College is a time where you can reach out and join groups and teams that you never thought of doing before. Putting yourself out there and meeting new people is very important. Joining clubs or greek life is a great way to do that. Even though clubs and Greek life are not deciding factors, activities outside of the classroom are important in developing a healthy and balanced life. If there is a club that your school does not have it never hurts to ask to create one. Many of the schools that I have toured have made new clubs from students interest.



# College 101

## MADISON MCCORMICK



Photo courtesy of Abby Fancher

Alfred-Almond Class of 2017  
College: Marietta College  
Major: History

I asked 2019 Alfred Almond Seniors to rank from 1 to 6 on importance when choosing their college.

1 is most important and 6 is least important.

Q- What were some of the factors that made you choose Marietta?  
A- The main thing was the size, I only looked at all schools that had less than 2,000 people, Marietta has 1,200. I only looked at schools that were not too far away from home, my cutoff was actually Virginia. I also wanted a school that was established meaning it was at least 100 years old. After I had made a list of schools that fit everything I looked more into them. For me, the town itself is what made me choose the school.

Q- What do you wish you thought more about before choosing your school?  
A- I wish I had actually talked with people in my department so that I would have known how many students were in it. I was shocked when I was in my first class and learned there were only two people in my major. Individual class sizes are not good indicators of how big a program is.

Q- What is your advice for high school seniors who are still trying to choose what college to go to?  
A- My advice is to actually visit and spend a decent amount of time at any school someone is seriously looking at. I had a school that was my top pick for a long time, I had even briefly visited, but I went there for an overnight event and learned I didn't actually like it at all.

Closing thoughts: Marietta was in my shortlist but I was not going to really visit until I was invited to. When I came, I fell in love with the area, so even places someone is hesitant about they should go if possible.

Name	Major	School	Major/ Academics	Location	Size and Pop ulation	Finances	Emotional Aspect	Clubs/Sp orts
Zane Johnson	Welding	Alfred State	1	3	4	5	6	2
Abby Tarun	Pharmacy	University of Buffalo	2	3	6	1	5	4
Amya Snyder	Graphic and Media Design	Alfred State College	4	2	5	1	6	3
Arnold Saint Phard	Engineering Sciences	Alfred State College	1	2	5	3	6	4
Annie Lloyd	Exercise Science	Florida Atlantic University	1	3	4	2	6	5
Wesley Dennison	Ceramic Engineering	Alfred University	1	3	5	2	4	6
Nathan Grove	Undecided	Amherst College	2	3	1	5	4	6
Olivia Ormsby	Pharmacy	Ohio Northern University	1	6	3	2	5	4
Gabe Empson	Engineering Sciences	Alfred State College	2	3	6	1	4	5
Joey Milette	Computer Engineering	Rochester Institute of Technology	1	2	5	3	6	4



**EZ Pass:**

Mrs. Jackson  
Ms. Roche  
Ms. Ball  
Mr. Moore  
Mr. Dwyer  
Mr. Donlon  
Mrs. Wall (sub)

**Big Tunas:**

Olivia Ormsby  
Donata Koegel  
Renee Yezarski  
Amya Snyder  
Zane Johnson  
Austin Swackhamer

**BlockBusters:**

Faith Agnello  
Paige Senear  
Morgan Davidson  
Zach Patterson  
Baden Briggs  
Tristan Feltin

**Magical Unicorns:**

Lauren Kelly  
Sage Empson  
Bella Powell  
Riley Winters  
Ben Deutsch  
Sidney Wildrick-Cole

**The Empire "Spikes" Back:**

Luci Lee  
Logan Brown  
Celeste Badeau  
Laertes Cushing  
Will Tormey  
Isaac Little

**Dirty Half-Dozen:**

Sarah Johnson  
Lindsey Allen  
Dylan Guthrie  
Nevin Allen  
Spenser Ormsby

**Setting Ducks:**

Caroline Ding  
Mikaela Wisniewski  
Abby Kelly  
Gabe Empson  
Arnold St. Phard  
Joe Miletto

**Spiked Punch:**

Emily Agnello  
Maeve Looney  
Maggie Griffin  
Jonas Kays  
Ethan Michel  
Owen Washburn

**In Court Suspension:**

Mr. Gemmell  
Mr. Turner  
Mr. Dineen  
Mrs. Gemmell  
Mrs. Turner  
Mrs. Soppe

**Safe Sets:**

Avery Libordi  
Zoe Balinsky  
Andrea McMahon  
Aquila Cushing  
Cameron Claire  
Brent Porter

**Mo Bumpa:**

Chelby Moore  
Alyssa Turner  
Kayla Snyder  
Logan Dwyer  
Blake McMichael  
Ayden Burdick

**The Spiky Hedgehogs:**

Claire Volk  
Hanne Yocum  
Tiphaine Feltin  
Aaron Curtin  
Miles Muhleisen  
Chris Mormino

**Is It Over Yet:**

Grace Hildreth  
Jessica McMahon  
Liam Harris  
Drake Guthrie  
Caleb Price  
Gavin Dwyer

**Snack Blocker:**

Hanna Tormey  
Annie Lloyd  
Nora Looney  
Ali Fancher  
Nathan Grove  
Conner Griffin

**Bump  
-A-  
Palooza  
2019**



By Dylan Guthrie  
Design manager



## Is It Over Yet

Is it Over Yet is a team from the freshman class and they are looking to take home a championship in their first chance at it. They are taking the underdog mentality and looking to turn it into wins on the court. This ninth grade power house consists of: Grace Hildreth, Jessica McMahon, Liam Harris, Drake Guthrie, Caleb Price, and Gavin Dwyer. They will be playing in the first game against the Magical Unicorns. I interviewed a team member, Drake Guthrie, and these are the responses I received before and after the tournament.

### **Before the tournament:**

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** We suck...

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** Not very good.

**Q:** What do you think your strong suits are?

**A:** Bumps.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** Communication.

**Q:** What are you most excited for?

**A:** Winning a game.

**Q:** Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:** No.



### **After the tournament:**

**Q:** What was most fun for you?

**A:** Winning the toilet bowl.

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team?

**A:** Communication

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** Bump and spike.

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** Communication is key.



By Dylan Guthrie  
Design manager

## Spiked Punch

The star studded sophomores put together a team to take down the teachers, aka In Court suspension. The team with this dream in mind consist of: Emily Agnello, Maeve Looney, Maggie Griffin, Jonas Kays, Ethan Michael, and Owen Washburn. The team will begin in the second game of the night against the teacher team. I interviewed Jonas Kays from the team before and after the tournament.

### **Before the tournament:**

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** I didn't come up with it I think Emily did.

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** I think our team will do fine.

**Q:** What do you think your strong suits are?

**A:** Our strong suits are probably our speed and we all know how to play.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** I don't worry.

**Q:** What are you most excited for?

**A:** I'm most excited to see if we can beat the teacher, in the first round.

**Q:** Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:** My message to other teams is 'We coming.'



### **After the tournament:**

**Q:** What was most fun for you?

**A:** I had the most fun playing.

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team?

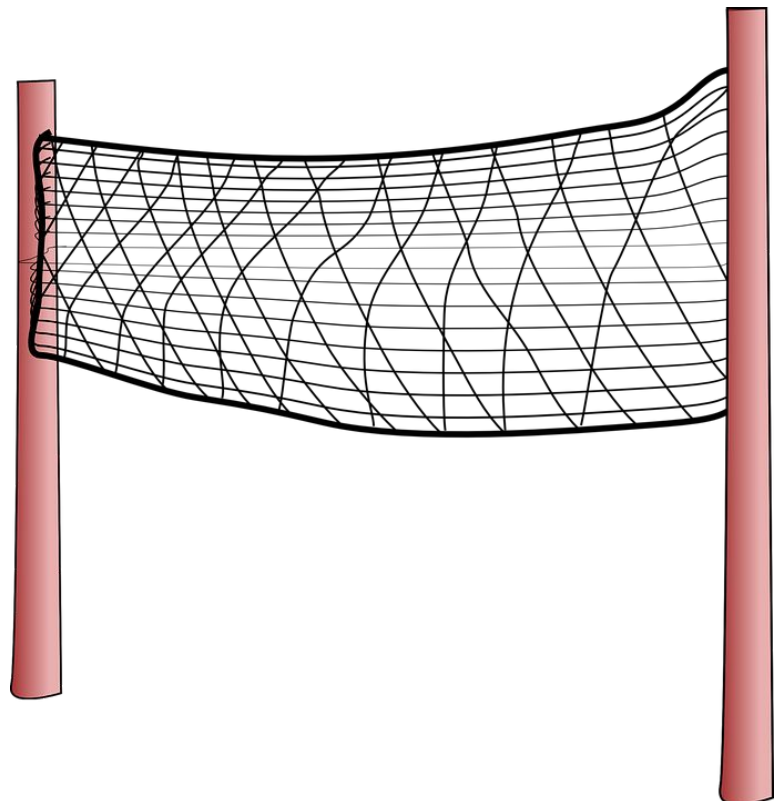
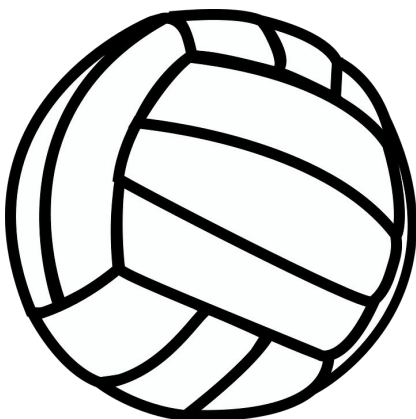
**A:** We didn't have tall people.

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** Never quit.

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** Always have tall kids





By Sarah Johnson  
Editor In Chief

## Big Tunas

This senior team is compiled with various sources of talent. Its members include Olivia Ormsby, Donata Koegel, Renee Yezarski, Amya Snyder, Zane Johnson, and Austin Swackhamer. They play in the first round against the Blockbusters. I decided to see what the Swack had to say about his team.

### Before the tournament:

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** I didn't.

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** I think we will do well.

**Q:** What do you think your strong suits are?

**A:** Spiking.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** No.

**Q:** What are you most excited for?

**A:** Some intense games.

**Q:** Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:** Watch out, underdogs can surprise you.

Although he was a man of few words, Swackhamer is pretty worry free and very confident in his team and what they have to offer to their opponents.

Subie Gang Just Keeps  
Swimming Senior  
Austin Swackhamer  
(a.k.a. Subie Gang)  
tries to tough out his  
ankle injury as he  
waits to serve the  
ball. Photo Courtesy  
of Sarah Johnson



Anticipating Tunas Three  
members of the Big Tunas  
(Renee Yezarski, Zane  
Johnson, and Donata  
Koegel) watch as the ball  
floats through the air.  
Photo Courtesy of Sarah  
Johnson

### After the tournament:

**Q:** What was most fun for you?

**A:** Playing as a team and it being really competitive.

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team?

**A:** Movement to the ball and back to your position.

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** We never gave up, and also we had some great spikes.

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** Don't go as hard as you can or you might hurt yourself before the spring season.



Fish Out of Water No nets were holding this Big Tuna  
(Zane Johnson) back as he executed this spike.  
Photo Courtesy of Sarah Johnson





By Sarah Johnson

Editor In Chief

## Safe Sets

Some skillful players were racked up in order to create this sophomore team. This team is made up by Avery Libordi, Zoe Balinsky, Andrea McMahon, Aquila Cushing, Cameron Claire, and Brent Porter. The Safe Sets were lucky enough to get a first round bye; therefore their opponent will be the winner of Is It Over Yet vs. Magical Unicorns. Zoe gave me some insight on her feelings about the team.

### Before the tournament:

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** To keep us in the tournament, we realized our sets needed to be safe and performed correctly. We also wanted to relay the message that safe sets are the way to go.

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** Honestly, we think we're a decent team that will go far in the tournament, but if not, we're just here to have some fun.

**Q:** What do you think your strong suits are?

**A:** We believe our team has some game winning serves.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** Our team strongly believes we can accomplish anything if we put in our best effort; therefore, we're not worried whatsoever.

**Q:** What are you most excited for?

**A:** The joy of playing some good old volleyball.

**Q:** Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:** Safe Sets always wins.

Zoe has a lot of faith in her team and their tactics. Safe Sets is ready for anyone that crosses its path.



Safe Sets Protecting the Nets  
*Teammate Aquila Cushing looks to block the ball as it drives into the net.*

Photo Courtesy of Sarah Johnson

### After the tournament:

**Q:** What was most fun for you?

**A:** Just playing volleyball with my friends and watching all the games was the best part for me.

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team?

**A:** Getting close to the end of the tournament, we didn't work as hard to make up for our mistakes.

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** From the start of the tournament we all worked very well together.

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** I recommend getting together with your whole team outside of school and just playing for an hour. Doing this helps to see everyone's strengths before getting into the tournament. Plus, the more practice you have, the better you are.



Ready? Formation!

*Five of the Safe Sets players are pictured in their ready stances, waiting to return the ball.*

Photo Courtesy of Sarah Johnson



## The Empire "Spikes" Back

This junior team has patched together just about every characteristic that a good volleyball team needs. The teammates are Logan Brown, Celeste Badeau, Luci Lee, Laertes Cushing, Will Tormey, and Isaac Little. They play in the first round against The Spikey Hedgehogs. Will Tormey provided me with some information regarding his team.

### **Before the tournament:**

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** We came up with it by all just sitting down as a team. We realized most of our team likes Star Wars, so we went from there.

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** Our team is going to do very well. No other team has Isaac Little.

**Q:** What do you think your strong suits are?

**A:** Setting the ball. I'm not very tall so I try to let the more vertically strong out.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** Hurting a person's feelings.

**Q:** What are you most excited for?

**A:** Winning the whole thing. Also watching our team work together.

**Q:** Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:** I love their confidence. The more they have, the more there is to take away.

Tormey and his teammates seemed to be unperturbed by their opponents. They are ready to take on the tournament.



Standing Tall  
"Downtown" Logan Brown looks intimidating as she waits for play to begin.

Photo Courtesy of Sarah Johnson

### **After the tournament:**

**Q:** What was most fun for you?

**A:** The most fun thing was playing with my friends and working together.

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team?

**A:** We had trouble keeping the ball in the air... that simple.

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** We were super good at being positive.

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** Practice is super important for success.



A Little Set  
Isaac Little looks to set the ball to his fellow teammate, Will Tormey, in order to send the ball over the net.

Photo Courtesy of Sarah Johnson



## **BlockBusters**

The Junior team, BlockBusters, includes Faith Agnello, Paige Senear, Morgan Davidson, Zach Patterson, Baden Briggs and Tristan Feltin. The team has a first round game against Big Tunas. I decided to ask Faith Agnello how she feels about the upcoming tournament.

### **Before the tournament:**

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** We had 5 minutes to pick a team name and I just found one online.

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** I am not expecting us to win but I think we will do ok.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** We were worried about how we will play together since we didn't practice at all.

**Q:** What are you most excited for?

**A:** We are most excited to just play together

**Q:** Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:** A message for the other teams would be to not take this so seriously and remember what this tournament is actually for.



*Heads High The team stands with their heads high after being knocked out of the tournament.*

Photo Courtesy of Faith Agnello

### **After the tournament:**

**Q:** What was most fun for you?

**A:** Playing with my team was most fun for me.

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team?

**A:** Downfalls for the team were we didn't practice together so we didn't work well together.

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** Once we communicated, we passed really well so that was what we did best.

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** Tips would be to plan your team before hand, and practice like 1-2 times just to get a feel for the team

## **The Spikey Hedgehogs**

The Freshman team, The Spikey Hedgehogs, includes Claire Volk, Hanne Yocum, Tephaine Feltin, Aaron Curtain, Miles Muhleisen and Chris Mormino. For this team I decided to ask Miles Muhleisen about how they think they will do in the tournament.

### **Before the tournament:**

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** My friends just randomly thought of "The Spiky Hedgehogs" which they got from Sonic the Hedgehog.

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** I think we are going to have a pretty solid chance.

**Q:** What do you think your strong suits are?

**A:** Our strong suits are most likely hitting and communication.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** Yes, losing.

**Q:** What are you most excited for?

**A:** Getting to experience volleyball against people I've never gone against

**Q:** Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:** We're going to win last place, and you can't do nothing about it!

### **After the tournament:**

**Q:** What was most fun for you?

**A:** Playing with a team

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team?

**A:** We didn't play with enough confidence

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** We had fun best

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** Yes, don't be afraid to take a chance. If that ball comes towards you, hit it! But also just have fun, it doesn't matter who wins because in the end, it's really just for fun.





## Snack Blocker

This twelfth grade team consists of Nora Looney, Hanna Tormey, Annie Lloyd, Ali Fancher, Nathan Grove, and Conner Griffin. They play in the first round of the tournament, as most teams do, and they will be playing The Setting Ducks. I talked to Nora Looney to see what she had to say about her team.

### **Before the tournament:**

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** Ok so there was a bit of an argument in the decision, some of us wanted “Unde-yeet-able” and others wanted “Volleyball Pun” so we compromised with a third option which was “Snack Blocker” meant to be a pun on snack locker I guess, haha I still don’t really get it.

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** We all are well aware that we won’t be the most skilled team in the tournament, we decided that we’d be more than happy if we are able to pull off just one win.

**Q:** What do you think your strong suits are?

**A:** I would say positive attitude and teamwork.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** Not really, we’re going in with low expectations.

**Q:** What are you most excited for?

**A:** I am most excited for just an opportunity to play and be around other students and hopefully have a good time.

**Q:** Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:** Watch out we’re coming for you, just kidding, uh let’s have some fun?

The Snack Blocker team plans on trying their hardest and hoping for at least one win during the Bump-A-Palooza tournament.



Uncle Nate *Snack Blocker* Nathan Grove smashes the volleyball down over the net as the other team attempts to recover.

Photo courtesy of Lindsey Allen

### **After the tournament:**

**Q:** What was most fun for you?

**A:** The most fun was winning a game and also watching the other teams play.

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team?

**A:** The biggest downfall was when Ali got injured.

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** Our best quality was cooperation.

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** The only tip I have is to try your best but remember to enjoy yourself.



Bump-A-PaLooney *Nora Looney* perfectly bumps the ball over the net as her teammates prepare for the next hit.

Photo courtesy of Lindsey Allen



## Setting Ducks

This senior team includes teammates Caroline Ding, Mikaela Wisniewski, Abby Kelly, Gabe Empson, Arnold St. Phard, and Joe Miletti. In the first round, the Setting Ducks will play Snack Blocker and they plan to give it their all. I asked Arnold St. Phard some questions to get the inside scoop on the Setting Ducks.

### **Before the tournament:**

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** We were debating over weird names, one of them was something about power unicorns. We created it sitting at a table in Houghton at a math trip and Abby said "What about Setting Ducks?" and I thought it was kinda fire. At first some of our team was like nah but we got them to join, and here we are.

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** I think we will destroy people, nobody really would expect us because we are sitting ducks and that doesn't bring fear in hearts. We also got some haters like Dylan.

**Q:** What do you think your strong suits are?

**A:** I feel like our family and brother/sisterhood synergy is on strong, 76% of my team is in my gym class and we haven't lost. Usually when they think we don't have it, we have it.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** Nah, not really. We're ready to extinguish some fire.

**Q:** What are you most excited for?

**A:** Honestly I'm excited to win, no one expects it. It's our last year of practicing, we've been waiting for this moment.

**Q:** Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:** We're here to get this bread, don't stop us.

The Setting Ducks do not intend to be "sitting ducks" in this tournament, they rather intend to surprise their opponents and win the whole Bump-A-Palooza tournament.



Joey Miletti Upsetti Spaghetti Joe Miletti jumps to block a spike in his area during the Bump-A-Palooza tournament.

Photo courtesy of Lindsey Allen

### **After the tournament:**

**Q:** What was most fun for you?

**A:** The most fun was my teammate sportsmanship vibes that were given at the rough times we faced on the battlefield.

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team?

**A:** The downfall was my lack of concentration on the field.

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** What we did amazing at was the quacking synergy we had and our mindsets.

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** Give it all you've got, even through rough times. And have fun, it's not a world championship!

Brother/Sisterhood  
Synergy  
Senior Arnold Saint  
Phard bumps the  
ball to the other  
team as teammates  
Abby and Mikaela  
stand ready for  
backup.

Photo courtesy of  
Lindsey Allen





## EZ Pass

This new elementary teacher team consists of teachers Mrs. Jackson, Ms. Roche, Ms. Ball, Mr. Moore, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Donlon, and Mrs. Wall (sub). Hoping to win their first game, the teachers play Mo Bumpa in the first round of the tournament. I talked to the infamous Mrs. Wall, previously known as Ms. Baker, some questions about this teacher team and she gave me some interesting responses.

### **Before the tournament:**

**Q:** Would you mind if I asked you some questions about your Bump-A-Palooza team?

**A:** Funny thing about “my” team. Mrs. Wall was put on the team even though she said she couldn’t do it. So, now my name is on the list and I am not sure if they found a replacement. If they didn’t I feel I cannot let them down, and will drag myself in there. More than likely will be sore for days afterwards. I will answer any questions though.

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** I don’t know how the name came to be. Mr. Dwyer may have created it.

**Q:** How do you think your team will do in the tournament?

**A:** I think there is a lot of tough competition out there. The veteran teacher team, pulled in their ringers, and the student teams are always in it to win it! I think this teacher team comes with a lot of heart and is full of players that have that competitive drive! I think EZ Pass will have a great time, give it their all, and will not be an “easy pass” for the other teams they play against!

**Q:** What do you think your strong suits are?

**A:** Height, quickness, positive attitudes, competitive nature so they won’t go down without a fight, and I think the outfits will be blinding and may throw off the competition.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** Pulling muscles, getting hit in the head with the ball by someone’s ferocious spike, and not working together as a team.

EZ Pass aims to play their hardest, not pull too many muscles, and not to be an “easy pass” to anyone they play.



*“Blinding Outfits” The elementary teacher team takes the court in these outfits hoping to throw off the competition and come out with a win.*

Photo courtesy of Lindsey Allen

### **After the tournament:**

**Q:** What was most fun for you?

**A:** Watching teams enjoy themselves, even though they didn’t win them all.

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team?

**A:** Downfalls... ask Mr. Donlon, he recognized “areas we needed to work on” very soon after we started!

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** Our serving was really good, we had controlled bumping, and we made it to the top 6 teams.

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** Wear knee pads, talk to your teammates, practice serving, don’t carry the ball, practice bumps and fake-out spikes! PS... I did enjoy knocking out Zoe’s team... they are great kids but...



*Substitute Teacher Mrs. Wall sits on the sidelines in her flashing outfit waiting for her opportunity to jump in and help her team win the game.*

Photo courtesy of Randy Swackhamer





## **In Court Suspension**

This team's roster consist of many teachers, including Mr.and Mrs.Gemmell, Mr.Turner,Mrs. Soppe, Mrs. Turner and Mr. Dineen. I talked to Mr. Turner to see what he had to say.

### **Before the tournament:**

**Q:** How did you come up with your team name?

**A:** We have had the same team name for a long time.

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** I think we'll win the whole thing.

**Q:** Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:** Stick Together

**Q:** What are you most excited for?

**A:** Comradery and Competition

**Q:** Are you worried about anything?

**A:** Some of the kids getting hurt.

**Q:** What do you think your strong suits are?

**A:** Mental Toughness and Strong Females



*Photo courtesy of Ms.Allen*

### **After the tournament:**

**Q:** Did you have fun?

**A:** I thought it was fun to win.. It was fun seeing good sportsmanship.

**Q:** What were your downfalls?

**A:** Our conditioning and we lost one set to the "Dirty Half Dozen".

**Q:** What did your team do best?

**A:** We had a plan everytime the ball cam to our side.

**Q:** Do you have tips for future participants?

**A:** Practice!

## **Magical Unicorns**

The Magical Unicorns team consists of good friends Sidney Wildrick Cole , Bella Powell, Sage Empson, Ben Deutsch, Lauren Kelly ,Riley Winters. They play the first round against the freshman team "Is It Over Yet?".

### **Before the tournament**

**Q:**How do you think your team will do?

**A:**We're in it for the charity, but expecting to lose (soon). We also expect to have a lot of fun. It doesn't matter who wins.

**Q:**How did you come up with your name?

**A:** We were looking up volleyball puns as all do, then I got frustrated and said, "What about the Magical flippin Unicorns?" That's what we went with.

**Q:**What are your strong suits?

**A:**Shoot...uh...compatibility... I really think that a bunch of friends coming together to play the game will keep us together.

**Q:**What are you most excited for?

**A:**Fun,really and time spent with friends.

**Q:**Do you have a message for the other teams?

**A:**Good luck,have fun and come take your free win, because we're not expecting to do well...Just don't let that teachers' team win again!

**Q:**Are you worried about anything?

**A:**Well I've already broken my nose in a volleyball game and rammed my jaw with a ball, so it doesn't get worse than that.

### **After the tournament**

**Q:**Did you have fun?

**A:** Yes, I enjoyed the camaraderie, having fun with friends.

**Q:**What were your downfalls?

**A:**Lack of communication, either two players would go for the ball or no one.

**Q:**What did your team do best?

**A:**Have fun.

**Q:**Do you have tips for the future participants?

**A:**Don't go in expecting to win, because the teacher team will smite you. It is a lot of fun though, I do recommend it.



## **Dirty Half Dozen:**

The Dirty Half Dozen is definitely a team to watch out for, having some of the most athletic students in the school, including 2 of the tallest, Dylan Guthrie and Davon Bloom. The team also consists of some of the hardest working athletes Sarah Johnson, Lindsey Allen, Nevin Allen, and Spenser Ormsby. The team will have a first round bye into the preliminary match ups. I asked Dylan for his thoughts.

### **Before the Tournament:**

**Q:** How do you think you guys will do?

**A:** We're obviously going to win, No questions asked.

**Q:** What is your message to your first opponent?

**A:** It's not gonna be fun, you better be scared.

**Q:** Are you worried about anything in the tournament?

**A:** Worried? Haha, no.

**Q:** What are you most excited for in the tournament?

**A:** Winning, and beating the teacher team.

### **After the Tournament:**

**Q:** How did you guys end up doing?

**A:** We won, Got the t shirts, we lost to the teacher team, but we were still the champs, the teacher team was tough, they played really well together and as a unit.

**Q:** Other than the teachers, Who was your closest competition?

**A:** No one

**Q:** What do you think that your strong suits were in the competition?

**A:** We ended up playing 6v5 every game, and we powered through that with our heart and grit.

**Q:** What was most fun about the tournament?

**A:** Winning

**Q:** What were your downfalls for the tournament?

**A:** We lost a player early on but in the end it turns out it didn't really matter considering we won.

## **Mo-Bumpa:**

Mo-Bumpa is a sophomore team That can provide quite the competition consisting of some quality athletes. Including; Mirra Robbers, Alyssa Turner, Kayla Snyder, Nick Turner, Blake McMichael, and Ayden Burdick. I decided to go behind the scenes and find out what Ayden has to say about his team and how he thinks they will do

### **Before the tournament:**

**Q:** How do you think your team will do?

**A:** I think we will do okay for the start

**Q:** What made you come up with your team name?

**A:** My team came up with the name and I agreed

**Q:** Any messages for your competitors?

**A:** Good luck may the best team win



Photo Courtesy Kayla Snyder

### **After the tournament:**

**Q:** What was the most fun for you?

**A:** Playing with my team

**Q:** What were the downfalls for your team

**A:** It was hard for us to communicate and play as a team

**Q:** What did you guys do best?

**A:** Have fun

**Q:** Do you have any tips for future participants?

**A:** Enjoy yourself and have fun

# Recap

This year's Bump-A-Palooza tournament was the most successful turnout yet, with 14 teams participating. All proceeds were donated to the Allegany County Area Foundation this year. All teams played their hardest. Not only was it competitive, but everyone also had a lot of fun, even the fans! After a full night of play, the student teams were narrowed down to Dirty Half-Dozen and The Empire "Spikes" Back. In an even matchup, Dirty Half-Dozen managed to come out with a win and advance to the finals. Here, they were awaited by their opponents, In Court Suspension. Unfortunately, the senior team did not defeat the teacher team, however, they were awarded the champion shirts for being the last student team standing.



Dirty Half-Dozen This senior team poses hard after receiving their champion shirts.  
Photo Courtesy of Sarah Johnson



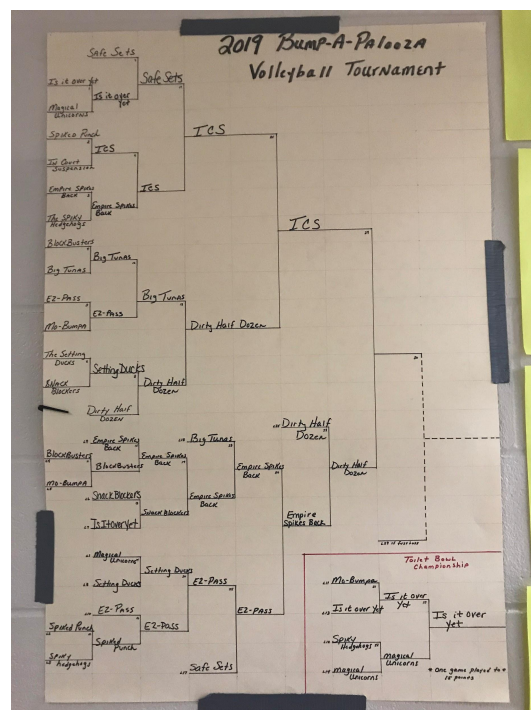
All proceeds to the  
Allegany County  
Area Foundation!



Bump-A-Palooza All teams listen to the rules as they await to play some volleyball.

Photo Courtesy of Randy Swackhamer

Bump-A-Palooza was very fun experience for everyone. We would like to thank Ms. Carretto, Student Government, and everyone who participated for making it happen once again!



2019 Tournament The final look of the bracket is pictured above with In Court Suspension as the winners.

Photo Courtesy of Lindsey Allen





# Five Historic March Madness Upsets from This Decade

*Revisiting the most memorable upsets from the past 10 years*

By **Abigail Tarun** -  
Design Manager

March Madness is no ordinary sports tournament and competition because anything can happen despite the overwhelming odds against weaker-performing teams. In fact, the ranking of a team, their players, or their regular season cannot guarantee a team's success in March Madness. The greatest thing about March Madness is its unpredictability and the choices you make as a spectator. Every March Madness tournament has its own Cinderellas and darkhorse candidates to choose from, and while some are predictable, others aren't. But when an upset does happen, it's almost like you, as the spectator, are witnessing greatness at work. Because at the core of March Madness, the tournament separates the few NBA draft-worthy prospects who played for low-seeded teams from the many talented athletes offered sports scholarships. It did so with Golden State's unrivaled three-point guard Stephen Curry, elite passer and Hall-of-Fame veteran Steve Nash, to even the Hawks' rookie guard Trae Young (who even parallels the playing style of Steph). It's these special moments of March Madness that continue to shape college basketball and the careers of future professional athletes. With that said, here are the top five greatest upsets of March Madness that have defined this decade.

## KEY DATES - NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL MARCH MADNESS 2019:

- Selection Sunday - March 17
- First Four - March 19 & 20 @ Dayton, OH
- 1st/2nd Round - March 21/24 @ Hartford, CT / Salt Lake City, UT / Des Moines, IA / Jacksonville, FL / Tulsa, OK / Columbus, OH / Columbia, SC / San Jose, CA
- South Regional - March 28/30 @ Louisville, KY
- West Regional - March 28/30 @ Anaheim, CA
- East Regional - March 29/31 @ Washington, D.C.
- Midwest Regional - March 29/31 @ Kansas City, MO
- **Final Four + National Championship - April 6/8 @ Minneapolis, MN**

Tune in to March Madness on CBS, TBS, TNT, and TruTV!



## 5. (No. 1) Wisconsin over (No. 1) Kentucky - 2015 Elite Eight

Final Score: **71 - 64**



### Make it Splash

7-foot giant Willie Cauley-Stein (right) contests Frank Kaminsky's three-point jumper before he catches fire with his shooting to make a run for the Badgers.

*Image from kyforward.com*

With an immortalized 38-0 run into their season, the undefeated Wildcats nearly clinched their way to the 2015 national title until the Wisconsin Badgers ruined their historic pursuit of perfection. Kentucky arguably had one of the greatest defensive teams ever with one of the best front-courts assembled behind guard-quick Willie Cauley-Stein, future Timberwolves NBA All-Star Karl Anthony-Towns, and 7-foot center Dakari Johnson. Yet Wisconsin's electric offense dominated the game as the Badgers outrebounded the Wildcats in possessions, plays, and even points. Frank Kaminsky led the Badgers with 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting, 11 rebounds, and 2 assists which tore through Cauley-Stein and Town's defense. Under two minutes left, Sam Dekker silenced the Kentucky crowd with a step-back winning three transitioning into an 8-0 run by the Badgers to win the game in the end. For the Wildcats, their legacy as the number one seed ended in shocking disappointment.

## 4. (No. 10) Syracuse over (No. 1) Virginia - 2016 Elite Eight

Final Score: **68 - 62**



### OJ Fuel-Ready

Syracuse's Malachi Richardson (No. 23) and Trevor Cooney (No. 10) celebrate with their teammates moments after their win against Virginia as they make one last dance to the Final Four where they'll face off against an even tougher North Carolina.

*Image from NCAA*

Solidifying their run into the Final Four as the first seed in the Midwest, the Virginia Cavaliers have never been so close to winning a national title in 32 years up until now. What looked like a strong lead for the Cavaliers in the first half of the game quickly melted down into careless turnovers, missed layups, and missed field goal attempts for the next 11 possessions. With the last 8 minutes left, Syracuse had to erase their 13-point deficit against a dominant Midwest team that played with deliberate tempo and powerful zone defense which meant that they had to change the pace of the game to their offense. From there on, Syracuse kept on scoring three-pointers thanks to freshman guards Malachi Richardson and Tyler Lydon cutting down the deficit from 58-55. Richardson extended the Orange's lead to 62-58 with another three-pointer, and the team secured their small lead thanks to made free-throw attempts and extra possessions. Although the Cavaliers consistently played well all season, Syracuse exploited the team's biggest weakness - slow pacing - which allowed them to move on to the Final Four.

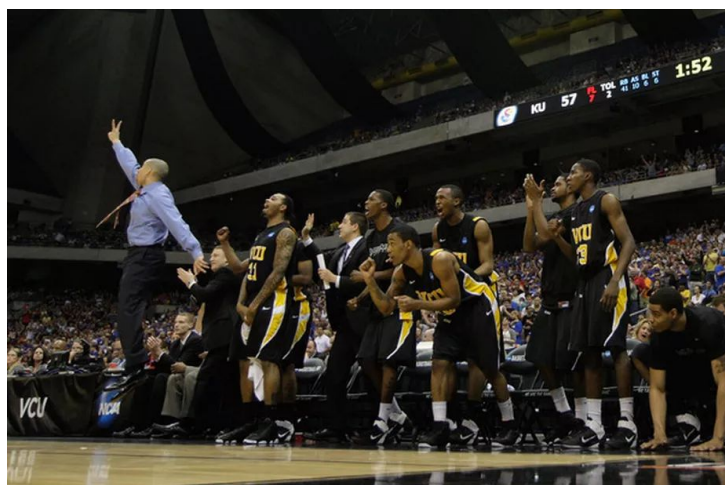
Continued... 2 of 4





### 3. (No. 11) VCU over (No. 1) Kansas - 2011 Elite Eight

Final Score: **71 - 61**



#### Carpe Diem (Seize the Day)

Rams coach Shaka Smart (left-most) addressing his team in the second half of the game: "I told our team something that I can't necessarily repeat verbatim here, but it was basically... forget Kansas. And we've got to do what we've got to do. And we did."

*Image from sbnation.com*

No team in college basketball has proved sports analysts and doubters more wrong than VCU in 2011 when they shocked the world as they climbed their way from the First Four out of all the 68 teams to the Final Four. Leading up to their biggest moment, VCU players sat down in their locker rooms listening to the experts predicting their downfall once again, but it had already gotten old the last four times when they did it before. They used all the trash-talking to make this game their moment. And it was... The VCU Rams dominated the first half of the game with a 20-4 run against the Jayhawks as Kansas struggled to make their field-goals making only 22-of-62 of their shots (35.5 %) in total. Compared to Kansas' abysmal 2-of-21 made three-pointers, the Rams outdid their shooting with 12-of-25 beyond the 3-point arc. Rams Forward Jamie Skeen made 4 three pointers on his way to 26 points even after Kansas tightened the score to 46-44 after a 17-5 run. Minutes later, VCU responded with an 11-3 run to take the lead until the end of the game as they secured a hard-earned dub for the team.

### 2. (No. 15) Middle Tennessee over (No. 2) Michigan State - 2016 First Round

Final Score: **90 - 81**



#### Alley-oop

Timed at the right moment, Perrin Buford (No. 2) throws down a lob to the basket dunking on Spartans guard Eron Harris (No. 14).

*Image from The New York Times*

Selected as a top 2 favorite to win the 2016 national title, the Michigan State Spartans' loss to the Blue Raiders busted millions of brackets as 99.1 % easily picked the Spartans to move on to the second round (Yahoo! Sports poll). At the start of the season, the Associated Press (official college basketball ranking) easily placed Michigan as the number one team in the country while Middle Tennessee, on the other hand, just secured their second NCAA tournament berth in 27 years after winning the Conference USA tournament. This same team led, from start to finish, an upstanding 90 point performance burying the Spartans with 10 three-pointers and 56.0 % shooting from the field. While the Spartans diminished the Raiders' lead to 65-64, all five of the Blue Raiders starters scored in double figures with Reggie Upshaw leading them by 21 points. After another successful Raiders' run, the Spartans could not recover giving the Raiders their first win since 1989.





## 1. (No. 16) UMBC over (No. 1) Virginia - 2018 First Round

Final Score: **74 - 54**



### Flex Zone

The underdog UMBC Retrievers flex on the Cavaliers after their historic upset in what has never been done before in the history of men's college basketball. In March Madness, there really are no impossibilities.

*Image from NCAA*

Before UMBC defeated the top-seeded Virginia Cavaliers in a miraculous victory, no 16th seeded team could ever imagine the possibility of an upset against their 1st seeded opponent. No. 1 seeds in the men's tournament had a record of 135-0 against No. 16's making this particular scenario the last frontier of dreamed-about sports surprises. In their entirety of the regular season, the Cavs had only lost two games all season while they won both the regular season and the Atlantic Coast Conference title. However, Virginia's defense-minded and slow-paced offensive playing style made them susceptible to the Retrievers' scoring leads and offensive threats. Once Virginia fell behind, the team failed to speed up when it needed to score quickly, and that was when UMBC's two senior guards, Jairus Lyles and K.J. Maura, led the Retrievers creating wide-open shots and easy penetration into the Cavs' defense. With the last 20 minutes remaining, UMBC extended their lead to 19 points, and later 20, which became the largest deficit Virginia suffered the entire season and the only time they allowed a team to score 70 points on them. ■

### Teachers Select Their March Madness Favorite Moments and More...

#### Mr. Donlon

- Favorite team to root for: **St. Bonaventure, Syracuse, Wake Forest**
- Favorite moment: **Duke over Kentucky '92 - Christian Laettner hitting game-winning shot w/ 2.1 seconds remaining**
- Favorite Cinderella upset: **No. 11 Butler Run to Championship Title (2011), No. 11 Loyola-Chicago run to Final Four (2018)**
- National Title prediction: **Tennessee**

#### Mrs. Turner

- Favorite team to root for: **Michigan State, Syracuse, St. Bonaventure**
- Favorite moment: **Bonaventure getting to First Round ('01-'04)**
- Favorite Cinderella upset: **Buffalo over Arizona (2018 First Round)**
- National Title prediction: **Michigan State**

#### Mr. Gemmell

- Favorite team to root for: **UNC, Syracuse, Buffalo, St. Bonaventure**
- Favorite moment: **UNC over Georgetown '82 - Michael Jordan's game-winning shot for Championship title**
- Favorite Cinderella upset: **No. 15 FGCU run to Final Four (2013), No. 11 Loyola-Chicago run to Final Four (2018)**
- National Title prediction: **UNC, Duke, Gonzaga**

### Play the Official NCAA Bracket Challenge Round by Round here:

<https://bracketchallenge.ncaa.com/>

Come back Selection Sunday on March 17 to complete and submit your bracket for a chance to win prizes, prize money, and a VIP pass to the Final Four game!

Print your bracket here:

<https://www.ncaa.com/news/basketball-men/ncaa-bracket-2019-printable-march-madness-tournament-bracket-pdf>



# Zodi-whack signs?

By Nora Looney  
Copy Editor

Zodiac Sign	Dates of Birth
Aries	March 21 <sup>st</sup> – April 19 <sup>th</sup>
Taurus	April 20 <sup>th</sup> – May 20 <sup>th</sup>
Gemini	May 21 <sup>st</sup> – June 20 <sup>th</sup>
Cancer	June 21 <sup>st</sup> – July 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Leo	July 23 <sup>rd</sup> – August 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Virgo	August 23 <sup>rd</sup> – September 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Libra	September 23 <sup>rd</sup> – October 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Scorpio	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> – November 21 <sup>st</sup>
Sagittarius	November 22 <sup>nd</sup> – December 21 <sup>st</sup>
Capricorn	December 22 <sup>nd</sup> – January 19 <sup>th</sup>
Aquarius	January 20 <sup>th</sup> – February 18 <sup>th</sup>
Pisces	February 19 <sup>th</sup> – March 20 <sup>th</sup>

If you're anything like me, you are interested in the idea of horoscopes and zodiac signs, or at the very least, you pause from time to time while flipping through a magazine or scrolling through Instagram to read your monthly horoscope. The idea of your birthdate influencing aspects of your life or personality intrigues me. I couldn't help but wonder if my fellow Alfred Almond students share a curiosity towards the subject. When I reached out to a few students, they approached the topic with different levels of skepticism and enthusiasm. For example, Avery Libordi stated, "I don't believe in it so I don't think it

plays a role in shaping my life", but then Emily Agnelo told me, "I do pay attention-and even have an app that tells me my daily horoscope. I think I do 'act' like an Aquarius-I do have a strong and dominant personality." Annie Lloyd, a Sagittarius, says "I definitely think I do [possess some of its qualities], but I also possess some of the other sign's qualities. I think I'm very enthusiastic and encouraging, which are traits that align with Sagittarius." If you, like Emily and Annie, think that your sign indicates aspects of who you are, continue to read to learn more about each of the Zodiac signs.

*See if you can guess which sign you are based on these brief descriptions:*

1. Cautious, patient, takes their time, relaxed, supportive, dedicated
2. Power seeker, serious, lives with intensity
3. Natural born leader, courageous, takes charge, bold, fiercely loyal, honest, confident
4. Family oriented, loving, people pleaser, caregiver, emotional, nature lover
5. Perfectionist, productive, analytical, scholarly
6. Attention seeker, performer, adventurous, constantly seeking friendships and relationships
7. Unique, opinionated, stubborn, competitive, energetic, short attention span, appreciates things that are fresh and new, accepts change
8. Bold personality, possesses a constant desire to learn, appreciates travel and new experiences, constantly daydreaming, optimistic, honest
9. Sensitive, compassionate, emotionally intelligent, creative
10. Peacemaker, kind, gentle, caring, fair, value balance and harmony
11. Spontaneous, witty, independent, fearless, indecisive
12. Hardworking, disciplined, active minds, ambitious



# Answers Revealed!

1.

TAURUS



2.



SCORPIO

3.

LEO



4.

CANCER

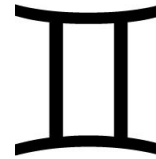


5.

VIRGO



6.



GEMINI

7.



Aries

8.

SAGITTARIUS



9.

PISCES



10.

LIBRA



11.

AQUARIUS



12.

CAPRICORN



Thanks for reading! Regardless of whether or not you actually believe in the accuracy of Zodiac signs, I hope you were able to get something out of this. For more information on your zodiac sign, you can go to [horoscope.com/zodiac-signs](http://horoscope.com/zodiac-signs).





# The Tech Savvy Generation

By: Olivia Ormsby  
Staff Writer



In an age of growing technology and technological advances, I constantly find myself stumbling on the questions of how our world has become so advanced and where our technology is going towards in the future.

During my younger years I remember my parents never having cellphones. There was no need for them seeing that our house had a home phone and their workplaces had work phones.



*Photos from shutterstock.com*

In the corner of our living room there was a large white desktop computer with a huge software box on the back. The computer must have weighed 50 pounds, but it was our main source of typing and access to the internet. Our television was a huge black tv that towered over me when I stood next to it. We had 50 channels where we gained our main source of news, sports, and entertainment. That all changed in 2007 when my father brought home an iPhone 4s. It was mind boggling to see that we no longer needed that huge white box in the corner of our living room to search Google, we

could say “Hey Siri what’s the weather?” and gain all of the information we needed. I know most families now rely on cell phones compared to home phones. We slowly gained a laptop with portable capabilities and a flat screen that contained Netflix and over 300 TV channels! So how do these



*Photos from shutterstock.com*

technological advances affect society? Social media is one of the most common technological advance amongst all ages. According to Pew Research Center, teens mostly use social media. 95% of teens have access to a smartphone, while 45% say they’re using social media constantly. While social media can promote friendship and socializing it also creates a platform for bullying. Bullying (cyberbullying specifically) has increased due to social media. Children are also starting to obtain cell phones and other technological devices earlier in their lives which exposes them to new information that can sometimes be too explicit for

their minds. For example, 20 years ago “The Walking Dead” television show probably would’ve been NR because of the explicit language and also because of all of the killing that happens, but now it’s on cable television every Sunday.

Technology is always evolving in slightest of ways. School is the perfect environment to witness these changes. Technological changes happen as recently as last year to this year. Last year we had projectors while this year we have Promethean boards. Even textbooks are becoming a thing of past. Most of our classes use online textbooks or references as well as websites such as Google Forms to submit our answers. No more pulling out scrap paper and scribbling down our answers then sticking the paper in the book for the next class. During my lifetime I witnessed the teacher wheeling out the large TV to watch VHS tapes and now the teacher can search Netflix on their touch screens.

Everything is evolving, but the real question is where will technology be in the future? Will the average American own a flying car? Will our society become like the movie Wall-E where we don’t know how to walk and our planet is completely destroyed? Stay tuned.



Read about what **Mrs.Kuhn** and **Nathan Grove** have to say about technology...

### **Mrs. Kuhn-Computer Teacher**

**What technological advancement/ invention has shaped your life in a positive or negative way?**

“Educational Technology specifically has given me a job. The use of computers, interactive boards, the Internet and programs.”

**What do you believe its effects on society/environment/school is?**

“I see students who don’t have the confidence to speak and don’t make eye contact. I worry the lack of these skills will affect them in the future. Also, lack of spelling skills, and texting shortcuts will not be accepted in the workplace. Can you imagine if I wrote Mr. Calkins an email- “Sup, b4 2morrow could u review this presentation? K, thnx.” Email is such a large part of the professional communication and it is something many students don’t pay attention to or use. Environmentally, I think the dependency on technology and power is making people more conscious of their usage. Companies are looking at green power and reusable power and solar.”

### **Nathan Grove-Student**

**What technological advancement/ invention has shaped your life in a positive or negative way?**

“During seventh and eighth grade the main way I interacted with my friends was through my computer. By using Skype having fun and talking was really easy, even without living near any of them or needing rides from our parents. Having a computer really made middle school a lot more fun than it could have been.”

**What do you believe its effects on society/environment/school is?**

“It’s hard to exactly figure out what the exact impacts of computers have been on society, but they’ve been huge to say the least. School is a much more manageable sample size, and for the most part I think they’ve helped students learn. I think they open up a lot of opportunities for teachers and students to expand their horizons. For example, without computers I never would have been able to take ACE Spanish despite our school not offering it.”

**I asked some Alfred-Almond members...**  
**Where do you see technology in the future?**

“Honestly I have no idea. I think that they’ll become smaller and faster and more powerful to a point where we barely notice that they’re there, but beyond that I have no clue where computers will go next.”

**-Nathan Grove**

“Advanced. Definitely. Computers will be our ump’s in baseball soon.”

**-Zane Johnson**

“Flying cars, flying scooters, flying shoes and definitely more advanced medicine.”

**-Emily Agnello**

“Such a great question and to be honest, I don’t know. It’s advertised that the jobs that will be available for our students now haven’t been created yet. The known is that they will be technology driven.”

**-Mrs. Kuhn**



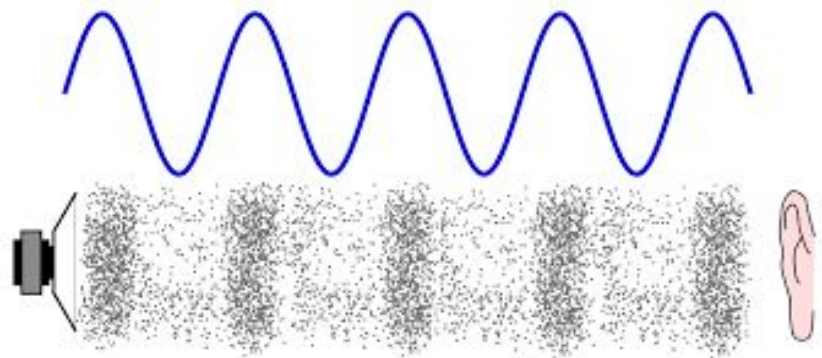
# Science Today



## Music in the Mind's Perspective

By: Gabe Empson EIC

Everyday we hear it. In our restaurants, on our phones, in the malls. Music surrounds us everywhere we go. A contagious tune can be spread from a whistle, a hum, or even a quiet solo performance. But what is music? Not on a cultural level but rather a more scientific one. All sounds create waves and yet, music is hundreds or even thousands of waves crashing and teaming into your ear to create everything you hear. But what is it about a wave that creates a sound in your head? Well first we have to explain what a wave is.



**Waves in air-** on a two dimensional plane, a wave graph is how we draw out and understand the three dimensional phenomena of sound.

The above shows the effect sound has on air particles. The peaks of the sound wave represent all the places where the air is condensed, while the trough is the spots of air expansion.

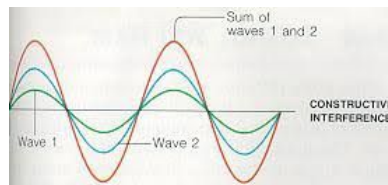


Photo from: [nde-ed.org](http://nde-ed.org)

This is the visual representation of consonance meaning the series of waves line up at a single node.

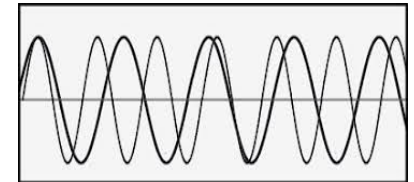
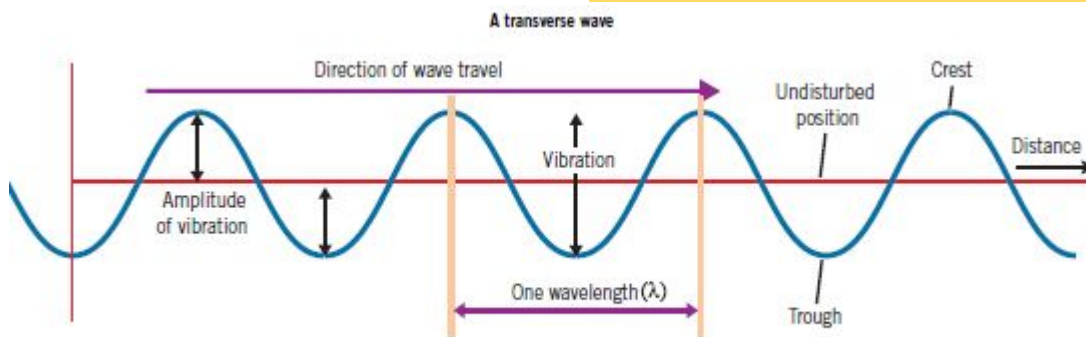


Photo from: [quora.com](http://quora.com)

This represents dissonance, where sound waves do not line up well with one another, and almost never intersecting.

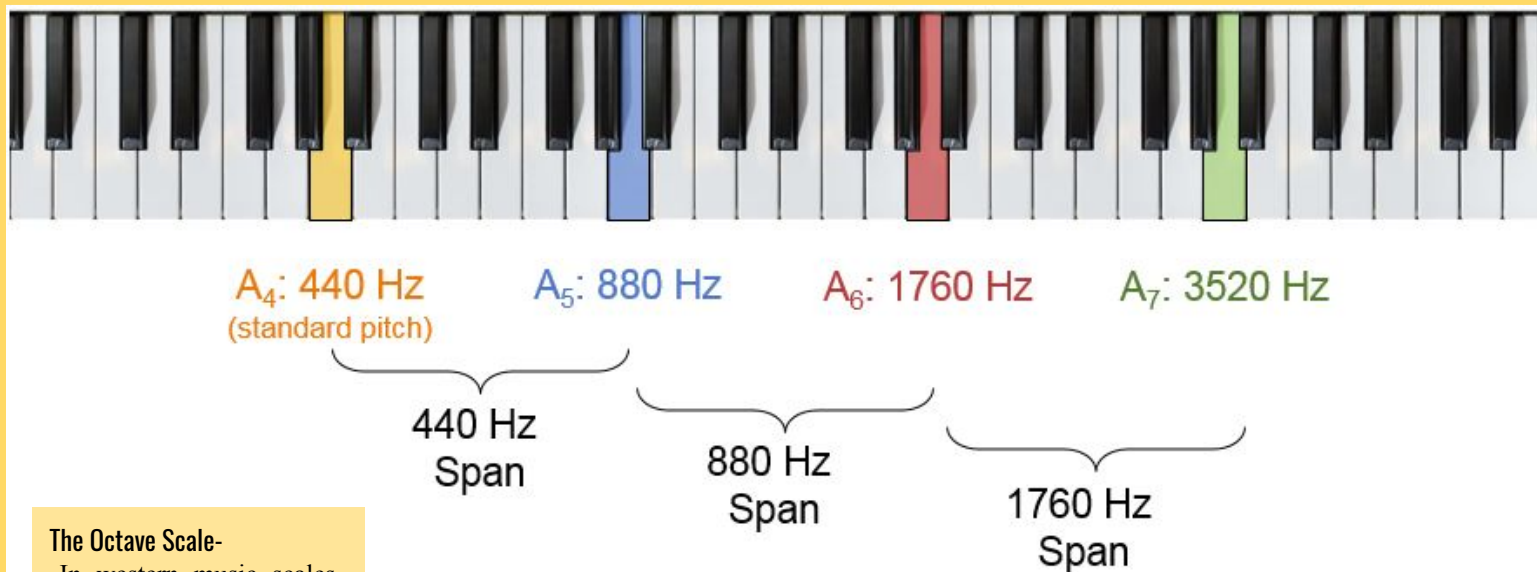


**Understanding the basics-**  
The functions of a wave directly decide the functions of sound itself. Each function on this wave shares a function of sound.

Photo from: [miniphysics.com](http://miniphysics.com)

The definition of a wave is a disturbance that transfers energy through matter or space, with little or no associated mass transport. This means that a sound is not air particles being shot into your ears but a wiggle of the particles around you that push up and down on your eardrum informing your brain of the sounds around you. Sound is a periodic compression and decompression of the air around the noise source. Sound can be explained using the diagram above. If I yell, the direction of travel will be directly away from my mouth in almost every direction. The louder I yell, the taller the waves will be, this is amplitude. When I yell at a high pitch, the waves will be closer together, making one wavelength short. When at a low pitch, the wavelength or distance between peaks will be spread out.





#### The Octave Scale-

In western music scales, notes have a scale and a name A-G then repeating after the frequency is a 1:2 ratio. Meaning that the second A doubles the frequency of the first.

Photo from:  
community.com

Every octave is when a starting note is doubled in frequency. This is exactly why if you were to hit all of the highlighted notes above on an actual piano, the sound it gives off is a consonant one, as the relationship between frequencies is whole. A good rule of thumb to remember about consonance is, if two notes have a common factor, then the notes will be consonant with one another.

## The Psychology of Music

Now that we know the difference between consonance and dissonance, let's explain what it does to create music. When put to the test, dissonance by itself is seen as an ugly sound, but when collaborated with other notes or sounds the waves interact in a way that sparks emotion in the human mind. With the sound waves being close without ever intersecting, your brain will become confused as to which sound you are hearing. This short term confusion creates an emotion of confusion. When used correctly, it can cause feelings of loneliness, fear, and anxiety. Some of the most beautiful pieces of musical work use more of the "Ugly notes" more than the "Pretty notes."



These three songs are perfect examples of music that relies on dissonance more than they do consonance, they are some of the most moving pieces in history, as well as being some of my personal favorites.

*Beethoven*

"Moonlight Sonata"

DEBUSSY

"Clair De Lune"

*Chopin*

"Nocturne in E-flat Major"

Thanks for reading, I hope you enjoyed this explanation of music. Always remember that knowledge is power. Until next time.

#### Music in the Minds Perspective-

The human body is amazing, and the biological supercomputer we carry around in our head is the peak of our existence. The energy thrown into the air in a specific pattern is the very pop song you hear on the radio or music hall.

Photo from:  
sites.google.com



# Nora and Conner: Scholars, Athletes, Friends, Upstanding Citizens, and Now...Film Critics??

## “The Martian”

“The Martian” is a film adaption from the novel “The Martian” by Andy Weir. The film details the struggle of Mark Watney, an astronaut left behind on Mars after a brutal sandstorm forces the team of astronauts to evacuate the base. While stranded on the lifeless planet, Mark must find a way to survive. In the 54 days before NASA even notices his activity, Mark had come up with the idea to grow his own food using the potatoes he had been sent with in the martian soil.

Matt Damon’s performance in this film was nothing less than spectacular. His portrayal of Mark Watney made you sympathize with him and his struggle on Mars, as well as the humor of his character. Every small joke that Mark throws into the camera of the HAB, and the progression of Mark Watney’s character was excellent. Getting into the character of someone stranded on another planet for two years is unimaginable and extremely terrifying. Watney practically had to live for two years in a space suit as his rations continued to degrade as hope to rescue him continued to dwindle. While back at home,

## *This month: Science-Fiction*



Image from Amazon.com

NASA as a whole was doing everything they could to bring Mark back to Earth. After a failed launch of supplies to Mars, NASA had to think of something revolutionary. They decided to slingshot the HERMES, the ship carrying the crew back to Earth, around the Earth and send it back to Mars to get Mark. This extended the mission duration for the crew another 19 months. Nathan only found one issue with the film, “there’s too much sand, I hate sand.”

Overall, “The Martian” is an amazing Science Fiction movie that has an almost perfect blend of real science within. The atmosphere suits they wear on Mars are what NASA has envisioned would be necessary in the thin atmosphere of the red planet. The HERMES in the film is the space station used to transport the astronauts to and from Mars. While we don’t know everything about the station we can see in the film the crew spaces rotate around the ship to create the artificial gravity. This is a nice change from many sci-fi films that just say there is going to be gravity on the ship because they said so. The MAV, or Mars Ascent Vehicle, Watney and the crew had used to take off from Mars was also a fantastic depiction of Modern Space travel requiring rockets with multiple stages to leave the planet. This is unlike many movies that just have planes that move through space, defying everything everyone has ever known about physics. If you want to learn more about travel to Mars today, check out the “Science Today” column from last month’s issue.





## “Ender’s Game”

“Ender’s game” is a film adaption of the novel by Orson Scott Card. “Ender’s Game” was based off of 1950’s militarism and how America was building youth to hate communism as an institution. In Ender’s game, the youth are raised to hate the Formics an alien race that invaded Earth and resulted in a brutal war. The people of Earth now almost only refer to Formics as “bugs.” The people of Earth sent their youth to military academies to train in battle tactics and fighting styles as children have faster thought processes and reflexes than grown adults. The story focuses on Ender Wiggin and his experience as a gifted child in these schools. He thinks in an unprecedented way and views the battles as a game, risking anything and everything to win. The leaders of the military see this is an opportunity to win the never ending war against the Formics. He was moved to be in charge of all the forces the Earth Coalition had created and started his training in fictitious battle scenarios of the entire fleet against the fleets of Formics proving his leadership in every battle scenario until he can face his final test against the real enemy. These battle scenarios are fantastic CGI scenes of how augmented reality could be used in warfare, and are extremely cool to watch.

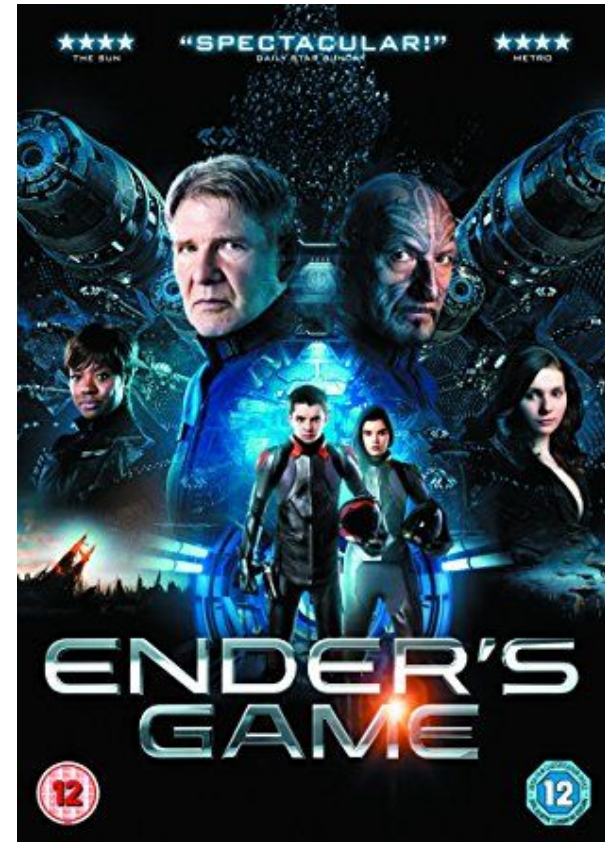


Image from Amazon.com

## “Back to the Future”

Before watching “The Martian” with Conner and some friends in preparation for this article, “Back to the Future” had been one of the only Science Fiction films I had ever seen. I viewed it as a child, and while maybe not understanding the entirety of the lines or humorous moments, I was able to appreciate the film for its creativity and original storyline. This movie follows Marty, a teenager with a less than perfect, quirky family, and a crazy scientist friend, Doc. Marty, through a car time machine, travels back to the past to his parent’s high school years. He quickly realizes that his existence in the past is crucial to how the future will be determined. He must ensure that his parents find each other before time runs out. Through his crazy adventure he not only reunites his parents to save his own existence he also makes their lives so much better. His dad is now an established author and his mom is super successful as well. He also changed how they met, their loves story no longer starts with someone getting hit by a car. This movie has since become a classic and was followed by a second and third movie. I asked Mrs. Valentine her opinion and she said “Einstein the dog did a superb job and I really wish to be in more scenes of the movie.”



Photo courtesy of Hanna Torrey



Image from Amazon.com





## Contributing writer: Morgan Randall

"This was something I wrote for Women's History Month trying to convey the idea of women breaking out of a bad relationship and standing up for themselves as well as other women, and now currently celebrating how far we have come as a gender." - Morgan



Photo from: blog.uta.edu

## "March for us"

By: Morgan Randall

2:00 a.m.

Empty

He emptied the bottle before he came back  
Your back slammed against the wall

6:00 a.m.

The alarm strikes  
He struck you motionless

Emotionless

9:00 a.m.

Stand

You stand alone at work  
You need to stand up for yourself

5:00 p.m.

You have to go home  
You don't want to go home

walk away

7:00 p.m.

Scream

You two screamed at each other once again  
You screamed for your independence

March 2019

we are no longer empty and emotionless  
we stand up for ourselves and walk away  
You screamed for my independence  
Now this month I scream in celebration of  
how far you've gotten us

# Acknowledgments



If you have any acknowledgments  
please contact Olivia, Ali,  
Lindsey or Arnold.  
Or fill out the Google Form.  
(Links below the rainbow!)



## Our Emails

[oo0352@aacsapps.com](mailto:oo0352@aacsapps.com)

[af1029@aacsapps.com](mailto:af1029@aacsapps.com)

[as1347@aacsapps.com](mailto:as1347@aacsapps.com)

[la1220@aacsapps.com](mailto:la1220@aacsapps.com)

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**Thank you...**

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formal dance  
-Mr. Mac

The library staff for  
helping the 9th  
grade reading and  
writing project  
-Mr. Dineen

Math Team Members  
for their hard work  
on the candy grams!  
-Mrs. Bensley

Anabelle for taking  
the time to go to  
sporting events to  
take pictures for the  
yearbook  
-Mrs. Valentine



# Test your knowledge with these sample Academic Allstars questions (Answers Below)

Stars within this constellation include Saiph and the Trapezium Cluster.	One of this author's short stories tells of a girl who has an imaginary friend named Jimmy Jimoreeno.	Name this sex chromosome that, in humans, contains the DAX1 gene, which codes for an anti-testis factor and thus inhibits maleness.	The radiation used in bombarding the gold foil consisted of these particles, which are merely helium nuclei.
Orion	JD Salinger	X Chromosome	Alpha Particle
The Graeae unwillingly told this son of Zeus and Danae where to locate the object of his quest, Medusa, after he stole their eye.	Name the two products, other than heat, of the combustion reaction between any hydrocarbon and oxygen	Code Red, Voltage, and Game Fuel varieties of this notoriously high-caffeine Pepsi product are now on the market.	Pericles was the leader of this city-state of Ancient Greece. Other leaders here included Solon and Draco, and this city was where Socrates was executed.
Perseus	Carbon dioxide and water	Mountain Dew	Athens
This longest river in Europe flows into the Caspian Sea; the city at its delta there, Astrakhan, is the center of the caviar industry.	Name this American poet of "Home Burial" and "The Death of the Hired Man."	Jackson scoffed at the Supreme Court's attempts to stop Cherokee removal in this 1832 case	Slaughterhouse-Five was written by this author, who included the recurring character Kilgore Trout in his novels Breakfast of Champions and God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater.
Volga River	Robert Frost	Worcester v Georgia	Kurt Vonnegut Jr.