

Student Reporter



Christina Park

Grade 9
Crescenta Valley High School

Crescenta Valley High School Marching Band Wins the Gold



Crescenta Valley Marching Band performing their field show inside due to the heavy rain. [Source: BAND app]

Nearly one-half of the school year has already passed. It is a journey and opportunity for everyone to try something and venture into new things. Marching band is one option students can take to make their high school experience special. Crescenta Valley High School has a hardworking, strong marching band. On October 15, 2022, in the midst of their competition season, Crescenta Valley Marching Band had their second band competition of the season, which took an unexpected turn.

The competition day sched-

ule was posted a day before on the BAND app, which is used almost every day. The director, Mr. Matthew Schick, creates these schedules so that everyone knows what to do. The first thing that happens on D-Day is that the marching band has morning visual rehearsals. They are mandatory if members of the band want to participate in the competition later in the day. Afterward, everyone is able to go home and eat, rest, and do homework. However, those who are part of the equipment crew must stay behind longer so that they

can load all the instruments onto the trailer and truck that are taken to the competition.

Next, around 2-3 PM, the musicians arrived at school, checked in with the student secretary, and went to the uniform crew to get their outfits and hats. These items must be handled with care so that they do not get damaged. After this, everyone was ready to load onto the buses and head to the site of the competition. On the 15th of October, however, the weather forecast predicted that there was going to be a chance of rain. It turned out to be pouring at Ontario High School, where the competition was being held. As a result, everyone was stuck in the buses waiting for the rain to stop, except for the equipment crew. They had to start unloading all the equipment in the rain while getting drenched.

Finally, the rain stopped slight-

ly, and the performers got off the buses, all wearing their uniforms, and started officially warming up in sections. Shortly after, they had a full ensemble warm-up with this year's drum major, Daniel Duaybis. At 8:45 PM, after a long delay in the program, CV Marching Band performed their field show, Ascension, inside the gym of Colony High School. After they were done, they all got dinner and got undressed from their uniforms. The rain, thunder, and lightning started once again, and all of the students went back to the buses for safety. The equipment crew completed loading the trailer and truck, and once again, the band left for home.

Even with unintended circumstances, the CV marching Band was able to bring the gold and win first place. They now have three more big competitions before going to the Final Grand Champs for the season.

Student Reporter



Dion Jung

Grade 11
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What is Key Club RTC?

Key Club is an international, student-led service organization that offers many opportunities, leadership positions, and service projects and is a great way to give back to your community. The Key Club's sacred oath is, "I pledge on my honor to uphold the objects of Key Club International; to build my home, school, and community; to serve my nation and World, and combat all forces which tend to undermine these institutions." There are approximately 266,000 international members and 36,000 members in California, Nevada, and Hawaii, for a total of 5,300 clubs in Key Club International present in 38 countries. All this information is provided at the Regional Training Conference. The purpose of RTC is to persuade members to try out for a leadership position, provide members with more details about leadership positions, and key clubs in general, but most



The Lieutenant Governors of Key Club Announcing the Winners of the Spirit Stick [Source: Author, Dion Jung]

importantly, to have fun!

The Key Club Regional Training Conference is an annual conference held at Warren High School for all of Region 8. This is an event held by all the Lieutenant Governors, giving the attendees an opportunity to meet and interact with fellow key club members from the same region. This event specializes in introducing information about key clubs through the use of workshops and presen-

tations. The key clubs that attend are then placed into a fun competition to win the Spirit Stick. The divisions are all expected to learn chants and be synchronized enough to show off their team spirit! The Key Club governors flip a coin to decide which Division starts first. The purpose is to show off their chants while being as loud and clear as possible while also being respectful. After one Division finishes its chant, usually other Divisions have a "Good Job" chant

at hand, which they all chant to show off sportsmanship. After all Divisions have shown their main chants and sub chants, the Lieutenant Governors all take a vote to decide which Division showed the most spirit, being the loudest and pumped up.

The conclusion of this meeting brings us to the next largest key club event in California, Nevada, and Hawaii, Fall Rally South. Similar to RTC, this is another event that takes place at Six Flags Magic Mountain, where Region 8 will meet up to show off their cheers and show their spirit once again. Fall Rally South takes place on Saturday, November 12th, from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM. A benefit of Key Club is the discount they provide for the Six Flags ticket—not only do members get free food and a place to show off their Division spirit, but a great discount at one of the best amusement parks!

Assistant Editors Column



Joshua Kim

Grade 11
Ed W. Clark High School

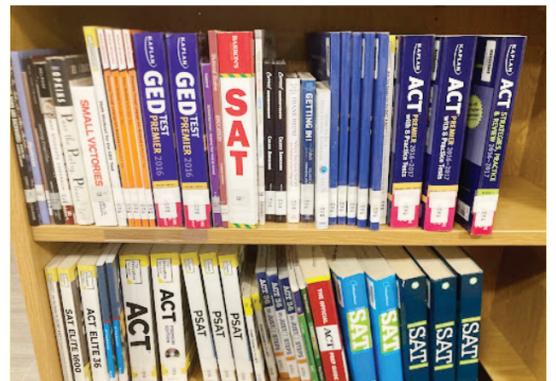
Pass Down Your Expensive Knowledge

Shoved into tight somber crevices, unattended to for years, and criticized for their age, books have become an ancient culture. With American schooling quickly spiraling into the realm of digital learning, students, including myself, often forget how our education even began. Books are not cheap, as new math textbooks can often go for \$300 during this time of inflation. Times are rough, and it's more important now than ever before to pass down our old unused books to those who aim to foster their intellectual curiosity in fields such as math, history, or science.

This winter, college admissions are seeing unprecedented levels of competition from a large number of eligible applicants. There is little doubt that SAT, ACT, and AP exam results are strongly weighted throughout the admissions process at many of America's top schools and universities. As a result, many people are seeking

out test prep materials in order to attain the highest possible scores. However, during these economic troubles, exam prep books are becoming even more expensive. Similarly, textbooks and books we read for pleasure are also skyrocketing in price.

How can we combat growing book prices? Looking for somewhat older editions of books on the internet is one approach to saving money. An SAT test prep book published in 2017 will be no better or worse than one published in 2022. The content stays identical; they have simply added different practice exams and external resources. In my Calculus class at Ed W. Clark High School, for example, we use a textbook from 2008. Another option is to share or trade your books. I used this method for my AP classes last year because I had finished my computer science class, and my friend had finished their biology class. If you don't have any books to swap or money to spend, head



At my school library, there is a variety of donated standardized test books in many editions. [Source: Author, Joshua Kim]

over to your school or public library, where donated books might be available. My school library has ACT prep books from 2009 to 2015 that are in excellent condition and are available for free. My school librarian, Ms. Hamilton, adds, "Libraries are basically charity places that hand out free education." Not all libraries have what you're looking for, but I'm sure there's one that does. Besides, everyone enjoys freebies.

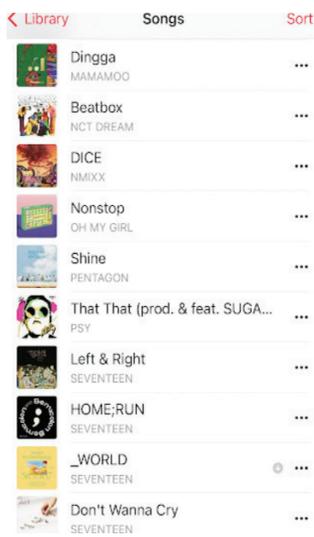
Books are important, but sometimes the high prices can often cause us to stray away from purchasing them. Better education, however, shouldn't be hindered by price. Give your old unused books away, trade them with others, visit your school or local library, and always remember to buy older versions. The pages of every book are like a paper lockbox, enveloping knowledge waiting to be opened.

Student Reporter



Hannah Lee
Grade 10
South High School

Another Language: Music



A variety of K-pop genre songs are mixed into my playlist, allowing me to listen to them when I need some time to relieve stress.

[Source: Author, Hannah Lee]

Music. So delicate, and if you touch a wrong note, a completely different tune will be played.

Sometimes, music without lyrics, such as classical music, plays a big role in comforting a teen or adult. But other times, music with exciting tunes and words hypes us up, such as with pop music. Regardless of the genre, music has been a big part of many cultures and has been so embedded into society that the real definition of music and its diversity has yet to be completely revealed.

As a young child, I played two instruments, one of which I have played since I was a small child and the other, which I learned later, and still love playing. The sounds of instruments flowing into my ears—well, I can't say that it was necessarily music in the beginning, as a lot of practice was needed for me to stand where I am now with my progress.

If I were to write the exact

definition of music, the internet would tell me that its “vocal or instrumental sounds (or both) combined in such a way as to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion.” Expressing emotion through words and speaking directly to a person is not easy. So why not find another way where the words are already spoken for you? You just have to select the right song. For some, opening your mouth and saying what's exactly on your mind doesn't come easily, especially when you realize that the harsh reality will hit you when you speak your words.

Suddenly more interested in finding out what others thought, I took a survey from some of those around me. A fellow sophomore at South High School, Margaret Gerlach, stated, “The reason I like music is because it allows me to get in touch with my emotions and it

helps me become happier or more realized depending on the song.” She also stated that she doesn't tend to listen to music during study manners because it distracts her. Another student who wishes to remain anonymous said that music allows her to “let out stress” and just be herself.

Music sometimes seems like an alienated form of a foreign language. To understand someone else through tunes, you have to be able to portray yourself in the same language. After all, if someone is speaking Spanish, just because you like the sound the language produces doesn't mean you can understand it. If music were another language, there would be lessons to help to understand it. Imagine it that way. It'll be a bigger reassurance when you find a friend who connects with others through another musical way.

Student Reporter



Subeen (David) Yu
Grade 7
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The Power of Volunteering to Change the World

On weekends, what do you do? Some might enjoy their hobbies or work, but many people volunteer on weekends. Some Korean public schools require a certain amount of volunteer time for middle school and high school students to complete. Many people get a record of the time that they volunteered to use for this reason. However, the most important reason why people volunteer is that they want to help others.

There are many types of volunteering, such as environmental cleanup activities, briquette service, and helping at certain events. Each of these activities will give numerous lessons in everyone's life. When people are doing environmental cleanup activities, they can learn how dirty our Earth is and encourage people to help keep it clean. Also, when people are doing briquette service, many realize how grateful they are for being

warm in their homes. Volunteering gives numerous life lessons to everyone.

Before volunteering, ask yourself the about the purpose. Why do you volunteer? Knowing the purpose is very important. Many people might misunderstand the concept and harm other people rather than help them. These days, many people volunteer just to earn respect for their time and use it to their advan-



People volunteered and picked up ping pong balls that disabled players used in table tennis competitions.

[Source: Author, Subeen Yu]

However, this is not the purpose. Instead, it is to help others and change our neighborhoods into better places. If someone is volunteering just for their own benefit, it is not a good idea.

Young-jin Yu, who volunteered 2400 hours over about 20 years, stated, “I started volunteering because I wanted to know more about my neighbors. While volunteering, I learned that there are many peo-

ple who are living harder than me. I realized that it is time for me to stop complaining about the difficulties and be thankful for everything. I donated my blood 384 times. I started donating my blood because I wanted to help people who are struggling with leukemia. I think volunteering is an activity that I do to help others without my own benefit. To someone who is starting to volunteer, I want to tell you to volunteer and know more about the place that I am living in.”

Volunteering will unify many people who were separated. Helping others and creating better environments will make our world a better place. Volunteering will not only help others, but when it becomes a habit, everything will look different. Volunteers are not doing this to gain personal benefits; however, it does benefit many other people. So volunteer and make our world a better place.

Student Reporter



Kaylyn L. Yu
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South Korea's Confectionery and Bakery Myeongjang Title

The title of 'Myeongjang' in South Korea is a special one, translating to 'master' in English. It is reserved only for those in the greatest level of a specific field, who have contributed a significant amount to develop and improve the field's status. This certificate and status is granted by the government's Ministry of Employment and Labor, decided by the South Korea Master-Judging Committee. Its purpose is to recognize the capability some people possess, ensuring proper respect is shown to them.

However, no one is easily granted this certificate. There are specific qualifications a person must hold: They must have worked at least 15 years in the chosen field at the highest level, they must have an official job that does not consist of education or teaching, and they must show the best performance in their field job. There are 22 fields and 96 occupations for the Myeongjang title, including the Confectionery and Bakery Myeongjang title.

Confectionery and Bakery Myeongjang certificates are awarded to bakers, confectioners, or pastry chefs, with only 14 known masters and a possible 15th yet unknown. All of the 14 known masters own their signature brand shop that produces goods. The Myeongjang title that the masters possess certainly raises awareness to the public compared to other newly opened bakeries, showing that the Confectionery and Bakery Myeongjang label could be deemed beneficial in more ways than one.

Myeongjang 10, a cafe by the 10th Confectionery and Bakery Myeongjang—Young-kwang Song—is located in Goyang-si, Gyeonggi-do. The certificate was indicated to him in 2014, but Myeongjang 10 was constructed later. The casual cafe consists of two floors, filled with potted and hanging greenery, with seating even on the stairs leading up to the second floor. The cafe sells a variety of baked goods, the most popular being their legendary Salt

Bread, a buttery croissant-like bread with a crispy outside and a soft inside, and sprinkled with salt. The Salt Bread is so popular that they are limited to ten per person on ordinary days and five per person on sale days.

A customer of Myeongjang 10 stated, “I enjoy Myeongjang 10's selection variety, and my favorite is the Maritozzo or ones with a lot of cream. I'm visiting after a long time with my family.”

An's Bakery was founded by Chang-Hyeon Ahn, the 7th winner of the Myeongjang certificate, in 2009. An's Bakery is available in three separate locations, all in Incheon. Some locations have seats with a cafe-like mood, while others are smaller stores. The bakery also offers delectable varieties of pastries, cakes, bread, and more. An An's Bakery customer spoke, “I don't usually visit often, and my go-to is the Salt Bread here. The bakery's definitely great, and the only con might be that the



Casual cafe Myeongjang 10 is filled with both potted and hanging greenery and represents various choices in baked goods.

[Source: Author, Kaylyn Yu]

goods are a little pricey.”

These masters that the bakery represents hold a more vivid meaning, as the baker, confectioner, or pastry chef is also standing with a proud Myeongjang title in South Korea. They had received it fairly and honorably for what they had accomplished in the Confectionery and Bakery field.