

Student Reporter



Junny Jung
Grade 10
Grover Cleveland Charter
High School

The Last Hurrah for the Bizarre Year



A light projection of Corechella X's logo on a school building
[Source: Author, Junny Jung]

The final exams and project are handed to teachers as the general laziness on campus sets in. As summer nears and the stress of AP exams and finals slowly drift away, Cleveland Charter High School students patiently wait for the special end-of-the-year student-led concert on campus. For the last few months, pupil bands have been diligently practicing and perfecting their songs for their performances. Despite the pressure of the final exams on the students of the organizing committee, the planners have managed to prepare a perfect festival despite the transition from online to in-person.

This year has been particularly challenging for students across the nation. For many, this was the first time they physically attended school in over fifteen months.

In the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, worries about the pandemic and the safety of schools concerned teachers and students alike. However, with time, we adjusted to the new, yet familiar, setting. While the year was filled with ups and downs, it is important to be grateful for making it out of this crazy year in one piece. Thus, in the celebration of this achievement, Cleveland High School hosted its 10th annual music festival.

The event is known as Corechella (derived from Coachella, but with the name of the program infused) and originally started when a group of students planned the event in the hopes of raising awareness about budget issues that were detrimental to students' education. Since then, these festivals have been themed around

raising awareness for budget shortfalls, which has culminated into a large concert night. The event not only consists of musical acts from the program's very own students, but also has silent auctions, countless food trucks, and celebrity hosts.

This year, there will be five musical acts performing on stage, along with a mystery famous host that has yet to be announced. While the objective of the event is to increase awareness for fundraising, it is also hosted to reward students for successfully making it through the year, even if there were times where thoughts of giving up were prevalent. As the unexpectedly crazy, yet exciting year comes to an end, I congratulate the students living through the pandemic in the same way history books will soon include.

Student Reporter



Christina Park
Grade 8
Rosemont Middle School

Rosemont Middle School Holds a Semi-Formal Dance

After two full years of skipping all celebrations, promotions, and field trips, Rosemont Middle School finally held its evening, semi-formal dance on Friday, May 13 from 6 to 9 PM. It was planned by the ASB students and staff members.

The dance was held at Rosemont Middle School itself, and all the student council helped set up the dance floor. The theme for this year's dance was "Hollywood Nights: A Red Carpet Walk," and the student body decorated the field accordingly. Starting from the Thursday before the event, professional construction workers came and started assembling the dance floor and the lights. Then, on the actual day, ASB students brought in the tables, chairs, and of course, the red carpet, to complete the fantastic visual.

Two weeks before the dance, all students were able to buy their tickets, to attend the show, and din-



Rosemont Middle School's Student Body are congratulated for all their hard work for the Semi-Formal.
[Source: Author, Christina Park]

ner tickets from Tommy's Burgers. Tickets for the event were \$15, while the dinner costed \$10. Without these items and their school ID, students were not allowed inside the area. Still, the students were allowed to buy tickets on the day of the dance as long as they had brought all the other necessities. Along with these requirements, students also had a dress code that they had to follow, and a sheet of paper consisting of all the clothing restrictions was given to each student. For example, girls

were allowed to wear dresses that had at least one strap, partial showing of the back, and heels if wanted. Boys were given the option to wear a suit or any semi-formal outfit. However, jeans and a T-Shirt were on the list of clothes that students could not wear.

On the night of the dance, students started showing up one by one, along with their friends. The staff were there to check tickets and IDs, along with a thorough

bag check, in case there were any items that would violate school rules. Lexi Pang, the ASB secretary, reiterates about the dance, "The Semi-Formal is an event that all students at Rosemont Middle School look forward to at the end of the year. It is a fun dance that all Rosemont Spartans are invited to and that ASB puts on. We planned this dance months in advance, and not only that, we were in charge of setting up and cleaning up before and after the dance. It sounds like a lot of hard labor but with all of the helping hands from everyone in ASB, it was easy putting on such a spectacular event!"

This dance was definitely an exciting moment for all students at Rosemont Middle School. It was a way for them to let go of all the stress they were going through, especially since the students were working hard on their state testing during for the weeks prior to the dance. All in all, it was a night they will never forget.

Student Reporter



Sean Kim
Grade 10
Los Alamitos High School

Passions and College Majors

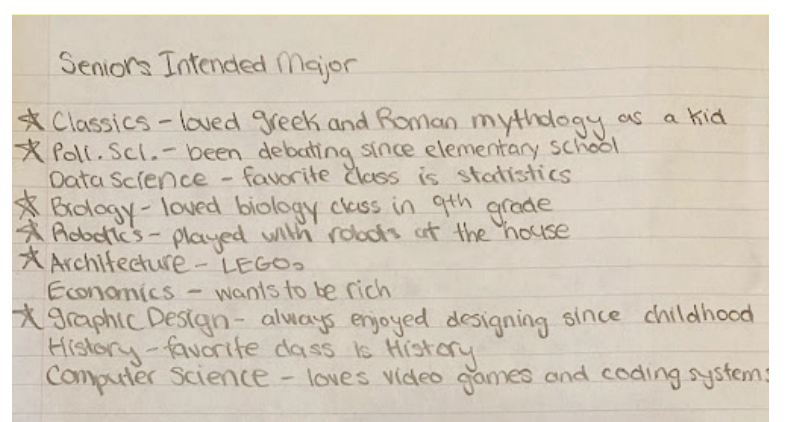
As the school year ends, seniors grow excited about their futures. At Los Alamitos High School, most students choose to attend college right after graduation. I wanted to know what fields seniors would study or degrees they would earn. Because of this, for a week I asked seniors about their intended majors. From the results, I learned the importance of discovering your deepest interests during high school.

I wanted to learn more about our graduating class because of my older sister. Although I am only a sophomore, I watched as my sister debated what to study in her future, and it made me wonder about other people her age. Colleges expect high school students to know what areas they wish to pursue. The decisions they make impact the rest of their lives, at the very least, their col-

lege experience.

By the end of the week, I gathered intended majors from ten seniors. I tried my best to ask students from various subjects, although my connections were limited to certain activities. I asked three seniors from a computer science class, two seniors from a calculus class, and three seniors from competitive debate. Thankfully, my efforts were not in vain, and there were majors from many different fields.

From the results, I gathered that most high school students pursue their dreams rather than chase the money. Surprisingly, seniors chose uncommon majors such as Classics, History, and Graphic Design, and only a few chose lucrative fields like Computer Science and Economics. When I



Starred results show that many seniors chose majors off their early interests.
[Source: Author, Sean Kim]

asked why they chose their majors, many looked back on their childhood interests. A Political Science major had debated since elementary school. An aspiring architect loved LEGOs since they were a kid. It was inspiring to discover that graduating seniors would go on to study what they truly wanted to, focusing on subjects they were passionate about. These students

spent the last four years learning about themselves and their interests, and they decided to follow their dreams during college.

After asking seniors about their future, I learned a valuable lesson. I should spend my time in high school learning more about my interests and pursue them further in college.

Student Reporter

Santa Fe's Got Talent!



Aspen Lee
Grade 7
Santa Fe Christian Middle School



Santa Fe's Sixth Grade Choir/Music Class Performing Their Version of the Many Broadway Shows
[Source: Author, Siena Porcelli]

For the last month and a half, the Santa Fe Christian Middle School has been hard at work to make the annual talent show happen! Student Leadership teacher, Mr. Trumble, and the rest of the student council decorated the gym to look bedazzled and sparkling for everyone to see. Starting approximately two months ago, Mr. Trumble had been collecting forms for the talent show

and watched each and every act at least ten times to make sure the performances and participants would be ready for the stage. Some students in sixth grade performed dances together that they choreographed themselves. Seventh-grade boys came together and decided to "dance" to Single Ladies, but due to the lack of practice, they were told to fold their act since it was just to get a laugh out

of their classmates. A few eighth-grade girls sang their favorite musical tracks and got a few standing ovations.

A total of eleven acts were on stage for the talent show, and each student was able to share their talents with their peers while participating in a friendly competition. There were three judges; the middle school's principal, vice-principal, and art teacher. Sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students, watched their friends' talents under the lights of the stage. One act, a stand-up comedy, was done by a sixth-grader who wanted to show his family's way of having fun with a spin. With the help of a popular seventh-grade student, Damien, they were able to get the whole gym laughing at their hysterical jokes about their own qualities. Although the groups that danced

to Annie, sang to Moana's classic songs and played their hearts out on instruments, there had to be a winner and a runner-up to the great show.

The judges spent their Wednesday afternoon scoring each act, giving notes, and writing compliments for each of the brave souls that went in front of the school to showcase their talents. They decided the final winner was seventh-grade student, Henry G., who played his own little piece on the electric guitar. Second place went to his classmate, Siena P., who performed a version of the song Rainbow by Kacey Musgraves on the piano while she sang the heartfelt lyrics. It was a super fun experience, and as a part of the audience, I can testify that the winners, along with all the other students, were so talented!!

Student Reporter

My Sophomore Year Coming to a Close



Andrew Chung
Grade 10
Los Osos High School

As the 2021-2022 school year is coming to a close, so is my sophomore year of high school. It has been an exhilarating experience, to put it into words. It has been full of countless memories with friends, real struggles with work, and the fun aspects of being a high school student. Personally, the past school year has been more fun than difficult, as I've experienced the true life of a high school student. It was as great of an experience as I had imagined, and the experience comes nothing close to what one would assume.

My sophomore year of high school was technically my freshman year in some ways. It was the very first year of attending high school in-person, as my freshman year was virtual due to the pandemic. There were practically two freshman classes this year, as there



Countless hours of working and studying was put into my sophomore year of high school, and it's safe to say that it was all worth it.
[Source: Author, Andrew Chung]

were twice the amount of people that were lost and stressed on the first days of class. In the beginning, it was definitely nothing less than crazy. Everyone and everything was so fast-paced, and I had never felt school days go by faster. It was a bittersweet feeling, and although it was very fun and thrilling, it felt like my high school experience was going by way too quickly. I took Honors/AP classes this year as well,

and it was more difficult than I expected. Even though the time in class may have seemed short, the workload and the difficulty of the content was much more than I expected. There was so much to learn about both in-class and on my own, and I had to study an enormous amount every time I had a test.

On the other hand, my sophomore year was actually much more

fun than work. Despite the amount of things that I had to deal with every day and the difficulty of the content I was learning, there were many opportunities that my school had provided to help ease my stress. This included various clubs, such as the National Honors Society, that gave me the chance to participate in exciting events, while providing service for my community. Also, there was a lot more freedom that I experienced this year than when I was a younger student. I'm allowed to use my phone on campus and it's my responsibility to get to class on time on my own. It gave me a sense of what it was like to be independent, and I feel that this year really progressed my life and made me feel more ready for becoming an adult. Overall, it was an amazing school year fulfilled with both joyful and difficult aspects, but was extremely fun.

Student Reporter

BookTok: Trend or Trustworthy?



Alexis Choi
Grade 9
South High School

With TikTok's ever-growing popularity, various subgenres of interests have emerged on the app, ranging from creative fashion tips to "oddly satisfying" videos of crushing floral foam under car tires.

Likewise, book-enthusiasts have formed their own community called "BookTok," which currently has over 49.2 billion views on its #booktok tag. There, avid readers share their favorite reads through aesthetic montages of book summaries, detailed reviews, and even sobbing into the camera after a heartbreaking ending. BookTok has become a full-fledged community that even has an influence on the publishing industry. However, popularity and clear trends can make one wonder: is BookTok really trustworthy? Are the recommendations truly as marvelous as people claim or are they just more terminal trends rotating around the internet?

One of the most recommended novels on BookTok is *They Both Die at the End*, by Adam Silvera. This is a young adult novel following Mateo and Rufus, two teenage boys who happen to meet on the last day of their lives. In their world,

technology is so advanced that death is predictable. On their day of death, the boys end up spending their last hours together, experiencing the adventures of a lifetime in a single day. The relationship between Mateo and Rufus is one of the best aspects of the novel. Their distinct personalities create a harmonious, colorful dynamic, which grows as they explore themes such as death, love, and a person's influence on another's life.

A Court of Thorns and Roses, by Sarah J. Maas, is a fantasy-romance novel that has also been highly lauded on TikTok. Containing all of the internet's favorite tropes—enemies to lovers, curses, and magical beings—it's difficult to scroll through BookTok without encountering this novel. As a modern retelling of *Beauty and the Beast*, the story follows a girl named Feyre who fights for survival in a world of poverty and a coldhearted family. Then, she is dragged to a magical world where her captor turns out to be powerful, immortal, and extremely attractive. What follows is a slow-burn romance in which Feyre explores her new world and experiences love, adventure, and happi-



Multiple books are highly trending on BookTok! Are they good or overhyped? [Source: Author, Alexis Choi]

ness. Although some say that the novel can be too heavy on clichés, *A Court of Thorns and Roses* is a fantastic fast-paced adventure for those getting back into reading.

Finally, *It Ends With Us*, by Colleen Hoover, is another young adult novel that has swept through the BookTok community. Described as "heartbreakingly beautiful" and "raw and honest" by reviewers on TikTok, this story follows Lily Bloom, a young woman who struggles to overcome past relationships and navigate new ones that both bless and plague her life. At first, the plot can appear to be a typical romance where the ridiculously handsome man is instantly attracted to the lead female character. However, it takes an unexpected

turn as Lily relives old childhood traumas and encounters the complexities of toxic love.

These trending books create an image of BookTok's credibility as a whole. Although there may be some overrated novels in the mix, most books are popular for good reason. But, aside from being a reliable source of book inspiration, BookTok has a more significant effect on modern teenagers. With the activity of pleasure reading decreasing at alarming rates in society, BookTok creates trends and constant promotion through a platform popular with teenagers, which causes many novels to pique the interest of those who typically do not read. "I used to never read," freshman Diane Joung said. "But I'm on TikTok every day, and after seeing book recommendations, I started reading again. I really love some of the books I've found."

Though it may be different for every individual, trends have shown that BookTok can truly be a reliable source of book inspiration, as well as a community to get involved in if you enjoy or want to begin reading!