

Editors Column



Hannah Kim
Grade 11
Sunset High School

ChatGTP Taking Over



ChatGTP is taking over, but is that a good or bad thing?
[Source: ChatGTP Instagram]

ChatGTP, a newly created chat-box developed by OpenAI, has been taking the U.S. by storm. This artificial intelligence “is a transformer-based neural network that provides answers and data with human writing patterns,” states entrepreneur.com. It has over 175 billion parameters, making it one of the largest language models ever, and responds in real-time. Additionally, cnet.com states that “the bot remembers the thread of [an individual’s] dialogue, using previous questions and answers to inform its

next responses.” In short, ChatGTP can answer anything an individual asks as long as it is part of its pre-trained knowledge. All of these qualities of ChatGTP have made it a desirable model for citizens across the U.S., as it makes writing easier and more efficient.

While there are many pros to this new artificial intelligence, the idea of human dependence on technology has risen. This is because too much reliance on technology is worrisome for the future of humanity. The OpenAI Chief

Executive Sam Altman tweeted that, “it’s a mistake to be relying on it for anything important right now... We have lots of work to do on robustness and truthfulness.” This is significant as while ChatGTP can be used to benefit society, the use of the system can also be harmful.

This artificial intelligence has caught the attention of school districts countrywide, as students have been caught using ChatGTP to write their assignments, making it the birth of a new way of cheating. Due to this, districts across the U.S. have been seen banning the system. It is essential that schools take this action, as writing is a basic skill that any human should excel at. Allowing students to grow their writing skills naturally is crucial for them to be able to become successful.

As with any other type of technology, ChatGTP also has limits.

It can give an individual a completely wrong answer at times while looking authoritative. According to Mike Kruse, a data science director at a different AI company, “if you ask it a very well-structured question... you’ll probably get the right answer... But if you throw it a curveball, you’ll get nonsense.” This demonstrates that artificial intelligence can never become advanced enough to become a true writer.

While these kinds of artificial intelligence do make life easier, they can get in the way of developing basic skills. As for ChatGTP, it can disrupt the development of writing skills for the younger generation. This is important because it is vital that humans do not depend on technology too much, as human intelligence can decrease generation by generation. Society needs to be able to find a balance between artificial intelligence and preserving human intelligence as well.

Student Reporter



Kaylyn L. Yu
Grade 8
Juniper Christian School

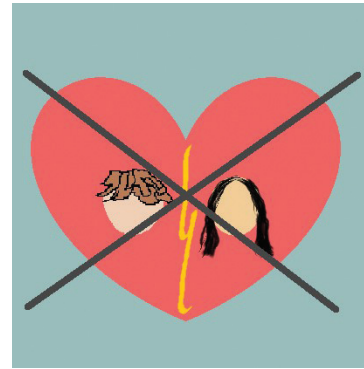
Should Dating Be Banned in School?

The question is not a relatively common one, as it never really needed to be discussed. However, it is nevertheless an important topic. Currently, Juniper Christian School (JCS) applies a strict dating ban as a school policy for the whole community, from first to twelfth grade. This untypical rule may have both positive and negative effects, but is it actually worth it?

Taking a look at the advantages of the policy, there are three focal factors: academic priority, society appropriateness, and spiritual morality. First, it is very plausible that romantic relationships will hinder a student’s studies, although there is a fair chance that might not be true. Second, compulsorily, there is a pretty wide age range extant among students, with a shared campus, and it makes sense to keep mutual feelings tempered. Third, JCS follows and sets examples of Christian values, and unsuitable

connections among students may oppose this.

As for the disadvantages, there are also three key points: furtive links, students’ viewpoints, and emotional bewilderment. To begin, the most self-evident flaw of the regulation is that it is violated time and time again, pressuring students to date in secret, which may be even more injurious than without the rule in the first place. Another complication is the students’ own vantage point on the topic, specifically middle to high schoolers. There are a number of complaints rising due to the restricting setback, and reverse psychology may also play a role in their heads—wishing to do something just because it’s not permitted. Lastly, students may feel distracted by their emotions and the urge to control them, producing more stress and less concentration both socially and academically.



Dating within the school could lead to a deprivation in students’ academics, another disadvantage”
[Source: Author, Kaylyn Yu]

A JCS high school sophomore, Jeongmin Yoon, voiced her thoughts on the no-dating policy, “The main reason I don’t agree with the rule is because the school is taking away our right to date, which seems unfair.” This mirrors many others’ reasoning for disagreeing with the forbidding of romantic relationships.

Dr. Minhoo Lee, JCS’ principal,

explained the dating policy’s purpose, “Especially with JCS’ large range in age, we consider a safe school environment a major priority, along with respectful and neutral relations with one another. Obviously, the segregation policy has both its assets and liabilities, yet everyone is notified of the student policies before enrolling into the school.” He concluded that romance within the school was prohibited, as it engendered a rather negative impact and did not support Christian values.

Due to Juniper Christian School’s standing as a private school in South Korea, they have every right to regulate precepts like this, including punishments for breaking the rules. Yet issues could arise if the costs threaten to overwhelm the benefits of the guidelines. As for the present, it remains a constant debate topic roaming the school.

Student Reporter



David Han
Grade 9
Woodbridge High School

Woodbridge Makes A Splash

On a Thursday in March 2023, the Woodbridge High School Swim Team competed against Irvine High School at the Woollet Aquatics Center. Participating in more than 60 events, swimmers pushed through, breaking personal bests and earning points for their team. Throughout the meet, Woodbridge showed their utmost perseverance and strength and earned a victory over Irvine High. Looking back on the performance, there were many amazing swims from various swimmers. However, exceptional swims include Dean Ko, with a 5:12 on the 500 Backstroke, Max Stewart, with a 4:39 on the 500 Free, and phenomenal times on the Medleys.

So, what allows teams to improve their times and win races? Mostly, it comes down to fundamentals and a committed team that continues to work hard in and out of the water. Practices are important to creating strength,

but without a commitment from teammates and a challenging environment, the team altogether is not able to improve. Personally, I think that missing practice is the greatest threat because it creates bad habits and examples for others. Having a team that is consistent with attendance encourages members to develop time management habits so that they are able to make time for practice.

Practice is important, and the contents of it are essential to faster swims. Coaches should always push their athletes with challenging sets and develop endurance. Sets should focus on being aerobic and anaerobic, allowing the swimmer to ease into fatigue and lactic acid buildup in their bodies.

As we continue to work and practice throughout the season, Coach Hickson is hopeful for progress and positive results. “I truly believe that this team can look forward to achieving amaz-



Woodbridge Warriors continue to train hard in and out of the pool.
[Source: Author, David Han]

ing results, and I am so excited to start off the season with a group of swimmers that are filled with talent, but, most importantly, hard work. We still have much to work on, but there is a lot to look forward to.”

Woodbridge High will face off against tougher teams next, like Northwood High, and currently are preparing with added weight sessions and higher intensity practice. As we get closer to CIF, Woodbridge will have to work on developing a bonded and com-

mitted team. My teammates and I believe that each of us can push ourselves and compete with each other to become the best we can be.

Without a doubt, the swim team has much to look forward to and be proud of. The boys and girls have consistently practiced daily at the pool and given their all in every race. Each swimmer has demonstrated remarkable progress and has allowed the team to continue thriving toward positive momentum.

Student Reporter

La Canada High School's 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip



Joyce Kang
Grade 8
La Canada High School



A horse-drawn carriage rides through Williamsburg
[Source: Author, Joyce Kang]

For one full week, La Canada High School's 8th-grade class had the unforgettable experience of traveling to Washington D.C. Although the trip was filled with ups and downs, each student definitely brought home some special memories. From visiting the United States capitol to petting horses at Williamsburg, every student had a favorite place that left a strong impression.

The trip began on the 26th of

February, when students gathered at the La Canada High School gym, bright and early. Having been split into three groups, students with the earliest flight left on the bus first thing in the morning. With the boarding time of 8:00 am, the first group of students had a smooth flight as planned. However, as the second group of students arrived at the airport, the chaperones delivered the news of a delayed flight. As the bus began to fill with groans and complaints, students quickly started to plan out how they were going to spend their 10 hours at the airport.

"The delay was hard, and it was really stressful having to stay at the airport for a long time, but I think I was really excited to go to Washington D.C. and spend time with my friends, so it wasn't the worst." explained 8th grade Chloe Koo, one of the many students on the delayed flight. Even through all of this, every student arrived safely at

their hotels in Virginia, not once losing their excitement for the trip.

The real fun began the day after the student's arrival. After each group was assigned a tour guide from WorldStrides, buses were loaded and on the move. The first stop was Williamsburg, a small city in Virginia that was once the capital of the Virginia colony. Seeing beautiful historic buildings and horse-drawn carriages throughout the city was truly an enjoyable experience for all students. Groups had the opportunity to enter historic shops, such as those of a wigmaker and a blacksmith, and listened as the tour guide explained how the shops were used so many years ago. As the post-winter weather was sunny yet cool and breezy, not one person was found complaining about the heat.

The next stop was, as most students would say, the highlight of the trip. Buses began a long drive

to Washington D.C. The next four days were packed with historical sights and museums, from the White House to Arlington Cemetery, to the Lincoln Memorial.

When asked what the best part of the trip was, student Warren Kim replied, "Definitely getting to spend time with my friends during the bus rides, at the hotels, and at breakfast. Getting to wake up and see my friends first thing in the morning was pretty cool." As students got to room with people of their choosing and spend long bus rides chattering away, they got the experience of seeing new aspects of their friends and deepening their relationships, even with teachers.

Most would say that this 8th grade trip was a definite success, and teachers are already beginning to plan another for the upcoming 8th graders with improvements from student feedback.

Student Reporter

Behind the Curtains of Northwood High School's Musicals



Audrey Park
Grade 9
Northwood High School

Performing arts is significant in understanding how entertainment is interpreted in modern society. Over the years, the importance of its content has been publicly praised, but the appreciation for technical preparations has been reduced. For example, when Broadway musicals are adapted into smaller high school productions, the sheer magnitude of preparation that is taken by students often goes unnoticed or underappreciated.

Generally, theater programs remain an important element in helping students develop management skills, with the potential of aspiring theater students having been extended as a result. Through my experiences in Northwood's theater program, I learned that these were frequently applied elements.

For instance, Northwood's



During the rehearsal for *Willy Wonka*, student actors received instructions on improving the gestures and dialogue for their scenes.
[Source: Audrey Park, Author].

theater program has a general course for educating students interested in performing arts and a course that is directly involved with creating upcoming musicals. Due to its time consumption, the events of the second course are offered after school and begin with distributing roles to the ap-

propriate individual. Once this process takes place, all members of the team prepare, until the musical's running dates, in the form of workdays, blocking sessions, and rehearsals. Furthermore, the entire crew is separated into smaller groups—mainly assembling costume designers, prop masters, or carpenters—and the student stage managers are able to individually work out the plans going forward. Angie Ellis, a student stage manager for Northwood High School's *Willy Wonka* production, states, "The theater directors communicated with the rest of the students through us. For the most recent play, the cast got larger due to our collaboration with the school's orchestra and dance team. The stage management crew put in more effort to meet all the technical standards and keep track of everyone's progress."

Generally, the stage managers are seen as being given the key role, as their capabilities must not be limited to organization and cooperation. During our school's productions, each manager had to respond to every design team's inquiries outside of classes, maximizing time sensitivity in the process. Just as important, however, the supporting tech crew is also expected to demonstrate difficult feats during their own time. These obstacles often come in the form of making innovative changes to their projects to meet the stage manager's expectations and adjusting to new deadlines.

Although on a smaller scale, preparations for school plays can seem as large as ones on Broadway for the students involved. For this reason, it's significant that future generations can recognize and support everyone involved in their school's theater program!

Student Reporter

Unexpected Snow After Decades in La Crescenta



Rena Jeoung
Grade 11
Crescenta Valley High School

On February 25, 2023, La Crescenta experienced a great amount of snowfall, creating excitement and disbelief for many families. La Crescenta, located in Los Angeles, California, is known to have mostly warm and sunny weather throughout the year. However, in the recent weeks, there have been drastic temperature changes with the occurrence of a sudden winter storm, bringing snow and shock to families in the city. Recently, the temperature changes and increased precipitation have reduced the severe drought that California has suffered for many years. However, in a state that barely receives any rainfall, how could there possibly be snow? The change in the climate has occurred not only in Southern California but also all over the world, explaining that this isn't a mere condition but something greater.

In La Crescenta, there was a lot of rainfall building over the course of a few weeks. Every day seemed to be colder than the day before, and the period of cold seemed to be everlasting. February 25, 2023, had felt like a typical Saturday. It was a normal, gloomy day, and like the other days, it was raining. However, different from the days before, this time, the rainfall turned into hail. Then, ever so slowly, powder-white snow started falling from the sky. Eventually, millions of little snowflakes started raining down in the upper part of La Crescenta. Toddlers started running around outside, yelping in joy, and residents started capturing many videos and photos to share with their friends and relatives, as this amount of snowfall had only occurred in La Crescenta decades ago. Even despite seeing snow in other places, having it in my backyard seemed like a winter wonderland.



La Crescenta experiences snow for the first time in decades.
[Source: Author, Rena Jeoung]

For a couple of days afterward, the mountains in the skyline were covered in snow, and everything in it was a breathtaking sight.

Even though the sight of snow was unusual and exciting, I realized that there is something deeper that needs to be in people's minds. Temperatures are fluctuating, and the climate is getting harsher every

day, all around the world. The unusual weather occurrences aren't just limited to La Crescenta, but all over the world. This is a serious problem. Climate change is not only affecting the environment but also humans. It is important to be aware of these issues even in the midst of appreciating the gorgeous snowfall and bizarre amounts of rainfall around us.