

Student Reporter

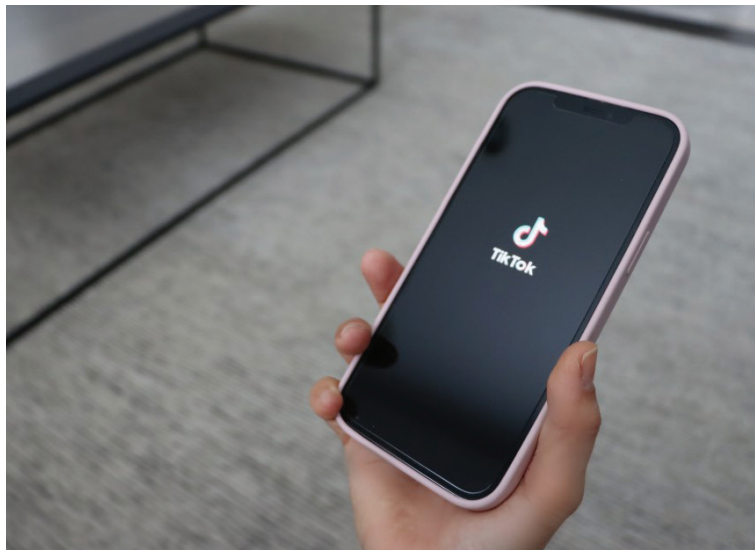


Caleb Lee
Grade 11
Saint Francis High School

The Implications from the Congressional Hearing on TikTok

On March 23, 2023, at 7:00 AM PST, the Congressional Hearing on TikTok discussed the concerns over the platform's handling of users' data. Further, Congress argued the app's handling of data and content might pose a threat to teens' mental health. Another face of suspicion was pointed toward government control over the app. According to Maheshwari and Holpuch from the New York Times, "The Biden administration wants ByteDance, the Chinese company that owns TikTok, to sell the app or face a possible ban over national security concerns."

Shou Zi Chew, the CEO and testifier for TikTok during the hearing, responded before the House Energy and Commerce Committee and TikTok's three commitments: "We will continue to keep safety, especially for teenagers, a top priority; we will continue to protect your data from unauthorized foreign access: American data will be stored on American soil, by an American company, overseen by American personnel; we will ensure that



According to Captera, as of 2023, "TikTok marketing yields overwhelmingly positive results: Among small businesses that run ads on TikTok, 78% say they've realized a positive ROI—the majority within six months." [Source: Author, Caleb Lee]

TikTok remains a platform for free expression and that it cannot be manipulated by ANY government." The arguments of Mr. Chew's claims still linger among the community, but the fact of the matter is that TikTok's influence weighs heaviest, as 150 million Americans, almost half of the nation's recorded population, are monthly active users. These large numbers extend to the economy of America, as nearly 5 million

small businesses rely on this platform. So, what are the implications of this hearing for the community?

The TikTok community overwhelmingly favored Mr. Chew during the congressional hearing, posting and commenting on his performance in the case. With this, further blows to Congress were met. Videos from the hearing with altered audio inputted

were posted on TikTok as satire, but some believe these modified clips to be accurate. The extent of support for the platform was immense, further proving the social influence TikTok grips over the internet and population.

Social media seems to trend as the main source of marketing for smaller businesses. The foundation of TikTok allows markets to reach out to a diverse audience, making them reliant on the app. The 5 million business owners who rely on TikTok may be in danger if the platform receives further legal intimidation.

The internet can be what unifies yet divides the population. Despite the claims for or against TikTok's existence, the truth is our generation has simply not experienced enough time with the internet to conclude a solution decisively. The infantile state of social media still offers positive and negative changes to the community, begging the question: Will TikTok, or all social media for that matter, bring more unison or division?

Student Reporter



Hajoong Song
Grade 9
International School of Beijing

Soccer Love: A Game for All Students

High school students spend a lot of time completing difficult assignments, which many find boring. Despite many hardships, one hobby that relieves their stress is playing soccer whenever there is some time left over. There are no rules and no limit of players. With one ball, everyone can enjoy soccer.

Soccer is one of many sports offered in high school and is simple to play. Players only need one ball and two goal nets. Soccer is a team sport; since soccer needs at least two people to play, people can feel more happiness than in single sports. This could also explain why soccer is one of the worldwide sports. Individually, I liked many techniques that one "soccer ball" can perform, rather dribbling or shooting.

Does playing soccer really relieve stress? The answer is yes. First, since soccer involves a lot

of physical exercise, it improves one's cardiovascular health. Additionally, as most sports do, staying active can release chemicals in one's body called endorphins, which can generate good feelings and thus relieve stress. Additionally, endorphins can help students to concentrate, which can positively affect one's academic progress. By playing soccer, students can both relieve stress and have the energy to enjoy their academic endeavors.

It is important to actively participate in sports when you can because there is limited time for students to enjoy these activities with heavy class loads. As stated above, high school students lack time, as they spend all of their time barely finishing homework. Furthermore, there are some cases where high school students do not have P.E. classes or only attend health units (without ex-



A lot of students play soccer whenever there is some time left after their studies. [Source: Author, Hajoong Song]

ercises). Lunchtime and after school is the only time to exercise for these students.

For me, I think that playing soccer really helped me to improve my stamina and concentration. I felt it was better to enjoy

soccer, which helped me when later working on my assignments. Playing the game helped me to manage my time efficiently and finish my work on time. Playing soccer continuously will eventually help my physical and emotional health.

Student Reporter



Hanul Ju
Grade 10
Geffen Academy at UCLA

Is the Shiba Inu a Good Fit for You?



The Shiba is a great dog, with its cute fox-like appearance.

[Source: Author, Hanul Ju]

Originating in Japan, the Shiba Inu breed, once used to hunt small game, is now a popular companion pet. Its most iconic features are its pointed ears, fluffy double coat, curled tail, and relatively fox-like appearance. It is also well known for its loyalty and intelligence.

The Shiba dog is an extremely cat-like breed. It is small, nimble, and diligent. However, it is also independent and stubborn - despite their ability to learn and adapt quickly, they are rather difficult to train due to their generally reluctant personalities. On the other hand, Shibas are loyal to their owners and are able to treat others well as long as they are treated with respect. They are not only capable of being sociable to those they are comfortable with but also often show affection to

their devoted caregivers and family through physical contact or the casual purr. In addition, this dog breed can be curious yet bold. They approach new things with caution but are not afraid to prove their superiority to other dogs and humans when they need to.

This dog breed, in particular, can be very energetic and will chase off after any small animal deemed as prey. As a result, they must be leashed when on walks, and it is best to undergo physical exertion multiple times a day, be it walking with their owner or running around in the backyard. Despite being rather cat-like, Shiba Inus can be playful when they want to be. Even with their above-average intellect, a simple game of chase is usually enough to satisfy the dog's urge to play around (at least from personal

experience).

Shibas are relatively small, but their double coat can be a nightmare to those who do not consistently brush their dog's fur. They have two shedding seasons, one being in the fall and the other in spring, and can shed for up to three weeks at a time during these periods. They are capable of turning any hardwood floor into a carpet of dog hairs within just a matter of days with the amount of fur they usually shed.

All in all, the Shiba Inu is an iconic breed of dog with its fox-like appearance and independent demeanor. They are courageous, full of spirit, and loyal. As long as you don't mind having a semi-high-maintenance dog, the Shiba will reward you in kind with its lovable and (sometimes) affectionate personality.

Student Reporter



Annette Je

Grade 11
Redondo Union High School

Physics Carts: A Physics Project Worth Competing In

Last week I had my last physics project of the year, building a cart powered by gravitational energy. This project, in my opinion, was the most tedious, especially when compared to my very first project, which was building a slingshot. Although both projects required many hours of testing, this project took almost 10 hours.

When we were first assigned this project, we were given the choice of



A few minutes before I used my first chance to test my cart
[Source: Author, Annette Je]

signing up for two goals. The first, which is the one I signed up for, was to get a cart to go exactly 5 meters. The second goal was to get at least 5 meters or more. Extra credit for both goals was given to the person in the class who got the closest to 5 meters and also to the cart that went the farthest. On the day we tested the carts, the rule was we would only have three chances to test them, all in front of our teacher. The best out of those 3 chances was what determined our grade.

The rules for building this cart were pretty simple: it could not weigh over 1 kilogram, no elastic material could be used, and it must be powered by only gravitational energy. Gravitational energy means using weight to power to cart. The first thing I did to start this project was to look for materials, with the rule of the cart being under 1 kilogram or less. From watching previous Youtube videos on how to build something similar, I observed that cardboard was the most used material, so I ended up using a box from Fig bars, because

it was light but still very sturdy. Next, I saw in the videos that there needed to be towers on the sides of the carts, where the weights could move down so that the cart would move. Using the items at home, I used four wooden chopsticks were used to build the towers. Going through the process of building, I realized that small factors like measurements and materials were essential in deciding how much my cart moved. Classmate Caitlyn Cisneros also realized the same thing. She stated, "I assumed it would be simple to just throw together a cardboard box with an axis that rotates and moves the cart to the 5 meters I need, but I was completely wrong. I needed to focus more on using the perfect materials and attaching them just right, like the right size of wheels, which ended up being CDs, or the right weight to get the car moving exactly how I wanted, which was a pestle from the pestle and mortar in my house."

After spending almost three full days building the cart, the day for testing finally came. Our school

uses the block schedule, so each class period is one hour and forty-five minutes. We were given the entire class period to test our carts in the gym. An important lesson I learned from this project was to be prepared for the unexpected. As my classmates and I were testing our carts we realized that in the gym, the floor was not even and was going uphill. Because of this, our carts ended up having a hard time making it to the goal. Our gym floor was also very dirty, with lots of pebbles that increased friction between our cart's wheels and the floor, thus slowing the cart down. At that moment, I started panicking a bit because as I was testing my cart, it kept moving in the opposite direction as it was slowing down. Thankfully, after five trials, a classmate lent me more weights (we used locker locks) so that my cart would accelerate more and not head in the opposite direction. I am proud to say that I ended up receiving an A on my cart project. All in all, I admit as more of a humanities person, I do not love physics, but actively building this cart was an enjoyable experience.

Student Reporter



Seoyoon Kim

Grade 7
South Lake Middle School

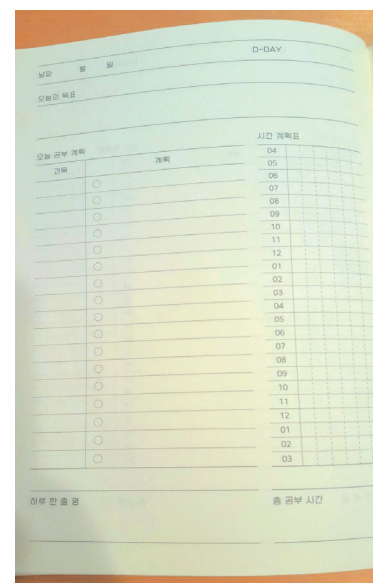
Study Planner: Is it a Waste of Time? Or a Tool for Wise Time Management?

Homework is an unenjoyable chore for many students. It can be even more frustrating if you have tons of homework and forget to do it because you are so busy outside school. But do not worry! A curated study planner will help you solve this problem!

To begin, writing a study planner requires a few simple steps. The first is identifying your academic goals and their tasks. You can do this by listing out all of the coursework you need to complete, assignments you need to submit, and exams you need to study for. You can check them off as you finish one by one. Also, you can write your daily goal or any quotes that give you motivation in the memo section.

You can find a quote from the internet, or you can make it yourself.

However, there are several pros and cons of a study planner. One of the advantages is that it is designed specifically for students, with features that are tailored to their needs. For example, many study planners include sections for tracking grades, setting academic goals, and a calendar where you can write your schedule. This helps you see everything you need to know at once and not to forget anything. However, there are also some disadvantages. Some students spend too much time decorating their planners. If you look at Instagram accounts that show some students study life, they



Study planners help you know what you need to do and manage your time wisely.
[Source: Author, Seoyoon Kim]

decorate planners with more than ten colors of highlighters and pens. They even change the thickness of the mechanical pencil when they write. That is just using a study planner for decorating and fun, not to plan your daily life.

In conclusion, writing a study planner requires careful planning and organization. A study planner can be an effective tool for managing your academic workload, but it is important to consider how you will use it and if it truly benefits you. By taking the time to create a study planner that meets your needs and preferences, you can ensure that you are on track to achieving your academic goals every day.

Student Reporter



Sungeun Yoon

Grade 9
Saigon South International School

Hearing Vietnam Club in Saigon South International Opens a Fashion Show

Hearing Vietnam is a student-led organization that strives to help the hearing-impaired community in Vietnam, currently hoping to provide them with bone-conduction headphones. On March 24th, Hearing Vietnam hosted a Fashion show sponsored by many of the following brands: Paradise Saigon, Global Textile, Vertices Vietnam, and Leve. There were also band performances by the ECHO club also from Saigon South International School.

In this process, the club had to ask for sponsorships from many brands for clothes, purchase items from many qualified brands in Vietnam, find models of different genders, countries, and grade levels, make scripts for the emcees, order food, and lastly set up the whole stage for the fashion show.

As for the sponsors, Paradise is an international streetwear brand that was founded in Saigon, Vietnam. Their style is a fusion of streetwear and culture, resulting in unique and timeless products that evoke a story. Their designs are influenced

by local music, art, history, and fashion from Vietnam and other Asian cultures, inspiring their community with an international twist for a diverse global audience. They pride themselves on quality and innovation and constantly experiment with new fabrics, techniques, and silhouettes to create one-of-a-kind and timeless pieces. Each of their designs has a unique story and meaning that our customers can relate to, making our products more than just clothing, but a reflection of their identity and values.

Global Textile takes pride in delivering high-quality products and providing a great customer service experience. Global Textile seeks to be one of the leading textiles and garment solution companies not only in Asia but Worldwide.

Vertices Vietnam provides a variety of Financial Supporting Services, including Company Reports, Industry Reports, M&A Supporting Services, Collection Services, and B2B Data Support. They help company reports of various types by gathering,



The fashion show red carpet stage for the models to walk
[Source: Author, Sungeun Yoon]

scanning, processing, analyzing, and interpreting data to support decision-makers in business.

Leve began its path with a mission to develop, provide and lead a natural & herbal solution of Personal, Beauty, and Home care as well as Food Products at world-class standards. Since the beginning, their aim has been to offer the most natural and most beneficial

solutions that fit all of their consumer's needs. They are committed to becoming the leader of the skin beauty business by delivering the best, without compromising, shines through in each of its products & service quality.

To find the models, the club sent out an email to the whole high school students, that we wanted to share this opportunity with you all for anyone interested or passionate about modeling in fashion shows, additionally talking about how we provide appropriate clothing, and you model it. Fortunately, we had many who were willing to volunteer to model the clothes from the sponsors and from what we bought.

The fashion show ended successfully with all the models, staff, and the audience. This concludes with Hearing Vietnam getting able to provide the hearing-impaired community with bone-conduction headphones. Hearing Vietnam's first-ever hosted fashion show started off with a good start, and is willing to host another one each year.