

Editors Column



Audrey Park
Grade 10
Northwood High School

Childlike Wonders: Productivity Through Scrapbooking



Notes that draw inspiration from scrapbooking typically have pages filled with stickers, colorful hues, or bubbly letters. [Source: Author, Audrey Park]

It is easy to imagine finding stickers with cute designs, words highlighted in pastel hues, and pictures taped with patterned adhesive in a child's diary, but in the 21st century, it wouldn't be surprising to hear that you could find the same layout in a college or high school student's weekly schedule or notes.

In the past decade, scrapbook-

ing has been regularly used to outline one's week, daily activities, or emotional state. Within the scrapbooking community, individuals across all age categories have utilized either 'bubbly fonts and colorful stickers' or 'clean calligraphy and minimalist borders to visually organize their lives.' For instance, consider the example regarding students from earlier times. It's common to find high schoolers sharing their study setups on social media platforms and seeing a glimpse of their scrapbooking prowess. One will likely find multiple bullets of activities under a big, bubbly caption that reads 'to-do list' or 'April 27, Saturday.' Its wide-reaching influence is expected, however, when one considers the implications for stress relief, the increased use of platforms that encourage organization, and the benefits of multitasking.

Additionally, compiling weekly activities into a list is typically considered to be a non-pressuring

task. But, it's still a task that requires an individual's daunting workload to be presented in front of them, which doesn't always feel good. As a result, scrapbooking alongside scheduling has been a commonly chosen method to be productive while also detracting from the pressure. One high school student, Sol Hwang, expresses what aspects of these crafty practices are appealing by stating, "Putting together all the details is relaxing, and seeing the final product makes me feel productive, motivating me to finish my tasks or keep up habits."

Furthermore, posts for bullet journals filled with organizational indicators and intricate designs have been common throughout many social media platforms, such as Pinterest, Instagram, and YouTube. Pinterest, a platform popular for its craft-focused content, has posts showing everything from calendars to daily entries decked out with stickers, washi tape, and vibrant

color schemes. Every individual who posts has their own spin on their entries. One user shared a photo that showed an organizer with a minimalist approach, featuring clean lines and monochromatic tones, while another shared a post with whimsical doodles and pastel hues, reflecting a more playful aesthetic to follow their schedules. A clear pattern that was evident across all posts, however, was the passionate approach that the students or community members took in order to achieve such artistic final products. The process is interesting when one considers that the sheer determination that these individuals put into a seemingly simple task in their day can easily transition them into being more productive.

Despite its childlike roots, scrapbooking offers working adults and students of this generation a sense of liberation akin to the freedom enjoyed by children devoid of responsibilities.

Student Reporter



Eunice Minji Choi
Grade 11
North Hollywood High School

The Biggest Event of North Hollywood High School: Prom 2024

When you ask your parents what their most memorable teenage memory is, it is very likely that they will talk about a school dance. Not just any dance, Prom. Prom is a formal dance held by high schools towards the end of the school year and has been an American tradition for a very long time. From public to private schools, almost every high school in the United States has a prom. The months of March, April, and May are known as "Prom Season." My school, North Hollywood High School, had the prom on April 20, 2024, at The Vineyards in Simi Valley. As the junior class President of our school, I was privileged to attend and see the behind-the-scenes of prom planning as well as the event itself.

Prom is a fun and exciting event, but the process of getting the prom to take place is very complicated and time-consuming; the hard work of the Student Council,



The outdoor area of Prom 2024's venue, The Vineyards, was located in Simi Valley, California. [Source: Author, Eunice Minji Choi]

who hosts the event, is not always recognized. The first challenging step in planning a prom is finding a venue. When I was first

elected as junior class President, my first task was to find a venue for our Prom 2025, a year before the event. We had to reserve a venue quickly before it got taken by other schools- hundreds of schools in the area have prom during the same season. The next steps were planning the entertainment aspect of the event, consisting of a photo booth, DJ, decorations, etc. Next came the prom themes, and the Student Council offered three choices, which the entire senior class voted on. This year's theme was Masquerade Ball. Decorations and centerpieces were planned according to the theme. This year, the Student Council bought masks in bulk to give out to the attendees.

Fortunately, the Student Council seniors were able to enjoy the prom with their partners and friends- it was the junior's time to shine. We arrived at the venue two hours before the event to decorate and make sure everything was in

check. After decorations, we set up the prom court voting table and organized that throughout the night. I took photos for our school's official Instagram page as well.

I have been to our school's Homecoming dances every year, but prom was very different. It was much more professional and big-scale. The dance floor was bigger, the dinner was fancy, the decorations were gorgeous, and overall, more people had fun bonding and making lasting memories. There is a reason why prom is one of the most important and memorable events in high school.

I am very proud of the seniors who planned this year's prom and the juniors who helped the event go smoothly. I am worried about the stressful planning I have to go through next semester, but I am also very excited and confident in making it the most memorable event for my peers. I hope our prom can be one of the best!

Student Reporter



Olivia Shin
Grade 8
Granada Hills Charter Middle School

The Bridge Program at Granada Hills Charter School

The Granada Bridge Program is a program to help incoming 9th graders from the Granada TK-8 campus have a better transition into high school. Through the Bridge Program, many 8th graders can learn and get an inside scoop of what it will be like to be at the Granada Hills Charter High School. Current high school students help to give a better understanding of the different programs and what it is like in high school from a real student attending.

My experience in the Bridge Program was very helpful in giving a real and genuine view of a student's workload and life in high school. Mostly, 10th-grade students were the ones who came to our school and gave us a deeper understanding of what high school is like and the different ways to succeed while in high school. They started by introducing the types of programs they offer at Granada. For example, some students may be taking STEM (Science, Technology, En-

gineering, and Mathematics), IB (International Baccalaureate), GBF (Global Business and Finance), GGC (Granada Guaranteed Curriculum), or NMA (New Media Academy) type classes.

Everyone from the TK-8 campus starts from the IB program and then, later in, high school, will either choose to continue the IB program or another at the Granada Hills Charter High School. Not only did the high school students introduce the different programs that they offer at the high school, but also a few out of the many clubs that they have. One of the biggest clubs in the high school is the ASB. The ASB is a lot like the student council for their school. They set up lots of activities and spirit days throughout the year. During the Bridge Program, 8th graders, including myself, all got to listen in on a Zoom call with the president of the ASB club. She was able to give insights into how to join ASB and the things that they do in their



Granada Hills Charter Middle School offers a Bridge Program to help upcoming middle school students adapt to their upcoming high school life. [Source: Author, Olivia Shin]

club. There were also other students from all different grade levels to share what it is like to be in the ASB club. Other clubs they shared information with us about were the many volunteer clubs and clubs involving charity projects. Clubs focussing on volunteer work also help incoming 9th graders prepare for gaining more volunteer hours throughout the school year.

The Granada Bridge Program has given me a better understanding of being a high school student

for the upcoming year. Through the Bridge Program, I feel better prepared for next year as a high school freshman. Knowing the programs and clubs I can get involved in will help me get an introduction to the school I will be attending next year. The 8th graders who were in the Bridge Program all said which programs they would be going into next year as well. Knowing that, I can see the students and friends from my current school being in the same programs as me.

Student Reporter

Two Electric Weeks at Bravo: ASB Elections



James Lim
Grade 11
Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School

Leadership is a value that is key in facilitating a productive environment within a group setting. However, this skill is compounded by experience, and luckily, the associative student body offers students just that. This experience enables them to take initiative and represent students at their school by making decisions and planning events. An election often takes place to determine the ASB roster, and at Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School, this is no exception. From April 22 to May 1, candidates entered campaigning week, and many scurried around to get their names known by their peers.

Students interested in running for office were to attend an information meeting where they would be introduced to the teacher who hosts the group and to the requirements and expectations upon joining the group. They were to get approval from administration, parental consent, and a teacher recommendation to run. They also were mandated to write an

essay answering the five prompts given and meet a GPA requirement of 2.7 and higher.

Once the interested students were approved to run, they would be granted candidate status and be able to begin their campaign. Five posters and ten flyers were required to make sure that those who weren't running against anyone still showed effort and commitment for the sought position. However, there was no specific limit, and some students prepared hundreds of flyers and posters in hopes of securing votes. Furthermore, the elections prove difficult for scholars as they prepare for their AP exams while preparing their promotional materials. They must find a way to balance their school work with this added responsibility, which will be the true test of whether or not they will be able to uphold their responsibilities next year when serving their term. It is a busy season for students looking to begin their pursuit of leadership. In essence, it was a hectic week for campaign-

ers and student voters as the school prepared the next batch of ASB representatives for the upcoming two semesters.

The campaigning portion of the event ended once votes were collected on Wednesday, May 1st. From there, votes were counted by the current ASB President and Vice President. Once this process was over, winners were disclosed and assigned their positions for next year. The whole process took roughly three weeks, and during this period, leadership members were in a frenzy to stay organized with their events and campaigns.

Over the summer, the newly elected individuals will have time to bond with their other classmates through a welcoming project. The ASB president will assign each class a poster for students returning from summer break, requiring leadership students to work together. From there, adjustments could be made to ensure that students can work efficiently and effectively with one another.

Campaigning is more often



Students post their flyers around campus in hopes of being voted into their desired ASB positions.

[Source: Author, James Lim]

than not highly competitive, and its nature radiates throughout the school when election season rolls around each year. This allows students to get a grasp of stress under pressure and, hopefully, a leadership experience upon winning a position. Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School is no exception to this phenomenon, creating a space for runners to put on an exciting race where student voters get to put their ballots on their winning candidates.

Student Reporter

How and Why to Start a Chapter Club at Your High School



Sora Ju
Grade 9
Geffen Academy at UCLA

A club always begins somewhere. And you might have the opportunity to be the origin! Joining an existing club at your high school is good for showing involvement, but starting your own club is even better—it allows you to enhance your leadership, impact your community, and strengthen college admissions prospects. In the competitiveness of college applications, extracurricular activities are crucial, and starting a chapter of an influential organization's club at your school showcases initiative and passion.

Initiating a chapter club like Key Club or UNICEF at your school offers a unique opportunity to provide global service within reach. Whether it's organizing a fundraiser to advocate for human rights with Amnesty International or supporting children's healthcare through Operation Smile, chapter clubs em-



Many organizations with nationwide clubs, such as UNICEF, have resources available on their website for starting a chapter. For example, a registration form and starter guide.

[Source: Author, Sora Ju]

power students to become agents of change.

So what's the difference between starting a Community Service Club and starting a chapter of Key Club? Yelena, a student at Geffen Academy and the president and founder of the school's UNICEF Club chapter says, "It's good to start a club in general for showing leadership, but starting a chapter is better, in my opinion, because those organizations already have

a good reputation and are influential globally, so you can probably accomplish more."

Starting a chapter club will be a great stepping stone for you to accomplish more with a high school club—in addition to already having a leadership role in an organization, you can go on to do more, like placing in a competitive event or earning a spot at a prestigious summer program, which will help you stand out even more in the college admissions process.

No matter what your niche interest is, there are many existing organizations' clubs for you—interested in community service? Other than UNICEF and Key Club, there are many organizations such as Operation Smile, Amnesty International, and more that have clubs you can start a chapter for at your school. For those of you who want to pursue medicine, consider starting a

HOSA or National Science Bowl chapter!

To start a chapter club, first research the parent organization for guidance and support in starting a chapter at your school. Most organizations have a webpage with step-by-step instructions for starting a chapter of their club at your school. Then, find out your school's administrative procedures for club approval and apply to start a chapter!

Once you have a club, it's great to make a community impact—this can start through simple activities at school, with events that raise awareness, fundraise for a cause, or advocate for policy change.

Founding a chapter club at your high school looks great on your college resume, but it's also an experience that shapes character, fosters leadership, and makes your high school experience more interesting!

Student Reporter

Tournament of Champions Fun in Kentucky



Angel Song
Grade 9
Harvard-Westlake School



The University of Kentucky after the first day of competition at the Tournament of Champions. [Source: Author, Angel Song]

Kentucky, famous for its Kentucky Fried Chicken, is also home to the annual Tournament of Champions. This competition, known as the TOC, brings together a diverse array of talented speakers and debaters from across the nation to compete for the prestigious title of TOC champion at the University of Kentucky.

The TOC, officially the University of Kentucky Tournament of Champions, began in 1972 as a competition that offered only debate events. Since then, the tourna-

ment has been gaining popularity with the best orators in the nation, offering both speech and debate events for increased inclusivity. To qualify for this giant tournament, competitors must earn at least two "bids," meaning that they must place above a certain level at tournaments they attend. This ensures that the pool of competitors is one of the best in the country, making the competition more challenging and educational.

As a high school freshman, my experience at the TOC was one of

a kind. The entire ordeal felt like a fever dream since I had not expected to get the two bids to be eligible to compete at the TOC in the first place. However, after scrambling to get my bids early in the year, I focused on training myself for the TOC, which was one of the biggest tournaments that I would be attending this year. When boarding the plane headed to Kentucky, I was quite nervous. So far, all of the speech and debate trips this year have been within California, where I live, with the furthest being at UC Berkeley in the northern part of my state. However, more importantly, I was excited to meet many of the best speakers in America to learn from their performances.

Everything at the TOC was much harder than local tournaments; the topics they gave were harder, and most importantly, the competitors at the TOC were very advanced. As a less-experienced

freshman, I initially felt afraid, but I finished all five pre-elimination rounds, giving it my best effort while trying my best.

Even though I ultimately did not end up making it to the elimination rounds and receiving awards, attending the 2024 TOC was a valuable experience. I learned much from those successful orators by competing with one of the nation's best speakers and watching competitive elimination rounds. On a personal aspect, by rooming and spending time with some of the best members of my high school's speech and debate teams, I've also gained a lot in terms of interpersonal connections and visible team camaraderie. Although, unfortunately, I did not see a single KFC franchise in Kentucky, through this unforgettable experience, I was able to experience much personal growth, both oratorical and social.