

the accolade

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School Dress and Grooming

Dress Code Guidelines - THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ALLOWED:

- Pants worn below the waist line
- Un-hemmed, over-sized, and/or baggy garments
- Extreme neckline
- Sheer /tight fitting garments
- midriffs
- v-necks, cutouts, muscle tank-tops
- Excessively short skirts or shorts
- Graffiti inscribed on clothing or accessories
- Any clothing or articles of clothing related to a group or gang and/or which, in the judgment of the school principal/designee, may provoke other acts

ADDRESSING THE CODE

The Accolade looks into the history of student attire and whether the policy needs updating. See Spotlight, pages 8-9.

JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade



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HAPPY FOR HOCO: The last time the Associated Student Body had to organize an outdoor homecoming assembly was in 2017 when the gym was closed for modernization. The second floor of the 180s building was used to announce the court.

Homecoming assembly split into 3

HANNAH LEE

Copy Editor

For the first time, the Associated Student Body [ASB] will host three assemblies next month for the homecoming assembly during second period instead of its usual two as a result of the August California Department of Education [CDE] mandate that states indoor events with more than 1,000 attendees cannot be held because of fears concerning the COVID-19 delta variant.

"We're very excited — it's going to be different, but I don't think it's going to be that big of a deal since we haven't had [a school dance] in a long time," ASB co-adviser Mike Paris said.

Before the CDE regulation, a double second period schedule was implemented in which half the school attended the assembly based on students' second period classroom number while the other half stayed in class, switching once the first assembly was over.

Since having half the school in the gym for an assembly violates the mandate, three groups of about 850 will rotate for the assemblies on Oct. 15.

"I do not have concerns with ASB pushing for triple second period assemblies because I believe it will prevent students from having to sit on the gym floor when there is no space," sophomore Nakul Bhatt said. "Hopefully, this assembly format

will make assemblies essentially more enjoyable for students."

Although an outdoor event was held in 2017, the ASB wanted to avoid this option because students did not have anywhere to sit and those far from the main stage could get distracted, Paris said.

After receiving approval from the district for the triple period assembly, school officials moved to create an adjusted bell schedule to fit the new change. As of now, the different time periods are not finalized.


"Since our goal is to have three assemblies, I'm working on getting the data of how many students there are per wing so that I can coordinate who will attend

which assembly," said assistant principal Hilda Arredondo, who is in charge of producing the new bell schedule for the event. "Our goal is [to have the assembly be] 30 minutes long, and I'm working to make sure that everything will be balanced."

Because the dance cannot be split into groups like the assembly, it will be held in the quad.

"Homecoming in 2017 was outside, too, since they were re-doing the gym," Paris said.

Bhatt is unsure of whether he will attend the dance; he is relieved that authorities are taking precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at school events.

 For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com

Guests aren't allowed for Oct. 16 dance outdoors

ALICE SHIN

Managing Editor

Unlike past socials, students attending the Oct. 16 homecoming dance will not be allowed to invite guests from outside Sunny Hills because of COVID-19 safety precautions, school officials said.

"[The principals and district board members] all just decided that that would be the safest thing for our students," principal Allen Whitten said. "We want the events, but we want to make them safe, so this just seemed like a good step to take."

The issue was among many other items on the agenda during the weekly in-person meeting with the Fullerton Joint Union High School District principals along with the district executive team Aug. 24, Whitten said. All agreed to hold off on the guest passes for the time being.

Many students whom The Accolade spoke to said they were not aware of the guest pass change, and once they found out, the reactions were mixed.

"The change does suck, but I understand that the district is taking precautions, and I can deal with that," said junior Geovani Ji, who still plans on attending the outdoor dance. "It's still nice that we are able to [host] a dance at all."

No guest passes >> Page 2

Class of 2022 must sign no-ditching form if students want to attend Senior Sunrise

DOMINIQUE CHANG

Asst. Business Manager

Senior Sunrise at the quad will return Sept. 30 after a one-year absence because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but event goers will need to turn in a signed contract agreeing to stay on campus and attend classes the rest of the day.

"The purpose of Senior Sunrise is a tradition for seniors to have a bonding moment at the beginning of the year," said senior class adviser Christina Zubko. "It's always been a bookmark event where everyone gets to bond, enjoy each other's company, reconnect after being away and really process that this is the last opportunity to really get involved and take advantage of all the seniors' events possible."

Zubko, the Associated Student Body [ASB] co-advisers David Fenstermaker and Mike Paris and the senior class cabinet of four members worked together to come up with the 5:15-7:52 a.m. event that also lands on the last day of this month.

Because past Sunrise gatherings pre-COVID-19 have led to a large number of seniors ditching the rest of the school day, organizers were able to obtain administrative approval to hold one for the Class of 2022 so long as 12th-graders and their parents sign a written agreement, part of which states "that ditching will not be tolerated the day of Senior Sunrise ... and can result in a ban from future events."


The form's last sentence before acknowledgment of the terms and signature spots holds the Class of 2022 accountable for what



could happen to future Senior Sunrises: "Further, I understand that I will have ended Senior Sunrise for future classes by not following through on this commitment."

Students can pick up the contract at the front office and must be turned in no later than 3 p.m. Sept. 24 at Room 7.

Another major change from past Sunrise get-togethers involves the day of the week it's being held.

"We also moved the day from a Friday to a Thursday, thinking that people will be less prone to ditching on a Thursday than on a Friday," Zubko said.

 For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com

 Senior Sunrise - 9/30/21 

Hello Class of 2022 and parents, you may have heard earlier that the Senior Sunrise was cancelled as historically many seniors used the event as an opportunity to ditch school. This behavior, of course, goes against the philosophy of Sunny Hills High School.

Recently, your senior class cabinet made a compelling argument to reinstate the Senior Sunrise tradition, and the Sunny Hills High School administrative team consented so long as seniors and their parents agreed to terms and conditions relating to attendance on the day of the Senior Sunrise.

Below is a contract that explains the terms and conditions regarding attendance, and both seniors and their parents must sign the contract as a prerequisite to attending the Senior Sunrise event.

This signed contract is required for admission into the Senior Sunrise event. Only hardcopies will be accepted. Signed contracts are due no later than 3:00 on Friday, September 24, 2021. Signed contracts are to be returned to room 7. No tickets will be sold the day of the event, September 30, 2021.

SENIOR SUNRISE ATTENDANCE CONTRACT

To ensure attendance throughout the day, seniors and parents must be aware that ditching will not be tolerated the day of Senior Sunrise (September 30) and can result in a ban from future senior events.

By signing below, I, _____ (printed student name) promise that I will attend all of my classes on the day of the Senior Sunrise and understand that I forfeit my right to attend future Senior events if I do not attend all of my classes. Further, I understand that I will have ended Senior Sunrise for future classes by not following through on this commitment.

I have read and understand the rules and guidelines for this event:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Student Name _____ | Parent/Guardian Name _____ |
| Student Signature _____ | Date _____ |
| Long ID Number _____ | |
| Parent Signature _____ | Date _____ |

theaccolade file photo

THE DOTTED LINE: Those attending Senior Sunrise must sign a contract that states ditching school after the event may revoke privileges to attend future activities.

‘Devious licks’ challenge hits 3 SH restrooms

‘A handful’ of boys allegedly influenced by TikTok have been caught stealing or damaging soap, paper towel dispensers
Sept. 13

HANNAH LEE

Copy Editor

School officials said some students have been caught and suspended for stealing or damaging soap and paper towel dispensers from three boys restrooms last week.

The vandalism is similar to a TikTok trend that started Sept. 1 called “devious licks” in which those doing the posting brag about certain items stolen from school.

“It’s disappointing that students feel the need to behave in this fashion, and the fact they



HENRY LEE | theaccolade

SOAP OPERA: Only one dispenser was stolen in the boys restroom in the 40s wing Sept. 13 as part of TikTok’s “devious licks” challenge. School officials estimate the cost to replace it at \$350.

believe that this is something to brag about is disgusting,” said assistant principal Hilda Arredondo, who was only willing to tell *The Accolade* that less than 10 students were caught and given consequences ranging from suspension to fines for repair and labor costs.

Principal Allen Whitten narrowed that number down to “a handful.”

Neither administrator was willing to release details about those caught, but they gave the following account:

On Sept. 13, Sunny Hills experienced a series of vandalism in three different locations — the boys restrooms near the 40s building, 70s building and 400s building.

“I would say that Sept. 13 was the one and only incident.

... Fortunately for us, we haven’t been largely hit like the other campuses,” Arredondo said.

Students were caught because of the high-technology security on campus, which includes approximately 200 cameras scattered around campus for officials to review.

“We have alarms — detector alarms that identify both vaping and loud sounds in the bathroom

— so with that, we get alerts on our phones, and I’m able to pinpoint the exact time that it happened,” Arredondo said. “Then, I just do an investigation based on what I see and find [on the cameras].”

Though administrators cannot release names of those who face discipline, one sophomore boy told *The Accolade* he served a two-day suspension after removing the nearly \$60 soap dispenser by force from the boys bathroom in the 40s wing.

“It was dumb, and I definitely would not do it again,” he said. “It might be funny at the moment, but I do not recommend [doing] this.”

The vandalized items, the paper towel and soap dispensers, usually cost \$50-\$80, but Arredondo and Whitten said the total damage costs can easily amount to hundreds of dollars.

Whitten believes that this will not happen again.

RELATED STORY

Staff Editorial: “Devious lick”
See Opinion, page 10.

FROM PAGE 2

NO GUEST PASSES

Sophomore David Yoo never had a chance to attend school in person until this school year, so Yoo said a dance with only his peers there would be better.

“I think the change was a good decision because I personally believe that homecoming is a tool that mainly helps Sunny Hills students interact and socialize with each other,” Yoo said. “It’s my first time going to the dance, so I’m pretty excited about it, and I like it better with just Sunny Hills students.”

Students such as Associated Student Body social commissioner junior Rebecca Tualla feel upset because they are unable to bring friends from other schools in the district.

“I think Homecoming, or school dances in general, are always fun when you’re able to bring your friends from different schools to it, but considering the time we’re in, I see [the guest pass removal] as a good decision in ensuring the safety of our school,” said Tualla, who initially planned on attending with a friend outside of Sunny Hills.

However, she remains persistent to attend the outdoor event from 8-11 p.m. to make

theaccolade file photo

RIDING SOLO: While guest passes were provided in previous school years, they will not be accessible for students attending the 2021-2022 Homecoming dance.

up for the loss of Homecoming last school year.

“Although the pass is gone, it won’t be changing my decision to attend the dance because Homecoming is a time to celebrate with your friends and the community of your peers, so nonetheless it should be an all around good time,” she said.

Whitten said he hopes that

the dance guest pass decision will only be a temporary one.

“We just don’t want to risk that exposure, and I don’t want to risk my own students’ exposure possibly from other schools,” he said. “[But] as soon as we feel like the numbers have gone down on the [COVID-19] dashboard, we can safely invite outside students to our dances.”

How we memorialized the death of Joseph Ro

LAUREN JUNG

Guest Columnist

I remember the silence that fell upon Room 183 during my second period class after the announcement that senior Joseph Ro had passed away



lauren Jung
Guest Columnist

on Sept. 15. Other than people posting about his passing and paying their tributes to him on Instagram, I also felt comforted to know that the school had mental

health professionals who were available for any student or staff who needed support that day. Teachers were flexible in allowing students to see a counselor or obtain support personnel as needed.

Our school principal later informed me that a team of professional mental health support and school staff visited each of Ro’s classes that day to offer emotional and mental health support to his peers.

In the evening at home, senior Louis Lee — the vice president of the Hallelujah Club — called me, the president, suggesting that we as a club should do something to honor Ro’s memory and comfort those grieving.

Both of us immediately got to work to organize a Sept. 16 prayer and worship in the grass area between the Lyceum and administration building. We created an Instagram post with a short eulogy.

The rate at which news of what we were doing spread shocked me. On the day of our outdoor prayer and worship service, we, at the last minute, connected a microphone and speaker to accommodate the approximately 250 people who attended.

I feel grateful and honored to have been a part of this beautiful moment in which students, teachers and administrators gathered together to comfort each other. Although an unfortunate event brought us together, I will never forget the display of unity and stories shared about Ro and how he made an impact on people’s lives.



KRISTEL LACESTE | theaccolade

SHARING CULTURE: Bayanihan Club president senior Jonah Alagao dances to Tinikling during Club Rush on Sept. 14 at the quad. Alagao is wearing a traditional Filipino suit for men called barong tagalog, and other members also wore traditional clothing such as salakot headgear and baro't saya dresses.

WE ARE FAMLY: Senior Riya Bhakta (left) and sophomore Nakul Bhatt encourage students to join the Indian Student Association during break on Sept. 16.



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

RUSHING TO JOIN CLUBS

The Associated Student Body [ASB] organized the first in-person Club Rush in two years Sept. 14-17 in the quad during break.

Instead of its usual three days, the ASB decided to extend the event to include a fourth day to prevent a crowded environment since over 76 club presidents signed up to have a table for their clubs.

Continuing with last year's virtual Club Rush idea, all Sunny Hills clubs also had the option to create a single Google Slide that contains information about the group as well as links to Remind and Google Classroom codes.

A total of 68 club presidents submitted a Google Slide, and

each slide was compiled into one presentation that was posted on the Sunny Hills website on Sept. 13, the day before the in-person Club Rush.

Up to two members from each club were permitted to leave their third period classes early to set up their table in the quad.

Each day about 15-20 clubs were set up for students to explore and sign up for.

Club members distributed packaged sweets and food to students who stopped by their tables.

— Nevya Patel, News Editor



AUDREY SEO | theaccolade

REPRESENT: Senior Aidan Wong promotes the Interact Club on Sept 15.

And action ... new theater teacher aims to stage spring performances

IRENE SHEEN

Social Media Manager

New Sunny Hills theater teacher Christian Penuelas still recalls his first time watching La Habra High School Theater Guild's re-enactment of "Beauty and the Beast."

The admirable size, grandeur and professionalism were enough to convince Penuelas — a freshman at the time — to pursue theater as a future career.



Christian Penuelas

"I envied the spotlight of the performers and wanted to take part in that," he said. "I didn't feel the need to be the star of the show but just to be a part of the process and share that experience with others on stage was great for me."

During his four years at La Habra High School, Penuelas said he pursued his passion for marching band and drumline and later kick-started his journey in theater during his sophomore year.

By 2016, Penuelas graduated from California State University, Fullerton, with a bachelor's degree in cinema and television arts.

"Right out of college, I wanted to work in the film industry, but upon learning the conditions of it and the instability, I decided to go toward teaching," he said.

Nevertheless, Penuelas made a



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: New teacher Christian Penuelas (right) calls up his fifth period theater students, sophomore Isabella Castaneda (middle) and freshman Anabelle Kim (left) for a demonstration of an improvisation performance. All drama levels are in one class period.

compromise that allowed him to preserve his passions and put his talents to good use.

"I chose Sunny Hills because I love the culture of the school, the staff is great and the kids are super nice; I am very familiar with this district, and it is close to home," Penuelas said.

Despite this being his first year as an educator, Penuelas, who also teaches four sections of En-

glish 2, makes an effort to set reasonable expectations for himself.

"I'm not trying to compare myself to what was done before, [and] I don't feel pressured to fill the shoes [of last year's theater teacher]," he said. "It's a fresh start, [but] I do feel the pressure of [providing] an opportunity for students to perform."

After a year of online learning, face-to-face interaction proves to

be particularly favorable for theater students who rely on physical communication with their peers.

"Being able to interact with people is something I missed last year, [and] in a class like theater, people are performing and talking all the time, so being in person [for theater] is even more crucial compared to another class," said sophomore Abhijit Sipahimalani, a first-year theater student.

Amid the difficult transition from remote to in-person learning and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Penuelas said he hopes to likewise create a supportive environment for his students.

"They've been at home for so long that I want to create an opportunity for students to be a part of a group and perform again," he said.

However, with a large fifth period class consisting of 54 students from all different levels and styles of theater, Penuelas acknowledges that it's a challenge to accommodate for all students.

"I'm trying to create a class that does encompass all aspects of theater," he said. "With such a huge class, it's a slow process of getting through everyone, [but] later in the year, I would like to give opportunities for more advanced students to have a different role."

Penuelas said that although he wouldn't be able to bring back a fall musical this semester, he wants to produce a spring play. And perhaps in future years, the program will grow again.

"The hope is to build the theater program back up to where there are multiple periods of theater a day," he said.



For the full story, go to shsaccolade.com

New Experience: Students from Italy, the East Coast move to SoCal; most choose to come here from word of mouth recommendations

JAIMIE CHUN

Copy Editor

From across the world in Italy, junior Dorotea Barbini watched scenes from American movies like "High School Musical."

Seeing Gabriella find her way through a foreign high school, Barbini felt a strong connection to Gabriella as she, too, prepared to settle in the United States.

This year, Barbini is able to live her own version of "High School Musical."

"The school is very united with a lot of school spirit," she said. "I anticipated festival-like events, like homecoming, that I saw in movies because we don't have them in Italy, but they actually happen here."

Like Barbini, a handful of out-of-state students transfer to Sun-

ny Hills every year — many of them hearing from word of mouth about the positive vibes that the campus and its staff and students experience here.

"When asked what school [students] should go to, people say Sunny Hills is the school of choice in the area now, so I'm really proud of that," principal Allen Whitten said. "Every time I see [students who transferred], they're just like, 'Greatest school ever.'"

After attending high school in Italy for her underclassman years, the Barbini family started to search for the best campus to enroll the teen at when the daughter learned she will be traveling overseas July 17.

Although Barbini considered schools within her dad's job's city outside of Fullerton, she thought

Sunny Hills was a safer area that best supported her needs as a promising student.

"We were looking for a school with an [International Baccalaureate] program or math and science Advanced Placement courses, possibly in a safe and quiet neighborhood," said Eleonora Ronga, Barbini's mother. "When she met principal Allen [Whitten] for a Sunny Hills High School tour, she was surprised by the good organization and the many opportunities, so she decided to be a Lancer."

Her thoughts solidified after reading positive Sunny Hills reviews online and a decisive school visit two weeks before school started.

"I started leaning toward Sunny Hills when it allowed me to visit the campus before school



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FROM PHILLY TO SUNNY: Freshman Sophia Kiker, originally from Philadelphia, works on her group project in class.

started, which proved that the school is more inclusive compared to others that wouldn't let me visit before school started," Barbini said.

She and her family then made

plans to move to California in December 2019.

But that got derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

SH Transfer Students >> Page 7

Rails, ramps, steps — skateboard heaven

MICHELLE SHEEN

Editor-in-Chief

Turning, twisting and flipping before skidding to a stop, people take over parking structures or skate parks on their skateboards as a hobby and sport — one that is popular among the youth.

Particularly at Sunny Hills, students who typically don baggier clothing can be found surfing the cement jungle of the school late into the day.

While all students, from freshmen to seniors, use the campus almost daily, some even use it on the weekends to spend time with friends while partaking in their shared hobby.

“I think it’s the way that the campus is built that makes it so popular,” skateboarder senior Melissa Galvez said. “There are a lot of curbs you can use in order to do tricks, and the quad is also really popular — especially the stage area.”

Galvez’s journey as a skateboarder started when she was 13 years old, when she picked up the sport; Although in the beginning she felt a little uncomfortable practicing in predominantly male settings, she grew used to it and now feels the support of the community.

“It was weird at first because I saw male skateboarders everywhere I went, but they were all really nice and chill,” she said.

Because of her interest in the sport, Galvez watched the Olympic skateboarder as inspiration to get better and learn new tricks.

“I thought it was amazing how they do so many extreme tricks, and [it made me] want to get to a point like that,” Galvez said.

Although she doesn’t see herself pursuing skateboarding professionally, she

More students have been coming to campus after school or on weekends to practice their stunts with their boards



SH'S GOT TALENT [TOP LEFT]: Senior Joshua Kidwell glides his board. **[ABOVE RIGHT]:** Junior Memphis Bell-Cobb (right) works on a trick with his skateboard in the quad after school Sept. 17.



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

hopes to continue sharpening her skills.

“It’s honestly such a good feeling,” Galvez said. “It’s so freeing, and I forget about my stresses — like homework. I just enjoy it because it’s really fun.”

From the wide expanse of ground in the parking lot bordering the odd buildings that allows smooth coasting to the range of stairs and ramps allowing students to perform tricks, the campus is the perfect place for skateboarders to spend time practicing.

Although the Behavior and Consequences page of the Fullerton Joint Union High School District website prohibits students from bringing “skateboards, rollerblades, other wheeled vehicles, laser pointers, radios or tape recorders on campus” to be used during school hours, many SH

students bring their boards on campus to get to and from school.

For students like Galvez, skateboards come in handy as a form of transportation.

“It’s definitely faster than walking, and it’s also really fun,” said Galvez, who uses it when her parents can’t give her a ride to school. “For us skateboarders, it’s like stress relief.”

Senior Guillermo Soto has also been using the skateboard as his main form of transportation since freshman year — even during hybrid learning.

“When [COVID-19] was really serious, my parents didn’t let me go out,” Soto said. “But when it [became] second semester of junior year, I decided to do the hybrid schedule and brought my board to school

every day and skated over there.”

These students have the choice to lock up their boards in skateboard racks located on campus like the bike racks. The school set up the very first skateboard rack three years ago, principal Allen Whitten said.

“We put that rack out there, and we have two skateboard racks on campus that were never used for years, [but] now, we have almost three or four skateboards out there almost every day,” Whitten said.

As the use of these racks increased, the number of skateboarders at Sunny Hills also grew since previous years, said junior Isaiah Moreno, who has been skateboarding on the SH campus since he was a freshman.

Skateboarders >> Page 7

CLUB CORNER

Algebra Center offers free math tutoring after school

HENRY LEE

Asst. Sports Editor

To many students, math is arduous. But to senior Yeonji Baek, the subject comes naturally.

Her understanding of concepts in Advanced Placement [AP] Statistics and AP Calculus BC motivated her to help other students who may be struggling in their math classes.

After seeing a flier about the volunteer opportunities given by the new Algebra Center club, Baek decided to put her talent to use by earning the data scientist position.

Math teacher Dorothy Cheng started the service club Sept. 1 to help students with math assignments. Having a passion for tutoring, this club focuses on guiding students on algebra I, geometry, algebra II and college prep pre-calculus every school day from 3-3:30 p.m. in Room 45.

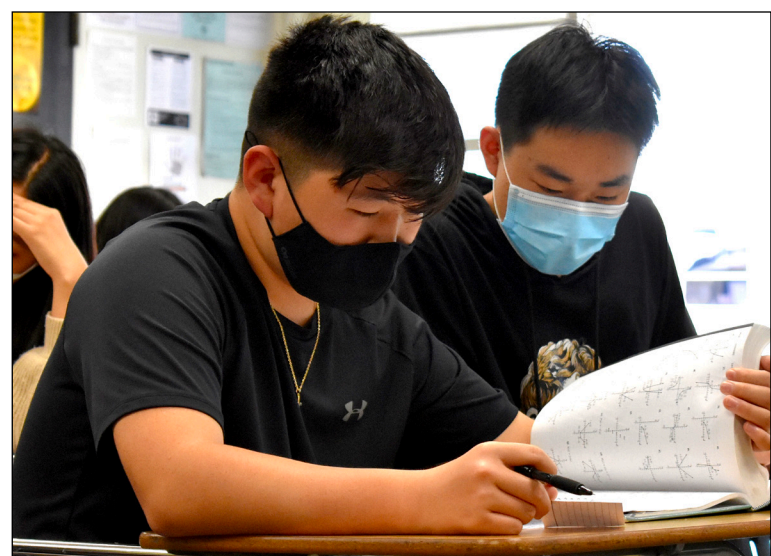
“I’ve always loved tutoring and when students come in for extra help, I love that one-on-one or small group interaction,” said Cheng, who teaches geometry and Algebra II.

After one year at Sunny Hills, she decided that this would be the perfect time to create a club, especially since math department chairwoman Mariam Tan also looked for new ways to support students.

“I love that [the Algebra Center] is something you don’t have to sign up for and it’s available every day,” Tan said. “I also like that it’s peer tutoring so students help other students and maybe they can explain it in a different way than how their teacher might.”

Club president senior Lucas Zhuang said he enjoys bonding with new students after school.

“I like how people are not just teaching people math but improving our math skills



HOMEWORK HELP: Junior Luke Hong (left) checks his answers after senior Lucas Zhuang helps him with math homework in Room 45.

REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

and building relationships with students,” Zhuang said.

Junior Isabella Ramirez said she sought extra help after hearing her precalculus teacher, Myra Deister, promote the club.

“[The tutors] explained the concept a bit better than the videos and teachings in my class; it is more in-depth because I could actually ask questions rather than in class where it’s awkward to ask questions,”

Ramirez said.

Cheng hopes more like Ramirez will come.

“It just seems like a win-win situation,” she said.



For the full story, go to shsaccolade.com

FROM PAGE 6

SKATEBOARDERS

Moreno is among a group of students that stays after school, sometimes until 5 p.m., to refine their skateboarding skills.

"We have a lot of skateboarders at our school, and our philosophy has always been: we respect them, [and] they respect us back," Whitten. "We don't like taking skateboards from kids. ... We just ask them to be respectful, and when they're on campus [while school is in session], they need to carry it."

In addition to the shared love for skateboarding and using the campus, SH skateboarders also share a uniform style of wearing loose clothing, such as hoodies, baggy jeans and oversized T-shirts.

A lot of skaters prefer wearing the comfortable style of baggy clothing so they have more room to move around while practicing their tricks, Moreno said.

"Dickey's, [for example], are good pants to wear because of their durability and how loose they are," Moreno said. "[Skateboarders] also wear crewnecks and different kinds of loose clothing; it all just depends on your style."

Though all the students in this community aren't familiar with every single skateboarder, most know of each other through friends and by meeting after school in the same setting, and their shared love for skateboarding brings them together.

"When I first started bringing my board to Sunny Hills, I was kind of scared because I thought people would be judgmental, but the people were really nice," Galvez said. "They helped me,

gave me a lot of tips and made me feel welcome; Now I'm kind of more comfortable going places."

Galvez said her interest grew in seventh grade when she would watch videos of skateboarders performing tricks on YouTube.

"Watching the videos, I thought it was really cool," Galvez said. "And then when I went to the skatepark with my mom on a whim and saw the people there, I thought, 'Oh wow, I want to be one of them—I want to do that.'"

After deciding to seriously start it as a new hobby, Galvez took her cousin's old skateboard and had it redone at a shop. It would be her starter skateboard — her first one ever.

"From then on, it just took off," Galvez said. "When I started going downtown for the first time, I met a lot of cool people, and they were all really nice; now they're my friends."

Like Galvez, Moreno also started delving into the sport before entering high school.

"I knew about it since I was a kid, [and] I never thought I would try it," he said. "But then my friends got into it, and they convinced me to try it."

For these students, skateboarding isn't simply a sport they enjoy—it's what brings them together as a community. And Sunny Hills is the perfect place to build that community.

"I've met half of my friends through skateboarding, so I'm really glad about that," Galvez said. "I got to know the community because they were really nice, and I'm so glad that skateboarding introduced me to a lot of cool people."

FROM PAGE 5

SH TRANSFER STUDENTS

"When COVID started, we



Dorotea
Barbini

knew something was changing in our plans, and that was something really scary for us because we had to carry this weight for

over a year to finally arrive here," Barbini said.

Although not coming from as far as Italy, junior Thaddaeus Kiker and freshman Sophia Kiker transferred to Sunny Hills from Philadelphia with the help of close family friends easing the process.

Thaddaeus Kiker had already



Thaddaeus
Kiker

completed the math credits Sunny Hills requires to graduate and, as a result, wanted to challenge himself by taking mul-

tivariable calculus at Orange Coast College. Once Sunny Hills administration approved his request, he knew he found the right campus.

The junior also shows other transfer students that they can continue their interests abroad as he brings the Harriton Research Lab to Sunny Hills. Kiker hopes to continue doing research and computer science with college professors as he did at Harriton High School in Philadelphia, studying astrophysics and baby stars with a professor at the California Institute of Technology.

"I intend to lead one project myself [at Sunny Hills], but it would be really helpful if we could find someone else from Sunny Hills who has also done research internships with profes-

sors because then, with their experience, I can work with them, and they could also lead other projects," Thaddaeus Kiker said.

He believes being a proactive student is important when adapting to a new school, and after following his own advice, he was also able to form new relationships while creating the new club.

"One of my friends introduced me to Thaddaeus because he was

“I think Sunny Hills will be a good home to accomplish my dreams.

— freshman Yeji Park



Sophia
Kiker

looking for people from Sunny to join a research project, and [my friend] thought I'd be interested, which I indeed was," junior Remy Garcia-Kakebeen said. "By the time I finally met Thaddaeus in person,

he seemed to have already made himself feel at home at Sunny." Following in her brother's footsteps, Sophia Kiker also brings STEM talent to Sunny Hills.

Seeing her brother's school in Philadelphia compete with Troy High School in Science Olympiad competitions, she joined Sunny Hills to bring Troy some local competition.

"Troy always seemed to be butting heads with Harriton's Science Olympiad — the team I was supposed to join once I got to high school," Sophia Kiker said.

However, unlike the Kiker siblings, who described their transfer as a smooth process, some students, like freshman Yeji Park, first had to overcome demanding steps that spanned over many years. Her high school career finally started after trying to get a Green Card for 14 years.

"My grandparents and brother live [near Sunny Hills], so I came here by myself because I wanted to study abroad," Park said.



Yeji
Park

"Without my parents, I had to hold myself accountable to do well in school and be mature, which was difficult at first, but I think I'm becoming a better person because of it."

After seeing her brother's success in the United States, including getting admitted to Cornell University in 2021, Park hopes to follow in his footsteps.

"I want to get into the Ivy League [like] my brother and major in engineering, and I think Sunny Hills will be a good home to accomplish my dreams," Park said. "Already, I met so many good friends, teachers and am fitting in so well."

Regardless of the initial challenges of being a new student, Barbini encourages future transfer students to trust in the Lancer community.

"This is a great school," Barbini said. "You will see that there are a lot of nice people, so don't give up."



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com

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SH officials take student-friendly approach to attire policy

KRISHNA THAKER

Special Sections Editor

The opening descriptions of this story are not meant to show that the writer or The Accolade is endorsing such behavior among students. They are merely a factual report of what has been happening at a local and national level. In keeping with the Society of Professional Journalists' "Code of Ethics," if you have any questions, comments or concerns about the content of this article, we strongly encourage you to contact us at theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.

A group of girls and a few boys walked throughout the hallways of Buena Park High School during lunch last month, some holding signs while others revealing their bellies in protest of the campus' dress code policy and how it was being enforced by administrators.

Images taken during the demonstration were posted on social media but taken down after 24 hours.

A few miles away at Fullerton Union High School, a junior created a change.org petition on Aug. 24 arguing that "the [district's] dress code is a gendered response to modern inequities of not holding boys accountable for their reactions to female bodies."

The digital complaint, which now has over 900 signatures, isn't the only one that teenagers have posted on change.org. Another with nearly double the amount of signatures addresses similar concerns regarding the banning of midribs at Webster Groves High School in Missouri. That situation has also led to some boys joining their opposite gender in wearing midribs during an Aug. 27 demonstration before school outside the campus' main entrance.

Despite the growing controversy over what type of clothing is or isn't acceptable at a public school campus, student reactions are not as extreme at Sunny Hills High School. Campus security have issued only warnings to those in violation of the campus' dress code.

And though some of the offenders have told *The Accolade* that they got "dress coded," school officials want to assure them that more severe consequences would usually result like detention or phone call home if any Sunny Hills student were to actually get "dress coded."

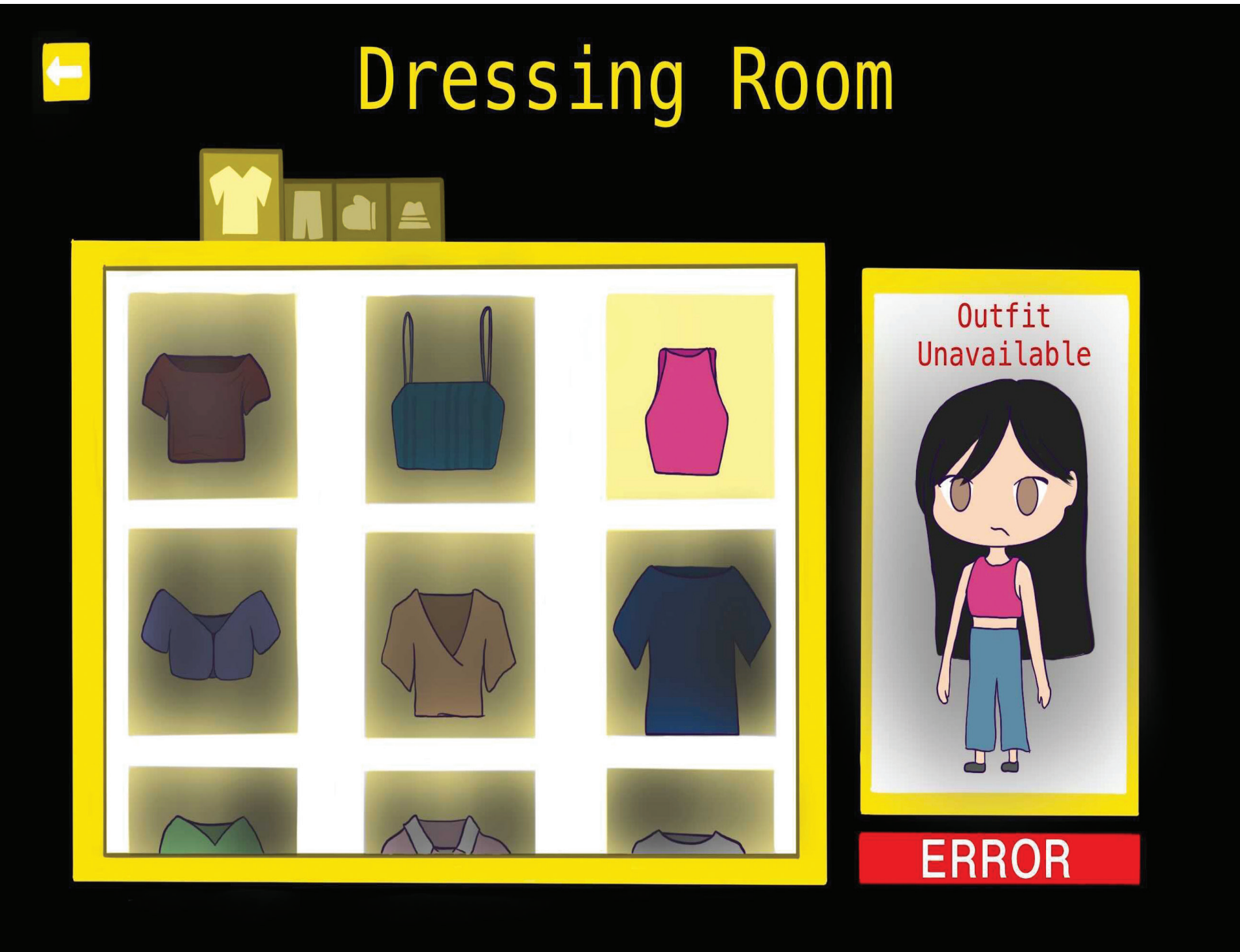
"I hope that students will see that we really are being flexible," said principal Allen Whitten, emphasizing that no students have been given detention or required to go home and change attire because of violations to the dress code. "There are a lot of gentle reminders. I think that there are some things we can all agree upon that just aren't appropriate [to wear to school]."

"And so, you know if you have guns on your T-shirt or knives or something that displays violence, drugs or alcohol, some of those are low hanging fruit," Whitten said. "You know, we are addressing those. But anything we address is done in a student-friendly way."

Whitten is the first to admit that this issue is incredibly nuanced but remains positive that the issue will be handled responsibly.

Sophomore Jerika Mae Tabuada appreciates that approach and would hope more of her peers focus their attention on academics instead of their fashion trends.

"School is supposed to be a place to learn, but ever since [fashion] trends have changed, people dress more revealingly," Tabuada said. "School is



JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

supposed to be a place to learn so [students should] just go [to school] in regular clothes."

Though the first month into the school year some students have told *The Accolade* that they've had run-ins with campus security in which their class time was interrupted, Whitten said his goal is to make sure that doesn't happen anymore, emphasizing again his administrative team's approach of addressing the issue in a "student-friendly way."

ORIGINS OF APPROPRIATE CAMPUS ATTIRE

California State University, Sacramento, professor Jay-

69% of 154 Sunny Hills students polled have not read the dress code policy.

Source: *The Accolade* poll

mie Lynn said it's best when she was asked about the history of what was acceptable or not acceptable to wear to a public school.

"There is little to no research available on the history of school dress code policies," said Lynn, who wrote a 96-page master's thesis titled, "Undressing the dress codes: An Analysis of Gender in High School Dress Code Policies."

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, the idea of establishing dress codes at public schools first originated during the Vietnam War in the 1960s and '70s when many students across America organized protests against it.

In one such incident, students at an Iowa public school planned to wear black armbands on campus as a silent protest against the Vietnam War. The principal, who heard what the students planned to do, declared that all students who participated in the protest would be suspended.

Ignoring the warning, some students followed through with the protest and faced the consequences.

After losing their case in both the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, the suspended students brought their case — known as *Tinker v. Des Moines* — to the Supreme Court.

There, the Supreme Court ruled that school officials could not restrict expression simply "on the suspicion that the speech might disrupt the learning environment," according to official website of the Federal Judiciary.

However, according to FindLaw, schools can restrict free speech and expression if there is evidence that students are disturbing the learning environment or infringing on the

rights of other students. This idea has been broadly interpreted by states in which public schools are permitted to have individualized dress code policies, influenced by the community's standards.

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District guidelines on the dress and appearance of students, approved as Administrative Regulation [AR] 5650 in 1990, bans students from wearing gang-related articles of clothing, non-religious head covering, and even jewelry that might pose a threat to the physical well-being of others.

AR 5650 also states that, since 1968, "... acceptable standards of cleanliness, safety, or decency [are] adjusted by the principal or his designee."

TIME TO REVISE OUTDATED DRESS POLICIES?

Some students advocate for the complete abolishment of any form of regulation for student attire, which they feel has no impact on the learning environment.

"I think that our dress code policy is outdated, has no effect on learning and is unnecessary," senior Jonah Alagao said. "Weather plays a big role in what students wear, and it's unnecessary to dress code clothes that are appropriate for the weather."

Another factor that comes into play besides the heat is that this is the first time in a year and a half that students have been on campus. A majority had chosen to stay home since March 2020, and so they never had to worry about what to wear until the start of this school year.

Nevertheless, several teachers remain vocal about the need for public educational institutions to regulate student clothing and how clothes deemed revealing will have a serious effect in the classroom learning environment.

"The problem is that while most people want to look good, most people simultaneously want to look at people who look good," English Department chairman Scott Rosenkranz said. "This is where the distraction comes into play. So, we must go back to having some common-sense standards."

"If the person's goal is to look good, that person needs to, again, go back to the purpose and context of an event and acknowledge that there are different ways to look good for different contexts: looking good at the beach

58% of 105 Sunny Hills students polled believe that the dress code should not be enforced very seriously.

Source: *The Accolade* poll

vs. looking good at church vs. looking good at Coachella are different," Rosenkranz said. "A fair dress code will allow students to look good in a classroom while minimizing distractions and promoting an environment where students can focus on learning instead of what someone else is wearing."

School officials said the dress code was last updated in the early 2000s — more than two decades ago. And according to an *Accolade* online survey of 154 students, 69% have never even read the policy in the *Lancer Handbook* provided as a PDF file when students' parents are updating their Aeries information before the school year.

Nevertheless, school officials side with those who want to see changes to what's been banned for decades.

"I think students have a fair point," Whitten said. "Our school leaders are hearing the community, and they're hearing our students and saying let's take a fresh look at this and put something in place that we can all agree on."

NEXT STEPS

Though no formal committee exists to study what can be revised in the dress code at Sunny Hills, discussions are beginning to take shape at the district level.

"At the meeting on Sept. 14, the Student Advisory Council discussed how the issue affects each school in the district and what the solution could be in preparation for the extended discussion during next month's meeting," said student board member Grace Lee, a Buena Park High senior.

Comprised of the top Associated Student Body [ASB] members from each school, the Student Advisory Council [SAC] will continue to discuss this issue before addressing its findings at one of the October school board meetings, Lee said.

Social science teacher Peter Karavedas said he doesn't expect this process to be an easy one.

"That's the challenge for administration ... to decide," Karavedas said. "What is ultimately something that's too much of a distraction and could take away from students learning. And that's a difficult place, I know, for administration to be, but if that's what's taking place, then we certainly need to look at pursuing a policy that would establish dress code."

Fashion trends break the code:

With '90s fashion making a comeback, many clothes are a direct violation of the Sunny Hills dress policy.

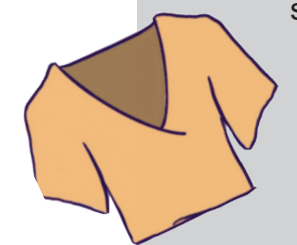
SPAGHETTI STRAPS:

Violating the rule that students can not expose bare shoulders, these tops allow students to layer with various clothing articles, making it trendy year-round.



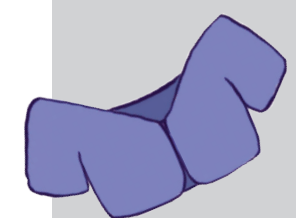
CUT-LINE SHIRTS:

Cut-line shirts can be styled with different pants, shorts and skirts. These shirts are flattering, but break the "no extreme neckline" portion of the dress code.



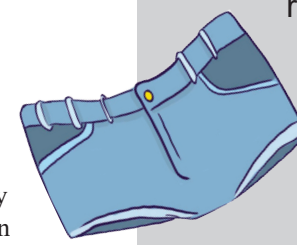
CROP TOPS:

Great for summer, crop tops violate the no bare midribs guideline. Tops like baby tees, tank tops and wrap shirts dominate the student fashion sphere.



SHORT SHORTS:

Despite defying the rule that all bottoms must reach mid-thigh, shorts are a basic clothing staple suitable for the lingering summer heat during the fall and spring seasons.



BAGGY MOM JEANS:

Comfortable, stylish and a timeless fashion piece, baggy jeans are versatile but violate the rule that states students can not wear oversized garments.



Compiled by Grace Min

STAFF EDITORIAL



SAMANTHA GALANG | theaccolade

‘Devious lick’: Students need to say no to TikTok’s trending challenge

The Accolade editorial board unanimously agreed that Sunny Hills students should avoid participating in the TikTok “devious lick” challenge; those who were caught deserve to be suspended from school for vandalizing the campus.

A little fun and games every once in a while is a natural part of life; teenagers enjoy messing around and playing hard. However, a limit needs to be set as to how far that “play” can go.

Recently, a trend on social media platform TikTok emerged resulting in students stealing and damaging school property, calling it a “devious lick,” after TikToker @jugg4elias posted himself with an allegedly stolen box of disposable masks from his school. The effects of the video soon spread nationwide as the TikTok video surged with likes and views, reaching over 239,000 in a week, according to trends tracker, knowyourmeme.com.

Within days, several other users posted the results of their own “licks.”

In Lexington, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School had to lock and close their restrooms after theft and vandalism remained “ongoing and widespread,” according to Dunbar’s newspaper, *The Lamplight*.

Even Sunny Hills faced the same problem with some students — identified by school officials only as “a handful” — attempting this challenge, stealing and damaging soap and paper towel dispensers in three campus boys restrooms resulting in damages ranging from \$50 to \$500, assistant principal Hilda Arredondo said.

This fad takes what should have been innocent fun and wraps it into something that harms not only the school and its employees, but also the students who are forced to suffer the consequences of their peers’ actions.

In the Sept. 13 incident, paper towel and soap dispensers disappeared from the boys restrooms, causing the vandals to be suspended for an unspecified number of days, Arredondo said.

To fix the three affected lavatories, custodians had to close those off. Taking into account all their other responsibilities, managing this adds another time and money wasting task onto an already long list of work for custodians.

Male students also feel inconvenienced as their typical privileges, such as access to all boys bathrooms, is restricted during repairs.

Having to walk across campus to simply

gain access to a restroom is a hassle that takes away valuable classroom, break or lunch time from teachers and students.

Consequences should be issued for those who steal or damage school property. Such behavior to pull of a prank like this isn’t worth it. Although school officials could not confirm any names of vandals that *The Accolade* gives them because of confidentiality, the one sophomore who agreed to be interviewed acknowledged that his little bit of “fun” wasn’t worth it.

Social media has already given many entertaining trends from quarantine’s Dalgona coffee recipe to popularized dances.

Considering the influence of social media, especially on the younger generation, hopping onto the latest craze is almost second nature. Yet it’s important to take some time to reflect on what’s worth participating in and say no.

The Accolade editorial board for the Senior Issue is made up of the top editors and section editors on the 2021-2022 staff with the guidance of adviser Tommy Li. If you have a question about the board’s decision or an issue for the board to discuss and write about, please send an email to theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.

Letters to the editor

Michelle Sheen’s Build Back Better column, “Back on the Hill: A fresh start,” explains the return of the Sunny Hills Lancers and welcomes them back into Sunny Hills.

This article accurately describes and shows the excitement of being able to go back to school and also gives a warm welcome to everyone, both new and old.

As a freshman, I feel that this school year has a lot of potential and that we can overcome any obstacles that come our way.

— Ethan Lee, freshman

Daniel Kong’s News article, “2021-2022 school enrollment not hampered by pandemic,” was extremely informative and exciting to read.

I feel more motivated to work hard when I know that I am not the only student putting in my full effort when coming to school.

This article did a great job on informing us on the opinions of our teachers, which is so valuable to me personally. I love reading the thoughts of students as well as what people my age think of in-person learning.

— Zachary Cardona, freshman

Coming from a freshman who has only attended three weeks at Sunny Hills so far, I have to agree with what Krishna Thaker said in the Build Back Better photo page titled, “Lancer spirit abounds on 1st week of school.”

Krishna does a specu-

lar job of not only describing the events making assemblies sound just as fun as it was to actually be there.

— Lauren Bromley, freshman

Alice Shin’s Opinion article, “Schools should say no to anti-maskers,” is a very well-written, important article that everyone should read sometime.

With COVID-19 going around, it is very important for everyone to make sure to have a mask on at all times.

— Micaela Kim, freshman

The Accolade welcomes signed letters to the editor with full name and grade level emailed to theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.

The staff reserves the right to edit.

For the record

The Accolade regrets the following errors from the Aug. 27 issue:

In a page 10 Feature article titled, “Butler transitions from work at Macy’s to job in classroom,” the new English teacher worked at Macy’s nearly 20 years ago. The first sentence should have indicated that he “could be found training new hires ...”

In a page 11 Feature article titled, “Students, teachers enjoy COVID-free summer,” after science teacher Walter Haberaecker and his family traveled north to Michigan, they went west to Montana. Haberaecker should have also been quoted as saying, “As soon as we left, it felt like we were in the land of the free.”

the accolade

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SAMANTHA GALANG | theaccolade

DIGITAL WAVE: Some Sunny Hills students have dived into a recent online platform to feed their reading interests. BookTok picked up followers during the COVID-19 pandemic when libraries had to shut down.

BookTok offers new method for bibliophiles to read works

NEVYA PATEL

News Editor

Prior to the pandemic, bibliophiles would walk into the library with the intention of strolling through the shelves in search of an interesting book. They could explore different genres and consult with librarians about a novel they cannot find.

However, immediately after March 2020, libraries and other institutions closed because of the risk of COVID-19, and book lovers had to resort to finding existing or creating new online communities to recommend their favorite and least favorite books, share reviews and join certain fandoms.

Although BookTok first appeared in 2019 when TikTok became more widely known, the online community did not pick up followers until soon after the pandemic. It came about from TikTok users who posted book-related content, and it offers readers the opportunity to connect with

others who share the same, rare love for reading.

Any TikTok that shows even a slight connection to books or lists BookTok as a hashtag can be considered a part of BookTok.

A few Sunny Hills students have started using Booktok to find new books and to become part of a community that values reading.

"The recommendations are my favorite part, and they're really helpful because I hate reading books and not liking them," said senior Jasmine Lee, who

started seeing more book-related TikToks on her For You page in August 2020.

Lee said she discovered the bookish section on TikTok when she searched for the *Red, White, and Royal Blue* fandom on the app's search engine.

"I especially love recommendations from people who have similar viewpoints as me like @aymanbooks and @Robert.reads," Lee said. "It's really funny to see how people share the same opinions as me on book characters and tropes."

English teacher Greg Brown, who did not know about BookTok until a student informed him about the concept, also believes that the community is something everybody should be a part of.

"I wish I were young enough to enjoy something called TikTok and the things [people] do on there," Brown said.



SAMANTHA GALANG | theaccolade



For the full story, go to shsaccolade.com

Montero offers worthy tracks that explore the sexuality of Lil Nas X

ALEX LEE

Staff Reporter

"You're right, I am insecure about my sexuality."

Rapper Lil Nas X — otherwise known as Montero Lamar Hill — replied with this statement after reading a June 28 hateful Twitter post about his homosexuality.

Since the young celebrity's coming-out as gay in a 2019 Twitter post, Lil Nas X faced stigma against gender preferences in the music industry.

To shed light on the adversity of being gay in today's society, Lil Nas X released Sept. 17 one of his most personal and emotional projects, *Montero*.

The album title, which comes from his first name, shows how the tracks will bring listeners into the personal narrative of the young superstar. Consisting of 15 songs, the album shows the rapper's hopes to normalize same-sex lust by telling a story of how he found his sexuality.

The opening track lasting two minutes and 17 seconds, "MONTERO (Call Me By Your Name)," starts off romantically with a soft guitar sound and sincere singing, like reading a love letter to his significant other.

Even though listeners can infer the gender of this partner, the first few opening lines — "Ain't been out in a while anyway / Was hoping I could catch you throwing smiles in my face" — show how even the love story between two homosexual people can feel.

"THATS WHAT I WANT," the fourth track in the album, features a pop melody in which Lil Nas X shouts the lines, "I want someone to love me / I need someone who needs me."

Through his desperate voice in the chorus exemplifies how homosexual people go through the same pain and obstacles with their love life.

In contrast to the other two songs, the track "SUN GOES DOWN" starts off by singing softly over the tender acoustic guitar, but his voice becomes more firm following the beat drop. He maintains a calm tone throughout the album, which relaxes the listener's ear.

Just like how this track comforts listeners, Lil Nas X mentions in an Aug. 25 Instagram post that creating this album has served as therapy in which he learned to let go as well.

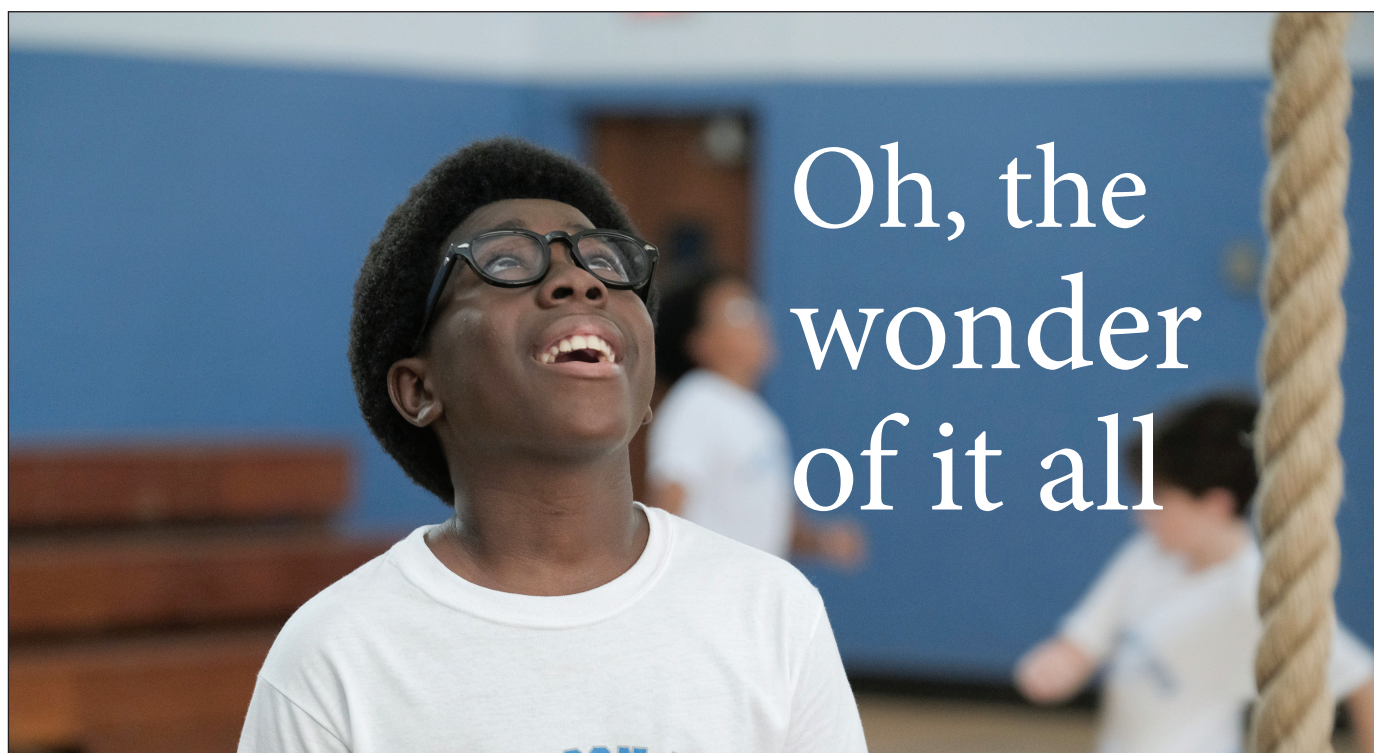
In the album's finale "AM I DREAMING" featuring Miley Cyrus, Lil Nas X starts singing, "Tears running dry, shattered inside, but I still gotta smile / As I'm sinkin', I relive the story." This finale summarizes the hardships he went through living as a gay artist but shows how he manages to overcome these difficulties.

Lil Nas X, who broke multiple records on the Billboard Hot 100 chart at the age of 20, sets an example to fellow artists, showing them how to freely express and apply even their most personal truths in their music.



SAMANTHA GALANG | theaccolade





Oh, the
wonder
of it all

Image used with permission from ABC Studios

WELCOME BACK: Dean Williams, played by Elisha Williams, looks up at a climbing rope at school. The ABC TV series, *"The Wonder Years,"* made a grand return with its reboot premiering Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

Continuing on its legacy, 'The Wonder Years' reboot brings attention to the struggles of African-American families living through the 1960s

KATE YANG

Web Managing Editor

Six seasons. 115 episodes. One family.

From 1988 to 1993, *"The Wonder Years"* stole viewers' hearts centered around the life of a young teenager, Kevin Arnold, who narrates the series as an adult looking back on the peaks and pickles of his life during the roaring '60s and wild '70s.

The ABC TV series returned to audiences Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

Centering on the life of a young African American teenager, Dean Williams, the reboot shifts the focus from an all-white family living in an all-white neighborhood to

an all Black family living in a white neighborhood.

According to ABC, the show will dive deeper into more daring topics such as the prevalence of racial segregation and discrimination, something absent from the original series.

Spanish teacher Vanessa Lara, who watched the original series as a middle school student, remembers *"The Wonder Years"* as a time for generations to connect and looks forward to seeing the reboot accomplish the same, if not similar, things.

"I personally believe that it helped bridge two generations, maybe even three," Lara said. "It allowed our parents to sit down and spend

time with us as kids to watch the show because it was reliving their adolescence when they were in school."

With the reboot's inclusion of somewhat sensitive subject matters, the instructor, who also teaches at La Habra, believes audiences will feel emotions much deeper.

"First and foremost, just the idea [of the original show] is brilliant to bring families together [and] to make that connection, but also now to see in a point of view of a different sociocultural group," said Lara. "I think it would make someone more open-minded and more empathetic to their surroundings and different cultural groups."

English teacher David Wolf believes the show may garner some resentment from long-time fans questioning the shift in angle. Nevertheless, he said the reboot could draw support from new audiences.

"I can see the show upsetting a lot of people who might say, 'Why do they have to focus only on this?'" Wolf said. "Whereas now, it focuses on an African-American family; I bet African Americans are going to find it much more interesting, so it will probably gain as many viewers as it loses."



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com

CLASSIC '80s VS. REBOOT



"The Wonder Years" (1988)

- Kevin Arnold
- White actor
- Grows up in New York



"The Wonder Years" (2021)

- Dean Williams
- Black actor
- Grows up in Alabama

The reboot series airs at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays on ABC TV.

Compiled by Kate Yang

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

Kanye West's *Donda* dominates over Drake's *Certified Lover Boy*

ANTHONY KEEM

Staff Reporter

I remember listening to "Lift Yourself" by Kanye West in 2018 when he sang nonsensical variations of "poopity scoop" over the beat to spite Drake, who wanted to use the same beat in a song.

I thought of this as symbolic of West's tendency to push boundaries in people through his music. This incident triggered a bitter rivalry made public on Twitter between West and Drake, which eventually culminated in Drake threatening to release his album a week after West's this year.

Now the titans of hip-hop

compete head-to-head in the charts as Drake released *Certified Lover Boy* [CLB] just around a week after Kanye West dropped his anticipated album *Donda*.

Unfortunately for Drake, his project comes nowhere near the quality of *Donda*. The entire album can be described as raw and messy but most importantly emotionally engaging.

Donda differentiates itself in quality because, unlike *CLB*, it is interesting to listen to.

Tracks such as "Jail," "Off The Grid," "Hurricane," "Come to Life" and "No Child Left Behind" exemplify how innovative West can be. The album combines choir and organs with electronic

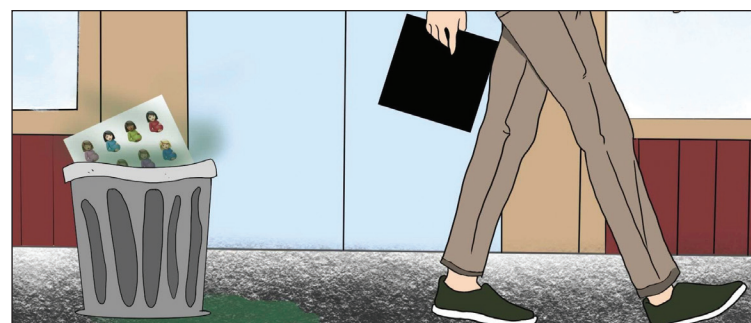
percussion samples and synths to create a hauntingly ethereal atmosphere that leaves me with chills running down my spine.

However, *CLB* presents nothing listeners and longtime fans have not heard before, and that remains an obstacle to success.

The album's lackluster quality originates from the singer's reliance on the same topics that he explored in many of his past albums. Girls, hip-hop beef, status and wealth — such themes become played out to sheer monotony throughout its 21 tracks.

The album fails to impress because Drake doesn't have anything relevant to say to his fans.

Ultimately, *Donda* remains



JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

RAP TITANS CLASH: Drake's *Certified Lover Boy* deserves to be trashed, but Kanye West's *Donda* is a keeper.

as one of West's most musically competent albums; whereas, for Drake, *CLB* is a sign of decline in his music quality. It would be more interesting if Drake could artistically keep up with Kanye

West, but for now, the beef has been settled with *Donda* taking the victory with no bars held.



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com

With 13 years of experience, ice skater prepares for national event

KRISTIMA ARYAL

Web Editor-in-Chief

4:30 a.m. — while most are sound asleep, senior Vivian Sanchez packs her athletic bag, ready to start her day.

By 5 a.m., she makes her way to an ice skating rink in Cerritos to begin her training.

Then, within two hours, Sanchez leaves the East West Ice Palace and is driven for another 20 minutes to Sunny Hills, where she eventually ends up sitting in her zero period Advanced Placement Literature and Composition class.

Before the pandemic, this has been Sanchez's routine since seventh grade, and she keeps it up to one day win nationals with her synchronized ice skating team.

Already, she has worked her way to the Midwestern and Pacific Coast synchronized skating sectional championships in 2019 competing alongside her team in the California Gold Intermediate category.

But Sanchez knows that to get to the next level, she'll need to continue her commitment and her rigorous schedule.

For many, that might mean to ease up on their academic load in school. But that's not the case with Sanchez, who's working toward a full International Baccalaureate [IB] diploma – taking six IB classes.



Image printed with permission from Vivian Sanchez

COOL AS ICE: Senior ice skater Vivian Sanchez performs a layback spin during her team's circle elements during the Midwestern and Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships held in Kalamazoo, Missouri in 2019. Her team competed in the intermediate level.

"I really like making my life harder for myself because that's just who I am," Sanchez said. "If I'm not busy, I'm bored."

Sanchez said she began her journey on the ice nearly 13 years ago when she was just over 3 years old. She attended a preschool friend's birthday party at the East West Ice Palace in Cerritos, and her parents saw her having an easier time on the ice, prompting them to enroll her in recreational lessons right away.

"My parents weren't ice skaters before, but they saw that I kept enjoying it, so my parents just kept taking me back [to the East West Ice Palace]," Sanchez said.

"When she was younger we enrolled her in lots of different activities like swimming, gymnastics and ice skating to expose her to everything," Sanchez's mother Trinh Bui said. "I feel very proud of her and I feel very satisfied with the way she worked

to achieve the highest level."

Within two years, Sanchez said she was hooked. She jumped from public skating lessons to private sessions with a coach when she was 5 years old.

"After a certain amount of public sessions, my parents saw that I couldn't improve further if I didn't have private lessons," she said. "With higher level stuff, the training is much more consistent [because] it's not like public sessions."

At 6 years old, the skater eventually joined The Ice Sports Industry, a membership based league that allowed her to compete in small regional competitions in her age group. Although most require six months to one year of lessons before testing to move up, Sanchez jumped up levels quickly reaching the pre-preliminary level at 8 years old.

"At this level, most ice skaters are homeschooled and take school at the rink to focus on training, but my parents and I both decided that I definitely would benefit from more social interaction," she said.

Currently, Sanchez is at the senior level, the highest level of ice skating, after passing her test Sept. 18.

"Because of COVID and all the testing and rink shutdowns, I delayed my training," the skater said. "I was stuck at intermediate level but I'm glad I passed my test to the senior level."

After competing in a couple of personal events and not performing well throughout middle school, Sanchez said she wanted to try something new, which is why she decided to join the synchronized ice skating team during the summer of freshman year.

A typical synchronized ice skating team for Sanchez usually has 12 to 16 people. While the sport is not currently an Olympic event, Sanchez is preparing to compete under USA Figure Skating sanctioned competitions.

"Everything [in solo ice skating] is a lot more stressful because everything gets so competitive," she said.

Senior ice skater >>> page 15

SMASH HIT: SH eSports to create ambitious Nintendo team

YEIHN LEE

Staff Reporter

Following the success of Sunny Hills' competitive League of Legends team in winning first place in the fall CIF against Harvard Westlake High School in Los Angeles and The PlayVS Cup 2021 League of Legends National Championships against Parkview High School, the eSports club will now add another group to its digital playing field based on the Nintendo video game series, Super Smash Bros.

Science teacher Alexander Hua, who has agreed to coach the Super Smash Bros. team, said that they started the official league with CIF, which is the main reason Sunny Hills eSports club members wanted to create a team.

The first tournament was held Monday at 3 p.m. in the Lyceum to determine the team members. No entry fee was required, but players had to bring their own controllers.

Those who remained in the top spots would eventually comprise the club's Nin-

tendo squad.

Senior Andres Gonzalez prevailed as the ultimate winner, defeating senior Jacob Kim in the final match 3-1.

"I played the game for a long time, and I'm not that much surprised [that I won] because I've won tournaments before," said Gonzalez, referring to the September Smash 4 tournament in 2018 and the Troy Smash Quarantine Brawlers Online tournament, but he did not earn any money from them.

The tournaments were organized by students and teachers, and none of them were sponsored by the Fullerton Joint Union School District.

Gonzalez plans to join the team as he won first place in the tournaments.

Sophomore JD Talag made it past the first round, gaining more confidence in himself as the matches continued.

"I played with a few of Mr. Hua's students, [and] they're a little bit better than me," Talag said. "To finally be face-to-face with someone that I actually beat is pretty new because all I've been playing are on-



HENRY LEE | theaccolade

NINTENDO BRAWLERS: Students compete at the Super Smash Bros Tournament held by Alexander Hua in the Lyceum on Monday, Sept. 20.

line games."

The coach, who has been playing the competitive game since 1999 when the original Smash Bros. came out on the classic Nintendo Wii set, said he will announce the team roster by Oct. 1.

Hua decided to coach the team because he really likes the game and had to talk to eSports advisor Myra Deister about the club.

"I told her I was interested, and she

helped me set up my account, and we have been working together since," he said.

Though Monday's tournament was held live in person, that won't be the case when CIF playoffs start.

"I think this year, I just want to get the match procedures down, but it will be online unfortunately," Hua said. "I want to try to build our community in general, get more people excited for this game and have more tournaments."

Boys water polo edges La Habra 20-19 in season debut

JIWOO HAN

Staff Reporter

For the first time in two years, the Sunny Hills boys water polo team defeated the La Habra Highlanders in a tight water polo home game 20-19.

"The last three years, our team was very rough in terms of the number of people and in terms of experience, and I just feel really good about this team, especially after getting this first win," said utility player senior Nathan Kim, who racked up 10 goals.

The first quarter began with the Highlanders scoring three consecutive points against the Lancers as their defense couldn't stand up against La Habra's fast plays and aggressive moves. However, utility player junior Jeremy Herrera broke the streak with two minutes left on the clock after successfully rebounding utility player senior Elijah Vera's shot that ricocheted off the crossbar.

"It's been a very long journey getting this team to not be a first quarter warm-up-type team, [but] unfortunately, that's what happened [today]," boys head coach Jordan Jaime said. "Afterwards, they really dug deep and ended up scoring eight goals in the second quarter to pull us back in the game. Sometimes, you're just playing the first quarter to evaluate your opponent and figure out where you have to apply pres-



KRISTEL LACESTE | theaccolade

SHOOTING WITH STYLE: Utility player junior Jeremy Herrera prepares to shoot the ball against La Habra High School in a Wednesday home game.

sure on or not, and I think that's what we did."

Though the Highlanders established themselves in the first quarter scoring seven points, Sunny Hills successfully pushed forward in the second quarter with four back-to-back 5-meter penalty shots from Kim, finishing 11-10.

"My mindset was, 'I have to make it, I have to make it,' because if I missed any one of them, we could have tied or lost,"

Kim said. "I did my job [by] putting them all away, and we came back from that deficit."

Lead and lone scorer Kim shot and made six goals into La Habra's goal to conclude the third quarter with a 16-13 lead for Sunny Hills with respective assists from utility players sophomore Brandon Koh and senior Andrew Lee.

"I was busy thinking that I had to continue playing my heart out in order for us

to come out on top," Koh said. "We kept encouraging each other, which helped boost the team morale."

Despite the third quarter lead, the Highlanders fought back hard with La Habra utility player Ethan Briones scoring three consecutive shots under heavy defense, which pushed La Habra's score, but they still fell two points behind the Lancers.

With 1:52 left on the clock, Lee managed to score the final shot while two defenders tightly guarded him. This secured a two point lead for the Lancers, but La Habra utility player Nathaniel Gage quickly followed with a goal of his own to edge out the score 20-18.

After a strategic timeout by Sunny Hills with 46 seconds left, the Highlanders scored to close the gap to 20-19, still in favor of the Lancers. Sunny Hills was quick to use their second timeout with 35 seconds left to ease the pace of the game.

La Habra called its last timeout with 12 seconds left, right after gaining possession from a turnover by Kim, but was unable to score a point which led to the Lancers winning with a final score of 20-19.

"During the timeouts, our coaches set us up and mentioned how little time was left to keep us going," Lee said. "I just wanted to get through the last possessions and win."



theaccolade file photo

ONE LAST PUSH: Then-freshman Esther Kim sprints toward the finish line Feb. 3 on the Sunny Hills track for the first sports game since athletic events shut down last March.

Cross country hopes for strong showing at SH Wayne Walker Invitational

JAIMIE CHUN

Copy Editor

The boys and girls cross country teams will compete at the Sunny Hills Wayne Walker XC Invitation Sept. 25 at Craig Park, Fullerton from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"We're approaching the midway point of the season, and every race should be used as a measuring stick for progress," boys and girls cross country head coach Jacob Holloway said. "The event is a huge showcase for our school and cross country program."

34 schools will be attending and over 1,500 visitors will be in

attendance. All teams will be running the 3-mile race.

"I always knew [the Walker XC Invitational] was a big event but not this big," team captain sophomore Katelyn Marin said. "This definitely influences me because I know there will be eyes everywhere, but since over 30 schools are coming, I know I have to give it my all."

In addition to the large audience and pressure, the sloped terrain will present challenges and push the runners' stamina, sophomore Radiyah Ahmed said.

"My goals for the event are to be able to recover from the hills, which there are a lot of, quickly, and I want to be able to get back

to my normal pace as quickly as possible," Ahmed said. "This event is very important to me because I know my teammates depend on me to give it my max effort."

Holloway hopes the members' preparation will help them reach their full potential at the meet.

"Overall, the runners should control the things they can, prepare as much as possible and have fun on race day," Holloway said. "A good showing here will build confidence for future races."

The runners will proceed with their season at their next meet, Run the Ranch on Oct. 2. at Pico Rivera 8 a.m.

UPCOMING FALL SPORTS GAMES

Tuesday, Sept. 28



Girls Tennis: Third Freeway League home match against Troy High School



Girls Golf: Third Freeway League away match against Fullerton High School



Girls Volleyball: Fifth Freeway League away match against Fullerton High School

Thursday, Sept. 30



Girls Tennis: Fourth Freeway League home match against Sonoma High School



Girls Golf: Fourth Freeway League home match against La Habra High School



Girls Volleyball: Sixth Freeway League away match against La Habra High School

Friday, Oct. 1

Football: First Freeway League home game against La Habra High School



compiled by Henry Lee

FROM PAGE 13

SENIOR ICE SKATER

For the past three years, Sanchez has been part of the novice and intermediate squads.

In both groups, she said the team dynamic has been more rewarding and promising for her future.

"There are five strong programs around the United States that we have to face each year," Sanchez said "[But] the atmosphere is way more more relaxing — my goosebumps now come from the fact that I was freezing, not because I was so nervous."

Her coach for her synchronized ice skating team, Amanda Falkowski, commends her for her hard work and personality throughout the year.

"Vivian has such a unique personality, and she's such a joy to coach," said Falkowski, who has worked with Sanchez for over four years. "She is always bright and ready to practice and honestly she's taught me a lot as well."

Currently, Sanchez is training with both levels for a Nov. 6 competition in Irvine. After qualifying, they plan on attending the national contest Dec. 15 in Michigan.

"At the beginning of this year, I was hoping to travel internationally but obviously with [COVID-19] circumstances, we couldn't," the ice skater said. "I'm excited for all that's coming."

While preparing, however, Sanchez must balance her athletic and school life. Nevertheless, she believes that pursuing the most rigorous course schedule keeps her from procrastinating and remaining stagnant.

"I think I'm the only one doing art and economics in IB because there is no need for me to do that," she said. "I want to be able to do everything, [so] I just have to load myself with a bunch of things."

When Sanchez was pursuing freestyle skating, her fees were upwards of \$20,000 a year.

However, since transitioning to synchronized skating, Bui estimates that her skating fees are about \$10,000 a year, including items like skates, costumes and

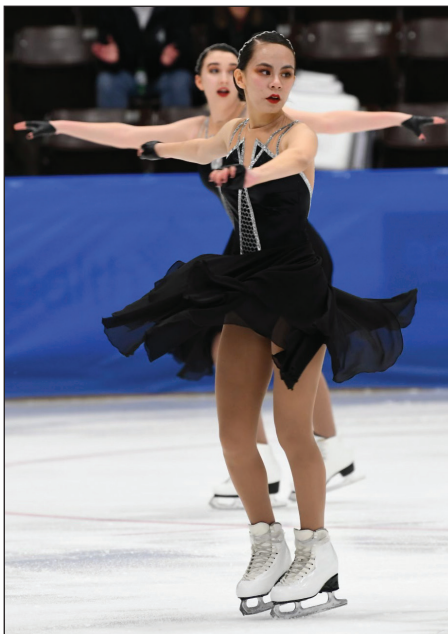


Image printed with permission from Vivian Sanchez
GETTING READY TO TURN:
Senior ice skater Vivian Sanchez prepares to execute a layback spin during her team's circle elements.

competition fees.

"Waking up early and seeing her train early makes me happy," Bui said. "So, it's not really a sacrifice, I'm just happy to see her stick with a sport and show so much dedication."

Although most colleges do not have a synchronized ice skating program, Sanchez said she is looking into ones at Miami of Ohio University and the University of Michigan, but she said she will be focusing on academics first.

"I'm hoping to go into art history and business so thinking about [synchronized ice skating] at a higher level is conflicting with my own interests, but I know I'll try my best to keep skating," she said.

The sport has also allowed Sanchez to cultivate a strong team bond, and she hopes to finish off this year with atop the awards podium at the Michigan national event.

"Ice skating has also been such a consistent aspect of my life, and it's really helped me," she said. "I've met so many great people and learned a lot from them and from myself, too."



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