

## NEWS

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Majority of SH teachers react positively to new phone policy

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Transfer student makes memorable senior season.

# 'TRICK' or TREAT? leave it on the street

JIWOO HAN

*Sports Editor*

Recognized as the trademark of the Walt Disney Company's first animated film — "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" — the poison apple is more than just a fictional idea, it's a generations-long Halloween legend that's been haunting the American public.

Better known as "Halloween sadism" — the distribution of drug-laced candy during trick-or-treat festivities — the Chicago Tylenol murders of 1982 triggered nationwide alarm over poisoned treats, according to CNN.

Although Joel Best, a University of Delaware professor and researcher on tainted candy indicated a lack of credible relationship between Halloween deaths and laced candy in an Oct. 2 online article by the *Alabama Local News*, United States Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] officials encourage families to be cautious of a particular candy this Halloween season.

Rainbow Fentanyl >> Page 16



# Phone pockets produce varying reactions among students, staff

Teachers utilize new policy to limit class screen time

KAYLA MARTINEZ

Staff Reporter

8:28 a.m.

Sophomore Victoria Villegas walks into her first period Spanish 2 classroom and heads straight toward the back of the room.

She pulls her phone out of her back pocket, quickly checks her notifications and says goodbye to it — for the next 57 minutes.

Villegas glances back toward where it lies in jail, nervous of any urgent notifications awaiting her.

9:25 a.m.

She races to where her phone stayed, unbothered during the class period.

“I don’t really like phone pockets because I feel students should be able to use their phones on some occasions, for example, as a calculator during geometry,” Villegas said.

With Gov. Gavin Newsom signing the Assembly Bill 272 in July 2019 that asks all school districts to establish a policy that limits students’ smartphone use, principal Craig Weinreich said he has let the teachers decide their own phone

policies.

As a result, some teachers have fully implemented phone pockets, also called the “phone jail,” since the beginning of the year to prevent distraction during class time.

“When kids are on their phones when they’re not supposed to, it’s totally distracting for them,” said

their phones, such as social science teacher Kelsie Thompson, who offers an extra credit raffle for students who choose to leave their phones in their pockets.

Every Friday, Thompson said she draws a student’s assigned number from a can of popsicle sticks. If the selected student’s

“Phones are now a tool in our daily lives, not just a gaming device.”

– English teacher Liese Garcia

science teacher Kathy Bevill, who got the pockets last year.

While some students agree that their productivity increased, they also said that the absence of their devices makes them anxious throughout the class.

“I have mixed emotions about putting my phone up because I just feel more comfortable with my phone in my back pocket,” said Emily Penfold, who turns in her phone in Bevill’s fourth period class, the only class she is required to do so.

Other instructors have added a motive for students to turn in

phone is in the pocket, she awards five extra credit points to the raffle recipient.

The students who choose to keep their phones with them, however, are exempt from the raffle, losing out on the extra credit opportunity.

“Some students realize that their phone is a struggle for them along with the distraction it brings so they will drop their phone off,” Thompson said. “Other students trust themselves and prefer to keep their phone in their backpack so that’s fine too.”

One of Thompson’s students,



GISELLE SUASTEGUI | theaccolade

**PHONE RAFFLE:** Social science teacher Kelsie Thompson selects popsicle sticks to award students with extra credit if they follow the phone-pocket policy in second period Oct. 7.

senior Tony Salas, said he hands in his phone on Fridays to earn a chance to win the extra credit.

“Winning the raffle made the pockets feel useful, and it’s always nice getting extra credit,” Salas said. “I think Ms. Thompson doing this activity is an incentive unlike other teachers just taking students’ phones for no reason.”

English teacher Liese Wellmeyer-Garcia is among those who decided to fully trust her students’

to keep their phones out of sight during class.

“In high school, you are at the age where you should learn when you can and can’t use them versus getting them taken away from you,” Garcia said.

## RELATED STORY

**Staff Editorial:** Students oppose new phone confiscation. See Opinion, page 9.

# DMV offers at-home option to take driver’s knowledge exam

NATHAN LEE

Staff Reporter

Students 18 and above can now take the Department of Motor Vehicles [DMV] permit exam from the comfort of their home online instead of the traditional in-person option in which test-takers have to endure long lines and crowded rooms.

“The DMV is modernizing to add more convenient services online that used to be only available in an office,” DMV public information officer Chris Orrock said in an email interview.

Besides the age requirement, those who prefer the online option must be California residents, Orrock said.

“Customers are allowed two test attempts online; the third attempt must be completed in a DMV office,” Orrock said.

After confirming their payment for the required \$39 application fee on the DMV’s website, [dmv.ca.gov](http://dmv.ca.gov), test-takers must verify their identity and agree to be monitored throughout the test before beginning their knowledge exam.

The DMV hosts the testing with a program called MVProctor, a remotely proctored exam taken on a webcam-enabled computer or laptop.

Both online and in-person test takers must

visit a DMV office to confirm their application and receive a licensing document a business day after passing their knowledge test with a score of 80% or higher.

Since its inception in October 2021, Orrock said the feedback has been positive, though he has no data as to how many have chosen the online test option.

“Customers are happy to now have the option to complete their required testing remotely and during a time that works for

them,” he said.

The *Accolade* artist senior DaHee Kim, who turned 18 earlier this year in April, is among the few who took advantage of the DMV’s alternative to in-person permit tests.

“I felt a lot at ease taking the permit test remotely because I didn’t have someone watching me,” said Kim, who passed on the first try.

Others like senior Jaden Han regret not being aware of this new option sooner.

“If I knew there was an online option, I would’ve taken it,” said Han.

The senior said he ended up going to the DMV in Fullerton an hour before it closed, and so he was told after waiting about an hour that he’d have to come back two days later to take the permit test.

“The whole DMV process was so annoying that like, if there is a way to skip all of that and just do it at home, I would have done that for sure,” he said.

Besides dealing with the crowd at the DMV, test-takers are usually directed to a small room, where they have to wait in line again for an open cubicle. Once there, they stand in front of a computer screen to tap their answers to each question and will find out their results upon completing the last question.

That’s the experience that junior Remy Garcia-Kakebeen had when she took and passed the permit test in person at the DMV over the summer.

Even though Garcia-Kakebeen was not old enough at the time and was unaware of the online option, she said she would prefer to stick with in-person tests.

“I’d rather take the test in person instead of online because then I don’t have to worry about ‘not seeming suspicious’ while taking the test online if I just go to the DMV and take the test there,” she said.



Image used with permission from the DMV

**TESTING ONLINE:** Rather than having to take the Department of Motor Vehicle’s permit test in person, anyone 18 and above can now take the exam from their home.





**TEXTBOOKS IN A POT:** To celebrate the 2021 Red Ribbon Week, then-seniors walk around campus holding “everything-but-a-backpack,” showing their school spirit Oct. 27, 2021.

# Stop the clock this autumn

Students and staff react to the daylight saving bill, leading to more sunlight in the afternoon

**JUSTIN PAK**  
Copy Editor

After most of his weekday practices that end at 4:30 p.m., cross country runner sophomore Alex Rivera returns home, exhausted. Following an hour’s rest, he finds a seat on his couch and starts working on his school assignments, determined to finish his homework quickly. With just a few assignments left, Rivera notices the sun setting through the window of the living room, and though he uses his living room lights, they still don’t help him stay focused – the drowsiness begins to hit. “Since it was dark outside, it was harder to focus on my math homework because the dark made me sleepy,” the sophomore said. This is not the first time Rivera has struggled to complete his work because of the dark. “Because of the new [bell] schedule, we get 30 minutes less sunlight, so when I get home, it’s harder to complete homework,” he said. However, the proposed federal Sunshine Protection Act may be the solution to the after-school

challenges that Rivera and other students face. Proposed on March 15, 2021, by U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, the Sunshine Protection Act plans to make daylight saving time, the time the U.S. uses from March to November, permanent starting Nov. 5, 2023. This means people won’t need to change clocks in March and November, so winter days will no longer be lighter in the morning and darker in the afternoon compared to other parts of the year according to timeanddate.com. Though passed by the Senate exactly a year after its proposal, the bill currently sits waiting for the House of Representatives’ approval, according to congress.gov. The bill is on hold because it isn’t a priority compared to other issues like gun massacres and high inflation, according to a July 25 online article from *The Hill*. Once the act passes this hurdle, the president must sign the bill for it to officially become law. Based on an online *Accolade* poll of 120 responses, a 48% majority voted in favor of the law compared to 18% who prefer daylight saving time to not be permanent while 35% say it doesn’t matter to them. In the meantime, it’s most likely that Americans – except for those living in Arizona or Hawaii – will have to move their clocks back one hour on Nov. 6. Most teachers weren’t aware of this particular legislation but knew of past attempts to remove the bi-annual time change; they have mixed feelings about the bill. Science teacher Andrew Gartner agrees with the plan to make daylight saving time permanent. “With the school day starting 30 minutes later, I think it’s a value for the school to have more daytime in the afternoon,” Gartner said. On the other hand, social science teacher Hera Kwon prefers that things stay the same. “Changing the clock for daylight savings never bothered me,” said Kwon, who teaches American Government and U.S. History. Students, who largely weren’t aware of the legislation, shared positive reactions to the bill. “It would be really good if the government passed the bill,” Rivera said. “Switching times twice a year is always confusing because I forget to change some clocks.”

## Red Ribbon Week

The Associated Student Body and Friday Night Live schedule the following spirit days and lunch activities for Red Ribbon Week from Oct. 24-28.

**Monday:** Put Drugs to Sleep  
(Wear your pajamas to class)

**Tuesday:** Drugs Are So Out of Style  
(2000s throwback clothes)

**Wednesday:** Shade Out Drugs  
(Wear sunglasses)

**Thursday:** Lei Off Drugs  
(Wear tropical clothing)

**Friday:** Wear Red  
(Wear red)

Source: Jaden Michel  
Compiled by Susie Kim

DAHEE KIM | theaccolade

The Accolade online polled students about the following:

Should the government pass a law to end moving the time forward one hour in spring and back one hour in the fall?

I like it; the sun setting later gives me more energy and keeps me awake longer



I don't like it; the sun rising later makes me more lethargic during school



It doesn't matter to me; sunlight doesn't affect my daily routine



From 120 responses  
Responses collected from Oct. 3-13

Like Rivera, girls tennis player junior Ishnaa Sachdev believes the change will positively affect her sports practice. “When we have morning practices, it’s going to be darker in the morning, but I guess it’s more helpful for us because we’ll be able to have longer practices in the afternoon,” Sachdev said. Senior Jacqueline Tapia-Zapata believes the law should be implemented for safety reasons. “Daylight saving helps signify the change of seasons, but ultimately, I think it sometimes borders on dangerous considering the increase in car crashes caused by the time changes,” Tapia-Zapata said. Similarly, freshman Calaya Valrie wants the bill passed, so she doesn’t need to adapt to time changes twice a year. “I feel like I shouldn’t have to worry about getting up in the morning and having to adapt to a time change,” Valrie said.





**IN THE ZONE:** After donating two units of blood as a power red donor, junior Aidan Fichtelberg rests by scrolling through his phone during third period.

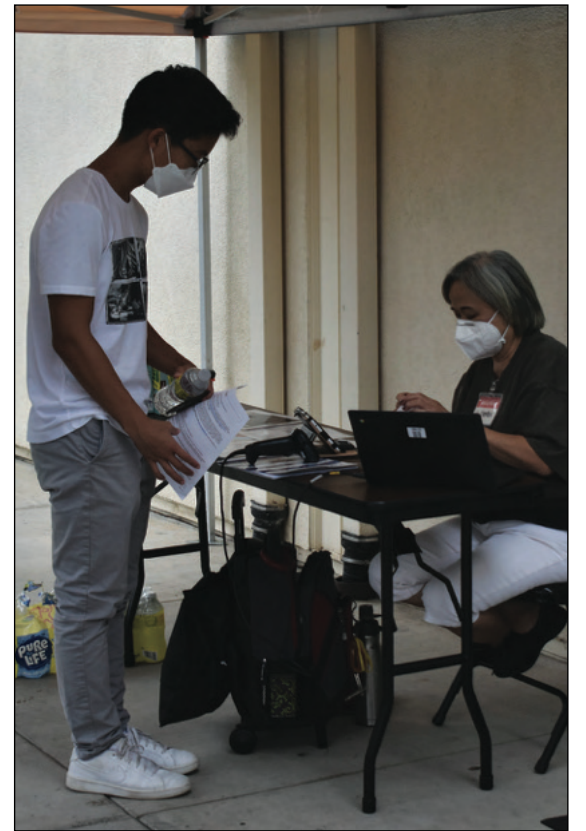
# DONATE 1 PINT OF BLOOD SAVE 3 LIVES

The American Red Cross club hosted its first blood drive of the school year Thursday, collecting a total of 83 units of blood with 68 donors, including one teacher.

ALL PHOTOS BY REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade



**AT EASE:** Seniors Ricardo Gonzales and David Hwang complete a questionnaire prior to registering under the Red Cross system and donating outside the Lyceum.



**REGISTERING NOW:** Junior Caden Oh finalizes the registration process before entering the Lyceum to start health checks.

## Agriculture students revive monthly fundraiser

For the first time in three years, the agriculture department resumes drive-in movie event

CHRIS LEE

Staff Reporter

With the Thanksgiving and winter holiday season approaching, the Sunny Hills agriculture department plans to screen “The Nightmare Before Christmas” Oct. 21 for its next drive-in movie fundraiser at its parking lot.

“It’s a very old way of watching movies and a lot of people don’t really go to drive in anymore,” Future Farmers of America [FFA] treasurer junior Lydia Silva said. “So I feel like bringing that back was a very community-based event because they get to sit together with friends and family.”

The movie will start at 8 p.m. with tickets costing \$10 per car and \$2 for open seating, able to be bought online or in the quad starting Oct. 11.

The agriculture department and FFA board members – consisting of six students and the two advisers – first formulated this idea during their Sept. 6 meeting, said Silva.

Silva said agriculture teacher Brian Kim suggested bringing back

### NOTABLE NUMBERS

*The FFA successfully concluded its September event, surpassing its initial expectations. The following information summarizes the results of the fundraiser.*

- First drive-in movie since COVID-19 pandemic
- Minions: The Rise of Gru
- Over \$250 raised
- At least 20 cars attended

Compiled by Susie Kim

the drive-in fundraiser, originally held before the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We really started considering it when we found that it could help not only our programs but our students,” Silva said.

For its first drive-in event, the FFA board raised over \$250 with its screening of “Minions: The Rise of Gru.” The movie selection was based on Instagram poll results from more than 320 students.

“We were concerned about this choice because it was a newly released movie, and it’s already passed its trends, [such as when] people would dress up to go to the movies,” FFA president senior Mayra Diaz said. “But like any oth-

er movie, I felt like people would be willing to watch it again to relive that experience with our friends.”

Agriculture teacher Shannon Deskin said event organizers hope to increase student turnout, especially since this event has remained inactive for the past few years.

“We’re always hoping to get some more tickets, but I feel like we had a good turnout,” Deskin said.

The board advertised the event to students through physical fliers across the campus, Instagram posts and morning announcements. However, agriculture students made up the majority of the audience.

“We hoped it would be a campus-wide event so more students would be able to go on the farm,” Diaz said.

The department advisers rewarded agriculture students who attended the movie night with extra credit points but still aim to attract students outside of the program to raise more funds.

“I found out about the movie when I was asked to go by my friend,” said junior Dylan Pak, who went with two of his friends to watch “Minions: The Rise of Gru.”

The event also attracted over 20 cars with free popcorn for each as



Image used with permission from FFA  
**CAMPUS CINEMA:** The Future Farmers of America advertise its second drive-in movie night scheduled for Oct. 21.

its only amenity, and while Deskin said they have discussed adding more treats for the upcoming movie night, such as candy and drinks, they were unsure.

“I think the event went pretty well,” Silva said. “It was a fun opportunity, and the tickets cost \$10, less than what other school events usually cost.”



# QUEEN KANG

Homecoming queen Lindsey Kang's involvements run both on and off the SH campus.

HENRY LEE

Web Editor-in-Chief

The red carpet sprawled across the floor of the gymnasium.

The spotlight shined brightly with fluorescent colors.

The ocean of eyes followed along the path as she walked through the arch decorated with bright flowers.

A figure in a black dress makes her way across the room, the echoing cheers follow her as she walks arm in arm accompanied by her friend, the Associated Student Body [ASB] president.

Cut to seven hours later on a grassy field, the same figure glides across the Friday night lights in a glimmering blue gown; this time linked arms with her father.

The pair patiently awaits the words they hope to hear.

"You have all voted for your homecoming queen, and it's time to hear who it is," said senior Katey Tran, who was one of the three in charge of the announcement. "Your homecoming queen is...Lindsey Kang!"

Putting her hand to her face in disbelief, the 2022 homecoming queen passionately embraces her father and accepts the sash and flowers from last year's homecoming queen, Savannah Thul.

"Right before they announced that I won, I was kind of nervous and eager to

hear who won," Kang said. "But at the same time, I believed that no matter the result, everyone on the court is a queen."

Among Kang were five other candidates, seniors Ashley Suh, Sierra Chavez, Emmaline de Leon, Tazia Mohammad and

in the dance department in which two of the years she performed as a Dance Production member, and two years serving in the ASB, now as the vice president — Kang said she originally applied to homecoming court without expecting much.

"It was a unique opportunity for me to represent my school and show everyone that school is not a place of academics, but a place where you can have fun, show school spirit and be involved."

— senior Lindsey Kang

Claire Chen, all of whom passed the initial homecoming court interviewing process on Sept. 26.

"I felt really nervous during the interview process as I answered the questions, but I also tried to be completely honest and be myself because that's the best way it worked," Kang said.

Being involved in mainly two school programs — four years of being involved

"When being escorted down and hearing everyone's cheers and support, I felt super grateful for this opportunity," Kang said. "I was not expecting to win at all, so it was a complete shock when I won."

Kang's assembly escort and friend, ASB president senior Jacky Woo, said she felt happy and emotional when she heard Kang's name announced at the football game during halftime.

"I'm so glad she won queen because she truly deserves it," Woo said. "She works insanely hard and she's one of the most genuine and kindest souls I know."

Supporting Kang's position on court consisted of being involved in other school and outside extracurricular clubs such as Future Business Leaders, Distributive Education Club of America and Recognize, Accept, Dance Club which she has found herself working with throughout her high school career.

Kang said she hopes this inspires other girls to apply for homecoming court even if they are not completely sure they want to.

"It was a unique opportunity for me to represent my school and show everyone that school is not only a place of academics, but a place where you can have fun, show spirit and be involved," Kang said. "I wanted to be a role model for the future upperclassmen."

After checking off a box on her list of things to do in her last year of high school, Kang said she will not apply for prom queen and looks forward to who will win that title.

"I want another person to get the chance to receive the opportunity to experience the emotions I felt when I won homecoming queen," Kang said. "I'm thankful for everyone in my life and all the support that was given to me."



SUMMER SUEKI | theaccolade

IN THE MOMENT: Senior Lindsey Kang (left) poses with her father after being crowned Homecoming Queen during the halftime of the Sept. 30 Freeway League football game between Sunny Hills and Fullerton.



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade  
ASB VICE PRESIDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE: Senior Lindsey Kang emcees the Beginning of the Year Assembly before participating in Sunny Hills' Dance Production "Sweetest Pie" performance on Sept. 19.



Image used with permission from Lindsey Kang  
BUSTING A MOVE: Senior Lindsey Kang dances during the Sunny Hills dance production halftime performance on Sept. 9.



ELISA ARIAS | theaccolade

# ‘Waving’ goodbye to ocean pollution

English teacher leads self-made organization in an effort to protect the environment.

*As a new feature, The Accolade explores Sunny Hills teachers’ hobbies outside of school, known as “Teacher Leisure.” What impacts have they made not only students’ educations but also the outside world? The Accolade sends managing editor Jaimie Chun to investigate.*

**JAIMIE CHUN**

*Managing Editor*

Christina Zubko knew she didn’t have the time to be idle when she saw dunes of plastic bottles, styrofoam and cigarette butts scattered across Ormond Beach, Ormond, California, in 2019.

Just four years ago, Zubko enjoyed strolling at this beach when it was relatively litter-free. Now, she visits her beloved seaside for an entirely different reason.

The English teacher and environmental activist carries a grimy white paint bucket and trash clincher. Around her are similarly prepped volunteers, either crouched to the ground digging out cardboard or in a kayak collecting debris off the shorelines.

“I love the ocean. I surf, and I sail — it’s my therapy,” Zubko said.

While Zubko still finds the time to surf at some of her favorite beaches, she has strived to revive Ormond Beach and its ecosystem through various endeavors, co-founding her own organization called “Friends of Ormond Beach” in 2019 and volunteering as a journalist reporting on the environment.

“Life is hard, and you have to pick your hard — and fighting for the beach is my pick,” she said. “When I saw that this was going on, and nobody was doing anything about it, it literally infuriated me. This area is so remote, so it’s out of sight, out of mind — so I decided to put it in sight.”

In addition to weekly Saturday beach cleanups that gather up to 200 volunteers and usually last 2-3 hours, Zubko regularly communicates with other environmental organizations, such as the Surfrider Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency and California Fish and Wildlife Services.

Joan Tharp, biologist and one of the founding members alongside Zubko, said she appreciates working with her friend since 2019 when they first met to create an organization dedicated to the environment.

“She is very, very tenacious and dynamic and is great at not taking no for an answer,” Tharp said. “She’s been so inspirational to me, and I’ve learned a lot about what it means to really be passionate about something and try to make a difference.”

Despite hurdles, Zubko continued to find ways to advocate for the ecosystem, especially through media. As a volunteer writer for Citizen’s Journal’s online site since 2019, Zubko published an array of articles ranging from happenings on Ormond Beach to personal opinion pieces, which she often shares with her students.

“My goal is to get them to understand the power of the pen,” the English teacher said. “It’s really powerful and sometimes there are causes that need citizen journalists to cover that aren’t being covered.”

In addition to writing, she spends her time researching endangered species and meeting scientists to broaden her knowledge. Zubko said her next mission is to draft a proposal with the Ecology Club to

establish a monarch butterfly waystation on Sunny Hills’ campus.

“I’m not a scientist, so my journey has taught me that it’s really important to talk to the people who are scientists and biologists who really understand the science behind habitat building for endangered species and how to protect them in the safest way.”

The environmental activist also appeared on KFI AM 640’s “The John and Ken Show” in 2019 for a 15-minute segment after writing to the hosts about an opportunity to spread awareness about the persisting issues on Ormond Beach.

“It was a cathartic feeling that maybe if I can get on the radio, more people will hear about this,” said Zubko, who got invited to the Los Angeles radio a year later.

Zubko’s combined efforts paid off when Patagonia, a sustainable outdoor apparel company, recognized the start-up organization’s efforts, donating \$2,000 in 2020.

At Sunny Hills, Zubko took on the role of the Surfrider Foundation Club and the Ecology Club adviser, replacing biology

teacher Kelly Kim.

“She is one of the most motivated teachers I know and goes great lengths to ensure the health of the community,” Ecology Club president senior Sharon Kim said. “She spends hours researching and dedicating her time to the school’s ecological health, so it’s no surprise to me that she would also be doing more environmental work outside of school.”

While continuing to expand her cause, the adviser said one of her main goals is inspiring the youth.

“I just really feel that the young generation is ready to take this on,” Zubko said.

## DID YOU KNOW? Mural’s origin mystery to many

*As a continuing feature from last semester, The Accolade investigates some of the mysterious spots on campus. For this issue, we look into the origins of the breezeway mural in between the 10s and 20s wings. The Accolade sends news editor Susie Kim to investigate.*

**SUSIE KIM**

*News Editor*

At the start and end of each school day, many Sunny Hills students entering or leaving the campus usually pass by the breezeway between the main office in the 10s wing and the 20s wing.

In fact, during the past two years after the March 2020 COVID-19 pandemic,

school officials made that the only (and later, the recommended) entrance to campus for mandatory temperature checks as a measure of safety prevention.

Nevertheless, these passersby may never have paid attention to a mural on the wall across from the teachers’ lounge — a work of art that has been around for nearly 30 years. Neither would they have any idea of its origin for nearly 30 years.

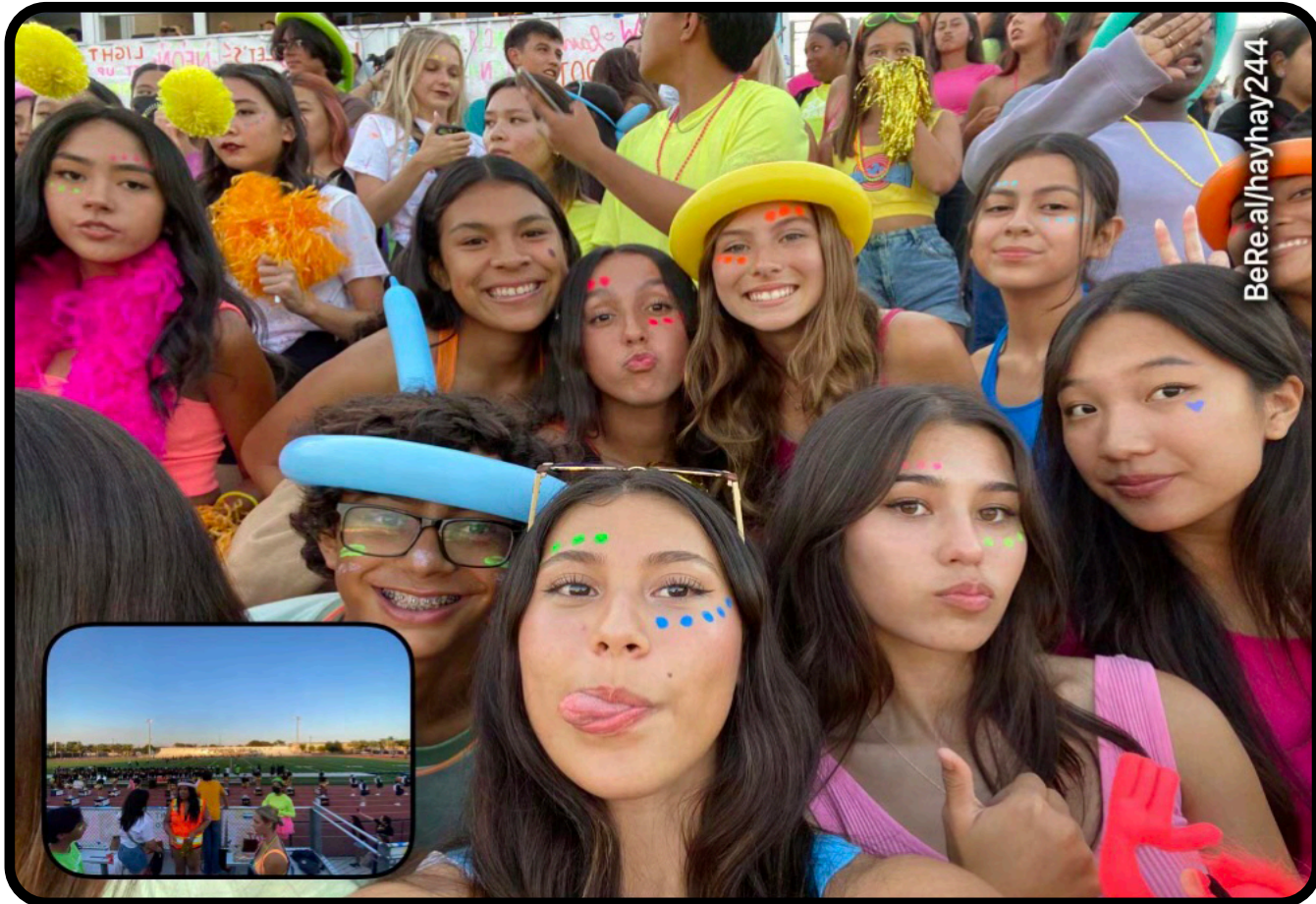
**Mural >> Page 16**



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

**UNKNOWN ORIGINS:** Students walk past the 30-year-old mural located in the breezeway between the main office and 20s wing during lunch Sept. 14. The mural conceals a history of vandalism that not many students know about.





**COUNTING DOWN:** *Sophomore Hailey Perez poses for her BeReal with her friends at the first football game of the year on Aug. 25 at Buena Park High School Stadium before the two-minute timer runs out.*

**BeReal.**

TIME SENSITIVE

**! Time to BeReal !**

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM GAINS TRACTION AROUND CAMPUS, BREAKING TRADITIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA CUSTOMS WITH ITS INFAMOUS TWO-MINUTE TIMER AND LACK OF MODIFYING FILTERS.

2m ago

JACOB KIM | theaccolade

## KAYLA MARTINEZ

Staff Reporter

Two minutes per day.

That's all the user has to whip out their phone and capture whatever they're currently doing — no matter how bizarre or embarrassing it may be.

However, that's one of the charms that BeReal brings to the social media era.

BeReal, developed in 2020 by Alexis Berreyat, has recently gained traction for its uniqueness as one of the few social media platforms without the function to edit pictures or add filters. The app has hit 53 million downloads, rising past the 7.67 million it had this past July.

"I think it has blown up because you don't really see your friends the same way on Instagram like you do on BeReal — it gives you a little bit of insight on their lives," said sophomore Kastuv Aryal, who downloaded the app two months ago after hearing about it through TikTok.

BeReal users receive a daily notification, the times differing from day to day. They then have the choice of sharing their photo with their followers or uploading it to their BeReal feed.

With a dual camera feature, the platform allows people to capture what's behind and in front of them simultaneously.

While Instagram, Snapchat and other social media platforms allow people to curate their photos, some students favor the realism BeReal brings to their social media routines.

"There's no toxicity, and you're not expected to look your best for every photo — it doesn't have to be perfect," sophomore Karina Saab said.

Freshman Sophia Takiki, similar to Aryal, downloaded the app over the summer after finding out about it from TikTok and said BeReal is also an empowering platform that encourages self-esteem.

Statistically, according to consumer-reports.com, 59% of Americans that use social media are affected by the heavily modifying filters.

"I do think it is a good platform to boost confidence since no editing can be done," Takiki said. "Overall, I think it's a good app if you are interested in posting and seeing what you and your peers are doing."

BeReal offers a calendar of memories that the user can look back to, so users can see their past photos.

On the contrary, some students prefer not to use the app, but be featured in the occasional photo or two.

"I don't use the app because it doesn't really interest me, I am not the type of per-

son who likes to take a lot of pictures. [So] I knew I wouldn't have a care," said senior Alexander Maldonado, who occasionally appears in his friends BeReals. "People are probably not going to have time for doing it or keeping up with it on a regular basis."

This trend has also drawn in campus staff like science teacher Mason Morris, who has become known for taking silly-faced BeReals with his students.

"A few weeks ago, my students would walk up to me before class saying: 'Would you take our picture?' and they were all laughing so I realized: 'Wait am I going to be in this picture?' and then I found out the front picture was the top of my bald head," said Morris, who never heard of the app until one of his students asked to take a BeReal with him. "I think students take their BeReals with me because their picture is as much as about me making it goofy on my end."

Sophomore Sofia Arguello claims her bond with Morris, her chemistry teacher, has strengthened through her use of the social media platform.

"A couple of times I have gone up to Mr. Morris and asked him to take my BeReal with my friends, and they always end up coming out so funny," said Arguello, who took her first BeReal with Morris in late August because he is her favorite teacher.

"Taking BeReals with Mr. Morris makes my day."

Most BeReal users post their pictures to their "my friends" feed, but others also upload to the discovery feed, allowing for users from all over the world to see their photos.

"Personally, I use BeReal to update close friends on what I am doing at the moment, so it has a different feel from Instagram and Snapchat," said senior Katie Joo, whose friends recommended her the app during a yearbook retreat.

Some BeReal users said the app's sporadic notifications make it difficult to create timely posts.

"I usually end up doing it later because the notifications are kinda inconvenient, and I have my phone on do not disturb a lot of the time," sophomore Sloane O'Connor said. "To be honest it kinda ruins the point of the app because I forget to do it a lot."

BeReal seems to have the potential to become one of the more major social media platforms as it is already occupying Joo's time, keeping up her one-month streak posting on the app.

"I use BeReal more than other apps like Snapchat, and I tend to use Instagram more frequently when I need to communicate," Joo said. "I try to keep my streak for BeReal, so I use it everyday."



## HEAD TO HEAD

## STUDENT TEACHERS:

*Do they belong in the front or in the back of classrooms?*

IRIS KIM | theaccolade

## Growing from experience: Student teaching cultivates better educators

“Good morning, class.”

That was the greeting I had grown accustomed to three years ago whenever I walked into my freshman World History class. Yet this time, in February, a fresh, new tone welcomed me.



**Giselle Suastegui**  
Feature Editor

At the front of the classroom stood a different adult from the one whom I was used to seeing – this was the face of the individual I had only seen sitting in the back of the classroom for the first semester: my student teacher, let me refer to him as “Mr. J.”

Radiating confidence, he quickly took control of the noise in the room and began talking as if he’s been in the education field for decades. In contrast to the old-fashioned lectures my original history teacher utilized, Mr. J made his instruction interactive; he connected historical lessons to the present day and successfully made the class participate.

Therefore, our school should encourage the inclusion of the teaching credential program that includes the student teaching component on campus as they mutually benefit both students and teachers while honing their skills.

Because of the age difference, teachers tend to lose track of relevant topics and beliefs important to teenagers, so having student teachers in classrooms actively

engaging with the material promotes the inclusion of different, modern approaches to a curriculum that builds a connection between the students and the subject.

In my case, world history became more than just memorizing dates and names — it became an opportunity for me to learn a new perspective on the importance of the subject in the modern day.

Such changes resulted in my actual teacher incorporating some of Mr. J’s ideas into his teachings once he took over the classroom again, such as showing more videos and posting the notes online to accommodate in-class discussions.

Critics of my argument may claim that student teachers are unable to manage students because of the constant need for the regular teacher; however, this is the only way to train them for their future job.

According to a November 2020 online article posted on The National Council on Teacher Quality’s website, when student teachers work with effective teachers, student learning will not be disrupted.

Therefore, instead of simply labeling them as a distraction, experienced teachers should work to establish a professional, productive relationship with their student teachers that promotes growth through critique and communication.



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)

## Let the teachers shine, don’t let student teachers overshadow you

As the student teacher set up his phone to record himself educating my sophomore Algebra 2 Honors class to submit for college credit, my peers and I awkwardly unpacked our notes, ready to prepare for yet another lecture through the student teacher’s inexperienced teaching.

Though some students may enjoy the idea of having an extra instructor, I believe allowing only the teacher to have the spotlight and full control in the classroom would not only benefit the teacher’s sanity but also the students’ grades.

This was not my first experience with an unprepared instructor leading the classroom. My fourth grade class also featured a young student teacher who hoped to fulfill his college requirements.

Last year, I never expected that my Algebra 2 Honors class would end up being the most stressful part of my schedule until a new, unfamiliar face was introduced to the class in the beginning of the second semester.

Because my student teacher never had teaching experience prior to this class, his eyes would constantly peer over at the answer key as he lectured us. Somehow, even with the help of the answer key, he would fail to coherently teach us anything.

Instead of a fresh new way of presenting the lesson plan, he attempted to follow the traditional lectures but in a completely unorganized way; sticky notes were plastered everywhere, and his

examples were copied completely from the answer key.

School administrators should consider having student teachers teach in a summer school setting instead, as courses are shorter and curriculums are less rigorous than in a normal school year.

On the occasions where my student teacher did have the spotlight, the classroom was uncontrollably loud, with side conversations coming from every table despite the student teacher reviewing the lesson for the day.

I recall whenever we had an upcoming quiz or test the next day when my classmates raised their hands to ask questions, the student teacher would just reply, “Check the answer key.”

I couldn’t understand how our question could be answered merely by checking the answer key when what we needed was a thorough explanation.

Some may claim that incorporating student teachers into classrooms is the only way that they will be prepared for their career in the future, but this may disadvantage students and interfere with their accustomed way of learning.



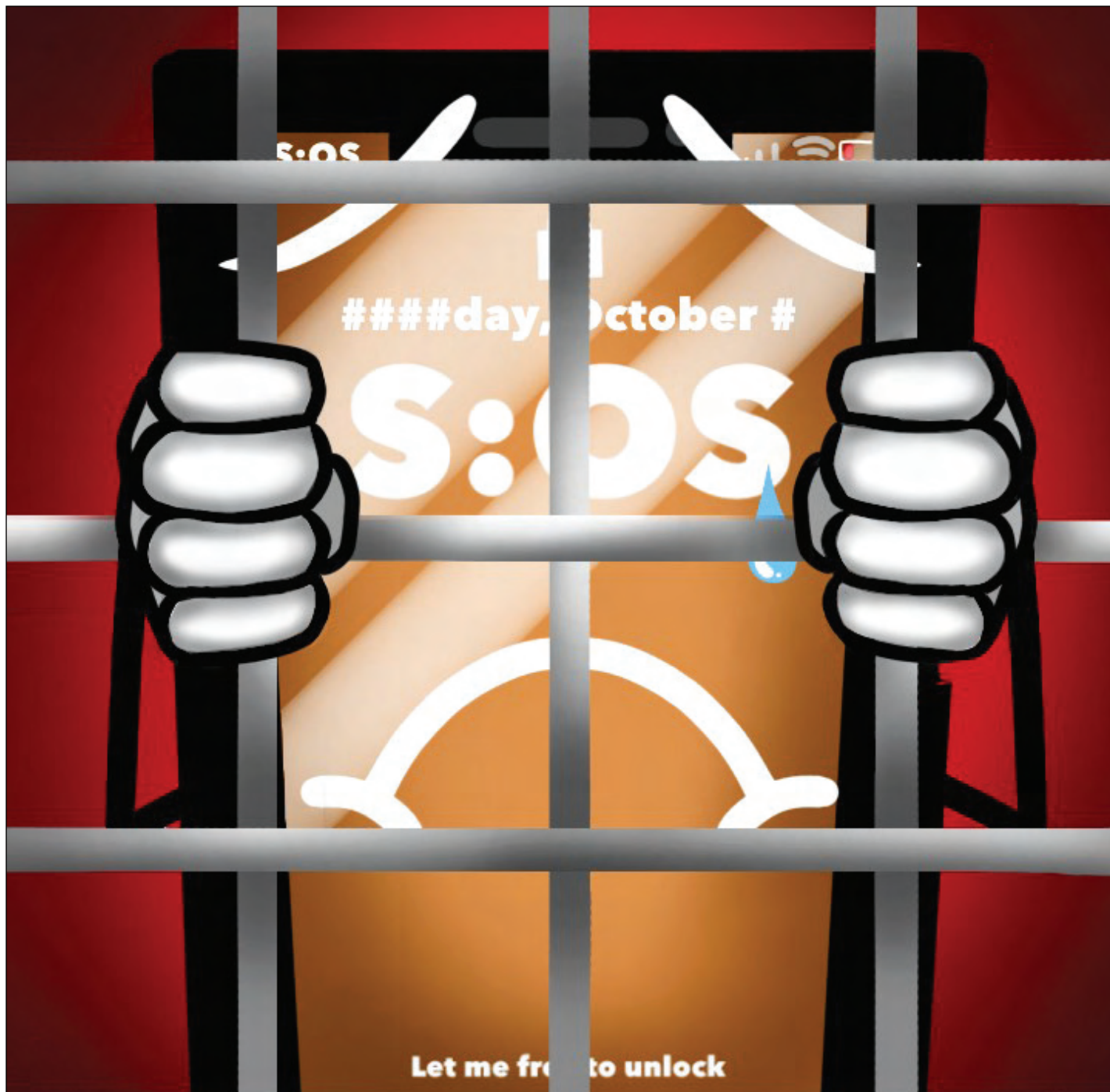
**Stacy Kim**  
Staff Reporter



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)



## STAFF EDITORIAL



IRIS KIM | theaccolade

# FREE THE PHONES: *Devices should remain with students during class time*

*The Accolade Editorial Board count: 8 consider phone pockets to be only acceptable during tests, 5 believe that teachers can use the pockets at their own discretion.*

The chime of a phone lingers in the air, turning heads toward the sound.

Teachers stop midway in their lectures to call out students caught staring at their glowing laps.

A visible problem for students and teachers, the distracting nature of phones have prompted school officials to provide teachers here with cell-phone pocket sleeves in which some students are expected to turn in their phones during the duration of the class period.

Though phone pockets have existed in classrooms since the 2021-2022 school year, they have recently become more prevalent in classrooms.

Among the conflicting opin-

ions between teachers and students about the morality of this phone pocket policy, *The Accolade* Editorial Board agrees that the confiscation of phones is understandable on test days to prevent cheating.

However, some teachers' choice to force phone submissions each class day before the start of the period is unnecessary and rather extreme. If a student is caught being distracted during class because of their electronic device, teachers should then have the right to confiscate the phone. But having possession of every single students' phone without any first offense is irrational.

These large blue banners with numbered phone-sized pouches was one of the responses to Gov. Gavin Newsom's Assembly Bill 272 that authorized school districts to regulate the possession of electronic devices to create a more

concentrated learning environment for students.

At Sunny Hills, the phone pockets were only bought and provided for the teachers who requested them, principal Craig Weinreich said. Whether or not they decided to actually implement them is by the instructor's choice.

While this method is well-meaning, the Editorial Board believes that as in previous years before the appearance of phone pockets, teachers expecting students to keep their phones in their backpacks until the end of class still stands as the simplest and most rational way for students and teachers to manage the problem with distracting devices. Of course, this also means that students should accept any consequence that comes with being caught off task with a phone during class.

The exception to this would

be on test days, when requiring students to turn in their devices during exams is reasonable, especially with cheating becoming more prevalent if not more tempting post-COVID-19 pandemic.

The argument that work ethic notably improves when phone usage is discouraged is also undermined by the fact that students are not truly learning how to avoid the temptation of the phone screen — something students should learn themselves rather than with the interference of teachers.

The *Accolade Editorial Board* is made up of the top editors and section editors on the new 2022-2023 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](mailto:theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com).

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ‘Crucial issues arise when someone like Andrew Tate is given the spotlight.’

*Students react to column, ‘Top G or MisoGyny’, from the Sept. 16 issue.*

After reading this opinion piece, I was pleasantly surprised by the fact that *The Accolade* was writing about such important and prevalent topics among teenagers. Oftentimes, topics that cause uncomfortability are not written about in a school newspaper. However, this article did not shy away from getting to the core of the ideas of a person who should not have a fanbase. Something like this can shed light on what young men are exposed to and why it is not okay for viewpoints like these to be perceived as the “norm.”

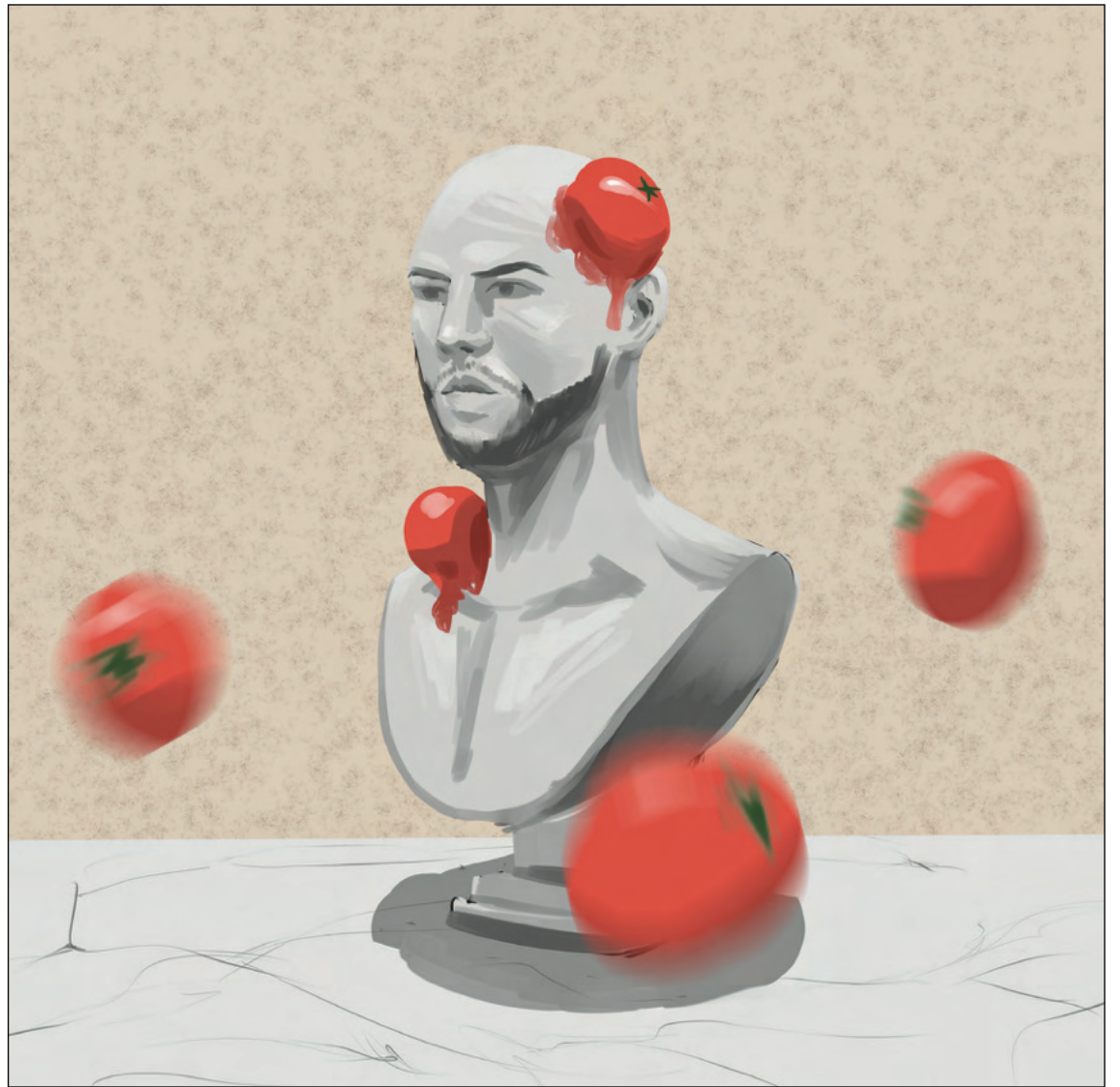
Overall, I was excited to hear another student’s opinion on this very harmful and controversial figure in our teenage world. I felt that [this article] was the most important piece in the entire issue because it pointed out that crucial issues arise when someone like Andrew Tate is given the spotlight.

— DAREEN HAGEKHALIL, junior

The article effectively informed me on the actions of Andrew Tate and how he influenced many teenage boys. I think that it’s very important for people to know things like this because people can easily be manipulated over the internet to do terrible things, which they otherwise would’ve never even thought of.

Especially over the pandemic, many people focused a lot of their lives around social media, which makes them extremely vulnerable to people just like Andrew Tate. It truly is a terrible thing that people are intentionally targeting the younger audience in order to spread their ill-mannered ideologies.

— NATHAN PARK, freshman



DAHEE KIM | theaccolade

Personally, I found the article about Andrew Tate interesting. I had heard his name online, and I knew he had made some questionable misogynistic comments, but I didn’t know the details about who he was or his influence on our generation.

Articles like this are crucial to help people understand more about important events happening around the globe. I look forward to reading more content from *The Accolade*.

— NATASHA NIAZI, freshman

Since the headline of the column was a question, I enjoyed trying to answer that question while reading the story. I’m pretty sure everyone knows who Andrew Tate is, so I really liked reading about a different perspective and what the writer thought about Tate.

— ERIC PARK, freshman

Tate himself expresses that he is bringing masculinity back; however, this very “masculinity” that he is presenting to the world is toxic. The continuance of this toxic masculinity will only cause more conflicts to occur.

I also appreciate that the writer addresses the obvious red flags in this “masculinity,” pointing out specific quotes from Tate that state his claims that women are responsible for their sexual assaults and rape.

Fortunately, Tate has been blocked from multiple social media platforms, however the effects of his appearance still linger in teen males. Hopefully, Tate’s toxic masculinity and distasteful views will eventually die out. If not, something more than just blocking social media accounts will need to be implemented.

— DAVID LEE, freshman

## More Letters to the Editor

Irene Sheen’s Opinion article, “The toxicities of becoming a ‘clean girl,’” brought me relief that I wasn’t the only one who felt that this TikTok trend was harmful.

Beauty standards aren’t changing at all, just being rebranded to something more appealing for our generation who claims to support diversity.

— Elina Lee, sophomore

I greatly enjoyed reading Justin Pak’s News article, “Jamming to the March.”

As someone in band, I can attest that marching band is often an overlooked school activity.

This article is one step closer to

wards people understanding what band is all about.

— Gwyneth Morrell, freshman

Pricilla Escobedo’s Feature article “#SHHS BACKPACK TREND UNPACKED” definitely brought a smile to my face.

I have yet to experience my inevitably bittersweet last year of high school, but it seems only natural to want some fun before facing true adulthood.

I find this uplifting.

— Jenna Kim, sophomore

“Cracked Opinions,” the Spotlight articles written by Grace Min

and Jiwoo Han, was very interesting.

Although I could understand Han’s viewpoint that students could feel safer with more armed adults on campus, I have to agree with Min’s strong claim that “the shooter will attack because of personal issues, regardless of whether weapons are already present at the scene.”

— Jiseong Yoo, 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 Sept. 16 issue:

In a page 4 Feature article titled, “#SHHS BACKPACK TREND UNPACKED,” the last quote should have been attributed to senior Alexa Gonzales.

In a page 7 Arts & Entertainment article titled, “SHOW ME THE MONEY,” the release date of J.R.R. Tolkien’s first of his Lord of the Rings trilogy should have been listed as July 29, 1954.

In a page 8 Spotlight article titled, “New School Resource Officer aims to bring an active presence among students, staff,” it should have been stated that Gene Valencia attended Mt. San Antonio College when he met his professor who influenced “him to get involved in serving his community.” Also, the last quote should have been: “And the safer campus is because of it.”

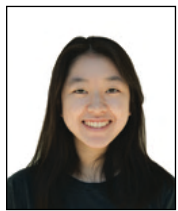




DAHEE KIM | theaccolade

The morning of Oct. 13, 2021, I made my way to the Sunny Hills gym with heavy feet, dreading the two hour and 45 minute PSAT exam stretching ahead of me. Nearly a month prior, I sat in the

classroom of a distant high school campus and spent close to three hours taking the ACT exam.



**Kate Yang**  
Editor-in-Chief

I questioned why my mom

encouraged me to sign up for the PSAT: I held no intent to take the SAT and lost the test-taking skills I accumulated while studying for the ACT — the National Merit Scholarship fell beyond reach.

On Sept. 14, my perspective on the PSAT shifted, nearly a year after my exam, when the *Orange County Register* announced the five semifinalists for Sunny Hills — my name being one of the five.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation [NMSC] recognizes PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test test-taking juniors with a Selection Index score (calculated by doubling the sum of the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Test scores) higher or equal to the NMSC index requirement.

Semifinalists apply for the monetary scholarship by submitting a detailed scholarship application with information including ACT/SAT scores, GPA,

school records, extracurricular activities and an essay. The finalists, when accepted, will earn one of three types of scholarships: National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship, Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship award and College-sponsored Merit scholarship award.

For a few minutes, I stood holding my phone, scrolling through to see the lists of student

semifinalists from neighboring schools within the county: Northwood High School from the Irvine Unified School District leading the pack with 37 honorees, and Troy High School from the Fullerton High School District falling not too far behind with 21 honorees.

Students, parents and staff members may question the causes as to why the Troy

honorees far outnumber the SH honorees; in fact, I spent some time questioning the data myself. I approached principal Craig Weinreich with this question, and he set the truth of the matter to be that, frankly, the number of SH PSAT test-takers has been in a steady decline.

From my personal experience with the PSAT and the National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

selection, I adamantly encourage all juniors or soon-to-be juniors to consider taking the PSAT exam.

The PSAT offers students yet to take the ACT or SAT exams with the opportunity to experience a standardized testing environment. From tracking the remaining minutes to working with test-takers and proctors in the room, the PSAT mirrors what students should expect on ACT/SAT day.

For juniors who have already taken the ACT/SAT prior to the PSAT, taking the PSAT will open a gateway to the scholarship program. I too held hesitations over my PSAT performance; however, I found the problems to be noticeably less difficult than the ACT/SAT's problems.

Sunny Hills produced less semifinalists over the past several years, but the fewer selection does not degrade the school and can be advantageous for seniors applying to college.

The 4-6 semifinalists selected will have an achievement on their college application unique to them and only a few other students.

In a school with a rather large number of semifinalists, the significance of the scholarship may slightly decrease; though, as a student and not an admissions officer, I do not say this statement with certainty.

Nonetheless, I still strongly encourage all underclassmen to consider taking the 2023 PSAT. In fact, maybe they should even start preparing right now.

# We may be short of semifinalists, but it's not a shortcoming

*The 2022 PSAT was Oct. 12. Announced as a National Merit Semifinalist last month, editor-in-chief Kate Yang reflects on her 2021 PSAT experience.*



# Spoiled Sweets

SUSIE KIM

News Editor

Following at least seven fentanyl-related overdoses in the Los Angeles Unified School District [LAUSD] and one death in Fullerton, Sunny Hills administrators hold concerns and implement additional safety precautions over the possibility of such cases arising in Orange County [OC].

"It's a really scary situation, and we want students to be aware of the dangers of fentanyl," principal Craig Weinreich said. "It's something we just hope we never have to deal with, but it's the reality of our world."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times stronger than heroin, treats severe pain by blocking pain signals sent throughout the body.

**"It's something we just hope we never have to deal with, but it's the reality of our world."**

**- principal Craig Weinreich**

Distributions of the drug may come from doctor or medical prescriptions, though they most often flow from illegal production in labs as powders, eye drops, nasal sprays or in pill-like forms, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

On Aug. 30, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] warned adolescents of a popular form of the drug dubbed "rainbow fentanyl" by the media for its colorful and candy-like appearance.

"Rainbow fentanyl — fentanyl pills and powder that come in a variety of bright colors, shapes, and sizes — is a deliberate effort by drug traffickers to drive addiction amongst kids and young adults," said DEA administrator Anne Milgram in an official an-

nouncement on [dea.gov](https://www.dea.gov).

In 2021, fentanyl accounted for the No. 1 cause of death for children under 17 years in OC. Fentanyl-related deaths increased from 57 to 636 in 4 years — a total rise of 1,015% in the region, according to USC Annenberg Media.

"It's concerning, and the reason being is because I feel like we need to spread more education and knowledge about it, especially in the classrooms," said school resource officer [SRO] Gene Valencia, who sees fentanyl overdoses approaching closer to the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHS].

According to ABC7, a 17-year-old girl passed away on Monday from an unconfirmed cause, though her mother suspects her death stems from a fentanyl overdose.

Following her death, the FJUHS superintendent Steve McLaughlin issued an email to students, parents and teachers with the district's plan to monitor and raise awareness of the opioid.

"One area of growing concern to the safety of communities here in Southern California and schools across the county is the deadly drug fentanyl, including an alarming trend of a colorful fentanyl referred to as rainbow fentanyl," McLaughlin wrote in Thursday's email.

"Although a frightening trend, over recent years, the district has implemented several initiatives, programs, and practices to raise awareness and communicate the dangers of drugs and illegal substances to both students and families."

Illicit drug traffickers often lace fentanyl into other drugs such as weed, heroin, cocaine and marijuana, concealing the presence of the fatal opioid. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, common indicators of a fentanyl overdose include constricted pupils, drowsiness, limited breathing, choking or gurgling sounds and discolored skin.



## 'Cracking' Down



Maria Bolshakova

*Dr. Maria Bolshakova who recently earned her PhD in Health Behavior Research from USC, investigates the recent outbreak of fentanyl and its influence across schools.*

Compiled by Hannah Lee

**Q: Why have fentanyl-related deaths surged so drastically recently?**

**A:** Although fentanyl has been around for a long time, it was only in the last decade or so that fentanyl began to be mixed with heroin or sold just as fentanyl on the street. It's cheaper and more potent, which means it makes more money for those working in the illicit opioid drug market.

**Q: How dangerous is fentanyl, especially to high school students?**

**A:** Fentanyl is so potent, so so potent, that even a tiny amount who doesn't know that their drug contains fentanyl may overdose. They're being exposed to a very potent opioid. Opioid overdoses slow your breathing to slow or stop, reduces the amount of oxygen your brain is receiving.



# SH administrators respond to fentanyl overdose cases



"Every drug is becoming laced with fentanyl, and it's so dangerous because it only takes a little bit to kill someone or have them overdose on it — it's spreading around everything," the SRO said. "It's scary because you think about teenagers who are new to drug use and drug experimentation, and they might not know what they're taking."

As a result of the sudden spike, the LAUSD supplied every K-12 school in the region with naloxone, an anti-reversal drug highly effective at treating opioid overdoses that can be administered through nasal spray or injection. SH administrators quickly followed its lead by ordering 50 shipments of Narcan.

Maria Bolshakova, who holds a doctorate in Health Behavior Research from USC, acknowledged that side effects from naloxone are generally rare and anyone with a high concentration of opioids in their system will most likely go into withdrawal after administration of the anti-reversal drug.

"I want to emphasize that [testing for fentanyl and Narcan] are harm reduction practices that substance use researchers advocate for to help minimize the risk of overdoses and other negative effects that can come from drug use," Bolshakova said. "Advocating for these practices doesn't encourage anyone to start using drugs, but rather understands that some people will use drugs, and we encourage minimizing any negative harms of that use."

Senior Jake Merioles said he felt alarmed after hearing news that fentanyl overdoses have been inching closer to Sunny Hills.

"I thought that it would be a small possibility that it would happen in our district, but when I heard about it in Spanish with my friends, my eyes opened wide from shock," Merioles said. "It was weird because it felt like this fentanyl case is very capable of happening throughout more schools in this district."

Merioles said he gained a sense of security upon learning about the school's additional safety measures, including the Oct. 18 Parent Education and

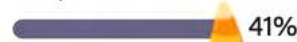
Safety meeting.

"I think it's a good start that we're increasing awareness about it through *The Accolade*," Merioles said. "It's important to do these measures and spread awareness about it, but it's also just as important to normalize [fentanyl education] upon students and make sure students have in the back of their mind that overdoses could happen."

The Accolade online website polled students about the following (Oct. 3-13):

**Do you feel safe trick-or-treating with the rise in fentanyl poisoning?**

Yes, I don't think it will affect me



No, people might put fentanyl in the candy



I don't know what fentanyl poisoning is



From 101 responses

Responses collected from Oct. 3-Oct. 13



Valencia and Weinreich, along with a few other district administrators, further discussed strategies to avoid fentanyl and other drug overdoses from occurring among SH students.

"The main thing is to get the information out there and have our SRO and campus supervisors go around with their regular campus security," Weinreich said. "We're also really trying to educate our students and parents and distribute all kinds of information through district meetings and email."

DAHEE KIM | theaccolade

nyl,  
students?

**Q: What needs to be done to prevent high school fentanyl overdoses?**

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**A:** I would say for high school students specifically, the main actions are education on drug use and harm reduction practices such as testing your drugs, using with others and carrying Narcan. I think it's very progressive and a great move by the high school districts to supply their schools with Narcan.

**Q: How can students be safe in regards to fentanyl?**

**A:** Fentanyl test strips can help determine if a drug is contaminated with fentanyl. If you or anyone you know uses drugs that are known to have a risk of fentanyl contamination, carrying Narcan and knowing how to use it on someone who has overdoses is incredibly important and could potentially save a life.







## From streets to Snapchat, illicit drug dealers utilize social media to reach younger consumers

KATE YANG

Editor-in-Chief

It takes a single pill, a mere 2-milligram dose of fentanyl to poison a user in seconds, leading to death, according to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA].

Sixteen-year-old Cooper Davis from Johnson County, Kansas, took half a prescription of Percocet purchased from a drug dealer on the social media application Snapchat: he died August 2021 from the fentanyl laced into the pills, according to a Sept. 15 online article from the *Kansas Reflector*.

Though that drug transaction occurred 1,400 miles away from Fullerton, the fentanyl crisis pervades within Orange County and its neighboring areas, like the Los Angeles Unified High School District.

"I think social media plays a huge role in young people's lives ... it influences us more than we know," said senior Danielle Tryon, who has been following news reports of fentanyl drug sales via social media as of October.

"Social media [platforms] don't really regulate drug use ... so there need to be laws about this issue."

According to a 2022 study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association [JAMA], the number of teenagers who died from fentanyl-laced drugs from 2019 to 2021 increased from 253 to 884 —

a 249% increase. The study mentioned a significant quantity of those fentanyl-laced drugs had been purchased through social media.

"There's so much information that is so easily and readily available on social media, that it's hard when you're still in a developing state to be able to distinguish what's real information, what's relevant information," said principal Craig Weinreich, a father of two teenagers.

"It's a pretty scary time to be dealing with that so drawing awareness to it is a huge priority."

Before the establishment of social media as a forum for drug exchange, high school students purchased drugs through teenage drug dealers, the dark web or illegitimate online pharmacies, according to a May 16 online article from *The Recovery Village*.

Now, social media platforms with direct message installments, such as TikTok and Snapchat, open a platform for preteens and teenagers to instantaneously exchange shipping and banking information for a drug purchase.

An article published by the DEA encrypted strings, or codes, of emojis often used by drug dealers and customers to communicate the type of drug: cocaine can be identified by the diamond and eight ball emojis, and heroin can be identified by a brown heart or dragon emoji.

Though an illicit drug dealer has never

approached her personally on social media, senior Julia De Leon said she frequently sees Instagram posts advertising vapes or Juuls.

"Since I'm on social media a lot, and I am very involved in it, I see many teens my age or even younger showing off the types of drugs they have," De Leon said.

"It did throw me off ... but it's kind of normal now because of how many times I've seen it."

Tryon recognizes the interplay between social media and drug transactions and believes legislation regulating activity on social media would mitigate some illicit drug activity.

"I believe legislation is very necessary because ... when younger individuals are exposed to drug advertisements, they are more likely to buy them," she said. "I hope that drug use rates heavily decrease, because the rate of teenagers using drugs keeps climbing."

Junior Ryan Mesnik has not experienced losing anyone to drug overdose or poisoning; however, he says he knows enough to advocate for students to not abuse or use illicit drugs.

"It would be devastating to hear that fentanyl is spreading in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District," Mesnik said. "The consequences of drug abuse outweigh any possible, perceived benefits and appropriate precautions should be taken."







# Fentanyl-related deaths call for reform in the FJUHSD's drug education program

JAIMIE CHUN

Managing Editor

From drug prevention speakers advocating for student abstinence to spirited quad activities encouraging mental well-being, Sunny Hills once fueled efforts against the adolescent drug-abuse epidemic.

As of recent years, however, efforts to spread drug abuse awareness seem to have diminished to red wristbands with white prints of no interest to students.

Now, schools across the nation are battling a deadly adversary that can't be overcome solely with fabric bracelets.

Responsible for at least seven high school deaths in a month in the neighboring Los Angeles Unified School District and the recent passing of a 17-year-old student in Fullerton, fentanyl — a deadly synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than heroin — poses a fatal problem for all high school students.

While victims of drug abuse increase incessantly, school-based drug education programs remain an untapped method of prevention for putting an end to the overdose crisis.

This is not to say Sunny Hills is on the verge of a fentanyl crisis. On the contrary, Sunny Hills' almost overwhelmingly well-behaved student body makes it hard to see one of us fall victim to this drug. However, this could also pave the way for naivety toward this issue.

In fact, with campus shootings and persisting mental

health issues, we should avoid the notion that something as serious as this could never happen here.

The severity is heightened because drug dealers take advantage of unsuspecting teens, who end up unwillingly ingesting fentanyl through counterfeit drugs that look like the more common painkillers Percocet or OxyContin.

Even the *Los Angeles Times* has stepped in to address drug education to as young as elementary school age. In an Oct. 1 issue, *The Times* published a three-column piece from letters editor Paul Thornton about family therapist Maribeth Henry's advice that drug conversations should emphasize the idea that young adults have control over what happens in their bodies.

Though this advice was intended for parents, schools can easily apply the same approach.

In light of this, state legislators should draft a yet non-existent bill requiring public schools to update their health education curriculum to include information about fentanyl and how to avoid future accidental overdoses of it.

While educators await government action, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District can do something on its end.

The district's response to holding a parent education and safety meeting on Oct. 18 at the SH theater and local police departments alongside its promised emphasis of the "One Pill Can Kill"

campaign is reassuring. However, efforts should not stop here.

For example, district officials can appoint their newly appointed director of safety and risk management, Carl Erickson, to revamp the delivery of drug education by allowing live presentations to take place annually in each classroom over the course of 1-2 weeks.

Utilizing the assembly schedule, students could stay in their classes while small groups consisting of drug experts, police officers or victims' parents rotate between second period classes to lead proactive conversations about fentanyl awareness.

Of course, students should also be required to get their parent's consent to participate in these presentations.

Arguments against drug education also fall short. In this day and age when people can find information about anything on the internet, some may argue that teens can learn just as much about fentanyl online as they would at school without taking away teachers' class time.

However, social media apps are the main platforms where drug dealers

sell fentanyl-laced drugs to unaware teens, becoming but the main source perpetuating a majority of the danger.

Leaving students in the abyss of misleading information, a school system without an extensive drug education fails to protect its students. By swiftly implementing a mandatory drug education course, the district will show that it takes drug abuse seriously and therefore students, families and staff should too.





FROM PAGE 1

## RAINBOW FENTANYL

Taking the form of bright-colored candy, rainbow fentanyl recently garnered media attention among US citizens. Initially used in the medical industry to treat severe pain, this synthetic opioid is now being mass-produced in the guise of sweet treats.

In fact, more than \$172,000 worth of fentanyl tablets were found to be shipped from California, according to a Sunday online article from Fox News.

In response to rising fentanyl-related deaths, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District noted in a safety update report sent on Tuesday that “although a frightening trend, over recent years, the District has implemented several initiatives, programs, and practices to raise awareness and communicate the dangers of drugs and illegal substances to both students and families.”

In light of such media surveillance and coverage over the widespread use of rainbow fentanyl, avid trick-or-treater senior Emily Zacarias said she feels unsafe par-

taking in any such activity this Halloween season.

“[Like] my parents, I think many parents won’t be taking their kids trick-or-treating this year, which sucks because COVID[-19] already put a whole pause on it,” Zacarias said. “I heard about fentanyl through the school and then I started hearing about it on the news and through incidents around us.

“I am worried that some people or parents aren’t aware of [fentanyl], and their kids may sadly interact with it.”

Her mother, Marcia Zacarias, held similar concerns over the risk rainbow fentanyl poses for young children and their families.

“I feel disgusted how this can be possible in our country and [to think] how children are being targeted now is devastating,” Marcia Zacarias said. “I believe that parents shouldn’t let their children go out until there are actions [taken] to stop the rise of fentanyl.

“It’s better to not be at risk than to be at risk.”



Junior Tomi Arakaki, however, believes that the rise in fentanyl production shouldn’t be a concern to those who trick-

## Hey Seniors!

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or-treat on Halloween.

“I am worried about how [the drug] will affect some children who do end up eating these candies, but I believe it will not be a major problem,” Arakaki said. “I plan on enjoying my Halloween and trick-or-treating without any worries.”

Although he advocates for fentanyl awareness, junior David Veyna agrees with Arakaki that the odds of these misfortunes for children are slim.

“I usually spend Halloween trick-or-treating or just hanging out with my friends

wherever,” Veyna said. “I plan on staying safe by being with people and by being careful with taking candy, but I don’t think this will affect trick-or-treating because it’s probably happening on a very small scale.”

Despite sharing similar sentiments with her son, Naomi Veyna continues to encourage safety precautions.

“It definitely is very scary to hear of this as a parent, but I don’t think it will be an issue,” she said. “However, parents should check their kids’ candy after they’ve done trick-or-treating.”

FROM PAGE 6

## DID YOU KNOW?

“I occasionally noticed the mural but never paid close attention to it,” said junior Shaharil Zaman, who was unaware of the origin behind the artwork.

Art teacher Brian Wall, who was in his fifth year teaching at Sunny Hills, recalls that it all started with former art teacher Cathy Lischerelli in 1996.

Wall said she invited him to collaborate with Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate art students to produce the mural.

“She was trying to teach kids the same process that was used to create the paintings in the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo,” said Wall, who recalls the project took about two and a half months to complete. “They walked away understanding what Michelangelo kind of went through to make this little mural in comparison to the giant things he made.”

Painter of the 1996 project Dawn Getakys, who now goes by Dawn Shanks, took responsibility for the idea and painting of the centerpiece, portraying diversity through the students’ facial features and unity from their linked arms.

“Knowing that the mural is still standing makes me happy,” said Shanks. “I just remember painting it after school with people and laughing and talking.”

But little did the artists know they were painting over a history of vandalism. Just seven years before the wall remained blank.

The 1985 Art Department started another mural project, aiming to paint a sign of welcome on campus, SH alumni and social science teacher Hera Kwon.

According to a May 1985 *The Accolade* article, the students wanted to portray a series of school activities, including drawings of cheerleaders, football players and a horse to represent the Agriculture Department.

“Originally, we had more sports and extracurricular activities, but [former principal Gary Mieger] wanted it to be a little

more academic,” head of the project and then-senior Ben Higa told *The Accolade* in a May 1985 article.

Though the story provides a photograph of then-junior Michelle Dean painting the pom pom of a cheerleader, Dean and Higa’s visions for the wall were never fulfilled – not because of a lack of interest, but because of a criminal element.

“What I remember most about the mural is the scandal that went along with it,” said Suzie Beining, the Class of 1988 alumni and Parent Teacher Student Association parliamentarian who was a freshman at the time.

At the time, she theorized that the two colors represented those of Fullerton Union High School, suggesting the friendly rivalry between the two schools during that year.

The students working on the halfway-done mural were forced to halt their project after more than two instances of the same vandalism, Beining said. For the rest of her high school years, the breezeway consisted of a blank, vanilla-colored wall.

“I have a vague recollection of the principal letting us know that the students were painting over the mural and that it was done,” Beining said.

Beining’s then high school friend Hera Kwon said she didn’t retain any knowledge of the original mural but frequently sees the 30-year-old painting while walking around campus.

“I think it’s definitely the mural that was supposed to be on that wall, despite the sad, sad story of the original mural,” said Kwon, after *The Accolade* had informed her of the previously vandalized project.

So next time anyone walks past the breezeway, remember it’ll be the mural’s 30th year there in the next four years, and no signs of vandalism yet – at least none reported by *The Accolade*.

If you have suggestions for our next “Did You Know?” story, please send an email to [theacoladeshhs@gmail.com](mailto:theacoladeshhs@gmail.com), and we will send a reporter to investigate.



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](http://shhsaccolade.com)



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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS' PETRIFYING FILM PICKS

### 1. IT (2017)

With adaptations from Stephen King's novel "IT," the film features cannibalistic scenes evoking pure horror from all audiences.

### 2. Smile (2022)

The film creeps all viewers with the narrative of a doctor's eerie interaction with a patient. The psychological scare of "Smile" will leave you terrified.

### 3. The Conjuring (2013)

Based on a true story, this film focuses on the investigation of a demon infested home. The addictive plot and terrifying visuals will surely haunt and spook you.

JACOB KIM | theaccolade





# NOT 'STEPHEN KING' WORTHY

Director John Lee Hancock's "Mr. Harrigan's Phone" is available on the streaming service Netflix, but falls short of expectations with its not-so-scary horror film.



JACOB KIM|theaccolade

## JIWOO HAN

*Sports Editor*

While the general consensus that books are always better than their movie counterparts has its exceptions, the public opinion stands correct for Netflix's recent horror film "Mr. Harrigan's Phone," an adaptation of one of Stephen King's 2020 collection "If It Bleeds."

Not only does the Oct. 5-released Netflix film fail at bringing to life the tension and thrill that was notable in the novella, director John Lee Hancock ("The Little Things") missed the mark to refine the original plot on the screen.

What could be mistaken as a coming-of-age tale because of the lack of unexpected twists, the 106-minute long movie follows the events that come after young Craig, who is played by debut actor Colon O'Brien, befriends billionaire John Harrigan (Donald Sutherland, "Forsaken").

While teenage Craig (Jaeden Martell, "It") lives through high school as any normal adolescent would, his life suddenly changes once Mr. Harrigan unexpectedly dies.

During his funeral, the boy questionably places his phone inside Harrigan's coffin, and out of grief, the teenager leaves a heartbreaking message to his father-like figure. Mysteriously, though, Craig receives encrypted messages back.

As the storyline progresses, the messaging continues between Craig and Harrigan, mainly concerning the teenage complications that the young adult undergoes.

One would expect the motion picture to start immersing the audience with this sudden turn of events.

However, the Netflix film misses several opportunities to enhance the dramatic flair essential in any movie.

For example, the plot and characters remain painfully linear. The protagonist eventually breaks

down after witnessing the loss of lives and the negative influence of Harrigan, eventually throwing his two possessed phones into the ocean for its anti-climatic ending.

In fact, the main takeaway from the movie comes from the warning on how hazardous and editing digital technology can be — a clear indication that the film fails to leave a positive impression on its viewers.

King's fans alongside horror movie fanatics will unfortunately have to fold their expectations as the film does not entail the desired gothic elements.

Surprisingly, "Mr. Harrigan's Phone" was quick to reach the No. 1 spot in the Netflix community from United States in only a few days. As of Oct. 13, it remains as No. 2.

However, viewers looking for a horror film that includes jump scares and a climactic plot makes it unlikely that this adaption becomes a favorite for this Halloween season.





## WORTH THE WAIT

Theater presents  
adaptation of  
1967 psychological thriller,  
*'Wait Until Dark'*

IRIS KIM | theaccolade

### FAITH JUNG

Social Media Manager

With Halloween looming, students will have a chance to check out the theater department's stage adaptation of a 1960s psychological thriller, "Wait Until Dark," Oct. 27-29 and Nov. 3-5.

"This play is a really fun play, and I thought that I had the right kids for it," theater teacher and fall play director Christian Penuelas said. "I think it really works well that it's the month of October to do this show."

Set in New York City, the first theater performance of the school year — and first major showpiece for an indoor audience since the March 2020 pandemic — is about a blind woman named Susy Hendrix, originally played by Audrey Hepburn in the 1967 film of the same title.

Hendrix defends herself and her husband, Sam, against three con men attempting to steal a doll stuffed with heroin, which neither of the couple are aware of for much of the play.

The couple ends up with that wanted item after Sam had brought it back to America for a stranger whom he had met in Canada.

Junior Chloe Chun plays Susy, a second lead role after performing in last fall's digital production of "Alice."

"At first, I was a little apprehensive

### FALL PLAY

- Show times: 7 p.m., Oct. 27 and Oct. 29; Nov. 3 and Nov. 5
- Location: Performing Arts Center
- Tickets sold at [www.shhstheater.com](http://www.shhstheater.com) for \$12 for general admission and \$10 with an Associated Student Body gold card

of the play because it's not a popular movie that modern audiences have heard of," Chun said. "But I started researching and looking into it, and when I found out that this was Audrey Hepburn's role, I got super excited about it because she's my idol."

Junior Chase Morley — featured as The Dormouse in "Alice" — plays the male lead Mike (last names for the other characters besides the Hendrixes were not provided), a con-man who builds a subtle, potential romance with Susy while manipulating her.

Morley said he anticipates the audience's reaction and hopes it will enjoy the production and sympathize with the characters.

"I kind of want them to be a little anxiety-strung and a little bit tense while watching it," he said. "I'm hoping we're able to scare the audience a little bit and enchant them with all of the scenes and Susy and her charisma."

Likewise, Chun said audiences can look forward to the climatic plot as Susy battles the odds against the antagonists.

"It takes a bit to get the ball rolling during the play because it's trying to slowly build the tension," the junior said. "I especially love the second half of the play when the suspense finally hits the fan, and I think audiences will find the bits where fire is used fun."

With two weeks left before the opening performance, Penuelas said he has high expectations for the final product.

"I think it's going to go real smoothly," he said. "Even though this is a lesser known play, once people start seeing it, I think the word of mouth will really take off, and people are going to want to see this show because it really is very different."

Tickets will only be sold online at [www.shhstheater.com](http://www.shhstheater.com):

- \$12 for general admission
- \$10 with the Associated Student Body gold card until the last performance on Nov. 5.

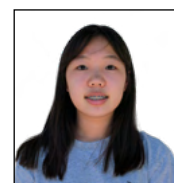
Three show times precede that on Oct. 27 and 29 and Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

## Why can't star of live action 'Mermaid' be non-white?

Fair skin.  
Clear blue eyes.  
And striking red hair.

Those are the descriptions that many have associated with Ariel from Disney's animated movie, "The Little Mermaid."

But not anymore.



Seowon Han  
Copy Editor

Like with what Disney has done with movie adaptations like 2018's "A Wrinkle in Time," producers of the live-action version of "The Little Mermaid" have opted to cast Black actress Halle Bailey (ABC TV's

"Grown-ish") as the creature from under the sea — with braided dark hair.

It remains unfortunate that when Disney released the teaser trailer last month on YouTube, half of the comments were negative about the casting for the film, scheduled for release May 26, 2023.

These netizens need to come to grips with the reality that in the 21st century, every ethnicity deserves to be highlighted in the media.

Of course, the backlash also came from social media. On Twitter, someone created #NotMyAriel, followed by some tweets criticizing the scientific inaccuracy of the role.

These prejudiced critics need to recognize that such change in casting does not affect the quality of a story's plot; I am excited about what the uniqueness of the new look of the mermaid could bring.

Bailey's melodious vocals and expression while singing the iconic "Part of Your World" in the trailer moved me.

This reminds me of what happened when Disney released its live-action version of "Aladdin."

Actress Naomi Scott, biracial of English and Indian descent, played princess Jasmine, and unreasonably, critics were at it again, attacking the production for casting an actor of mixed ethnicity instead of a Middle Eastern or Arab actress, according to glamour.com.

Despite the backlash, I appreciated how Disney focused on Scott's impressive vocals and acting skills, not her ethnicity.

And the film didn't do too bad at the box office, reaping more than \$1 billion in ticket sales, according to media reports.

The fact that these critical netizens are upset over the ethnicity of a fictional sea creature distracting seems like an excuse because not many disapproved of the plot changes in another Disney flick like "Cruella," in which director Craig Gillespie created an entirely different universe from the 1961 animated "101 Dalmatians" that the title character originally appeared in.

With a few more princesses left to feature in a live-action production, let's hope Disney will keep pushing the envelope when it comes to casting choices.



⌚ Game Ball ⌚



Image printed with permission from Kelsey Kim

ONE, TWO, THREE, FORE: Senior Division 1 commit Kelsey Kim swings during a tournament at the Stallion Mountain Golf Club in Las Vegas, Nev. on July 1.

# D1 commit makes her mark on course

*First year transfer senior Kelsey Kim's last season is one for the books*

GRACE MIN

Sports Editor

As soon as senior Kelsey Kim picked up a golf club at 5 years old, the sport quickly became a crucial part of her life and her future.

Following her father who played golf and earned his teaching license at Professional Golfers Career College [PGCC], as well as her sister who played professional golf straight out of high school, Kim plans to continue her family's legacy by playing Division 1 golf at Santa Clara University [SCU] next fall.

"I was really happy [about committing]," said Kim, who transferred from La Habra to Sunny Hills last spring semester. "My mom was more excited that I got a full ride for college because of golf, so I feel proud because now my mom knows that I'm pretty good."

As much as Kim takes her sport seriously, her recent transfer to Sunny Hills relieved her of high-pressure travel tournaments and has allowed her to enjoy golf in a more casual setting.

"I feel like golf is way more competitive outside of school, so I like high school golf more," she said. "Most people [playing golf in high school] are out there to enjoy golf and maybe do it as a hobby, so to me, it's less pressure than playing travel golf."

As a new addition to the girls golf team this year, Kim kicked off her debut season with a bang: contributing winning numbers to the Lady Lancers' 9-1 Freeway League record and taking first place at the Walnut Lady Mustang Invitational on Oct. 3 at the California Country Club.

"I couldn't believe it when I won," said Kim,

who explained that because a number of former American Junior Golf Association [AJGA] tournament champions attended the invitational, she was surprised that she earned first place.

Girls golf head coach Scott Enrico, however, was not surprised by Kim's successful result at the Walnut Invitational, considering her outstanding performances in the Freeway League.

"As soon as [Kim] stepped on the course with us, there was an immediate impact, and we started [defeating] teams by a lot of strokes," said Enrico, who is in his fifth year of coaching the girls golf team. "She's just a great ball striker, and she knows how to manage a course."

Before finding her place at Sunny Hills, Kim moved to California from Texas in March 2021 and attended La Habra for the fall semester of her junior year. While playing golf as a Highlander, she met and befriended her current teammate, junior Yurang Li, at a Freeway League tournament.

"[Kelsey and I] knew that we would have a lot of fun together on the same team, which is one of the reasons she wanted to come to Sunny," Li said. "She's one of the crucial players on our team, so I think she's part of the reason why our team is pretty good this year."

Moving forward, Kim hopes to help her team win another California Interscholastic Federation [CIF] title, or qualify for CIF individuals.

"[Golf] has made me a stronger person to overcome obstacles in life and keep doing what I have to do," she said.



For the full story, go to  
shhsaccolade.com







**JUMPING TO THE GOAL:** Wide receiver then senior (left) Dylan Lawson gets tackled by a Troy defender as he runs along the 30-yard line in the homecoming game against Troy High School in the 2021-2022 season at the Buena Park Stadium. The Lancers beat the Warriors in last year's BOTN game, 22-20.

# Football set to 'des-Troy' again

**AIDEN PARK**

*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

The rivalry between Sunny Hills and Troy always existed, and to “hype” things up, the Associated Student Body [ASB] created an annual tradition last year where the Lancers face off with the Warriors in a football game.

In the first-ever Battle of the Nations game, then known as the Battle of the Shield, the SH football team beat the Warriors, 22-20, in a home game at the Buena Park High School stadium.

As a reward for the team's victory, the SH football team took home a shield, which was manufactured by a company in India, to signify their superiority in the rivalry and be an incentive for future competition.

With the silver coveted crest at stake once again, the Sunny Hills football team will have a rematch against Troy High School.

Despite the ongoing city rivalry between Fullerton, Troy and Sunny Hills because of the Fullerton city championship, head foot-

ball coach David Wilde felt Troy's rivalry especially grow and bring attention recently as both schools became more serious with their academics and sports, creating competition between the two.

“We want to beat Troy, and if this is something that is important to the student body, then we want to make sure that we win the game so we can keep that coveted crown on our side,” Wilde said. “We need to win the football game so we can make the playoffs and I think the battle of the nations gives us more [drive] to win.”

In an effort to create more excitement and motivation for students to show support for their sports teams, ASB adviser David Fenstermaker decided to begin this new rivalry tradition.

“[The tradition] started last year with connection to other rivalry games that we see around the county that have bell games,” Fenstermaker said. “This game is for the shield that is built for us and Troy, as we are city rivals in Fullerton.”

However, this year's game will be an away game and held at Troy High School Oct. 21.

“Since everyone knows Troy is our biggest rival in everything (sports, academics, etc.) and anything you can ever think of, it is important to assert [our] dominance,” said ASB's athletic commissioner Camila Perez, who wants to generate more spirit as it is Troy's homecoming game. “We're the two most competitive schools, so we just want to be better than them.”

Perez is currently promoting this event on social media with the theme of black and gold so that many students become interested and help manifest their student section.

Cornerback and runningback senior Carson Singleton continues to motivate his teammates as captain and prepares daily for the rivalry game, as he knows it brings a lot of attention and will have the largest audience.

“This game is always the biggest and loudest game of the year as all the students come out in support of the team, [so] the energy in the crowd is insane,” said Singleton, who is eager for the rematch. “[What] I hope to accomplish the most is to come out with a win and our team is coming with

a mindset that we just have to defend our city title.”

Similarly, runningback senior Nathan Lee is excited to play against the school's biggest rival, as he was on the sidelines for the first Battle of the Nations game.

“I hope I will perform well in this game because so many people are going to come watch this rivalry game,” Lee said. “I believe that my team feels the same way, and I trust that they will play extra hard.”

Even though this tradition is fairly new, Wilde appreciates the ASB's hard work to promote their game and develop more significance to it.

“I think it's a motivation for both teams to be in the city of Fullerton and that the opponent is Troy,” said Wilde, who aims to continue their undefeated record against Troy since 2018. “Troy is a big rival, especially since they have been a part of the Fullerton city rivalry for so long.”

In this competitive but friendly rematch against Troy that dates back 50 years, Wilde plans to continue practicing strong with his team for another victory and to keep the shield in possession of the Lancer squad.





SHEILA NERI | theaccolade

**BALANCE IT OFF:** Center fielder junior Tyler Simkins (left) and dance production member junior Addison Cannon balance on steppers their joint session on Oct. 7.

# DANCING with the BOYS

Baseball players learn new moves off the field in collaboration with DP

EUREE KIM

Staff Reporter

Baseball co-captain junior Lex Hou tiptoes his way across the dance floor, alongside Dance Production [DP] co-captain senior Jaden Michel.

Though both athletes are unfamiliar with each other's sports, the recent upbringing of the baseball and DP joint workout — led by Sunny Hills dance director Leiana Volen — allows them to work together.

"One of my favorite parts is that I don't typically teach a lot of boys, [and] boys bring a different setting," said Volen, who has taught dance for seven years. "A lot of teamwork happens between the DP and baseball team because a lot of athleticism goes under dance."

The workouts typically last 30-40 minutes, focusing on strengthening stability, balance and teamwork for the baseball players.

The first circuit training used various equipment while in stations. The baseball team worked on coordination and balance while traveling across the [dance] floor.

Baseball head coach, Ryan Bateman, who was hired this school year, approached Volen and presented the idea of the two teams working together on what comes naturally to dancers: rhythm and coordination.

"This is a fun way to expand

our imagination and create some friendships with other teams on campus," Bateman said. "We're trying to facilitate this workout in ways that are engaging for both teams."

Different gendered teams don't often participate in joint workouts, so the interactions have helped with teamwork and engagement for both sides.

Although their last joint workout is scheduled for Oct. 21, Bateman hopes to continue collaborating with DP in the future.

"As long as [Volen] is on board, we discussed reciprocating the favor by inviting DP to do some workouts with us," Bateman said. "I'm big on this community and for this school to grow as it takes collaboration and partnership."

Hou suggests the same joint workout for the following years because it allows the players and dancers to practice fundamental footwork while having fun.

"It's a different experience than we do with our own workouts," Hou said. "It's fun to work out with other people [besides] the baseball guys and try something new for a better experience."

Michel enjoys being able to show how difficult dance is when done correctly.

"Our job is to help the baseball team not only strengthen their muscles but also to teach them control of their movements," Michel said.



SHEILA NERI | theaccolade

**ABOVE THE BARRE:** Seniors Jack Bender and Dustin Skaggs follow junior Jackie Coen's movements at the ballet barre.



SHEILA NERI | theaccolade

**JUMP ON THREE:** (left to right) Seniors Jack Bender, Dustin Skaggs and Bohdan Faulkner jump on trampolines during their session.



SHEILA NERI | theaccolade

**WEIGHT UP:** Center fielder junior Tyler Simkins balances on one leg and holds weights as he practices agility and stability during the collab.





SHEILA NERI | theaccolade

**ALL ACE!:** Opposite hitter junior Jasmin Sonboli serves the ball to Sonora Wednesday during home girls varsity volleyball match in the gym. The Lady Lancers defeated the Raiders in straight sets, 25-19, 25-19 and 25-21.

# Girls volleyball takes 2nd, moves on to CIF playoffs

PRICILLA ESCOBEDO

Staff Reporter

With sole possession of second place on the line, the girls volleyball team defeated Sonora in straight sets Wednesday in the Sunny Hills.

The Lady Lancers (8-2 in the Freeway League) also came away with the best record in the last eight years, advancing to the CIF playoffs as well.

“[Winning] feels great, and it’s very momentous,” defensive specialist senior Alejandra Quismorio said. “There was pressure to win since it’s our last game and senior night, but we were able to pull through, and it felt great to win.”

After three seasons of not making it to CIF playoffs, the Lady Lancers will find out on Saturday who their opponents will be in the Division 5 playoffs.

During Wednesday’s senior night, with Quismorio’s strong defense, outside hitter junior Kayla Taylor’s dominant offense and setter senior Stacy Kim’s consistent assists throughout the match, the team held a lead for most of the match over the Raiders.

“Last year we had a bunch of game fives that we ended up not winning, and we found ourselves out of CIF,” head coach Amanda Donaldson said. “[The game against] Troy was a big one that was a heartbreaker. [I can] still just see their hearts break when they think about it.”

**“We have a really strong foundation of kids we still have that we’re keeping for next year.”**  
— girls volleyball head coach Amanda Donaldson

Donaldson also praised her underclassmen athletes.

“They’re here because they beat a bunch of other seniors who didn’t make the program at all, which is heartbreaking for me, but they had to fight and you know, they’re hungry for CIF,” she said. “They are ready to come in, practice and work hard because the goal is not to just get to see [how] far to go, the goal is to go all the way.”

In the first set, Taylor and outside hitter sophomore Dyllyn Williams scored several kills throughout the game.

“It was just applying what we’ve done in practice; we try to run different plays, so we have Kayla, Dyllyn and then the

middles, and then the right side,” Quismorio said. “That way we’re able to have that opportunity to get a kill as you saw.”

Shortly after a second set 15-15 tie with Sonora, Donaldson called a timeout to discuss what could be done to improve the Lady Lancers’ work ethics in the game.

“The timeouts, [were] all about working around Sonora and what they were doing good; they were having some good touches on some of our hits,” she said. “And so we were like, OK, let’s move on, let’s try this or let’s try hitting from the middle hitting a three and seven, so it was just all about that and applying what we’ve been practicing.”

Also in the second set, the team was able to score a majority of its points from its serves.

“We always practiced our offense or always play six on six, which was like a live game,” Kim said. “I feel like these [serving] drills help us practice our offense and to execute [the ball].”

Because the Raiders lost, they will have to settle for third place in the league, and they will also advance in CIF playoffs.

Donaldson said she’s looking forward to what the future holds.

“We have a really strong foundation of what we still have that we’re keeping for next year, so we’re going to be working our butts off at practice,” she said. “We got to work harder. ... We need to push ourselves more.”

## Redeeming my sophomore year as a senior

GRACE MIN

Sports Editor

Grace Min  
Sports Editor

Making the varsity volleyball team as a sophomore was one of my greatest accomplishments. However, the COVID-19 pandemic robbed me of the normal, CIF-regulated season experience

I wanted as a rookie. We finished the shortened season 4-6.

Two years later as the senior co-captain of the team, I worked to redeem that “lost” season, and helped my team place second in the Freeway League with an 8-2 record — qualifying us for the CIF playoffs for the first time in three years.

That 2020-2021 year, COVID-19 not only forced me and my team to play in the spring instead of the fall, but it also prompted district officials from prohibiting us from holding team bondings for fear that such events could spread the coronavirus much faster to others.

Although that season was fun, it was not the most successful, but it proved to be a great learning experience for me. It taught me how to adapt in uncertain situations and to appreciate every opportunity I get to play the sport that I’m much passionate about.

By the end of my sophomore season, I was far from satisfied in terms of what I wanted to achieve — qualifying for CIF playoffs — so I approached junior year with a determination to accomplish what my team and I could not do the previous year.

But after a well-fought season, we fell just short of third place in the Freeway League, which would have qualified us for CIF playoffs, with a 5-5 record.

I was definitely disappointed because I know I did not play my best, but I used this setback as motivation to work harder during the off-season.

That end in mind for me after I graduate from Sunny Hills gave me the confidence to take on this, my senior season — my last opportunity to fulfill my team goal of qualifying for CIF playoffs — with a fearless mindset.

In the beginning of the season, my co-captain, junior Kayla Taylor, and I held a team meeting to establish our most important goals for the upcoming months: place Top 3 in the Freeway League and earn that coveted CIF playoff spot.

Finally, Oct. 6 became a memorable date for me, and I’m sure for my teammates, as that’s when we picked up our sixth win of the season against Buena Park, allowing us to clinch a spot in the CIF playoff bracket.

The gratification I felt when I realized that we finally made it was indescribable. I felt like I had finally gained closure from my incomplete, COVID-19 sophomore season.

And now, I’m ready to face the CIF playoffs and my next goal of making it to the finals and winning a title.



