
WOLVERINE PRESS

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NEWS & FEATURES

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Runners are On the Run

By Mads Santrock

After a short and extremely hot summer, the runners on the cross country team have started to run. The cross country runners had an even shorter summer than everyone else, dedicating their time to the team starting in the middle of August.

The team may have started practicing in August, but the season truly started on September 10th, the day of their first meet. This meet took place at Newport News Park, our very own school hosting the event. All of the team has been working hard for nearly a month for this event, and many would say that their hard work paid off. Many of the team members did not make it to the first meet, but nevertheless, the ones who went did their very best. One of the members even made second place against many schools across the district!

The first meet was on September 10th, but there are now only a few meets remaining. A majority of the team has made it to the other meets, really showing how big the team is, and how good they are under a lot of pressure. Our Woodside Cross Country team has gone against many schools this year, while having our biggest team yet, so how the team members do in the meets have a huge impact on the team overall.

The runners work very hard, not only at meets, but also at practices. Many people do not know of the existence of the Cross Country team, so there aren't many who come out to support. I have written this article in hope of spreading the word of the existence of Cross Country. People can still join anytime they want, and the team will return in August of next year.

For more information, contact the athletics director Coach Macklin or the girl's cross country coach, Mr. Bernard, located in room A105.

Two of the Best High School Football Teams Face Off!

By Devin Copeland

Woodside High School has one of the top three football teams in the Peninsula District. Before facing Phoebus High School on October 21st, their record was 6 wins and 1 loss. The Phoebus game was a game that players and audience members were looking forward to, and knew it was going to be a tough one as Phoebus is the current reigning district and state champs. In order to get more information about this match-up, I asked some players a couple of questions.

I asked what some score predictions were. Player Paul-Stephen Davis said he thought the score would be 21-14 Woodside. But Zmere Paige believed the score would be 35-21 Woodside. Some other players said the game would be close. Nobody seemed to think the game would be a complete shut-out.

At the end of the week, on Friday the 21st, the game began at seven o'clock. The Wolverines started off the game well with a 97-yard kick return from Isaiah Hayes. Then Phoebus started to fight back, scoring two back to back passing touchdowns making the game 14-7. Right before halftime the Phantoms scored a rushing touchdown. After that Phoebus ran it up on the score board and won the game 41-7. With that loss, Woodside stood at 6 wins and 2 losses for the season.

The Wolverines started off strong, but couldn't keep the momentum up. Now Woodside is the 3rd ranked team in the peninsula district. As the season continues, it will be exciting to see how our Wolverines attack the field next.

Hoops! They Did it Again

By Aysiah Matthews

As the weather gets colder, come seek warmth in the high school gymnasium full of Woodside's diligent, ambitious varsity basketball players. The 2022-2023 high school varsity season will begin November 29, and we look forward to seeing student support!

"I believe that we will perform greatly this year. With the talent we have and all the preparing we have been doing, if we execute correctly, I believe we will achieve our goal of winning a state championship." Jermaine Detrick determinedly states after the team did not achieve last year's goal of winning a state championship. I had the opportunity to interview this student to get an insight of the team's preparation for this season to come.

What's your name? What grade are you in?

My name is Jermaine Detrick, 11th grade.

How long have you been a part of the team?

Since my freshman year.

How are you individually preparing yourself for the upcoming season? Is there anything specific you've been working on in an attempt to improve?

I am preparing by being consistent in the gym and weight room and making sure I'm always doing something to perfect my craft. Some things I am attempting to improve are opening up and showing a bit more of my offensive game and becoming more of a leader on the defensive end.

What is so important about both the offensive and defensive side? How exactly are you attempting to open that up?

I feel like defense is extremely important because defense is really how most games are won. When you stop the other team from scoring, it puts you in a better position to win, and it also makes it easier for you to score. The offensive side is important because you have to also put points on the board to win. I am attempting to open my offensive game up by using everything in my ability to create more plays to help the team win games.

Would you say the team is stronger when it comes to the defensive or offensive side?

I feel like we do extremely well on both ends of the court, but we value the defensive side much more. Our ability to defend is at an elite level and causes the opposing team to turn the ball over numerous times. This causes our opponent to become quickly worn out which gives us the advantage.

How would you say your coach is preparing you guys as a team? How is he keeping you guys in the winning mindset?

I would say our coach is preparing us by giving us all the tools we need in order to get what we need to get done this season. He provides us with the plays and helps us work on them at practice. It is just on us to go out and execute. He keeps us in the winning mindset by letting us know what we can accomplish this year. He constantly reminds us about last year when we fell short of our goal of going on a state championship run, so we kinda use that as our fuel and it keeps us eager to win.

What do you believe stopped y'all from winning the state championship last year?

I believe that we would have short periods during games where we would make mental mistakes which opponents took advantage of. We just need to make sure we maintain our focus throughout the whole game.

How do you think the team will perform this season? How far do you think you'll go?

I believe that we will perform great this year. With the talent we have and all the preparing we have been doing, if we execute correctly, I believe we will achieve our goal of winning a state championship.

Are there any challenges being on the team? How do you guys overcome them?

I wouldn't say there are any major challenges being on the team. I enjoy it a lot, but I would say that we have a super challenging off-season/pre-season conditioning and workout schedule. Understanding that all of that work would benefit us during the season causes us to push through it.

Are you guys open to new players? Do you think they'd execute correctly? What advice would you give any student wanting to try out?

I think that we always keep our eyes open to other that would like a spot on the team. Everyone has a chance, but with the deep roster full of talent we have, it isn't going to be easy. My advice to anyone wanting to try out would be to do what they know they are known for doing and make sure they pay their role and go extremely hard while doing that.

If you're looking to try out, keep a look out for conditioning and try out dates either on social media or in announcements. Other than that, come support your fellow Wolverines this basketball season and help them root for the state championship!



Marching Wolverines Steal the Show

By Jillian Coddington

A month before school starts, and a gaggle of kids are gathered in the parking lot. By the time the football team is on the field practicing, the marching band has been at it for hours and keeps going for more.

There are only around 60 students in the band magnet, while the other 30 students are merely taking the course as an elective. Personally, I am one of the students who is taking band as an elective, but can attest to the seemingly endless hours of running drills and too short water breaks on the hottest days.

Despite the hours put into practice, the band seems to remain in the background of the school. Competitions remain unknown to the student body, unlike the various other sports that get announced weekly.

These marching shows are stories that the student's themselves tell. The drills we run are the shapes that are formed, snaking around the field and telling a story simultaneously. While the music is being played at the same time, changing as the players move.

Marching competitions are when several bands meet and perform their shows in front of a panel of judges and the audience. In the end, a local University band may perform one of their many shows for the crowd before the awards are handed out and winners are announced.

On October 8, the marching band took part in their first competition of the season at Gloucester High School. Two hours were spent at the Woodside beforehand in rehearsal, an hour was spent organizing and getting ready, and another 45 minutes spent on a bus to go to the high school. Once there, an hour to watch other bands and buy food, then another hour to warm up. Afterwards, the Woodside band took the field and performed for five judges and a crowd of supporters. This year's guest band at the end was Old Dominion University, playing songs such as Wake Me Up Inside and The Black Parade.

Every school's show is different, ranging from iconic pop culture to stories based in different countries. Last year, Woodside's show- "Postcards From Spain"- was festive and spirited. This year, it's mysterious, with themes similar to classic James Bond (or even The Incredibles at some points) telling the story of Agent 54 and his harrowing adventure to steal a diamond. Titled "The Heist", the band plays the highs and lows of his endeavor.

Meanwhile, other schools may be doing shows that the audience knows and loves. For example, Gloucester High School, whose show this year is "Game Over", with songs from Halo, Legend of Zelda, and Undertale. Some of the other schools have shows based on Maya Angelou's poem And Still I Rise, or themes from Disney movies.

Soon after ODU's performance, the awards were announced and Woodside celebrated with the announcement of third place in our division and fifth place out of the thirteen bands that participated- already an improvement from last year's sixth place.

On the average day, the marching band can be found after school rehearsing in the bus parking lot and the band room in A house. The band also participates in the annual Denbigh Day parade, and several competitions at other high schools this year.

The marching season starts at the beginning of August and goes until the end of October, ending with a competition at Tallwood High School this year, on October 29th. The band magnet continues to perform for the rest of the school year.

Bands busiest season coincides with football season as that's the time with the most performances and exposure to the rest of the student body. When football season ends, dozens more hours are put into the winter concert, assessment in spring, a spring concert, and ending with playing at graduation.

However, because most of the marching band's events take place outside of the school, it's more difficult for the student body to know where the band may be performing. The hallways are filled with the senior art of those that partook in the art magnet, currently the largest magnet with 210 students, and theater has their annual fall play- which is *The Curious Incident of the Dog in Nighttime* this year- and is the second largest magnet at 110 students, and we all see the weekly shows that the communication magnet creates.

But imagine this school without the bands. Football games without the drumline playing, without the band playing the fight song as the football team comes out. Imagine pep rallies during Homecoming Week without the band playing on the sides to make the atmosphere fun and exciting. The band does so much for this school, and yet it remains unacknowledged.

Show your support for Woodside High by coming out and supporting the band (and the football team) by coming to Varsity football games at Todd stadium. Or you can get together with a band of friends and have a road trip to the competitions the marching band may take part in, and get the chance to see the wide array of performances. If you're unable to do either of these, the Band Boosters are always taking donations of water and snacks for the band after performances. Who knows? You may be sucked into the life of band too.

7 Local Events to Get You Feeling Like Fall

By Kaitlyn Gardner

As autumn approaches, friends and family alike buzz with excitement. What better way to channel this glee than celebrate the upcoming season with your community? Listed below are 7 local events to get you feeling like fall!

1. City Center Fall Festival

City Center is known for hosting festive events, and this season is no exception! On October 29th from 12-6, all are welcome to gather and enjoy free crafts, delicious food, and pop-up entertainment.

2. Historic Hilton Village Fall Festival

This annual celebration is returning on October 29th from 11-5! Kids are invited to test drive their costumes as their family and friends browse through the art vendors and fresh market goods.

3. Newport News Fall Festival

Newport News Park encourages the community to join in its 47th annual fall festival during the first weekend of October! The park offers a variety of activities, consisting of hot air balloon rides, a petting zoo, a pumpkin patch, and more!

4. The Mariners' Park Fall Festival

This event will keep the spooky spirit lasting even after Halloween. On November 5th, guests can enjoy cider tasting and pumpkin decorating!

5. Fall Fest

Inflatables, candy corn counting, a petting zoo, and more await those who attend the Fall Fest at Menchville Baptist Church on October 29th from 1-4!

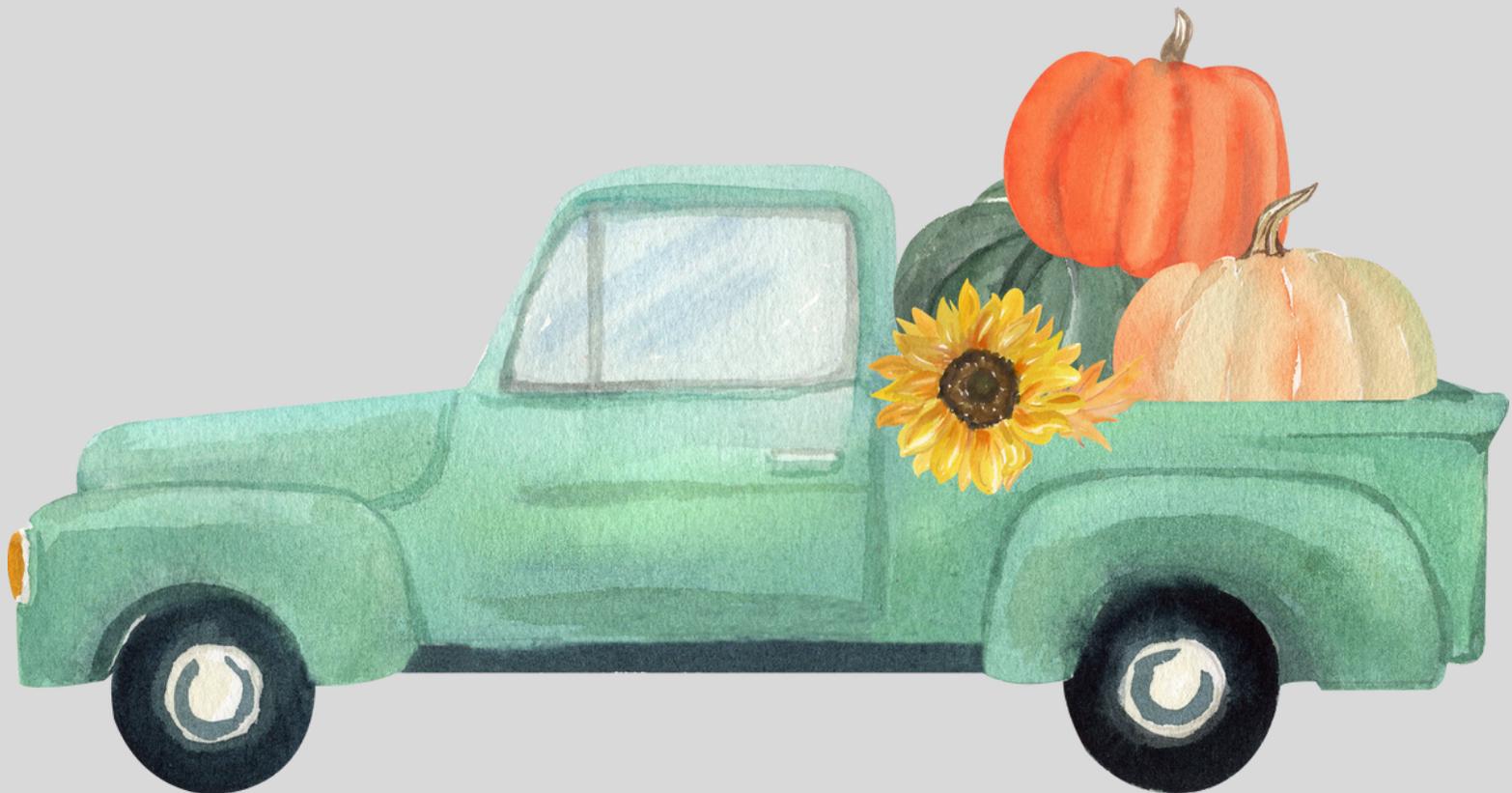
6. Fall Equinox Festival

This festival celebrates the new season in a spiritual way. On September 24th, people can meet at The Coil Wellness Studios on J Clyde for meditation and yoga.

7. Shoptober Fest

From October 7th-9th, locals can enjoy autumn craft making and vendor shopping at Patrick Henry Mall! Join together with the community to celebrate fall in a big way!

Even if you didn't make it to any of these events this year, know that many of these are annual events here in Newport News, so be sure to check them out!



"An Enticing Sequel to Woodside's Book Club: Book Tok!"

By Shanelle Able-Starnes

Woodside students unite to fight back against banned books, and what better way to do so than make a book club! At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, a student-led group rose to take a position in the Woodside club list. Now taking the spot to cover for the former sponsor, David Hunt, Mrs. Persson has taken on sponsorship for the club along with two student members.

The club will meet once a month on Thursdays right after school in the library for the 2022-23 school year. The first meeting was held on September 29, 2022. Students participated in a Snowball activity, having a chance to throw paper around while answering literary questions as a team. The activity built a closer bond between the students who have yet to meet each other to prepare for their partner activity later on.

The meeting led to bringing out information about the club telling of projects they can possibly do to review their books to other Woodside students. They were told what to expect later in the club and given the opportunity to sign up for roles in the club. At the end of the meeting, students are asked to pick their first book and partner up with one other person to create a video project or slideshow on what they read and will present them during the next meeting.

I sat down with Mrs. Persson, a Woodside Librarian, and sponsor of Book Tok, and Terrell Williams, Vice president of Book Tok, and asked them five questions relating to the club and its first meeting.

Mrs. Persson

Q.) What made you want to sponsor Book Tok?

A.) I LOVE to read, and I know a lot of students do as well. I also know that a lot of students lose their love for reading as life gets busier with school, sports, and work. I wanted to connect with students who still love books to help spread that love and reignite it in others.

Q.) What are you looking forward to in future meetings?

A.) I am really looking forward to seeing the creativity of students as they create flyers, presentations, and videos to share what they've been reading. Then we can share these on the library Canvas page and our Instagram account purplepeoplereaders.

Q.) How do you plan to get Book Tok activities more involved with other Woodside students?

A.) I would love to see some of the club members create videos that involve other students, that are outside of the book club.

Q.) How successful would you say the first meeting was?

A.) I think the first meeting was a success. The club president and vice president did a great job organizing it. Students chose books they wanted to read, and there was a lot of laughter.

Q.) If a student was to ask you what Book Tok was, how would you describe it?

A.) The Book Tok Book Club is a club for students to laugh, be creative, make friends, and enjoy new and treasured favorite books. It is a club that will help you practice leadership skills, organizational skills, collaborative skills, and presentation skills, and learn some new tech for projects.

Terrell Williams

Q.) What is your position in the Book Tok book club?

A.) I'm the Vice President

Q.) How do you feel about the first meeting?

A.) I really enjoyed the first meeting. Getting acquainted all of the members was extremely enjoyable. Seeing other people excited about something I took part in creating was an amazing feeling, and seeing others excited about reading made me happy.

Q.) Do you think more members are bound to join after seeing our projects?

A.) Absolutely. I think we're going to have our hands full after people see what we can do, and how fun our club actually is.

Q.) How will you contribute to bringing in more members?

A.) I'm good at making quick friends with people, so recruiting others is simply a matter of talking to other students who I feel may be interested, or even finding other mutual booklovers.

Q.) What plans do you think you'll have for future meetings?

A.) More fun and engaging activities, going through processes like buying books and fundraising, and planning a potential trip, among other things.

Overall, Book Tok closed out with a successful number of 16 students attending and more are yet to come to sign up as the adventure of Book Tok begins to take off. Students who wish to join the club may see Mrs. Persson in the library to sign up for the club. New members are always welcome to find a spot in our Book Tok alliance.

The Shining Stars of Woodside High School

By Mya Pridgen

Who is the Woodside dance magnet? What do they do in dance? I'm sure after reading the title you're wondering all these things. But there are 91 incredible people making up the dance magnet, with two instructors. They learn and perform, representing the school in a beautiful way.

The Woodside dance magnet is not for the weak. Unlike most magnets, they don't sit around in a classroom learning and studying. Instead, they learn through dancing, and if you walk down the hallway you can hear what they're working on. It leaves you wondering what the students are doing inside that studio.

Currently, the dancers are working on ballet, a particular challenging dance form. During an interview with a dance student, I found out they spend 90 minutes practicing! Not only during school hours, but sometimes after school and on Saturdays too. Every time they have their magnet class they're moving toward greatness. During covid, they even danced on zoom, refusing to let the virus get in the way of their skills!

Dance is an incredible part of the magnet program here at Woodside High School, and not enough people recognize it. So, if you have free time, or want to enjoy a good show, you should go out and watch the amazing performances they put on! They put in an extreme amount of effort to show off their skills. Their first performance, "The Nutcracker," will be in November, so keep an eye out for posters, and go support your fellow students!

Do You Want to Be an ARTIST?

By Ayanna Bravo

Do you want to become an artist? Let me give you some tips on how to become an artist. Let's start with the **first** tip you have to be motivated, The **second** tip is to explore and find your niche. The **third** tip is don't give up. These three tips might sound like basic things you already know but these are all really good tips. There are many more tips to becoming an artist but these are the main three I will go over and the main three I think are important.

Jumping into the **first tip**, when I say be motivated I mean just that! Take some time out of your day to sit down and get some practice in. If you don't have the motivation you won't get past this first step into the artist world. Being able to sit down for at least 10 minutes a day referring to art, practicing, and making mistakes you'll eventually get better and better at what you are trying to accomplish.

The **second tip** I can give you is to explore and find your niche; what is it that you wanna put your focus on when it comes to art? Being able to do this can help you recognize your skills and passions and it can also help you define your message. This is important to find as an artist because not only does it act as your guideline, but it can also lead you to success as an artist.

As in my **third tip**, I say DON'T GIVE UP! Life isn't easy, and neither is making art. You'll make mistakes and that is okay, make as many as you can because that just means you're practicing, and the more you're practicing the more you'll get better and better. Things may not always progress in the blink of an eye, but you will make progress if you are willing to get there.

You may have self-doubt but always remember you can do whatever you want when you want just bring out the best in you.

To sum up our tips for becoming an artist, there is no right or wrong way to follow these tips nor are they mandatory. The tips I provided are great suggestions on how to become the artist you'd like to become. Another thing this article is coming from is Woodside high school; the school of Arts there are multiple programs, classes, and references to Art all around. Just take a look around and find what inspires you!



Flash into the Comm-Life!

By Imani Lane

This week I met with the Communications teacher located on B-House in the communications hall. I was determined to learn more about what the Communications Magnet does, and what is communications in general? Let's start with a short summary of the man himself Mr. Crudup, who has been working in telecommunications for about twenty five years.

I was curious, so I asked, what is it like to work in telecommunications? He said, "Well there are so many different jobs an individual can pursue in communications, like contracting, interviewing music artists, you can pretty much do anything in the News Industry and you can even host a TV Show." Personally Mr. Crudup has had the opportunity to interview many upcoming artists, like Virginia Beach local Pharrell Williams.

This was so interesting to me, considering that I never knew about what exactly communications dealt with and that there are so many careers out there that you can pursue as well. I had to ask, locally what exactly does that magnet do, and does the lack of awareness concerning the Communications Magnet bother him(or) his students? He stated, "Well... Me personally, no it doesn't bother me. I like being lowkey but I will say some of my students complain."

Mr. Crudup also said he is allowing the students to have a bit more freedom than the previous years with Wake up Woodside; as a response to my question about how they are trying to reach out to our age demographic and keep us interested. He has begun to allow them to incorporate "popular trends" including other things we see on the internet into Wake up Woodside "As long as they are school appropriate."

I remembered when I walked into the classroom all I saw was MacBooks...Not one chromebook in sight... "Well since they edit clips and other things they pretty much need macbooks to do it...we have really good funding...I think we are the only school in the district that even has this kind of equipment." he said proudly. But did you know that Wake up Woodside is only **10%** of what they do? For students who want to pursue a dedicated career in Communications he advises, "Take advantage of every opportunity available to."

If you are passionate about editing, producing or any other subject in communications, You should consider joining one of the amazing communication classes or the magnet program. As Mr.Crudup said "Take advantage of every opportunity!"



Youngkin vs. Trans Youth

By Bernadette Pimentel

Governor Glenn Youngkin of Virginia reportedly announced a plan on September 16, 2022 to restrict public school teachers' use of students' preferred names and pronouns without the consent of parents; along with this, the policy includes a rule in which students must use the bathroom, and other gendered facilities, that align with their biological sex rather than their gender identity. This event has become an extremely controversial topic amongst the citizens of the state, as many parents are not aware of their children's identity due to safety concerns, but on the other hand, many believe that it is an important rule to implement as most students are still minors.

Though Governor Youngkin's administration argues that this complies with the Virginia Human Rights Act without further explanation, it is highlighted by many that this policy is illegal discrimination on the basis of sex. In response to this general consensus, a spokeswoman of the administration ensured that the guidelines "[require] that schools treat every single student with dignity and respect." Additionally, many school districts in Northern Virginia are questioning the credibility of the administration's claims, accompanying a total of three school districts who have proclaimed their opposition to enforcing these rules.

The federal government enforces the protection of transgender people and does not tolerate the complications surrounding transgender students and bathrooms. Furthermore, Gov. Youngkin's policy does not specify the regulations of non-binary students; the "non-binary" label is a choice on Virginia driver's licenses, along with U.S. passports.

The model policy is expected to fail due to its inconsistencies and parts that stand against national discriminatory laws.

Woodside Wolverines, I encourage you to educate yourself on how this will affect you and those around you: start discussions with your peers and allow yourself to be there for yourself and everyone else; 18 year olds be sure to register to vote, along with 17 year olds who will be 18 during the next general elections. Practice love, not hate, and stand for the Wolverine Way.



Octonauts: More Than a Kids Show

By Tokyo Camm

Do you know what Siphonophore is? Probably not huh? Well, it's a sea creature living in the open ocean's depths. Well, it's not technically a sea creature, it's a line of about 175 species in one connected body. I learned what a siphonophore is from Octonauts, a show currently on Netflix. The show talks about different sea creatures and their characteristics. The show has different land animals (mostly) that explore the ocean and help sea creatures. You might be thinking why should I care about some kid's show? Well because it's funny and interesting, and it could help you learn more things without having to really think about anything.

Octonauts is absolutely a kid's show, but the jokes are still funny to older generations. The show oftentimes features animals messing up the Octonauts ship, and trying to take things from them. Like in one episode, there was a group of marine iguanas who took and ate the seaweed that was on their ship. The Octonauts were going crazy trying to find out why their seaweed was going missing. Turns out, it was because they were having a seaweed party and they were gonna have none to eat for the party if this kept happening. They found out what animal it was by the things they left behind. They did research and found out what it was. Even after they knew what it was they had to capture them which was hard to do and they were fumbling all over their ship. At the end they did a creature report which said facts they learned about the Marine Iguanas.

The thing is, the show gives lots of cool facts about these animals. It's cool to learn about these new animals in the ocean that I've never seen or heard of before. An animal like the Yeti Crab, which sounds like it would live in the deep cold parts of the ocean. But they actually live in hydrothermal vents which are deep in the ocean. Hydrothermal vents provide extremely hot water that makes up the environment where they live. The Octonauts found it while they were running a test on one of their gups (submarines). The Yeti Crab got into their ship and cut their cables then sniped Kwazi's (a member of the Octonauts) tail. The Yeti Crab tells them that the hot water from the vents isn't too hot for him. The Yeti Crab uses the hairs on its arms to catch little bits of food from the vents. The Yeti Crab also smells like rotten eggs which is because of the hydrothermal vents in its habitat, and Yeti Crabs cannot see, as they are blind.

I typically sit on my couch or in my bed when I watch this show. I never realized how much I learned from it, until I started to remember little facts about certain animals from the show. I don't have to think about watching it, I just sit there and watch. It makes everything seem calm because no matter what they help and learn about the animal in the process. The show makes sense and makes me happy to sit there and watch. No episode is the same, each one is a different animal. You can relax and enjoy the show, while learning. The creature report song is so catchy that you remember it and the facts in it. I rarely, if ever, get bored watching it, and I enjoy every aspect of it.

So the next time you're sitting home bored wondering what to watch, watch Octonauts! You just may learn something.



Hey...That's My Seat!

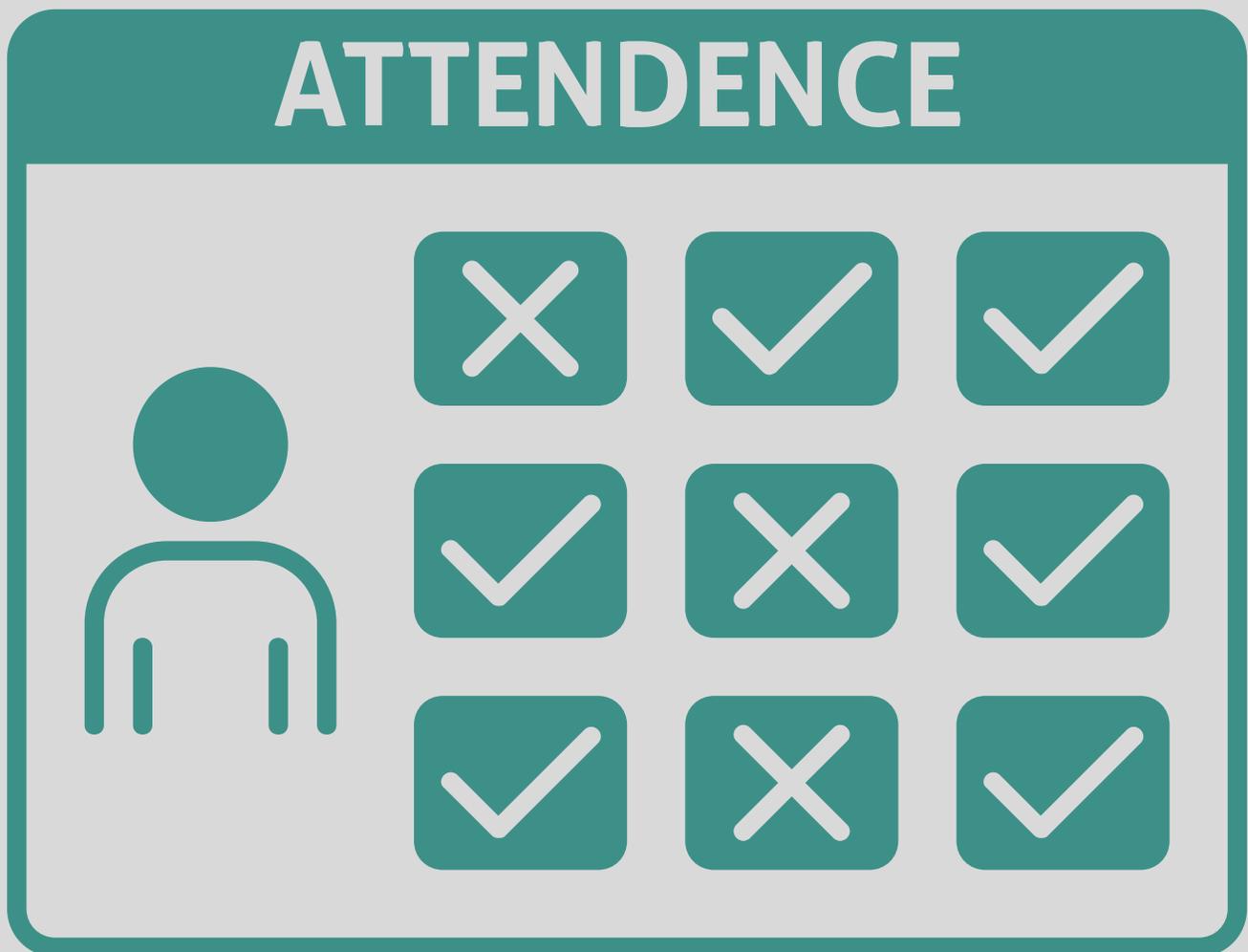
By Annaya Desanges

Students today are more concerned than ever with making sure they keep up with their attendance here at Woodside High School. Today I wanted to share more about the attendance policy for magnet students. Here at Woodside, we take pride in all our magnet of programs. Administrators and staff are always encouraging students to be here at school as much as possible and make sure to keep up with their grades.

The student magnet pamphlet states that; "Attendance is linked directly to school accreditation, and students who are deemed chronically absent have the potential to be deselected from their magnet based on their attendance. Any student in the magnet program missing more than 10 days of school will be placed on probation. It also states that any chronic illnesses or other circumstances must be documented properly through the school in advance". This is so that these can be classified as an excused absence.

I interviewed magnet student Ianna Torres-Velez, here at Woodside High School who shared her concerns about the attendance policy. Ianna shared that this policy has her concerned this year more than ever. She explained that she has medical conditions that make it very uncomfortable and painful for her to be here at school every day. This unfortunately results in her not being able to show up as much and get the help that she needs to have a successful school year. Ianna even explains that it's hard sometimes asking teachers for help because she doesn't want to get so consumed with trying to catch up on one topic that she's behind with another. To add to this, she doesn't want to stress herself or her teachers out.

As you can see it is important for students to attend school as much as humanly possible. It is especially important for magnet students to attend school because it is linked directly to their accreditation. Without these key things like attending school and having accreditation, this could really hurt a student in the long run. This can result in a student not being able to graduate or having to get unenrolled from the school and their magnet program. So Wolverines some good advice I would give to you is to always speak with the attendance clerk in the office, speak with Mrs. Sheehan-Smith, the magnet director, and always keep your teachers and administrators in the loop of what's going on.



Distracting Who?

By Rae'ana Proctor

Have you ever gotten dress coded? Better yet, have you ever gotten dress coded and wondered why it was such a big deal? I know myself, along with other classmates can relate. I often ask myself "Who am I actually distracting?" Because I feel that myself and my classmates can learn perfectly fine with whatever I am wearing.

The dress code has been around for awhile now, but has recently sparked the attention of many students, as well as a few teachers. Every school year the topic of dress code is brought up multiple times throughout the year, hoping that there will be a change. Students understand that there are just certain things that you shouldn't wear in school, but does a crop top or one hole in my jeans on my thigh have to be one of them? Administrators argue that dress code is placed for all students/genders but I feel that it isn't. You don't hear much about males getting "dress coded" other than them being told to pull their pants up or to not wear "gang related" outfits.

I interviewed a fellow student on their opinion on the school's dress code and here's what they had to say, "I feel as if the dress code isn't fair to both genders. I have never been around anybody, male or female that has said that someone's outfit was distracting. I understand why the dress code is put into place, because there are just certain things that you shouldn't wear, but what's so bad about a little stomach showing or ripped jeans?" I completely agree with this student and what they are saying. Because as a female, the dress code has affected me since my 6th grade year.

The real concern with dress code is that students who may already be struggling academically fall farther behind in class when they miss too much time serving suspensions, changing clothes, or waiting while administrators measure their skirt lengths. With that being said, these rules aren't neutral; many target females, especially taller or curvier students. We can't control the way our bodies look, so we often like to express ourselves through what we wear to feel more confident. Being unfairly targeted due to height or body shape feels like it kills that confidence, leaving students upset.

To conclude, the dress code hasn't been the most fair to a certain group of students. The biggest question there is, is "how can we make administrators understand our point of view and possibly change the dress code?" While it may never change, it doesn't hurt to possibly try. The dress code policy is set by the district, and not individual schools, meaning students from all over Newport News are also dealing with the same rules and stipulations.

