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# WOLVERINE PRESS

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Quarterly Digital Newspaper

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## NEWS & FEATURES

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# POSTPONDED!

## Woodside Homecoming Game Rescheduled

By Ana Davis

One of Woodside's most sought-after games has been canceled due to inclement weather. As of Thursday, September 21, 2023, the Woodside staff announced the cancellation of the game on Friday evening. The was canceled on short notice due to the unpleasant weather that was being foretold.

The Newport News area called for a tropical storm the weekend of homecoming activities, many students were disappointed to hear the cancellation of the dance, game, and even the pep rally.

Nevertheless, all the events were rescheduled!

**Pep Rally: 10/06/2023**

**Homecoming Dance: 10/07/2023**

**Homecoming Game: 11/02/2023**

Students have been questioning about the game being placed almost two months from its original date, some going as far as to say to cancel it. Although we can't cancel games as that affects VHSL playoffs and all other school's playing calendars, games are always scheduled at the district level. But maybe, having this postponement is a good thing. Let's take a look at some words from our students and staff.

**Question: Do you think that the postponement of the game would better our chances of winning?**

Kita (Junior): "Well, if they're practicing I guess it would. They would be prepared if they practiced."

Anonymous Student: "Yeah I think so, the athletes who got hurt are coming back and more people will be back so that we would have more of a team."

Coach Hall: "I think it is, it would help with preparation, so it's beneficial to us. But it can also mess up our rhythm..."

So, even though one of the most anticipated games of the Woodside varsity football season was postponed, it was due to the safety of the players and the attendees, and to comply with the district's rules. However it can be seen as a good thing, but only time will tell.



# Will Woodside Struggle this Upcoming Soccer Season?

By Chris Gil

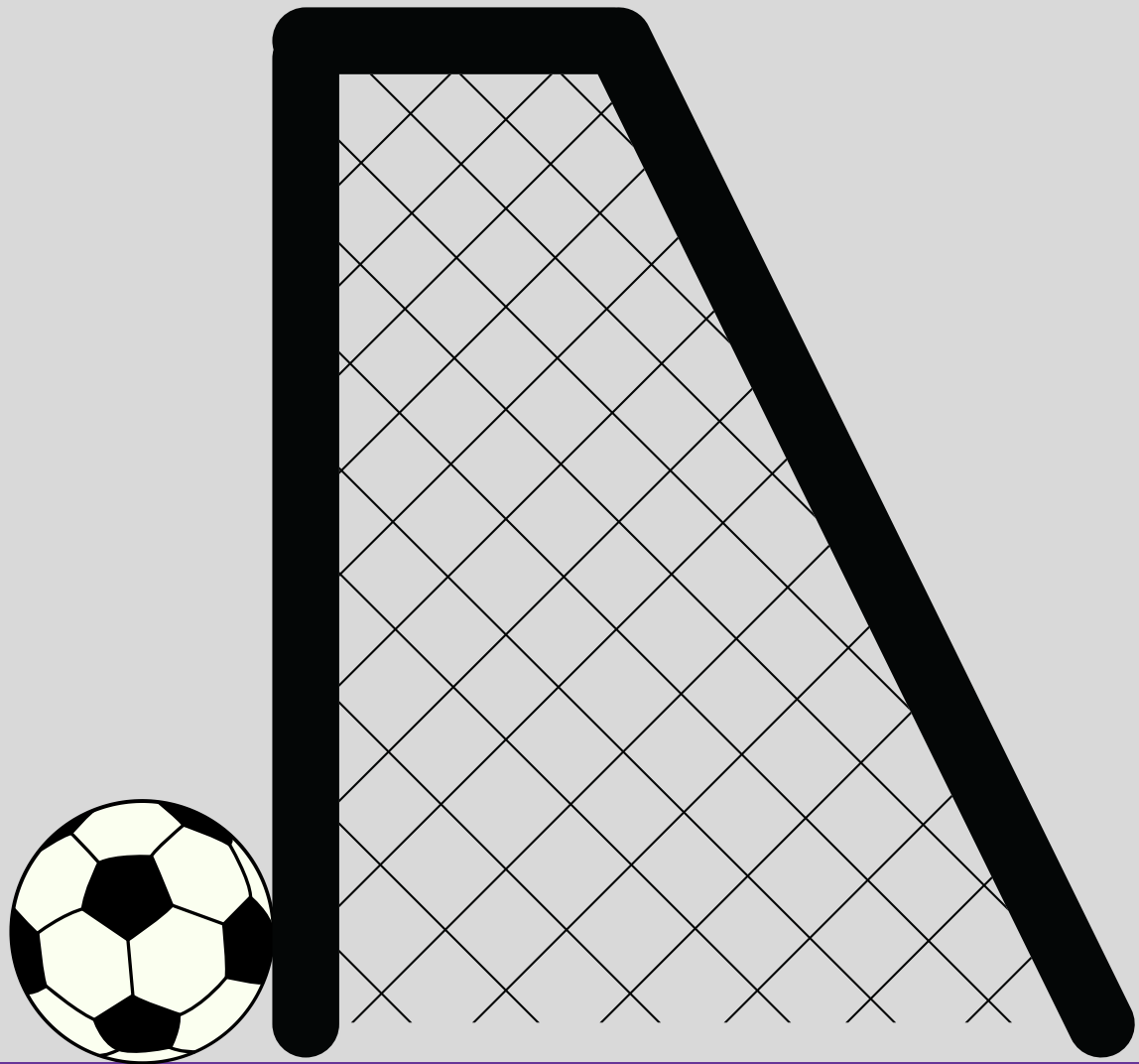
The Woodside soccer season will finally start conditioning in January of 2024. The only problem is that the Woodside Wolverines have to figure out how exactly they will prepare for this season that is right around the corner. The reason they may have to prepare and be ready is because last season the Wolverines lost a total of ten players. Losing so many players can really set a team back, so Woodside will have to train even harder to make up for the deficit.

There are some ways in which Woodside can prepare for this year. It may be difficult, but it will take some teamwork from the current Woodside players who are returning from last year. The Wolverines also may need to look critically at the younger players and see if they have what it takes to be on the team. The current players may also want to look for some other players who have developed skills, and may want to join the team.

The Woodside Wolverines really need to prepare if they want a successful season like 2022 and 2023. Do you think that the Woodside Wolverines have what it takes to come back? The Woodside Wolverines had a record of eight wins, five losses, and three ties last year. The Wolverines could have made it into regionals, but they were one game short. In order to make regionals Woodside had to rely on Churchland High School to win their game. That did not happen, so the Wolverines fell short, and ended the season with no regional competition.

In total, the Wolverines lost a total of eight players, who graduated. The Wolverines also lost two extra players who went to different schools, but one of them is expected to be back before the season starts. Woodside will have to look for other new young talents that can benefit the team for this upcoming season, in order to make it to regionals this year. Will the Wolverines struggle with the search for new players? Or will their training and teamwork pay off, and result in a victorious season?

**For more information on games, scores, and rosters, visit Woodside's athletic website at [woodsidehs.rschoorteams.com](http://woodsidehs.rschoorteams.com)**



# There's a New Alpha

By Ja'meihr Pekins-Blow

Woodside High School's varsity football team is off to a shaky start this without winning a game until the September 28th game. Is there a possible solution to turning the season around?

While the Woodside High School varsity football team may not have had the start to the season they wanted, they are looking for a possible turnaround, and preparing themselves on the field. With Hampton High handing them their first loss of the season, Grassfield the next, and Bethel the last, they are still in high hopes for a better record as they continue. With former Woodside head coach Daniel Dodson stepping down at the end of last season, a new coach has stepped in his place by the name of Brek Hall.

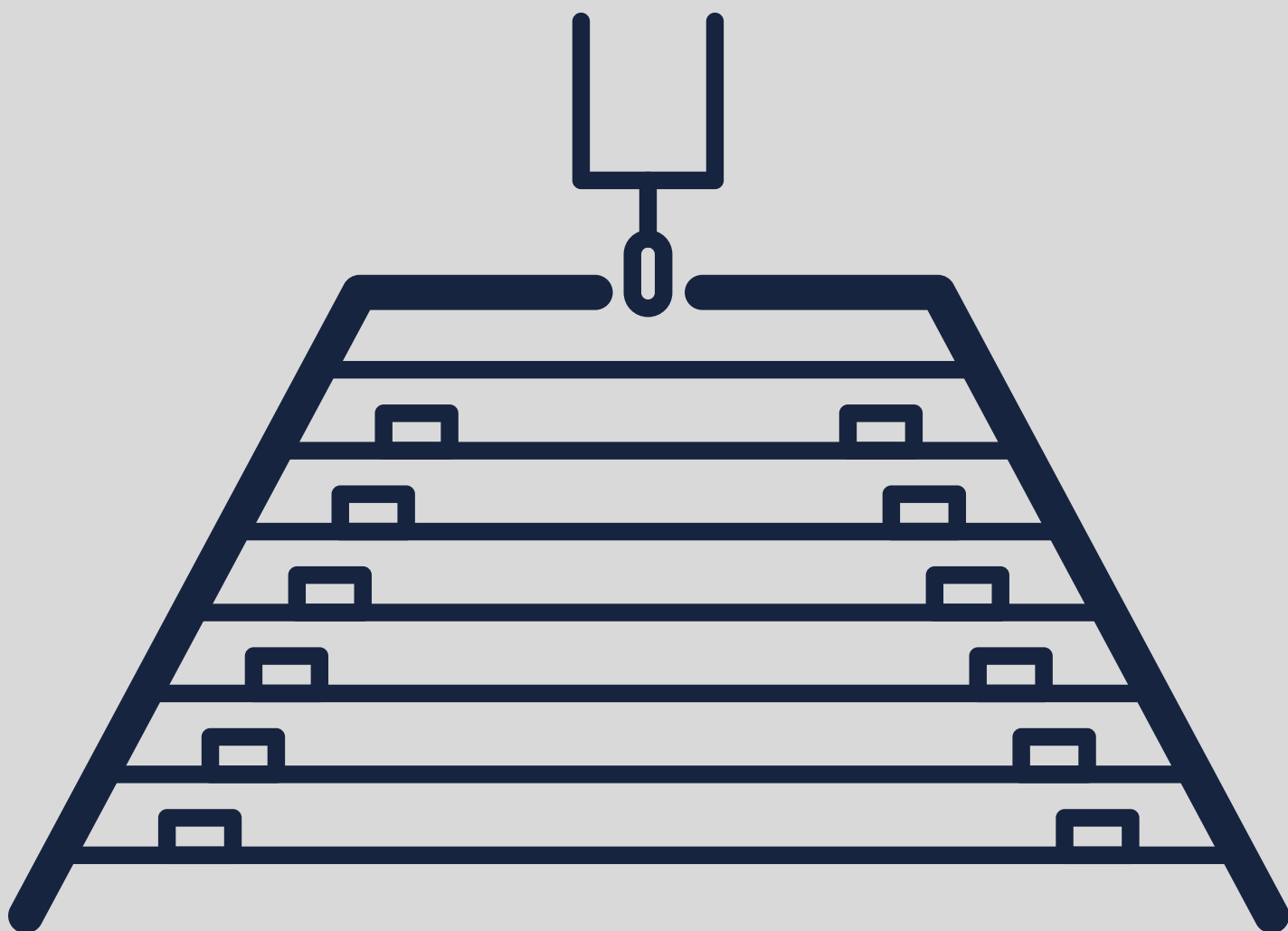
But Hall isn't all that new to the coaching role. Hall was coaching while Dodson was head coach and helped lead the team to a great regular season with a 7-4 record. He also led his team to a playoff run before losing to Menchville 7-14.

Woodside's team is well-known for their Wing-T formation but is looking to expand their playbook a little more with the absence of Dodson and the addition of the young players and their new head coach. The Wolverines have plenty of time to practice and train with the hope of more W's than L's on the horizon.



One football player, who asked to remain anonymous says “No, I do not think we can improve on the season.” when asked if they think they will improve their record. With the season slowly coming to an end, they still are hoping for a season turnaround. They look to defeat the Warwick Raiders, Kecoughtan Warriors, Gloucester Dukes, and the Heritage Hurricanes coming down the line, can the Wolverines step up?

So with that being said, it has been a fresh start for the Woodside High School varsity football team this year, but they’re looking forward to winning their next few games in order to clinch a spot in the playoffs. Be sure to cheer on the team at the next game, and support the players!



# Woodside High Basketball Prepares for a Second State Title

By Silas Barksdale

The Woodside basketball team will be back at it, Nov 31st, 2023 at Woodside High School playing against Hampton High School. There seems to only be one problem, that problem is they need to get ready for that date to win the back-to-back state championship they have been talking and dreaming about. With four returning seniors, Woodside is confident and excited for the 2023-2024 season.

This upcoming season will be a roller coaster, and there are many ways Woodside can prepare for this upcoming season, "Some ways are becoming closer as a team "- say the players. Some players have remarked that they felt summer pushed everyone away and caused their AAU teams to change their play style, which is completely different than Woodside High School's. These teams worked every day in August from 7 am-1 pm, Monday through Friday, occupying many players' time this summer.

Does Woodside Basketball have what it takes to become back-to-back state champions? Woodside will see their results in mid-March, but they are looking dominant and very unbeatable in their current record. They are hoping to meet with the best of the best on the court, and they are preparing for the best, according to the Head Coach Stef Welsh of Woodside.

With a record of 27-5, they believe they have a chance of going undefeated throughout the whole year. With an average of sixty-eight points a game, they seem to run offense pretty well as a group. As they mentioned, they play so well because they do not get tired on defense, which has to do with the cardio and the amount of basketball they play throughout the off-season. Woodside will be a big threat for this upcoming season with a lot of young talent and returning upperclassmen on the roster.

For the 2023-2024 season, Woodside has added four new freshmen who are going to play a lot of minutes, according to the coaching staff. As two months remain of the season, Woodside must prepare for everyone coming their way. The current goal is to beat every team by 20 plus points regardless if that team is considered good or bad.



# Dungeons & Dragons: Exploring Creativity

By Kita Tibbs

In the deep dark realm known as Woodside High School, there exists a room that lies under the radar during school hours run by a humble English teacher. But every once in a while something changes, and the room suddenly becomes a secret meeting ground where students gather to foster their creativity as well as friendships. This isn't a myth or a legend, but a real club available to all students attending Woodside centered around a tabletop game popularized in the 1980s.

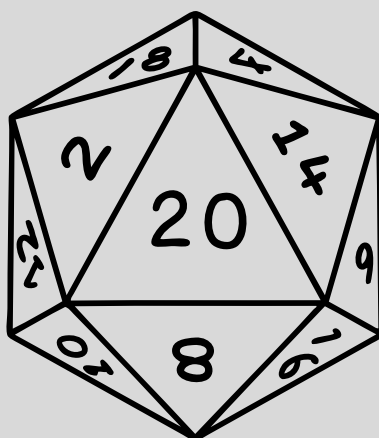
Dungeons & Dragons (D&D), is a game in which the players create and play through adventures in fictional worlds. The group of players do all this under the guidance of the DM, or Dungeon Master, who is responsible for setting up the environment they are exploring. Think of it like a choose-your-own-adventure, with the DM as the narrator of the story, but player actions and choices are what determine the ending.

There aren't any limits to the kind of adventures you could have, as one student, a senior named Jayda Turner-Muhammed comments, "Anything you can think of, you can apply to the game because there are no rules." It is a game full of possibilities for students to practice skills like strategy, critical thinking, memorization, and improv, but most important of all it offers a chance to let loose. Many students have difficulties expressing themselves, but involving yourself in this club and the mystical worlds it provides, can change how you approach real-life situations and relationships.

Both sponsors, Mr. Riccio and Mr. Romine, attest to this. "You're imagining this adventure together with other people." Mr. Riccio says, "It makes better writers and better communicators." Despite it being his first year working at this school and with the club, Mr. Romine agrees that it provides a sense of agency and freedom to the students.

Furthermore, when questioned about the environment of the club, the most common responses mentioned how accepting people are there. "I loved to do roleplays, I loved creating characters like lore and everything, so to be able to do that with a bunch of people who are just as crazy as me was really nice." A sophomore, Aether Doutt answered. "It allows you to get to know new people," Casey Sanchez says, "You're there for a good time." It's always comforting to know that when joining a new club other members are willing to help you learn the ropes. With the interactions that the players have with the characters and the game, it can be serious and challenging, or chaotically fun.

Even if you aren't sure about joining the club just yet, there are many online resources such as podcasts, YouTube videos, websites, and even books that can give you a different point of view on how to start playing. But if you're looking for a place to follow stories, or create your own with fellow students, feel free to drop by B129 for sessions hosted after school on Thursday.



# Jump Cut to Movies Making a Comeback!

By Thuong Trinh

The movie screen transports us through the depths and horrors of classic movie tropes. The sound emits through the theater, justifying thunderous roars and popcorn thrown about.

Cinema, formatted and fitted to today's society, is known for its features of the human experience. However, movies have generally become a sweet escape for students to induce a new reality of their own. At Woodside, many students have recently become familiar with their local theaters, returning to the comforts of a movie screen to side with a new chapter of their life.

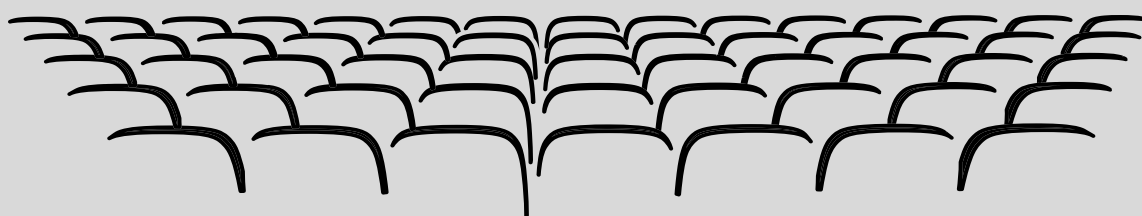
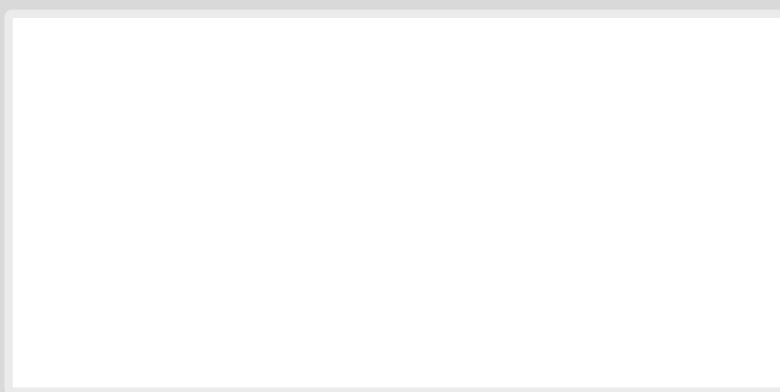
Although movie subscriptions like Netflix and Hulu have gained popularity over the years, it's argued that students find the nostalgia from the theaters to fuel their inner child and sentimentality. This rings true with, just about four out of five students interviewed, stating that "a movie theater felt just like home." With classic popcorn, soda, and close friends, these experiences are enough to form long-lasting memories that last past graduation.

Though COVID-19 had created a major setback for the theaters, they have recently been revitalized with paramount success. From the closing of theaters and dwindling sales of movies, movie theatres are now reaching audiences in manner similar to our pre-COVID world. To prove this, an eleventh-grade student stated, "After being in quarantine for so long, going back to the movie theater feels refreshing." The magic through the soul of cinema has simply thrived in the eyes of society.

Promising a new future for film, Woodside students have found many characters to connect to, new mindsets, and ways to melt their stress into streams of happiness. With booming success from a global sensation such as “Barbenheimer,” everyone across the globe, including students, rushed to relinquish their seemingly secure childhood. Students dressed in pink and black and found themselves strapped to their seats, witnessing their favorite characters or actors.

The harmony of a community is brought together through film. As students find themselves in comfort characters, dream of an acting career, or watch a movie and absorbing each scene, cinema shows the humanity in all of us. The auras surrounding them allow for nostalgia to reach our hearts, and a person of any background can reminisce and connect.

Though students and staff may still conform to the comforts of their own homes, movie theaters have been greatly valued as a safe place to have fun, reverting back to the true purpose of what cinema was meant to achieve. As more movies come out, I’m sure we will see more Woodside staff and students interacting with and attending movies in theatres.



# Dancing While Grooving

By Tayshawn Campbell

Every Friday night in Newport News, there is a spectacular event, where you can sing, dance and have fun to your heart's content. Make sure to bring your family and friends so you can show off your outlandish and unique dance moves at the Peninsula Family Skating Rink!

Every Friday night there will be a unique event at the Peninsula Family Skating Rink called "Friday Night Hip Hop Shake". This event will take place every Friday night between 7:30-10:00p.m. Making it perfect for a night out with friends and family.

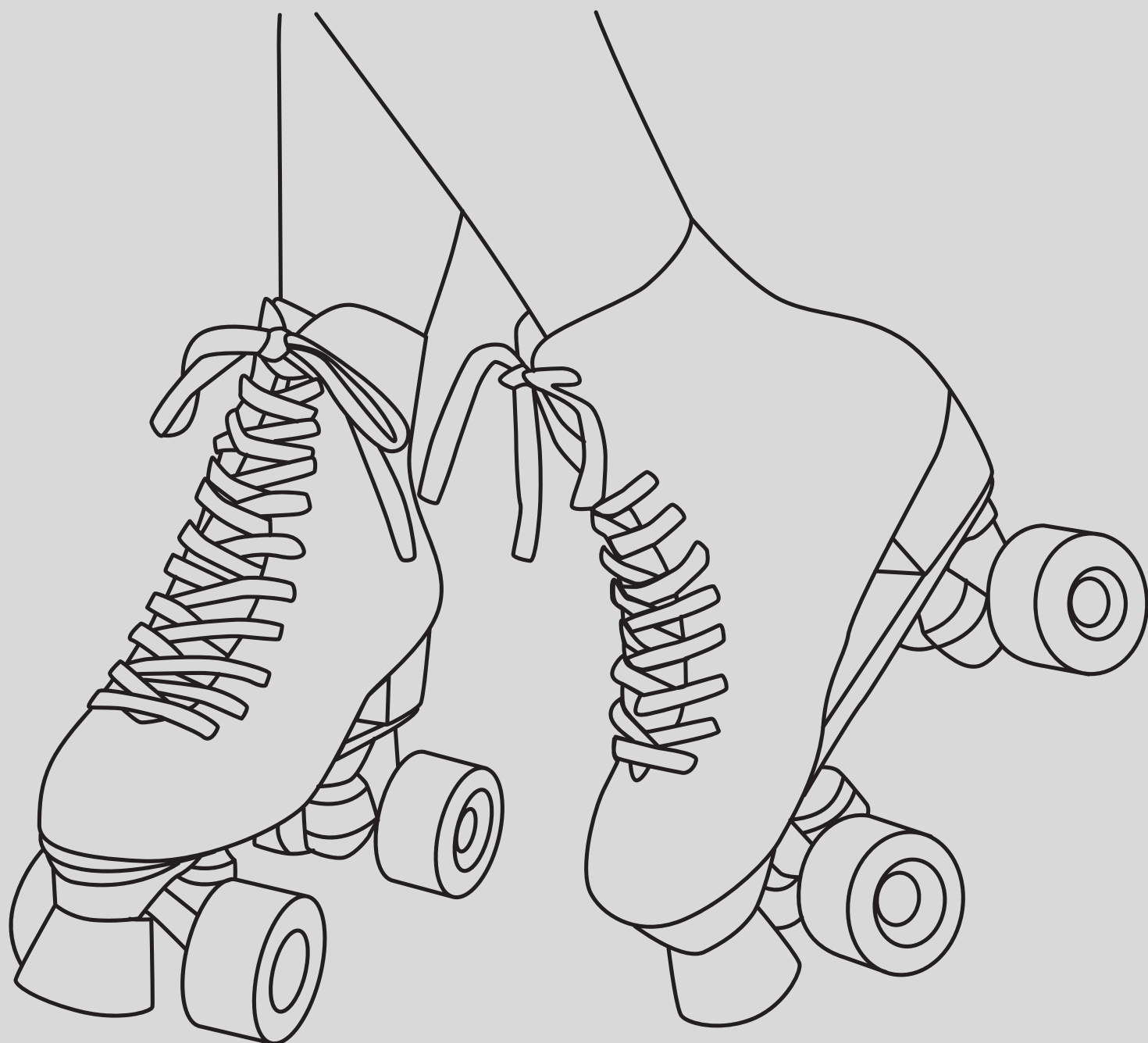
The goal of this event is to skate while busting out moves you didn't even think you could do! Famous American dancer and choreographer Martha Graham said "Dance is the hidden language of the soul". Dancing truly shows how you are feeling at the time at that particular moment, and here, the rink is your stage.

The price for "Friday Night Hip Hop Shake" is \$9.00 for every guest, and there isn't a family discount. The fee you pay to get in does not include the fee for the skates and lockers, so keep that in mind. There are no refunds, and you aren't allowed to give your ticket to someone else.

A kid from the last Friday Night Hip Hop Shake said "This was the best day of my life, I was never comfortable dancing, but when I got here I started doing whatever my heart told me to do. The floor will be very occupied and the music will be at a very high intensity, so if you have sensitive ears this might not be the night for you."



So remember to come out and show love, while also getting your groove on. Remember the goal of this event isn't to be good at skating, but to be able to groove and move. Also, we recommend wearing all black because of its simplicity and stylishness. Coordinate with your friends, and come out and show support for a local business while also having a blast.



# A Stroke of Brilliance!

## Woodside's 2023 Pop-Up Art Show

By Iden Williams

Not a fan of art? Let me change that for you.

Woodside is continuing their annual pop-up art show this year, and we have some brilliant faces to show! Every year, all four classes get the opportunity to submit any art piece they'd like to be showcased in the event. We showcase the pop-up art show in the Woodside Media Center on December 11th and 12th through all class periods. During this time, you have the choice to vote for your favorite piece or to just enjoy the art!

Unless you're a student in the art department, it's never required to submit a piece. Students who are in the art department, however, are required to submit a piece as a major project grade.

I've recently met up with Emerson Jones, a junior in the art department concerning her opinions on the pop-up art show. I started off asking whether she was excited or not. "Yes I believe so, I think my art has improved substantially since last year and the art show is a great way to track and showcase my progress." She answered confidently.

I was curious about what she has chosen to submit since she has unlimited options, and I was intrigued with her response. "I am wanting to submit my sustained investigation for my art portfolio because the amount of effort I have put into it."

It seemed as if this event was mainly focused on her self-improvement instead of the will to win. Which makes me wonder if other participants feel the same way.

I ended things off by asking if she was confident in her ability to win, and her response was shocking. "I don't think so, I have a lot of confidence in my art in general, but I believe other peoples are surpasses mine." This statement stood out to me considering she's a contender for one of the top students in the AP art program.

After getting an artist's point of view, I hope you decide to come out and support your fellow Wolverines for this years pop-up art shows!



# Woodside's Ceramics Class

By Salma Zanaty

Interested in creating art? Looking for a new class to join? Well, Woodside's ceramics class has all that and more. Anyone is eligible to join as an elective, so be sure to check your schedule and put in a request to join the class so you too can learn how to throw clay, shape pottery, and have a great time.

Who, to contact you may ask? Heading up ceramics this year is Woodside art teacher, Ms. Bogan. Anyone who wants to contact Ms. Bogan, can find her in B124. In her class you'll not only be taught how to make pottery, but how to create beautiful, sculptural, and functional pieces with your own hands.

But, "playing with clay" as fun as it sounds, does require one key skill- patience. Two students I talked to in ceramics acknowledged that you can't rush the process, stating "Your piece can crack if dried too quickly," and that "You must learn to work with the challenges of the craft." You can start a project with an idea of what you want it to look like, but "The clay has the final say!"

When you're making art with your hands, you'll feel like you're accomplishing something. You'll also share that same enthusiasm with your classmates as you learn and grow together through the course. By taking this ceramics class, you'll learn a number of methods to create items ranging from culinary and household items to sculptural and decorative objects.

Want to see the ceramics class yourself, or get the feel of it? Come by B124, to speak with Ms. Bogan and check out what students this year have been working on.

# Doja Cat's 'Scarlet' Voted Favorite New Music

By Dylan Fox

How do you feel about Doja Cat's new "era"? Do you feel she went overboard with her new theme? Fans have seen artist Doja debut a new look, both in her music and in real life, with new behavior to match. But, is this helping or harming her image and popularity?

Doja Cat has had a major decline in popularity because of her new "demonic" theme that she has been showcased as becoming the devil and singing suggestive lyrics with visually striking images. Fans have been very open about their opinions on how they feel about the new Doja Cat, with people falling on both sides. But as of this week she has out-voted multiple artists on new music, suggesting that maybe these changes are working.

For the past few years Doja Cat has had a very "normal" fashion phase like every other celebrity, she always had the latest fashion designs and outfits that were colorful and bright. But in the past few months, she has turned to dark and gory themes showcased on her Instagram, music videos, and events that she has attended. In her newest music video, she was shown as the devil and singing lyrics that involve demonic themes.

Despite these image changes, Doja Cat won over 40% in a recent voting poll (9/24) with her new album Scarlet. Other artists in the poll were Shakira, Kylie Minogue, Zach Bryan, etc. making Scarlet that week's favorite voted music. Overall, it seems Doja Cat fans are supporting her new era instead of hating it. Statistics suggest that she will have a good comeback this season, despite some of the backlash she has received.

# Student IDs and Faces Are No Longer Enough for Woodside High School?

By Taylor Bowden

Do YOU have a T-Pass? Looks like you'll need one as all students are now required to have it with them at all times throughout the school day.

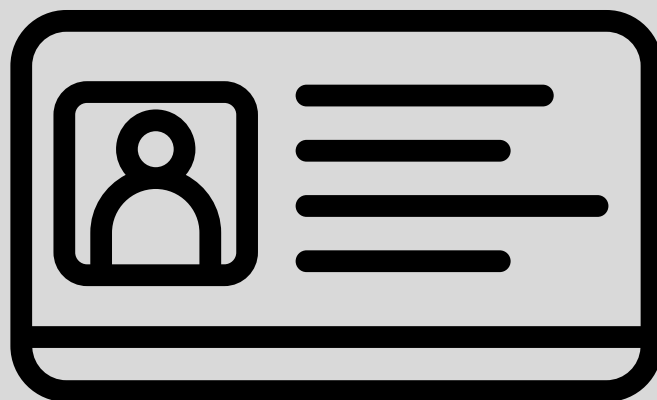
These small cards of plastic have become a huge part of the daily school routine and have become a necessity. During the 22-23 school year, the district began to issue out "T-Passes" which have a student's full name, picture, and a barcode that can be scanned for multiple things during the school day. The student is encouraged to keep it on them at all times including during the school day. This pass allows you to check out when getting school lunch, check out library books, and most importantly, board the bus in the afternoon.

These "T-Passes" are unnecessary for a multitude of reasons, especially for high schoolers! In the afternoons, students have to scan their T-Passes in order to get on the bus, and if you don't have it guess what happens!... You cannot get on the bus! It's crazy to think that you will be denied a ride home from school without this card, which shows the same face that the bus drivers already see in person every day. As 14-18-year-olds, we know where we need to go after school as far as getting home and it gets to a point where bus drivers even know who rides the bus they drive and who doesn't, they also have a list of the names of the students that are supposed to be on that bus. I personally believe that it's ridiculous to add a restriction to something as necessary as student transportation from school.

As I mentioned earlier, T-Passes are also used for library and lunch check-outs because, for some reason, lunch numbers aren't enough anymore. Student ID numbers have been used for both these things for as long as any student can remember, and have worked perfectly fine since then. For checking out in these two places, it's now used as a backup option to put in your lunch number if you've lost your T-Pass, unlike the bus situation. If they're going to allow students to put in their lunch numbers anyway, it makes more sense to just not require the T-passes for checking out of the lunch line or the library.

I've interviewed a fellow classmate of mine, such as junior Griffin Watson, to get some other feedback about T-Passes. I asked her "What do you think are the negative effects of T-Passes" to which she responded, "...It really doesn't help if not everyone has it." I was glad to hear that I wasn't the only one with this mindset towards them and that others recognize that they are not helpful if many don't have theirs daily for various reasons.

I think that a system where both could be used freely would be a much better option, and no longer would students have to stress if someone has lost or forgotten their T-Pass. The idea of T-Passes was cool, but they've become more of an inconvenience to students and faculty than a help.



# Are Metal Detectors Needed?

By Samara Scott

Metal detectors have been a really big topic since I was in middle school. But do we honestly need them in school? In my opinion, no, since we have to wear clear book bags.

Metal detectors do not need to be in a school. It makes getting into the school building more difficult for the students. If the metal detector goes off, they have to get their book bag checked and get themselves checked by a security guard with a security wand. The student's book bags are clear, so I don't see the point in checking the bookbags if they go off. You could simply look through the book bag and see what someone has in it. Checking the book bags when they go off holds up the line to get inside of the school and it also takes up a lot of space and time.

One thing that doesn't take up a lot of time is when parents come through those metal detectors because if it goes off, they don't get checked and I feel that's a big safety concern. If the students get checked, then I feel that the parents should get checked too. Students are not the only ones who can bring weapons and things of that nature into a school. It's really crazy to me that the parents don't get checked when they go through the metal detectors and it goes off. It's not fair to the students that they don't enforce this rule when the parents come into the building. If we are going to enforce safety, then we should do it the right way. I think that the schools could do a better job at getting the students, community, and teachers' opinions on how the school could have better or more helpful safety rules.



I asked several students how they felt about the metal detectors and this is what they had to say. "I feel like the metal detectors are fine, because it makes sure that people don't bring in what they are not supposed to have. The clear book bags are crazy though because when it rains outside my stuff gets wet." said Aniyah.

"It's a little 'stupid' because they can see everything in my bookbag!" Leanaya said. But some students appreciate the detectors, like Jordan, who stated "I think that it keeps the school safer with the metal detectors because it's able to detect things and keeps things that are not needed. The clear book bags help the security guard to identify a threat before something happens." Overall, there were a lot of mixed feelings about the metal detectors and clear book bags this school year.

I asked several teachers how they felt about the metal detectors and the clear book bags and this is what they had to say. "It's a good idea to have clear bookbags and metal detectors. It's a good idea, because knowing that we have metal detectors makes me feel safer at school, and having the clear book bags is a good thing because I can see the things that are in the bookbags to see if they have anything that they are not supposed to have," said Mr. Smith.

"I feel like the metal detectors were a good thing that we needed. I felt safer and all the students I talked to said they felt safer too. I feel the clear book bag discourages the students from bringing things that shouldn't be in school. But, I feel the students don't have any privacy with the clear book bags. With the clear book bags, it's hard to figure out who they belong to now because they all look the same." pointed out Coach Carr.

"I like the metal detectors and the clear book bags. It doesn't seem to slow down the arrival. Having additional security is never a bad thing. If you need a clear bookbag and metal detector to enter a concert, why should we have anything less for a school?" stated Mrs. Heath. So even the teachers all have different opinions on the metal detectors and clear book bags.

Do I feel that we need clear book bags and metal detectors at the same time? No, I don't. I feel as though it is a waste of time and money to have both. There should be a better way to enforce safety in the school for the sake of the students (like myself) and others in the school building.



# A Strict Dress Code Is Nonsense

By Myasia Morris

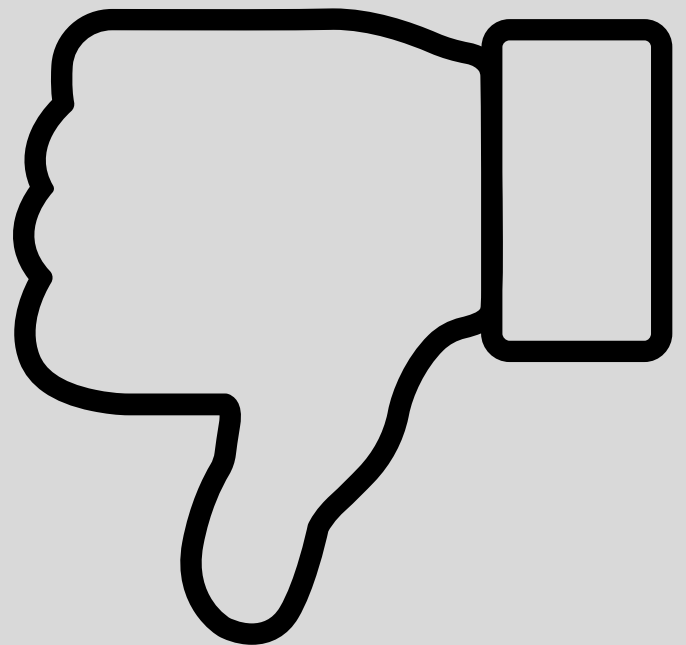
Every day there is someone at Woodside High School who gets dress coded. Even beyond Woodside, all Newport News Public School students have to go through the same process. Whether it is for, a hat on, a shirt is too cropped, sagging, etc. One anonymous student says he personally sags because he doesn't want his pants to be up too high because he is tall. He stated that a teacher had loudly called him out about his sagging, trying to embarrass him. He feels they could've pulled him politely to the side instead of yelling at him in the halls. Students are regularly pulled to the side by staff, or even targeted on walkie-talkies to be found and disciplined. Is this all really necessary for students to go through the school day?

Although this is a district issue, I'd like to focus on Woodside students. First and foremost, I have been dress-coded by staff myself. Usually, the first interaction of them pulling me to the side is in a stern manner from security. Guided with a "Pull your shorts down." or "Fix the crop top." A teacher made me stand up, just to dress code me in front of the class. Why is it normalized to make students start feeling uncomfortable with what they wear? Especially, the girls, whom the dress code is mainly targeted at.

Most students feel that a dress code is needed, but not as strict as the current one is. A staff member shared, "As long as I don't see anything extremely provocative, a shoulder and a belly button doesn't bother me. Some students I have seen get away with being out of dress code, and no one was distracted in the classroom. I agree that the dress code should be less strict on students."

Students should be allowed to wear crop tops, shorts that are short but cover their private areas, etc. We understand that some of the rules are for safety reasons such as not representing gangs or drugs on clothes. Even the rules about hoodies and hats on so if something happens it is easier to identify people makes sense.

But students across the district want to be free in the clothes they wear. Coming to school is a place to learn, but also to express yourself in a way that's not limited. Hopefully, there will be a change in the way the school district and system treat students.



# Newly Naked, What Happens Now?

By Nia Williamson

A new Newport News Public Schools mandate has caused a divisive split among staff and students alike. Students may no longer use standard backpacks, instead, they must use division-issued clear backpacks. On one hand, some think it's the best thing for safety, but on the other hand, some think it's just another rule they have to follow. Learning the perspectives of the four different sides affected by this (teachers, officers, administrators and students) will help tell us exactly where things stand.

While doing this article I have interviewed all the different sides of this and I have realized my opinion has not changed. I went around and interviewed people with the same or similar questions, which were; Has this new policy made you feel safer? Do you think the new policy has stopped the illegal activity happening in the school? If you could, would you go back to the regular backpacks or stay with the clear ones? And what is your opinion overall about this policy? While going through this article I will put my own opinion last while adding the different answers to the questions.

Before we go into the interviews and my own opinion of this policy, it is important to first understand why this policy was put in place and what the intended purpose was when this idea came to fruition. This policy was originally thought of back in the 1990s as a way of security after school shootings and terrorist attacks. While this new policy has only recently been admitted into the Newport News schools it has long since been a daily part of multiple schools in Florida since 2018 and much like how the response to them differs here it was the exact same way there.

Another important thing to go over is why these backpacks were even implemented in the first place. Woodside High School, as far as I can tell, has never had a school shooting but in the last three years there have been multiple threats, there have been students who brought a gun to school, and there have been many students and parents who were too afraid to go to/send kids to school, a place that should always be a safe haven. This argument goes back and forth so much simply because it is the result of such a deeper issue in our community and our country.

On this topic I decided to interview people who were directly affected by this new policy and for the questions provided earlier, these were their responses.

When asked the question: 'Does this policy make you feel safer than you did before?'

Officer Washington had this to say "Yes, the only complaint I have is that the bookbags keep getting ripped!".

Mrs.Heath's response to the question was, "I always felt safe, but it is nice to know there are added levels of security, it doesn't change anything about my job but I wish teachers got one too."

When student Jordan Harris was asked this question, she said "No. Just cause we can see through your bag doesn't mean we can see through your intentions".

Finally, when Assistant Principle Dr.Davidson was asked, she said, "Being safe was never a concern of mine because I have always been confident in the security and resource officers that we have at this school".

Personally, I have always felt safe and protected, whether it's from my teachers who remain calm and level with us about the situation, or from the officers who are always making sure that things are going smoothly.

The next question asked was: 'Do you think that this policy has stopped illegal activity that was in the school? And if not, do you think it has worsened or gotten better?'

Officer Washington said his perspective was, "I think it has gotten better, because they can't hide things in them".

Next, I asked Mrs.Heath who had an opinion that I greatly agree with,"I think if you want something badly enough then you will do it regardless. But I think that it is discouraging kids to bring things they are not supposed to, such as vapes and all that jazz."

When Jordan gave her answer she said, "No, I don't think it has worsened, but it certainly hasn't gotten better."

Lastly when Dr.Davidson was asked she responded, "I will put it this way, At Woodside we didn't really have a lot of what people would consider illegal activity I don't see that, I think it goes back to my earlier statement people who wish to do harm are the only ones affected, but I think it gives comfort to students who can see what in others bookbags, so there's not a lot of mystery or anxiety for those students."

While I agree with Mrs.Heath simply because this has been proven time and time again I don't agree with Dr.Davidson because I personally have never been worried about what's in someone's backpack, but have been concerned about what a kid might have on their physical person.

Another question asked was: "If you could have it your way would you go back to the regular bags or would you keep the clear ones and why?"

Officer Washington's views were, "Keep the clear ones, because from a safety standpoint, we can see what's in it and kids won't put weapons in them were as the old ones kids could put anything in them."

As Mrs.Heath said in her response, which I agree with, "I would keep the clear ones but I wish they would be more heavy duty."

When Jordan was asked she said, "I would go back to the regular bookbags because why would you have ugly clear book bags that are ineffective when you could have cute regular book bags that are ineffective?".

Finally when Dr.Davidson was asked, "I would keep the clear ones cause for one the clear ones are cleaner, you don't run the risk of picking others germs up from other people's homes and we are still in a COVID world".

I want to go back to the old backpacks simply because they were not only sturdier but safer in regards to kids who walk home or walk from the bus stop. People are sick in the world and it is not such a hard thing to imagine happening.

The final question asked was: What is your opinion on the policy as a whole? Officer Washington's final response was "I think it's a good policy, I know when you go out to sporting events you need them, so it's good to see in schools as well."



Mrs.Heath's response was, "I think the bags are helpful for more than security."

When Jordan answered her response was, "I feel like they used it as an extra step in our security, but I feel like in some ways it's unnecessary."

And finally, when Dr.Davidson was asked she said, "I think the clear backpack policy as a whole is very positive on many fronts, and like any other policy it will work as long as people comply. Overall I think the policy overall works very nicely."

In my honest opinion, I believe that this policy is a bandaid. It helps to make a patchwork solution to a problem that has been going on for decades. Clear backpacks don't make me feel safer outside or inside of school, they don't make my day any easier because of how flimsy they are, they don't stop people from bringing illegal things into the school or stop them from doing illegal things in the school, and most importantly it doesn't stop me from fearing the next person who might or might not do something irreparable.

Yet with that being said, it would be unfair if I didn't flip the coin and say what it does. For everything that the clear backpacks don't do, they do make it that much harder to smuggle something into the school, they do make it a lot easier to search bags in those situations where you don't know who has a gun but you know that someone does, it does make not forgetting your binder/folder easier, and finally, it does give a semblance (however small) of peace.