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# WOLVERINE PRESS

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Quarterly Digital Newspaper

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## NEWS & FEATURES

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# The Stakes Are High! The Difficulties of High School Wrestling

By Iden Williams

Last year's wrestling season, Woodside High School dominated the competition, becoming the top in the peninsula. But, entering this year's wrestling season, can we pull it off again?

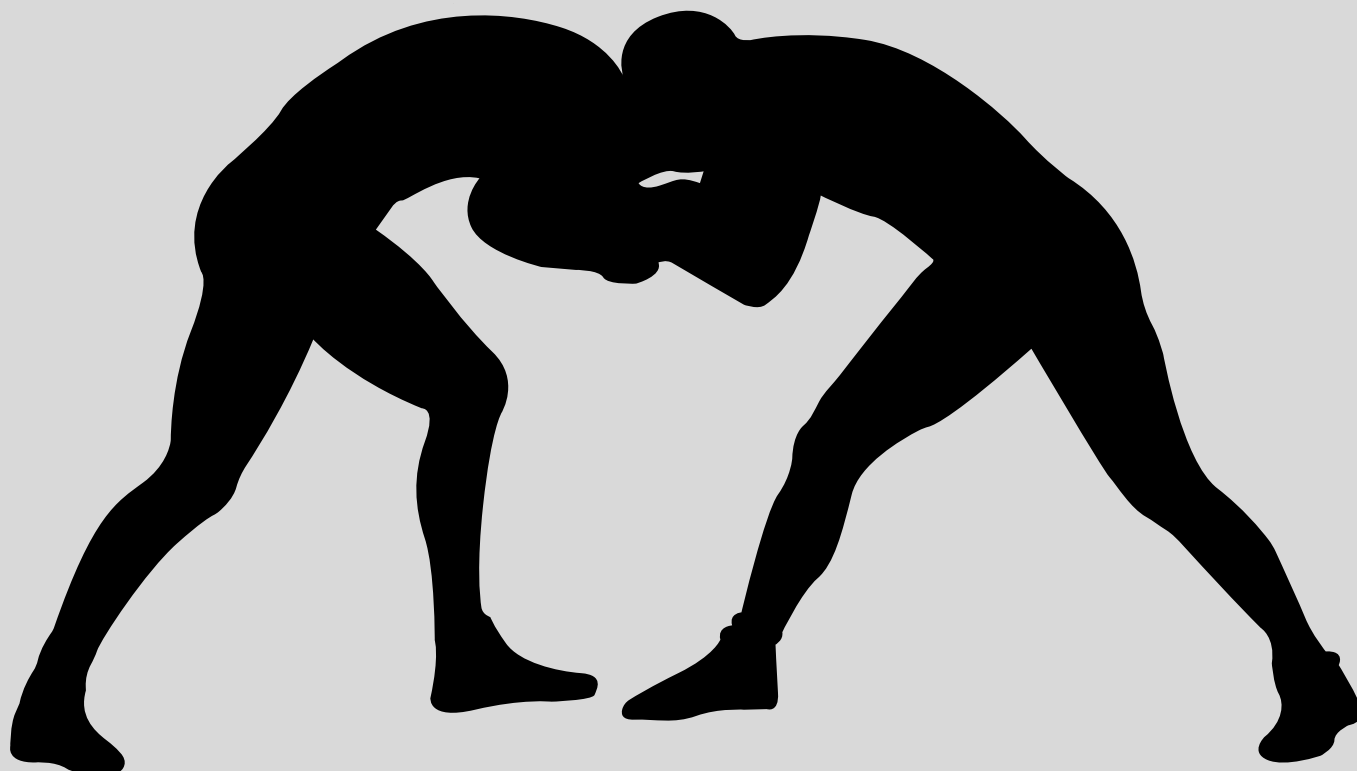
Under the guidance of Coach Cameron Mix, Woodside has a promising team of students competing this season. Through their hard work and dedication to the sport, we've built a reputation as one of the best wrestling teams in the peninsula. This year's team has experienced exponential growth, having almost doubled since last year. But, even though we have many new faces, that does not appear to be a detriment!

New wrestlers bring new strengths and abilities, but our returning wrestlers are impressive as well. We've had a student receive a scholarship for their exceptional skills as a wrestler. Jordan Anderson, a Senior at Woodside, will be going to Missouri Baptist University. Their signing was at Woodside on November 15, 2023, and serves as proof of their immense talent.

The training a wrestler does is nothing short of impressive. They put in countless hours of strength and cardio training, while having to cut weight. The weight cuts typically range based on availability and whether it impacts health or not.

This is the hardest aspect of the sport due to the will-power it takes to cut calories, water weight, and reduce dense foods from your diet, all while maintaining a draining workout and competition schedule. But that's not all, if you make weight, there's a possibility of having to wrestle your teammates in the same weight class for a chance to wrestle at matches, providing an extra layer of challenge.

Are you interested in watching a match or supporting a fellow Woodside student? You can find the wrestling schedule and match outcomes on their Instagram page, [@woodside\\_wrestling](#)! Or, another alternative is the Woodside athletics page, [@woodside\\_athletics](#) on Instagram. The season lasts from Friday, December 1, 2023, until the end of January. But, conditioning for the team begins in early November, so it is a commitment if you are interested in joining the team next year. Meets are never in the same place, as we also challenge other schools in the division and state in a variety of competition types.



# More Players, More Problems

By Tayshawn Campbell

Can the new additions to Woodside High school's varsity basketball team lead them to back to back state championships? Last year Woodside had three key seniors graduate who played pivotal roles in leading them to their first state championship since 2005. Can these new players fill the void that those seniors left?

This season Woodside will face a major question of "Can they do it again?" Woodside basketball player Silas Barksdale said, "Yeah I think we can do it again! Our new players are very good." Another player on Woodside, star junior point guard Masiah Stevens said, "I think our freshmen are the best in the whole region." Many if not all of the Woodside basketball players think that these freshmen can get it done, even as new additions to the team.

The key new additions on Woodside's varsity team feature; Callen Morrison, Deuce Donnell, Jordyn Houston, and Jayden Detrick. These four freshmen dominated middle school basketball and look to dominate the highschool playing field also. Head Coach Stefon Welsh looks to incorporate these freshmen slowly into the rotation until they can dominate like their upperclassmen.

Woodside so far this season has been very successful, thanks to these new additions playing their roles. Woodside are the favorites to win the state championship again, and are also favored to breeze past the district and win an easy district title. Led by their Coach Stefon Welsh, who played at Woodside and won two state championships, he also just recently won a state championship as coach, showing that this team has all these pieces in place to win. And it looks very unlikely that anybody can stop this boulder from rolling down the hill to another victory!

These freshmen will continue to run the Peninsula District for years to come. And hopefully they will be able to bring Woodside not one, but multiple state championships. Be sure to come out and support the basketball team, check out Woodside's athletic website for game dates and ticket prices.



# Society Spotlight: Drawing Out Art Honors Society

By Ana Davis

Have you ever noticed the art in the hallway changing? And did you think it was a funny little art ghost? Well, you are wrong! That was done by none other than the Woodside's Art Honor Society. Here in this article, you will learn about an honor society that not many people know about!

At Woodside High School, we have many Honor societies for many different areas. We have the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Dance Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Social Study Honor Society, and Science Honor Society, to name a few. But one that most people don't know about is the Art Honor Society.

To understand what went on in society, I had to do some research on them. So I spent a meeting period with them and took some notes. Remember how I mentioned the art in the halls? It is actually members of the honor society who go around the school and mark which ones they would like to change, and which ones need to be fixed or cleaned.

In addition, the Art Honor Society is also in charge of doing the art pop-up shows and setting up any art exhibits at school. They also do many art projects within the community! Currently, they have an art mural in the City Center, and they do chalk art outside the school art events in Newport News.

As many honor societies have, art has a special chord to be worn during graduation! A chord in this sense is something that is draped around your gown at graduation, signaling that you have completed something of a high honor and are now showing off the emblem of it.

Their chord is a rainbow chord, which many students find super cool.

To further understand this cool society, I asked some very important questions to the members and the president.

**Q: What made you want to apply to this particular honor society?**

ABI: We get to do more art-based things than we would in class or art club

APOLLO: I found the rainbow chord to be very interesting and I wanted it.

KENDAL: It looks good on college applications since I want to go into some sort of art-based career.

**Q: What is your favorite thing about this Honor Society?**

ABI: We learn more about art events around Virginia and Newport News and we learn about the broad spectrum of art careers!

APOLLO: I think all of the friends I've made here are my favorite things.

KENDAL: It helps me connect with the community in a way and also helps build job connections.

**Q: Would you recommend students to apply? Why or Why not?**

ABI: I would say so if you're interested in art, if not then I don't think this is the place for you.

APOLLO: Yes, because to me this is more serious than art club, like most of us here want to do art long term, rather than just a school thing.

KENDALL: Yes I would, because it can introduce you to much more art outside of school classes.

Now I also asked the president about the society, what they do, and application requirements.



**Q: What, as an Honor Society, do you spend your time doing?**

PRESIDENT HARRIET: We preserve the arts here at Woodside, we put together art shows and move the art around in the halls. We also participate in local events and anything art-related to Woodside High School.

**Q: Are there any specific requirements to apply to society?**

PRESIDENT HARRIET: Yes! You must be a junior or senior, you have to take an art class passing with a B or higher, and you have to have a GPA of at least 3.0 or higher.

If you wish to apply, and you meet the requirements, I highly encourage you to do so! For any more questions regarding the application process and deadline, please talk to Ms. Bogan, as she is the sponsor for this honor society.



# The Woodside Blood Drive

By Chris Gil

The Woodside Wolverines have helped many people in need by setting up a blood drive! This is a thoughtful step that the Wolverines have taken, because they are helping and saving many lives by donating blood. People don't realize but every two seconds in the U.S. someone is in need of blood, and the Wolverines have helped in exactly that.

How could this exactly help people around the community or in the world? By helping the Woodside Wolverines donate blood, you are also helping people who are fighting against cancer, burn accidents, heart surgeries, and organ transplant patients. The need for blood is global, and by taking the time to organize such a crucial event, who knows how many people could be helped by the generosity of the Wolverines?

This Woodside blood drive is for people helping out for the community at no cost at all. People who participated had to submit a pass to get out of class and donate the blood in the Woodside gym which had been transformed for the event. The students who participated in the blood drive received a free T-shirt in exchange for their help. There were a lot of students who participated! The ones who did also received snacks to keep their blood sugar up so they wouldn't pass out. Student volunteers from National Honors Society also made sure to keep the event organized and on the right track.

Woodside would like to thank all of the Wolverines that participated for donating blood, and affecting many lives. And for the people that didn't participate in the blood drive, it's okay, but maybe contact a friend in school that would like to participate in the next blood drive, or consider taking part in the event next year!

# Lights of the Year

By Taylor Bowden

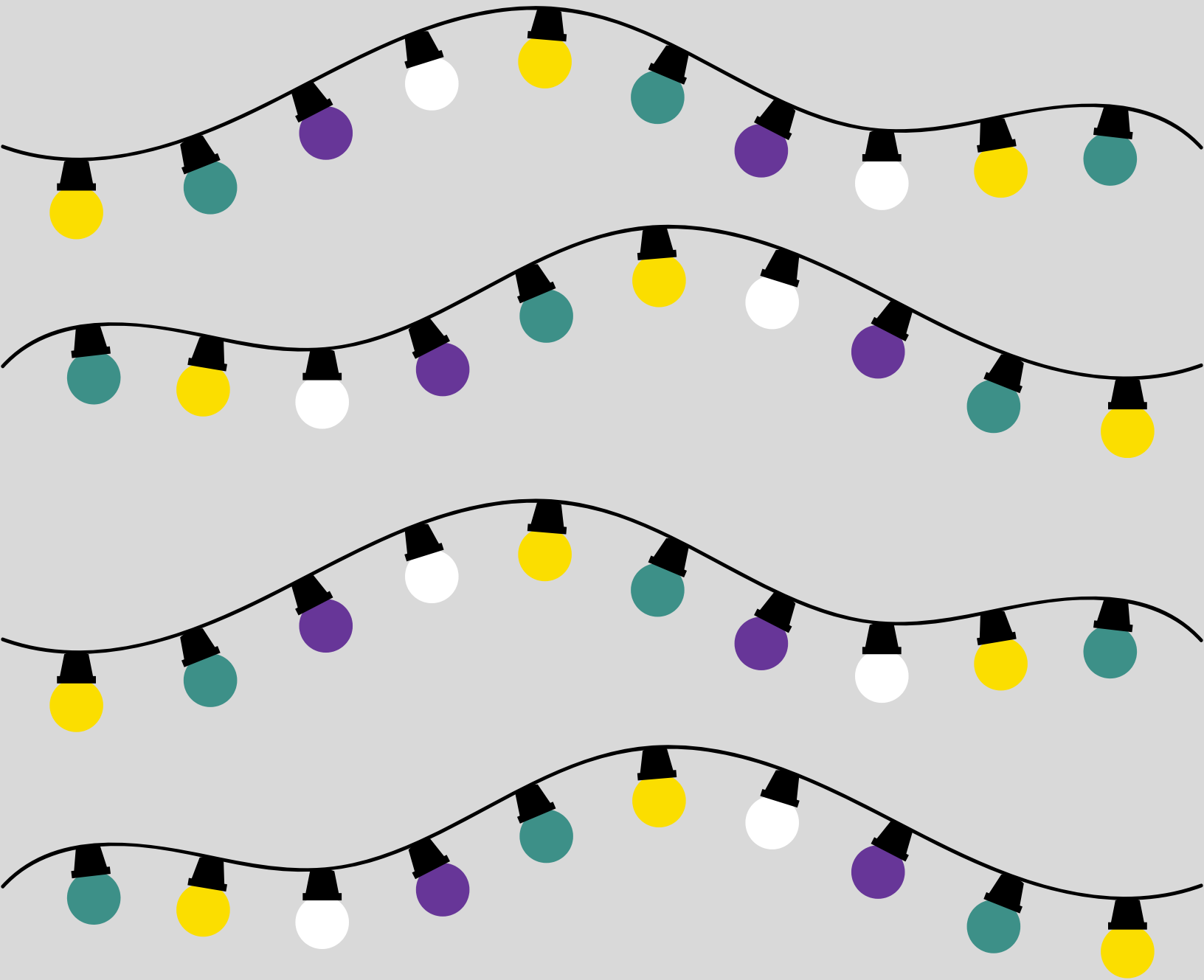
There's something special about the community gathering families together during the holidays. The Newport News Celebration of Lights does an amazing job every year of bringing positivity and Christmas spirit to the Hampton Roads Area.

The Newport News Celebration of Lights is an annual holiday event held in Newport News Park from November 23rd, a little before Thanksgiving, through January 1st from 5:30pm to 10:00pm. It consists of a two-mile long display of huge, bright, and colorful lights in the shape of anything Christmas or holiday related you could think of. Many of them also include moving light images like Santa and his reindeers flying over as you drive, or elves wrapping up gifts in a factory and waving at you, all in the form of dazzling lights!

People of all ages, cities, and states are allowed in to view the lights. The cost of admissions this year on weeknights (Monday - Thursday) is \$15.00 per car, \$3.00 off from the weekend (Friday - Sunday) cost of admission of \$18.00 and the price for buses is \$85.00. Tickets are purchased at the entrance to the park and both cash, card and check are all accepted.

The Celebration of Lights is something great to do for, especially for children, as they admire and gasp at the lit up night. This event provides a safe and positive atmosphere for those who choose to come and is perfect for people who may not do much for Christmas or don't celebrate it at all. It has been drawing hundreds and thousands of people for 30 years and people are lined up every year at the start to get inside.

In conclusion, everyone in the 757 and near should be informed on this event to be able to have the opportunity to visit the two mile work of illumination. It's important to know that all are welcome and that the price for the experience won't damage your wallet. The Newport News Celebration of Lights opens doors every year for excitement and Christmas spirit. For more Information, you can call 757-886-7912 or visit the Newport News Park website.



# A Deeper Dive into the Art Magnet

By Myasia Morris

The Art Magnet contributes a lot to Woodside High School as the largest magnet strand. It helps bring vibrance to our halls and gives artists a voice. Looking at the creative art in the halls, to abstract paintings and pottery in the library, or detail-oriented photography for the yearbook, they truly make Woodside stand out as something special.

When I see the art in the hallways, like paintings, I think about all the hard work our students put in. They all are expressive in their own ways and every piece of art has its own deep meaning. It adds vibrant color and creativity overall to Woodside. No one would like as a school with basic hallways! When I see pottery in the library it also shows the diversity in classes, and how many different ways someone could express themselves. I would encourage anyone to join the art magnet or take an art class if they were interested in being able to freely express themselves.

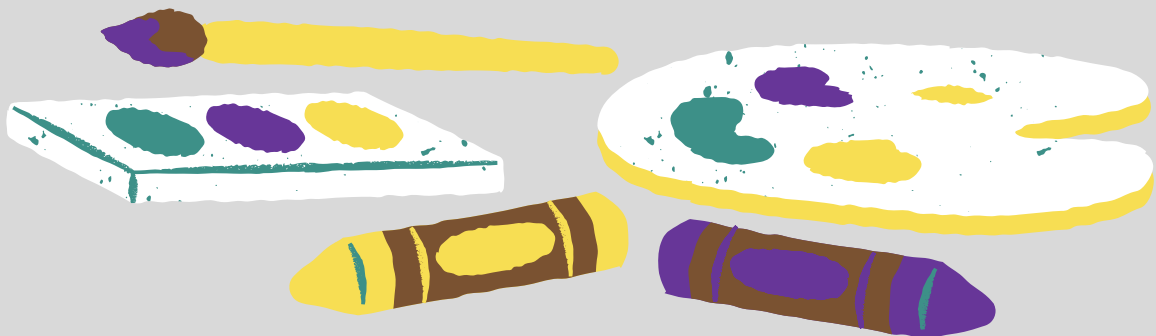
The Art Magnet gives students different tracks they would like to pursue, like painting, the history of art, or sculpting and you can still have your art shown off in the school if you would like, or at various art shows across the community and state. A majority of people who are in the Art magnet are happy about their choice and wouldn't change out of it, they think it's beneficial for what they want to be in the future.

One student says, they love the painting section in the Art magnet because it gives them happiness to be able to learn many things and to be able to connect with people with the same interests. It also relieves their stress, and allows them to make mistakes and embrace it, while turning into something special.

Photography students enjoy walking around taking photos, the environment of the class, and have privileges that many students may not experience otherwise. They get to go into the dark room, that's for developing film for film cameras. They also say there's different types of art such as visual art, ceramics, studio art, and photography, in case there is a specific type of art you are interested in learning more about.

Students love the teachers, such as Mr. Henley, as he makes the environment warm and welcomin. He helps make sure students do their best and that they are taken care of. Mr. K is also incredibly communicative with his students to excel in 2D and 3D art, and has good input and constructive criticism for other art classes. The other art teachers, Mr. Runner, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Bogan also brings decades of experience in a variety of fields, giving students countless mentors to learn from.

Overall, the art magnet at Woodside makes a big difference and helps students be creative and let their imaginations run free. Feel inspired? Consider joining an art class, if you haven't experienced one already!



# A Peek Into the Art Magnet: Students and Teachers

By Nia Williamson

A magnet that no one on the outside truly understands, is the art magnet. This article will highlight all of the parts of this wonderful program. From the good, to the stressful, from the the teachers, to the magnet students, and non-magnet students. The art magnet has been a part of Woodside since the very beginning of the school's history, and has been dedicated to helping students reach their full artistic potential. While the art program has over a hundred students, many of them have had different experiences.

This is what art teacher Mr.K had to say:

## **Q: Why did you choose to go into this field?**

Mr. K:I always knew I wanted to do something with art, I just was not sure what. Going through my high school art program, I only had four art classes with no other possible options or avenues to explore. After high school, I went to Christopher Newport where I went in undecided with my major but knew again that visual arts would play a part in whatever I was planning to do for the rest of my life. It was my senior year at CNU when I took an upper level art senior seminar class showed me teaching was the path I wanted to take.

## **Q:What would you say is the best way to become an artist?**

Mr. K:This is going to sound lame... but practice! It does not have to be a in-class project or a fancy photography session, just picking up a pencil and drawing whatever comes to mind.

Growing up, I would draw on anything...notebook paper, napkins, paper placemats, cardboard boxes, whatever I could get my hands on. Since the age of about 2 when I could pick up a crayon, I have been drawing and just never stopped. Practice, dedication to your craft and openness to try something new. These are some of the best practices to becoming an artist in my opinion.

**Q:What would you tell kids who want to be in art but are worried that they aren't good enough for it?**

Mr. K:I would ask them.... good enough to who? There are so many types of art, so many genres and styles out there, so many opinions. Any person can find their love and passion in the arts....maybe it isn't drawing but poster design, photography, interior design, stagecraft for the theater department, this is what is amazing about art, there is a place for everyone...they just have to find their niche and stick with it.

**Q:What is the difference, in your opinion, between teaching magnet and non-magnet students?**

Mr. K: I have taught all types of students from ages 3-18 and at the end of the day...no two students are alike. This is what I like about Woodside, the level of diversity, the different cultures, the different programs that we offer. There is so much going on that each day is going to offer something different than the day before. When I zero in directly on the Magnet program, typically, these are your students that know in their heart that whether or not they choose to pursue a job in the visual arts field or not, art will always be part of their identity and who they are as an individual. I think it is this internal drive within our Magnet students that really illustrates the difference.



**Q:What has been your favorite project that you've done with the kids?**

Mr. K:The project that I keep coming back to year after year would have to be my altered book project. This is done by having the students bring in a recycled hardback book, where the students will cut, tear, build, paint and otherwise change the appearance of the book to create an original sculpture. What makes this project really interesting is that we pair up with the creative writing department and collaborate to enhance the project. While my students build the book sculpture, the creative writing department writes original narratives with their interpretation of what is going on within the artwork. It is an excellent example of two of Woodside's Magnet programs working together to create something truly special.

**Q:In your opinion would you say that art is a hard class to pass?**

Mr. K: I love when people say...." Oh, its art, that's an easy class!". Well it depends on the individual and their own personal talents. What one person finds difficult, may come much easier to another student. In my opinion, it would be the Honors Advanced Portfolio class, which most of our students take 11 th grade year. It is in this class where students start building a digital collection of their own personal work and build towards an investigation. With his investigation, they have to explore a social issue, cultural influence or some other topic that is important to the individual. During this process, the student will learn to experiment with materials, perform research on their topic and create original artwork that illustrates all the hard work that these students are able to achieve. This class makes creative thinkers, problem solvers and students that can think for themselves without being told exactly what to draw....this is what makes this class one of our programs most difficult.

Here's what magnet student Malea Jones had to say to the questions:

**Q:Why did you choose this magnet/class?**

Malea: Because art calms me, and makes me happy!

**Q:How would you describe the environment of this class?**

Malea: It's quiet and chill, but it does smell like paint.

**Q:Is this a class you would deem stressful?**

Malea: No! I say no because you get a lot of time to do the projects and the teachers help you and work with you, so it becomes more about having fun and being creative.

**Q:After taking this class would you choose something different?**

Malea: Actually no not at all because I find art to be a really fun process, and this class just helps me with my creativity.

**Q:Have you ever thought about changing this class? If so, why?**

Malea: No, I enjoy it too much to even consider it!

**Q:What has been your favorite project so far this year?**

Malea: My favorite project this year has been working with film and photography. It's really fun taking the pictures and reflecting back on what else I could have done as well as looking at other people's artwork.

**Q:Do you feel like you have been opened to opportunities? If so, what ones?**

Malea: Yes, there's a lot of events revolving around the art shows and you can get a lot of hours in this field that help you understand the art world even more.

Here's what non-magnet student Andrew Stewart had to say:

**Q:Why did you choose this class?**

Andrew:I chose this because I've loved art ever since I was a child.

**Q:How would you describe the environment of this class?**

Andrew:It's very laid back, very loving and caring.

**Q:Is this a class you would deem stressful?**

Andrew:No, not at all, because the teachers are always willing to help you out whenever you need anything, and you only ever have one project going on at a time which helps.

**Q:After taking this class, would you choose something different?**

Andrew:No. Because while this class can become a little tedious at times, it still is one of the best classes I've taken so far.

**Q:Have you ever thought about changing this class? If so, why?**

Andrew:No, because the people and the environment make even the hardest days enjoyable.

**Q:What has been your favorite project so far this year?**

Andrew:My favorite project so far has been making clay lanterns.

**Q:Do you feel like you have been opened to opportunities? If so, what ones?**

Andrew:Yes. I have had multiple chances to be in the art show as well as the showcase which has helped me show off some of my best work.

After interviewing a few different parts of the art program I have realized that there is so much depth in these classes! This program is more like a family, and encouragement can be found from both the students and the teachers. All in all, seems like a wonderful experience, whether you are taking art as a magnet student or as an elective class. I think it would be an amazing experience for any Woodside student.

# Service Learning Project: Is Graduation in Jeopardy?

By T. Thuong

A group of Woodside students gather at Riverview Farm Park, determined to meet their necessary hours of service. Part of their teenage years, dedicated to mindlessly picking up discarded pieces of plastic bottle caps and aluminum food wrappers. A service project of tolerance and indifference in the midst of frigid gusts of wind.

As the Woodside junior class enters the winter months, a new service project surrounds them with just how far the boundaries of change can be tested. Generally, the concept of creating genuine change can be traced back to an individual's peaked interest in their society. Recognizing this, Woodside High has implemented a minimum of five service hours and a presentation that embodies the student's plan of action.

Arranged with virtuous intentions, the outline of this project reveals a strive towards future generational integration within our community with an emphasis on volunteering. By involving the school's eleventh grade English teachers, students, and others within our local environment, extol the virtols of exposure and encouragement to help our collective society.

Although this new aspect, it unfolds the overshadowing factor of a "mandatory requirement" towards graduation. But it is a common belief, that service stems from the moral character of said person. However, with the intimidation of "mandatory" and added pressure of graduation on the line, there is immense controversy and contradiction in what this project hopes to achieve.

Another issue arises with several students who have made a point about the tedious and time-consuming qualities behind the service project. With relentless curriculum, part-time jobs, and several extracurriculars, students are now encouraged to take on excess stress among their everyday lives. In response to the project, one student states, "Because it's not in school and I have a job and other priorities, it takes so much from the purpose of volunteering."

The time constraints and organizational pressures on eleventh grade students proposes the question of if societal transformation can be induced with this tactic. Perhaps, next year, Woodside High School will revise and accommodate students' concerns and suggestions? Either way, Woodside Wolverines just hope to see the idea evolve into something more noteworthy and less demanding.



# E-Hall Passes: Passing Through Woodside

By Kita Tibbs

Attention Wolverines! There's been a change to the way students move around the campus at Woodside High School: e-hall passes. But what exactly are they? And how do they work?

In StudentVue, each student now has a new option available to them in the top right corner of the home page, labeled "Hall Pass." Here, they can electronically request a pass to leave the classroom, without a physical slip. Once approved by a teacher, the student is granted a certain amount of time to move to and from their designated location. The old system required students to bring a physical pass with them every time they stepped outside of the classroom. It was easy to lose and keep track of, leading to a lot of unnecessary traffic.

While this new system offers a solution to this age-old problem, its execution has been met with resistance from students who argue that it is inefficient and difficult to navigate. Many students have complained about the lengthy approval process, which can take several minutes, especially in cases where a student needs to use the restroom.

Additionally, student Angel Crawley comments that it is "hard" to pull up. Often, clicking the option just won't work, or takes repeated attempts to properly request a pass! This raises concern of delays. If a student's device is not working properly, they will be unable to access the system and request a pass, leaving them to rely on physical passes.

The goal is to improve safety and regulate movement, but as a fellow student, I think it needs to be improved. It has its appeal, but it puts a lot of pressure on our faculty especially. Teachers have to monitor requests that come through instead of focusing on lessons. This affects their ability to properly teach their students, and therefore the education of the students themselves. Personally, I find it to be unreliable as well. I much prefer the traditional, signed passes, thankfully it is still available for some as an alternative or for other reasons.

It's important to remember that technology should be a tool to enhance and streamline processes, not create more obstacles and stress. In the case of e-hall passes, the system may simply be too clunky for some students and faculty to get over. What do you think of the new pass system? Do you think it's time for Woodside High School to suggest a more efficient solution to the district?



# A World Full of Music

By Dylan Fox

One thing all of us teenagers can agree on is our desire for music. Teenagers have a connection to music in a way we can all understand each other through the music we listen to. Catching up on new music and sharing opinions on music we enjoy is a big topic of conversation and how many friendships get formed. For generations music has connected people and will continue to for many more.

But Woodside, and Newport News Public Schools as a whole, has a strict no headphones policy, except during lunchtime in the cafeteria. Music is seen as something that is “distracting” and as something that can take away from the responsibilities of our real life. Listening to music is seen as a privilege and a distraction more than it is seen as a learning tool. But music allows us to escape our reality, and also allows our thoughts to flow freely, which can help some students focus better on their work.

Most of our teachers think music can take away from our learning and take us away from doing our work. But I think listening to music does the opposite. It helps students focus on the assignment in front of them and puts them in a space of focus, especially when there are other items begging for their attention.



While the teachers are in lecture of course listening to music is distracting, but while doing independent work it is a great option for some students. For most students being in a completely quiet environment is much more distracting than listening to their favorite music. Putting on a distraction from the outside world and focusing in on their assignment work for many students, and should be an option.

Woodside and Newport News Public Schools should become open to the idea of letting their students listen to music while doing their assignments. It helps take away the stress from the day and allows students to tap more into their creative selves, and to escape from the school environment for just a few moments.



# E-Hall Passes Approved

By Salma Zanaty

NNPS schools have accommodated to a new procedure to ensure students safety, E- hall passes. E-hall passes are an online platform that allows students to request a hall pass from their teacher. Upon the teacher's electronic approval, the student may leave the classroom. This new platform will assist school administrators with managing the number of students who are in the hallways during class time, and see exactly who is and is not in their classroom.

“How do they work?” You may ask. Students can access E-Hall Pass through their Chromebooks. They may request a pass to leave the classroom to use the bathroom, visit the clinic, or other school locations. Teachers can view the request, see how many other students may be in the hallways, and approve or withhold the pass. Therefore students don't need carry anything with them when they leave class since the E-Hall pass system allows administrators and security staff to quickly confirm if a student has been issued a pass. The use of paper passes will be limited to the counselor's office or an administrator's office.

While students are out of the classroom, the pass system monitors how long they are gone so that teachers can focus on the students remaining in the classroom. School administrators and security staff can monitor active e-hall passes to ensure appropriate supervision in appropriate areas. They can quickly check in with students in the hallways to make sure they are permitted to be out of class. When students are out on a pass, staff can check their authorized presence in the hallway with the E-Hall dashboard on a phone or other device.

Whether in an emergency or a practice drill situation, this information from E-Passes allows for greater awareness and security across the entire school campus. This system has been implemented since December 4th for all middle and high school students in Newport News Public Schools allowing for greater awareness and security across the entire school campus for both students, teachers and staff.

