



# The Lexington Concord

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## Note from the IT editor

Federal law says that schools can only use first names when referring to minors on the internet. So you will see the authors and anyone else mentioned by first name only, sorry for any confusion this might cause.



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## A New Face– Alissa

This Year, there is only one new member of the staff here at Lex. This would be Mr. Sansalone. So we could all get to know him better, I asked him some questions. Mr. Sansalone is from Ontario, Ohio and is a huge sports fan. He loves the Cleveland Cavaliers, Indians, and Browns. When asked about why he wanted to teach and who inspired him he said, “My high school PE teacher, Kris Knapp, from Ontario High School was my inspiration and role model. He was always happy and I could tell he loved his job and I decided that was the kind of job that I wanted. I also want to serve as a role model to students just like Kris Knapp did for me, and to show students that as long as they are willing to put in the work for what they want, they will be able to accomplish anything in life.” Mr. Sansalone is a 2017 graduate of the University of Mount Union. He loves it here at Lex and feels it is a great fit for him.



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# Columns

## Why the ACT Is Overrated.

### *Why the ACT Is Overrated*

### *And Why the SAT May Be Better for You*

As a student who has taken the ACT six times, I can complain about the ACT. I have spent over 24 hours of my life taking this test. You might think I would be a professional by now, nearing a perfect score.

That is where you are wrong.

Although I have taken the ACT six times, my score has only increased three points. A three-point increase over three years. I can assure you that the mantra “practice makes perfect” does not apply to the ACT. Trust me, I studied too. Prior to my most recent ACT, I had spent over 40 hours in prep-courses for the test. After losing a point from my highest score on test number six, I gave up. In a whim, however, I decided my last shot would be on the SAT. After my experience, I wish I would have only ever taken the SAT and here is why.

#### **There isn’t a science portion.**

I know a lot of people who absolutely despise the science section of the ACT, even though they love science. Quite frankly, the science portion isn’t science. It is more or less reading with data analysis. The questions are specifically made to trick you as well, as if reading an entire experiment and analyzing data in 40 minutes isn’t cumbersome enough.

#### **You have more time.**

For the reading portion of the SAT, you have 75 seconds to answer one question. The ACT, you only have about 52 seconds. A twenty-three second window makes a difference when you are searching for answers in a reading passage. In the English portion of the ACT, you have 36 seconds for each question, while the SAT allots about 47 seconds. When I had taken the ACT, I was always desperate for time during the end of both these sections of the test, but I actually finished *early* on both of these sections with about five minutes to spare.

#### **The eastern states will appreciate it.**

Majority of schools are accepting of either standardized test; however, you will find that coastal and eastern states prefer the SAT scores. These states also encourage SAT subject tests for areas you might want to go into.

#### **The math is pretty darn simple.**

Although there are two math portions on the SAT (one with and without calculator), the questions they ask aren’t anything above algebra II level. Even the hardest concept questions do not require detailed and incredulous calculations beyond normal day math.

With the SAT, I felt better prepared to succeed. With more time and less tricks, I had never felt as confident leaving a testing center until the SAT. If the ACT is more your style, then all is good. I think it is important to bring up this underrated option for those that have sunk in the same boat as me.

## Headline

## Principal’s Message—

### Gabby

#### *Principal’s Message*

There are numerous events happening at once in our school building: sporting events, band competitions, homecoming, and so much more. To organize the chaos for you readers, this message is to keep you up to date on current events in our building. Without farther ado, here is your October issue of the “Principle’s Message”: We are off to another great school year, and it is hard to believe that it’s already October! We just had one of the best Homecoming weekends ever as we crowned Bridget T. during an exciting assembly on Friday, and then proceeded to beat West Holmes on the gridiron that night. The dance on Saturday was packed and students had one of the best times EVER! I attribute that to the “chill” principal who turned down the lights!

I am excited for this time of year, as we have many of our fall sports teams headed into tournament and championship runs. The Band of Gold has been busy competing each weekend and has qualified for the OMEA’s on October 27<sup>th</sup>! This has been a very successful fall season for Big Lex and we look forward to what championships we can add to the trophy case. It has also been a great start for our dedicated teachers and students. LHS is great for many reasons, but if it were not for our talented and caring staff and hard-working students... we would just be another high school. Talented staff and students set us apart!



# Culture

## Burma or Myanmar?

First, here is a quick summary and intro to Myanmar, also known as Burma. Burma was under the rule of an oppressive military regime from 1962 to 2011. The generals who ran the country stifled all argumentative opinions and were known for terrible human rights abuses. A gradual liberation started in 2010, leading to their first free election in 2015. In 2016, the new government led by veteran liberalization leader Aung San Suu Kyi was installed. Since 2017, Myanmar has



driven out more than 3/4ths of the Muslim Rohingya population to Bangladesh and India. It is currently being called “a textbook example of ethnic cleansing” by a United Nations report.

The name change occurred during the regime of the military government in 1989 from Burma to Myanmar. Most of the global community agrees to recognize the name change. However, the United States and the United Kingdom, along with a small group of other countries, continue to use the Name Burma.

The United States and others usually argue that the name change was made without the consent of the people, therefore it is illegal. The military regime has said that Burma only refers to its largest ethnic group and not the other 134 ethnic communities. Burma, which became the country’s official name under British colonial rule, was used as the primary language. Both terms have been used for centuries, Myanmar was the formal term used mostly in written communication.

Aung San Suu Kyi has stated several times that both names were acceptable but that she has a preference for the term



Burma. She has told foreign diplomatic corps that it did not matter whether her country was called Burma or Myanmar, because in the constitution it clearly states that the country is called the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

About three years since her party’s victory, the U.S. seems to not getting any closer to changing its policy on what to call the nation. In formal correspondence with the Naypyidaw government the United States uses Myanmar. (Naypyidaw is the capital city of Myanmar and the seat of the nation’s government) But, the U.S. still publicly refers to the nation as Burma. Given the president’s tolerance of Burma and the current tensions between the two countries over the Rohingya crisis, a decision by the U.S. to accept Myanmar seem unlikely.



## Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanics make up more than 17% of the total United States population. That’s over 57 million Americans. Why do we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month? Easy. There are many cultures, countries and languages that make up the broad term of Hispanic. It is a month to celebrate and highlight the accomplishments and influence of the Hispanic community in American culture. From September 15 through October 15 the United States celebrates; Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Cubans, Mexicans, Salvadorians and more. It started as just a week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and was expanded to 30 days by Ronald Reagan. It starts in the middle of September because the 15<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of independence for five different Latin American countries; Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Hispanic Heritage month is to celebrate the beauty and the contribution they bring to our country. Most likely this issue will be out after the month is over, but that doesn’t mean you can’t celebrate and learn more about the Hispanic culture.

# Culture

## Is the United States' Education System as Bad as People Think?- Sam

There are many variations on what the best education system in the world is, based on where you look. Some of the variations are based on test scores, graduation rates, and a combination of those criteria and others. Most websites have some sort of common thought of what the best education systems are, or so people assume; however, the opinions vary a lot more than people think.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/best-education?onepage>

This first site listed the top five best education systems in the world, and the results are a little shocking than what would be expected. A lot of articles about the US education system call it flawed, but this article states that the US has one of the best education systems in the world. This article, however, ranked the top five education systems in the world from five to one: France, Germany, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom. There is not one mention of some of the education systems in Europe that are highly regarded in a lot of articles like Switzerland and Norway.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/11-best-school-systems-in-the-world-a7425391.html>

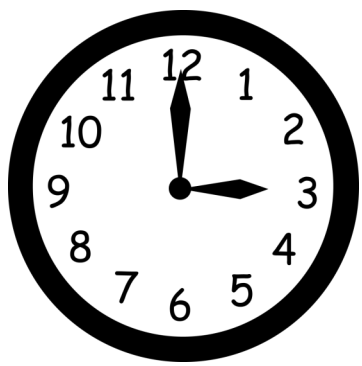
The rankings in this article make more sense based on other articles about good education systems around the world. The first thing the author states, is that neither the US or the UK made the top ten list. This statement does not agree with the first article, but half of the statement agrees with the last. This list is also based on the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report. There is a tie for ninth place by Japan, Barbados, and New Zealand. Eighth place was taken by Estonia, and sixth was a tie between Ireland and Qatar. The Netherlands was placed in fifth with Singapore taking fourth. There was a tie for second between Belgian and Switzerland, with Finland being ranked with the best education system in the world. What surprised me the most was the Barbados and Estonia are on the list. In the news, we rarely hear about those two countries, and yet they are said to have a better, much better even, educational system than the United States. Stating what the rating system is based on makes this article more reliable than the previous one, which is sad for the United States, since we are not on it.

<https://worldtop20.org/worldbesteducationsystem>

This last article has more resources than any of the others, but it also has the longest listing of countries. The article lists the top twenty educational countries in the world from the highest to the lowest: South Korea, Japan, Russia, Hong Kong, China, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Finland, Denmark, Israel, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Canada, Ireland, Norway, the United States, Estonia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Italy. There is a great bit of diversity in this list between the cultures of these nations and where they are in the world. All these nations have a different take on education and how to approach it, but all of them realize how important education is to a country.

There are many articles out there, saying how broken the United States educational system is, and how much we need to improve to beat out other countries. The thing is that we must be doing something right if our system can make the top twenty educational systems around the world. There will always been room for improvement, especially as time progresses, but there may not need to be a drastic change in our system. Maybe we can take some ideas from some of the educational systems that rank higher than we do, but what works for them, may not work for us. So before deciding anything, maybe we should look at what we are doing right first, rather than only looking at what everyone believes we are doing wrong.





# Life

## A Minute with a Minutemen



### Lexington High School Marines— Sam

#### *The Future Marines From Lexington High School*

Lexington High School has produced men and women who are going into the United States Marine Corps. Some of them have graduated, and others are still currently attending their senior year of high school. One of these students is Lauren. Lauren graduated from Lex last year and is currently in bootcamp at Paris Island. When she graduates bootcamp her MOS is going to be Motor T. Tanner is another Lex grad that is going into the Marines. He will be leaving for bootcamp within the next month, and he is going to be Comms. Forest will be going into the Intelligence field, leaving for bootcamp in February. Currently, there are a few seniors at Lexington that are going to be future Marines, as well. Tucker is one of them. He will be graduating early and leaving for bootcamp in early May. Keeton is going to be a combat engineer with the Marines, and he leaves for bootcamp in July. Lastly, Sam will be leaving for bootcamp in August to be in intelligence. All future Marines from Lexington and all surrounding schools will go to Paris Island, SC for bootcamp.

### Homecoming Court 2018

It's a Lexington tradition that every year ten senior girls are nominated amongst their class to be on the homecoming court. It is an annual tradition for a queen to be announced each year. This year's homecoming court top ten girls were: Mackenzie, Sylvia, Danielle, Isabelle, Abbie, Sage, Sarah, Macy, Morgan and Bridget. All are smart, outgoing, and bright young girls. Morgan says "Being on top ten was a huge surprise, but it was such a fun experience." The girls dressed up in matching white blouses and jeans to take the top ten picture. Then,



the whole school participated in voting for the top five girls. The five dress up in long gowns for the homecoming dance and be a part of the assembly with escorts to announce the queen. The top five were: Danielle, escorted by Mauricio; Mackenzie, escorted by Austin; Isabelle escorted by Ben; Abbie escorted by Noah; and Bridget escorted by Cade.

At the assembly all five girls looked stunning in royal blue gowns picked to the style of their choice. Isabelle says, "The whole experience was amazing, all of us girls were so cooperative especially while making decisions, which made the tradition even better." At the assembly, the girls were walked to the stage with their escorts while a slide show presentation of their high school memories played. Every girl had a different incredible story to tell, it was truly amazing. At the stage the girls were presented with roses in a box. Four white and one red, the girl with the red roses was pronounced homecoming queen. As the girls started to open their boxes the crowd rose with anticipation. Then, Bridget had the red roses and was pronounced the 2018 Lexington Homecoming Queen. The audience cheered and clapped so loud for the beautiful young lady.



Bridget says, "It's an experience I will never forget." This year's homecoming court will be one to remember. From top ten to top five and finally pronouncing the queen, Lexington was represented with the best group of girls and they did an amazing job of that. Congratulations to all ten girls!

### LHS Takes on Aladdin Jr.

Lexington recently took over the Renaissance Theatre when Aladdin Jr., adapted from the Disney film, came to town. Under the bright lights, multiple Lex students preformed for huge crowds September 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Out of those minutemen, two stars emerged on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon to play Aladdin and Jasmine. Noah and Ellie, two involved students at Lex, both enjoyed taking on these lead roles. Noah, a two time state champion, active member of Lexington's drama club and member of Lex Devos, says, "Watching my sisters sing and act while growing up really got me into theatre. It's been a huge part of my life ever since". He has played Captain Von Trap in The Sound of Music and a teen angel in Grease. Ellie, who also keeps very busy, is involved in cross country, swimming, drama club, and was crowned Miss Maple City Outstanding Teen 2018. She has also played Belle in Beauty and the Beast, Alice in Alice in Wonderland and Ariel in The Little Mermaid.

# Life

## Elite Endurance Horse Racing

When most people think of horseback riding, they picture a person riding around a countryside, or possibly racing a few times around a track. There is a whole other side to the sport of horseback riding that Aidan, a fellow Lexington student shared with me. The sport is called Elite Endurance Horse Racing. This sport requires great time, discipline, and dedication.



Elite Endurance Horse Racing requires the rider and their horse to complete a 100 mile race. As you can imagine the horse completing this race must, like any athlete, be in great physical shape. The horses are fed dietary supplements which are provided to them by Equine Supplement Co. Aidan and his mom are a part of the U.S.

Team. Recently, Aidan and his mom, were participating in a race in North Carolina. Aiden's mom and grandma are two-time world champions. Aidan got started in horse racing in Virginia, where there are 40 horses on 940 acres. Through their experiences in horse racing they have met people from all around the world like Argentina, Dubai, Italy and Canada.

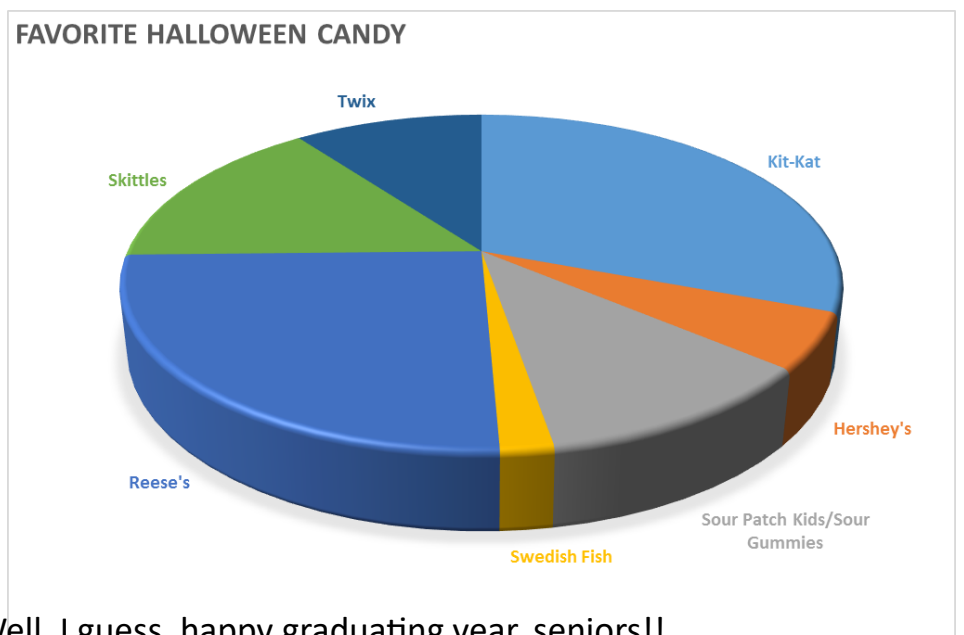


## Is There a Superior Candy on Halloween?

Every Halloween, kids eagerly walk around house to house for their favorite candies. Some houses get chocolate while others get sour candies. Candy has various tastes, styles and forms, but which piece is the best? With the thousands of different types, is there a common favorite between kids? I asked a multitude of students about their ultimate candy from different grades to find out.



In the end, Kit-Kat's and Reese's were the closest, but the chocolate wafer won by only a couple people. As Halloween comes to an end and the candy slowly starts to run out, it's time to prepare ourselves for turkey and mashed potatoes! If you're really into holiday prepping, the end of Halloween not only means Thanksgiving, but Christmas too.



Since it's basically Christmas, does that mean it's 2019 too? Well, I guess, happy graduating year, seniors!!

# Life

## Class of 2019's BRIGHT Future

Senior year has approached everyone quickly, especially the deadlines!! Whether that is applying for college, deciding to go into the military, or entering the work force. Some of the class of 2019 has already planned and prepared for what comes after graduation.

Katie, senior in the class of 2019, is surprised how fast senior year has already been. "I can't believe how these deadlines are coming up and all of the decisions I have to be making so soon," Katie says. Katie tells Lexington Concord that she plans on majoring in biomedical engineering at her top school, Miami of Ohio. "I've always wanted to help people in some way and I love science but being a surgeon would make my stomach weak," Katie says. Katie will miss all the people she spent her childhood with. "Just the fact that Lex has always been home is the main thing I'll miss after graduation. It's a tight knit community, and I love that."

Camden is a part of the graduating class of 2019 with some pretty cool things planned after high school. "The winter after graduation I'm moving to Leadville, Colorado with a buddy and I plan on working at Cooper Mountain Ski Resort. Then, in the summer I'll get my appraisal license and start doing that," Camden shares. Good luck to you Camden, Lexington Concord wishes you the best time in Colorado!!

Sage plans on attending a four-year college to obtain a degree in some kind of science. She is still undecided but her interests sway toward chemistry; a job she would love is being a nurse practitioner or physician assistant. What is exciting for Sage is that she has the opportunity to do what she loves and swim in college. "After graduation I'll miss Lexington and how close the community is and caring for one another," she shares. Wishing you the best of success, Sage!

Justice's big plans for the future include a major in political science. "I'm really interested in politics and law and stuff related to political science, it's just the right fit, and seeing I want to be a lawyer, it just all kind of works" Justice says. He tells Lexington Concord he is going to miss Lexington because of all of the memories created with friends. "I moved back to be with everyone so I'm really going to miss Lex," he says.

The next six years after graduation Spencer will be with the guard. "Sometime during those six years I'll get a business or law degree from either Kent State University or BGSU and then minor in flight theory or aeronautical sciences as well as get a civilian pilot license," Spencer shares with Lexington Concord. "After I'm done in the guard, I'll probably go into active duty with the Air Force and hopefully end up flying with them for as long as they'll let me!" Spencer says. This is all so impressive and the Lex Concord and all of the student body wishes you nothing but success!

"My plans after high school are to attend North Central State College and I plan on majoring in nursing. I've always wanted to be a nurse just like my mom," Mikaela shares with the paper. "I've always loved helping people so I feel nursing is the best fit for me," she says. Mikaela plans on working at a hospital like Avita. "I will definitely miss Friday night lights with my friends supporting all of the teams and of course, all of the teachers like Mrs. Rice," Mikaela shares.

Cade has grown up on the farm his whole life so it only makes sense to major in agriculture. Cade plans on being a farmer, "It's my passion," Cade says. While attending The Ohio State University to play football, Cade will miss Lexington's small-town values the most. "I'll miss all of the great friends I have but I will miss basketball so much," he says.

Last but not least, Mason plans on retiring from Lexington High School's social media based identity of PURPLE HAZE. After graduation, he plans on attending a four-year college to major in business and minor in political science at Ohio University or University of Cincinnati. "My grandfather was a lawyer and I think I'll enjoy it. I want to be a corporate business attorney one day" Mason says. He will miss Lexington because all of the relationships he has made with students and staff the past 12 years.

## Club Updates

LHS has a wide variety of clubs for each student here to be a part of. Here we have clubs like: Key club, LEO's Club, Biology Club, Spanish Club, Mock Trial, and many more. This year, the Drama Club just announced the upcoming spring musical. The club will be performing, *The Wizard of Oz*. Auditions will be coming up this year sometime in November, for those interested. LHS's Student Council will be hosting Haunted Hallways again this year on October 24<sup>th</sup>. If any team or club would like to participate, please see Mrs. Bigley or your Student Council member. Each and every team or club can be a part of this.



# Life

## Getting to Know Officer Davis

Officer Davis is Lexington's new SRO. While he's not patrolling in the village, he walks the halls of Lex and even sometimes participates in four square games on the blacktop. If you've wanted to know a little more about him, you've come to the right place!

When asking our SRO what made him most excited about this job, he informed Lexington Concord how much positivity he gets out of it. "It seems as if patrolling something always comes out negative and can wear on you. 7 years ago, I wouldn't have thought about this job as police work, but I've learned over the years the view of what police is can change over time, and especially over experiences," the officer says. When incidents in our country really started to hit a serious point, Officer Davis started coming up to the high school more. Talk started to develop about this job and he started researching and getting more excited, even overpreparing for it. "I was starting to get nervous, especially for the interview, which was when I knew it meant a lot to me," he says.

Here are a few interview and "getting to know you" questions Officer Davis answered for us.

Q: Have you lived in Lexington your whole life?

A: I went to kindergarten here, and then grades 1-7 I went to Shelby. Then, 8<sup>th</sup> grade all the way to graduation I spent back here. I went to University of Cincinnati, transferred to BGSU, and now I'm back here.

Q: You're a new addition to the crayon box, what color would you be and why?

A: A rainbow colored crayon. A rainbow is many colors and with that it almost comes a wild card! A surprise once it touches the paper. Kind of like this job. I have to wear a lot of hats and I think I wear them well.

Q: What were you like in high school, and what advice would you give to your 18-year-old self?

A: I played football in high school, had a shoulder injury and missed at least three week of school. Any advice I could give would be all that matters and is important is family. Everything revolves around that and with me it's my wife and daughter. Also, a job is a job. Work to live, not live to work.

Q: If someone were to play a movie, what movie would you want it to be?

A: I always have to watch Dazed and Confused when it comes on.

Q: If you could invite 3 famous people to a dinner party dead or alive, who would it be?

A: Jim Morrison a musician from The Doors, Dustin Johnson the golfer, and George W. Bush.

Q. What job did you always dream of having as a kid?

A: I always wanted to be a wild life officer. Once I was done with high school, I ended up doing loss prevention and that's how I got into the police academy at NCSC!

Officer Davis is more than happy to be a part of the Lexington school district. Next time you see him in the hallways or at lunch, don't be afraid to say hi!

## Protecting Our Valuables

People say it's too bad that these days we have to have police in our schools. I disagree. Now, the violent incidents throughout our country are horrific. And the cowards who target our youth and the defenseless are just that, cowards. But everywhere you go there is police; at the airport, the ball game, the concert, you name it. So why not in our schools, is there anything more valuable than our children? A SRO is there not only to keep the peace, but help counsel, and educate on real life matters. A SRO can be a valuable asset to the staff and students alike. A wise man once told me there is armed security for the jewelry he buys his wife, but not for his kids. We are making changes throughout the country to provide a safe environment for everyone, and our schools should be a top priority. I am thankful for this opportunity and remember if you hear something, see something, say something!

## School Resource Officer Vs Police Officer

Are they the same thing? I say no. A SRO is a cop, but a cop isn't an SRO. Confused yet? It is more than just a play on words. To me the big difference is the mindset. Somewhere along the way we have lost track of what our police are here for. To quote, "Protect and Serve" may sound cheesy, but it is true and especially in our community. We are not here to intrude on the lives of other, but to respond when called upon and do our best to help others in need. A good day is not one filled with tickets and reports, but when the kids greet me instead of looking away. When they tell positive stories to their parent, and they then tell me. That is a good day! A SRO has the opportunity to impact their community in the best possible way and change the perception of police. To be seen as more than just an authoritative person in uniform. In the end a SRO is a cop, and perhaps then one everyone is looking for.

## Kids are mean...so they say.

Reports tell us that most kids are bullied at some point. Bullied in person, bullied online, bullied, bullied, bullied. A survey of half the freshman class showed that about 12% have ever been bullied over social media and incidents warranting reported are even lower. As I walk around these halls nothing seems to have changed much, except for the faces. Which raises the question of whether kids are mean, or we are being told that kids are mean. Maybe, just maybe, kid's behavior hasn't changed much over the years, with the exception to the reliance on technology. As a parent, a police officer with 12 years' experience, I'm not sure that kids are all that mean. Is bullying a problem, yes? Is it as big of a problem as it is made out to be, that varies by each person? But what I'm seeing is that these kids are pretty good, and that's something to be proud of.



# Life

## Success is a Family Affair

Miss Ohio Teen USA is now the title that Isabelle owns. Belle was standing on the stage on a Sunday afternoon in Cincinnati, Ohio, huddled next to other contestants. She was filled with a thousand emotions as the emcee was calling the names of the runner-ups. This is one time a contestant doesn't want to hear their name called. Finally, there was just two young ladies left. Belle doesn't remember the name that was called to be the First Runner-Up, but when she didn't hear her name she burst into tears. The emotions of many years came pouring out. For her family and friends in the audience, it was an overwhelming experience.

I have known Isabelle since she was eight years old. In that time, I have watched many good things and tragic things happen in her life. But her pageant story starts many years before she was born. Isabelle's aunt Theresa-Ann Wagner was the Second Runner-Up in the Miss Ohio Pageant in 1989. Tragically, she was killed in an airplane crash. Belle's father was supposed to be on that same plane but a last minute change kept him from traveling that day. The name Theresa-Ann is familiar because Belle's grandma Drena, named a fine clothing store after her fallen daughter. Isabelle's older sister shares that same name. Isabelle and Theresa-Ann participated in pageants at an early age but gave up the pageant life to pursue golf. Theresa-Ann went on to be in Lexington's Wall of Fame for her golf success and played at Indiana University.



Isabelle's family has been very successful. Her aunt Theresa-Ann was very successful in the pageant world. Isabelle's aunt Denise was a great collegiate runner and cross-country coach. Her father was an outfielder for the University of Toledo, and her sister was a successful golfer. It isn't a surprise that Isabelle was going to be successful. It was just a matter of what area of her life. After Isabelle's grandma passed away she made the decision to participate in a pageant last year. Isabelle's grandma had been a long time supporter of the Miss Ohio and Miss Lexington pageants. Isabelle wanted to honor the work of her late grandma. Without question Isabelle did more than honor her grandma. As Miss Ohio Teen USA she will participate in many events and functions over the next year, including being a contestant in the national Miss Teen USA pageant.

With this win Isabelle steps out of the shadow of a successful family and is her own person doing her own thing. The judges of the pageant told Isabelle she won because she was her own person. She stayed true to who she is and who she wanted to be. Isabelle wasn't a model parading around a stage. Isabelle answered her questions honestly. She performed a fitness routine and stood in the same gown she wore to Lexington's Homecoming cere-

# Miscellaneous

## The Headless Horseman- Alissa

The Headless Horseman is widely known tale. There are over six different versions of the Headless Horseman. There are the German, Dutch, American, Irish, Scottish and Indian. The most common tale is “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”. The story takes place after the American Revolutionary War. It is said that the Headless Horseman was a soldier that went into battle. On battle, his head was shot off by a cannonball. On the field, the Headless Horseman was carried away by his fellow soldiers. He was buried at the Old Dutch Church in Sleepy Hollow, New York. There, the Headless Horseman rises in search of his head. The Headless Horseman's modern stories tell of the Headless Horseman riding around during Halloween, around the time he was killed. Many believe the tales to be true and some claim they have witnessed the Headless Horseman rise and haunt them.



## Once Thought to be Extinct...

An elusive tree kangaroo was spotted for the first time in 90 years. An amateur botanist spotted the Wondiwoi tree kangaroo in the remote mountains of West Papua, New Guinea. The Wondiwoi tree kangaroo proceeded to elude researchers for 90 years, to serve as a cause to fear for its extinction. Amateur botanist, Michael Smith, met a member of the species while visiting the dense forestry of the Wondiwoi mountain range. The picture serves as the first photographic evidence of the animal in its natural habitat and is only the second recorded sighting of the elusive species. At first Smith and his team identified the animal as a member of the kangaroo species because of the scratch marks left by the creature's claws, a “foxy scent in the air, and the scat. The tree kangaroo was perched in a tree about 90 feet above the floor. The Wondiwoi tree kangaroo is one of 17 known species of tree kangaroos. The most reasonable explanation for the species to remain unseen for so long is due to its restrictive habitat.



# Miscellaneous

## Iconic Thanksgiving Television Episodes - Vipra

According to our students here are some must watch thanksgiving episodes to get you in the mood.

*How I Met Your Mother* has an episode entitled “Slapsgiving”. Slapsgiving is one of the most iconic long running gags on the hit sitcom. I have seen multiple posts online of friends and families continuing this tradition. My friends and cousins are also guilty of having our own slapsgiving.



*Friends* have an episode called “The one with all the Thanksgiving flashbacks”. The gang looks back on all their terrible Thanksgivings through the years.

*Everybody Loves Raymond* episode “No Fat” is an episode that I’ve heard many people talk about it when holiday episodes are mentioned. Marie decides she and Frank are eating healthy and Deborah agrees. The two start planning a “no fat” Thanksgiving while Raymond, Frank, and Robert watch in horror.



“Thanksgiving” from *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* is a treat for the people who are not the biggest fan of the holiday. In this episode we see a different kind of family. A family made out of your coworkers.

How can I have a list of television shows without mentioning *The Office*? Two words: hay maze. In “WUPHF.com” Dwight recreates his childhood memory of his uncle’s hay place in the Dunder Mifflin parking lot.



*Bob’s Burgers* has multiple episodes dedicated to the holiday. “Dawn of the Peck” was one of the best holiday episodes produced from the show. A “Turkey Trot” at Wonder Wharf turns violent since the turkey’s pecking order is all messed up.



# Music



## Fire-N-Ice and the Ren— Sam

### *Sing Out! A Choral Celebration*

Lexington's Fire-N-Ice performed "Sing Out! A Choral Celebration" at the Renaissance theater on Sunday, October 21, 2018. The concert took place at 3:00 pm. Fire-N-Ice performed with the Mansfield Symphony Chorus and choirs from different high schools in our region. During the concert there were songs from all different genres sung including gospel, jazz, and songs from musicals.

## Hannah Elf Jr.— Sam

### *Extraordinary Lexington Student*

Hannah, a senior at Lexington High School, is going to be playing the lead female role in Elf Jr., at the Mansfield Playhouse. She will be playing Emily Hobb. Hannah says that she loves the show because everyone supports each other. Her, her castmates, and her directors are a big family. The show will be opening on November 30th and will be going on every weekend until December 16th. Hannah has been in theater for three years. The first production she was in was Lexington High Schools production of "High School Musical ON STAGE" in April of 2016.

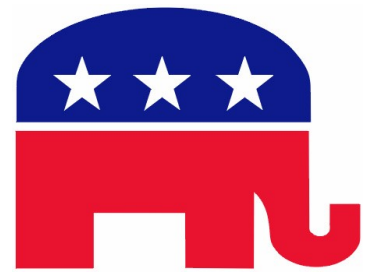
## Wizard of Oz 2018-19 — Sam

### *The Lexington High School Drama Club Presents*

This year the Lexington High School Drama Club will be performing The Wizard of Oz. Mr. Pointer, the new elementary choir teacher at Western, and Mr. Henkels will be directing the production. Auditions to be in the production will take place in February and the show will be performed in early April. If you want to be in the show make sure to listen for announcements and audition dates will be in the next issue!



# Politics



## The Colonization of the West Bank– Seth

When did colonization end? Some may say the 1940's to 1960's, during the famous "decolonization of Africa". By American standards, one can even argue 1776, the date Lady Liberty reigned supreme. However even these dates are flawed, the famous American war for independence didn't end settlement, and the last nation to fully gain their independence in Africa, didn't do so until 1977. Still, small European enclaves survive in Africa, The Spanish holdings in Morocco, Melilla and Ceuta being prime examples. However, Israel take the top spot for having the most controversial settlement policies.

We've all heard of the Zionism and the desire for a sovereign Jewish state. However, to recap, in 1917 Great Britain would be the first to declare support (to arouse Jewish war support) for a native Jewish state; and they had a claim. Modern Israel had been the birthplace for the Jewish faith, with Jews having a cultural, spiritual and historic claim to the land. While Great Britain declared support for Zionism in 1917, it wouldn't be until 1948 that they received what they were promised. However, the same strip of land, was also promised to the native Muslim population. Therefore, the land was split, between Israel and Palestine. Palestine and the Native Muslim population were outraged, as they were promised a free Palestinian state in all of modern Israel-Palestine, but this, they saw as imperial colonization under a new name; it wouldn't be long before war broke out, with Israel quickly claiming victory.

Decades later, anger and violence still rain supreme, but now Israel claimed large portions of land previously promised to Palestine, creating an international crisis. The West Bank, being the heartland of the previous Palestinian government was now thrown into question. With U.S. intervention, in 1993 the Oslo Accords were signed, dividing occupied Palestine (specifically the West Bank) into 3 sections. 18 percent of the land was given to "Section A" where Palestine would hold full independent control. Section B would (22 percent of the West Bank) give Palestine primary control, with Israelis stationed military personnel, providing Israel with the ability to control the area if necessary. Section C (60 percent of the west bank) was given to Israel to do with as they pleased. This area controls most of the West Bank's agriculture, minerals, fresh water and roads, practically restricting Palestine from developing an independent economy.

This creates an interesting predicament in the region. Land previously owned by Native Palestinians now found themselves either partially or completely under Israel occupation, with very little Palestinian autonomy. Even in the areas dictated as independent Palestine (section A) most are surrounded by Israelis settlements, with gated community's. Some Palestinians are even forced to pass through checkpoints governed by Israel.

West Bank settlements are subsidized by the Israel government with one-thirds of housing subsidies being centered in the West bank. Billions of dollars have been poured into Israelis controlled west bank for school and parks, even housing mortgages are significantly lower than mainland Israel. Some settlers even come from around the world, either for the economic success of the settlements, or possible to help in the creation of a Jewish homeland in the West Bank

The Jewish people were promised land, a safe haven to freely worship, and they deserve it, more so they are entitled to it. As are the Native Muslim populations. There is no easy solution, re-devising of the land is becoming harder and harder each day. However, in time, perhaps an answer will be found. Some have recommended Israeli-Palestinian confederation or a two-state solution however this is unlikely. Making Israel or Palestine look like the bad guy is all too easy, however it simply isn't that clear cut. If we can ever hope for peace, then a new generation of thinkers need to take the reins and guide the nations forward to peaceful coexistence, and until that happens, we will be hearing a lot more about this conflict.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
occupied Palestinian territory  
**West Bank: Area C Map**  
February 2011

