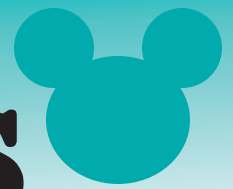


# Paw PRINTS

October 2021 Edition



## Golden Anniversary!

Walt Disney World celebrates their 50th anniversary!

by: Anna Acosta, Keven Cabrera, Kaylie Gonzalez, Isabella Pardo, and Kyra Vaccato

INDIAN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL-It's the most magical anniversary of all! On October 1st, Walt Disney World was celebrating its 50th anniversary of being the happiest place on Earth! This extravagant occasion is going to be celebrated with many shows, decorations, and limited-time events. These celebratory events include Disney Enchantment, Harmonious, Disney Kite-tails, and the opening of several new rides. As well as shows, Disney will also be decorating the entire park in gold and "ear-idescent" colors. With our favorite Disney characters making special appearances, this will be the best anniversary of all time! The anniversary is set to last for eighteen months.

With all these exciting events, people are racing to Walt Disney to enjoy the festivities. Seventh grader Samantha Castaneda says that, "I have too many amazing memories in Disney to pick just one." While 6th grader Lillian Carrero says her favorite memory was her first time going on Rock 'n' Roller Coaster! Mrs. Calixtro says, "I would like to take my family to Disney for their anniversary." She also mentions that she has been a fan since she was at least 12 years old and it has always had a positive effect on her, as she mentions multiple times that it is fantastic! Just like Samantha, Lillian, and Mrs. Calixtro, Disney has positively affected numerous lives in many ways. According to Mrs. Cole, she said that Disney has affected her in the most positive way. "When you drive into Disney property, it's like all of your worries go away and it's like you enter into your inner child which I think you can't get that experience from anywhere else." That is why it is the happiest place on Earth! Happy Birthday Walt Disney World!

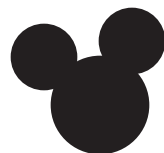
Photo Credits Walt Disney Company



Disney's new Enchantment is a spectacular night-time event showcasing Disney Characters and parades.



Ms. Didier and 7th grader Kelley Wyatt were at Magic Kingdom to celebrate Walt Disney World's birthday on October 1.



### Administration

**Ian Murray, Principal**  
**Irene Gonzalez, 8th grade**  
**Karen Birke, 7th grade**  
**David Malca, 6th grade**



# What's Trending?

By: Amiyah Blandon, Lylah Fine, Morgan O'Steen, Rolando Tomasini



The world wide Marvel phenomenon has returned to release the movie Shang Chi, which is said to break more economic records when released on Disney+. However, it seems that some of the fan base wasn't too impressed with the movie. "Shang Chi was boring compared to the other Marvel movies," remarked Ryan Alves, a sixth grader. Kaylee Lasseter, another 6th grader, also agreed saying "they could have done better." The movie is based on a comic that came out in 1973 and was written by Jim Starlin and Steve Englehart. The movie was directed by Destin Daniel, when asked about it he stated "he really could have used a character like him [Shang Chi]."



Above: Shang Chi, new Marvel movie

Credits: cnet.com

Below: The Addams Family 2, watch the first movie on Hulu

Credits: hiddenremote.com



On October 1, 2021, the loveable misfits, the Addams family, came back to drop their brand new movie, "The Addams Family 2". The original Addams Family show came out on September 18th, 1964. It was created by David Levy and Donald Saltzman and it was loved by its generation. It has had multiple reboots, live action movies, and the animated movie will soon have a sequel. Although some people are desperate for a new movie, Kaylee, a 6th grader, stated "they changed too much from the show to the movie. Because of that, the outcome wasn't good." Regardless, make sure to remember to clear your day, and go to the movie theater to see this beloved misfit family.







# Fashion Trends

By: Amiyah Blandon, Lylah Fine, Morgan O'Steen, Rolando Tomasini

**Fashion trends are all around us everyday. Students in our school use fashion trends such as hair and accessories in their daily life to express themselves.**



Kaylie Gonzalez, 7th grader, likes to dye hair and accessorize!

Kaylie Gonzalez is a seventh grade student here. She uses her hair and accessories to express herself and show her love for her family. She told us, “a lot of my accessories were a gift from my family.” She dyed the underneath of her hair blue because it matches her eyes. She explained that she likes fashion trends because, “you can do wacky, creative things with fashion clothing.”



Toby Aguilar, 7th grader, likes to style hair in cool ways

Toby Aguilar and Matthew Wheeler are two boys in 7th grade. Matthew explained, “I like fashion trends because when I change my style, I get compliments.” He also likes the fact that social media trends change. Toby’s haircut idea came from seeing it on social media, and he also thinks that fashion trends are cool.

Kennedy Elstein is a 7th grade student who loves fashion trends. She tries to express herself by wearing colorful bracelets to show her glowing personality. She says “I like shopping and staying in trend.” She loves the color pink and tries to incorporate it in all her outfits.



Kennedy Elstein, 7th grader, likes to accessorize!



# Notice something mouse-y about this newspaper?

IN HONOR OF DISNEY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY, WE HAVE HIDDEN 50 MICKEYS AROUND THE NEWSPAPER. SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN FIND!

GOOD LUCK!



**MATH WORD PUZZLE**

Directions: Use the key to solve the equations

	=10		=3
	=13		
	=21		
	=38		

+ ÷ × =

$(\text{Paperclip} \times \text{Compass}) + (\text{Paperclip} \times \text{Ruler}) =$

× + 10 =



# Halloween Name Generator

## Birth month-

Jan- Ghost  
Feb- Trickster  
March- Supernatural  
April- Witch  
May- Skeleton  
June- Zombie  
July- Ghoul  
Aug- Goblin  
Sept- Beast  
Oct- Phantom  
Nov- Mummy  
Dec- Vampire

## First initial-

A- Spooky  
B- Creepy  
C- Jackle  
D- Wicked  
E- Masked  
F- Scary  
G- Haunted  
H- Scaring  
I- Frighting  
J- Anonymous  
K- Suspicious  
L- Fearsome  
M- Dreadful  
N- Evil  
O- Eerie  
P- Crawly  
Q- Mysterious  
R- Slimy  
S- Howling  
T- Bleeding  
U- Bitter  
V- Gloomy  
W- Deadly  
X- Dangerous  
Y- Dark  
Z- Devilish

Use your first initial, then the month you were born in to find out your Halloween themed nickname!



# IRMS Sports

## Behind the Scenes with Indian Ridge Athletes

By Kheira Marouf, Sophia Sierra, Akshay Bhardwaj, and Sebastian Diaz

**This month, a lot has been going on in the sports world. Soccer, Cross Country, Golf, Basketball, and Cheer, have started up and Indian Ridge athletes have started strong.**

### Soccer



Photo credit: Amy Battaglia

The soccer team is celebrating after their win!

For the past few weeks, Indian Ridge soccer players have been in action. So far they have faced Seminole, Pines Charter, Nova, Pioneer, and Falcon Cove Middle Schools. They have won the majority of their games, and continue to do so! Indian Ridge soccer players have represented our school very well! Kendra Spitaleri, a member of the Indian Ridge girls team decided to try out for soccer this year because, “I play travel soccer and it’s really important to me!” Kendra is really happy to participate in soccer this year and loves her coach and teammates.

### Cross Country

The cross-country athletes have killed it all season long, but sadly, the season is soon coming to an end. Mr. Haase is the cross-country coach at Indian Ridge and has been coaching for 4 years. His motivation to coach cross country was his love for running. “I found running late in my life and enjoyed it,” stated Mr. Haase. “My goals for this season were to let the athletes have fun while at the same time teaching them how to play to their best ability.” The cross-country team has played well and represented our school. Toby Aguilar is a member of the cross country team, and says that his favorite part about it is, “The parks are nice, and we run the trails, but I also have friends on the team, so it’s fun hanging out with them.”

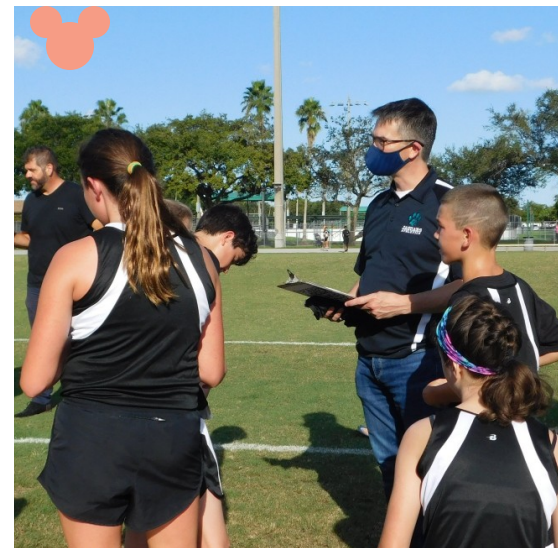


Photo Credit: Ella Brennan  
Coach Haase and his team are preparing for their meet.

# IRMS Sports (continued)

## Golf

The golf team at Indian Ridge has been teeing off and having a great season! Coach Hesterman is the coach for both girls and boys golf as well as the PE coach for sixth grade. Mr. Hesterman stated, “I’ve been teaching golf for a year and I chose to coach golf because I have a passion to play it, and I enjoy it very much.” The golf season is going extremely well, and they are currently undefeated! Sanya Ahmed, a second year golf team member feels that this year is different because, “You get to really bond with your team members and you don’t have to worry about daylight savings time this year!”



Photo Credit: Allison Christopher  
Evan Christopher is at the tee taking his swing.



Photo Credit: Ms. Didier

Mr. White, one of the basketball coaches, enjoys playing and teaching basketball.



Photo Credit: Kheira Marouf  
Ms. Ward the cheer coach is super excited for the season to start!

## Basketball & Cheer

These two sports have been long awaited and are in the midst of starting up. Everyone is excited for basketball! Mr. Hesterman and Mr. White are the coaches for this seasons’ basketball team. Mr. White has been coaching basketball for 13 years, and extremely enjoys it. “My motto is to coach kids how to play the right way and teach them how to play with a purpose.” Mr. White added.

Mr. Hesterman has been coaching basketball for 10 years and played it himself. “A standout player so far this season would be Ta’nyiah Davis. She is a great player and will help lead us during this season.” he said.. Both coaches are excited and ready for the season.

Girls have been eager and ready for cheer all year! Tryouts have been held and the official team has been chosen. Ms. Ward is the cheer coach this season and is excited to be a part of the team. “My goal is to create a family atmosphere with the cheer team and to teach them to learn to be great cheerleaders while making long-lasting friendships.” Ms. Ward stated. She was a cheerleader in middle school so she has experience with cheer, and is super excited to teach it to the girls.



# Clubs for Cool Cats

Its the start of the school year and many clubs are opening up. Some of those clubs include the D&D club, NJHS, Robotics, FFEA, and Student Council. These are some of the afterschool activities that Indian Ridge Middle School students are participating in right now.

Photo Credit Mrs. Beasley



Mrs. Beasley loves Dungeons and Dragons, and even has a dice tattoo!

## Dungeons and Dragons

D&D stands for Dungeons and Dragons, and is run by Mrs. Beasley. The D&D club helps students with social skills, making friends and working out differences, as well as decision making. Mrs. Beasley explained, “ One year I had some students that were interested in playing Dungeons and Dragons, and they asked me if I had ever played, and when I said that I played they got so excited and asked if I would restart the club.” The club is planning on meeting every other Wednesday, and their first meeting was held on October 6th from 4:00-5:00 in room 510. This club has between 80-100 students a year that join. During these club meetings, club members participate in the role playing game Dungeons and Dragons. “Students that enjoy creative writing or reading are students I think would join.” stated Mrs. Beasley.

## NJHS

NJHS is a club for 8th graders who want to make a difference in the community. NJHS stands for National Junior Honors Society, and is run by Mr. Cochran. Mr. Cochran has been running the club for two years, but it has been a club since Indian Ridge opened. NJHS meetings are on Microsoft Teams. “Last week, we just had our induction ceremony after school. It was great to see all the members show up!” Mr. Cochran exclaims. “The purpose of NJHS is to create a desire for community service, to become a leader and an outstanding citizen. Last, to encourage the development of character in the students of Indian Ridge Middle School.” The requirements of becoming an NJHS member are that students must have a 3.75 GPA and be an 8th grader. In order to become a member of NJHS, you have to go through a process. Students will fill out an application that will be later on reviewed. Students also have to submit an essay on character. NJHS helps students become better people and to be selfless.

## FFEA

FFEA is a club that is all about teachers! FFEA stands for Florida Future Educators of America and is now run by Ms. Didier. Although it’s been a club for quite some time, this is only her second year running it. At this time, about 20 students attend the FFEA meetings, which are every other Wednesday from 4:00-4:45 in room 207 The first meeting was held on Tuesday, August 31. At the moment, FFEA is discussing events for the year and has the middle school leadership workshop set for October 16 that is held by the county for FFEA, Student Council, and NJHS. “We just elected our officers,” exclaimed Ms. Didier. Ms. Didier recommends this club for, “Students, especially those that are interested in being teachers one day. It really gives them a hands-on experience.” The FFEA club is looking forward to a possible Adopt-a-Teacher program, as well as considering sponsoring a school Read-A-Thon.



# Clubs for Cool Cats (Continued)



Photo Credit Victoria De Leon Regil



Mr. McGee is new to IRMS, but took on a huge role with this club!



Photo credit Hayden Anton



Dr. Watson is a proud sponsor of Student Council.

## Robotics

The Robotics Club is a club about programming, coding, and robots! The Robotics Club is now run by Mr. McGee and was already established, and before he took over the project. Mr. McGee states, "COVID-19 kind of delayed the time that students were able to come and have fun and learn more about robotics". In order to bring back the club, Indian Ridge collaborated with Western High.

"It was a great turnout. Close to 70-75 students!" exclaimed Mr. McGee. The Robotics Club meetings are held every other Tuesday from 4:00-5:00. "Students who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and if you like machines and things. Or if you wonder how things operate and work, it's definitely the place for you to be." The Robotics Club does participate in competitions but there are no competitions set in stone at the moment. "It's like a hands-on experience, they want everyone to have fun but they're there to assist," says Mr. McGee.



## Student Council

Student Council is a club where you can help at your school and community and become future leaders. It is run by its proud sponsor, Dr. Frank Watson. "Student Council started on Monday, August 16 because they participated in the Pow Wow. The first general meeting where everyone was invited to join the club on was the 25th of August. Dr. Watson has been leader of Student Council for seven years. "It means so much to me because it gives me an opportunity to produce effective leaders and that is something society needs to help people that are ready to serve. People that can make a difference and improve society. "Usually the amount of people that join Student Council are 80 to 100 members and this year we have up to 95 student council members. Student Council holds meetings once every month on a Wednesday from 4:00-5:00 in the media center. "The purpose of student council is to serve as a liason between the student body and the staff. They address the issues of the student and are the voice of the students," says Dr. Watson.



# JAGUAR ON THE SPOT

By: Rose David-Adelee, Samantha Almonte, Nikolai Williams, Julia Savin, Rin Lattanzio

Uniforms have been a highly debated subject for years but there has been very little progress made in an agreement. Both sides of the argument make fantastic points, but still, no compromise has been made. Student expression, students safety, allergies, and comfort have all been brought up. We asked students and staff their opinions on the matter.



Photo credit: Karen Acosta

The uniforms used in your every-day life here at Indian Ridge can be white, black or teal.



Photo credit: Samantha Almonte. The logo found on most uniforms is not required, but preferred.

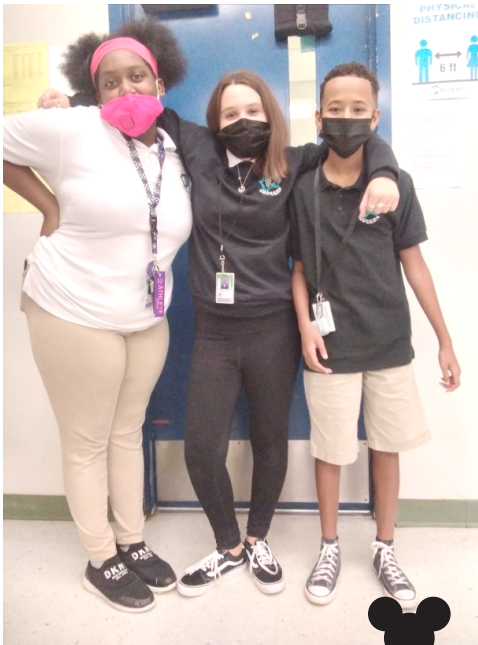
7th grader Anna Montes does not agree with mandated dress code because she believes that, “the way you dress is an important way to express yourself.” If the dress code does change, she also thinks that there still should be basic rules such as not allowing extremely short shorts, hiding your face, graphic words, or face piercings. She emphasizes the unfairness of modifying the rules for girls and making rules stricter for them. She can relate, as last week on a normal Tuesday morning she was dress coded over “shorts being too short” and “showing too much skin” even though she believes her shorts were below her fingertips. She feels that we live in the sunny state of Florida, and we should be able to wear our clothes freely. Anna also concludes that, “Girls are here to learn just as much as anyone else. The way they dress should not interfere with their learning.”





Addie Brawner, Arianna Vassel, and Darasan Bispham love to wear the uniforms

Photo credit: Rose David-Adelee



Kaylee Wrves, a 6th grader at Indian Ridge, agrees on the school mandated dress code. Kaylee believes that the dress code is useful because it optimizes safety. In the event of an emergency, school uniforms would separate enrolled students from outsiders. Even though she likes wearing what she likes, she thinks that our safety comes first in priority.

Cate Andrews, a 8th grader here at Indian Ridge, does not agree with the mandated dress code because she dislikes the discomfort of the uniforms and lack of expressiveness. She states that “I do not like the discomfort, because the materials of the clothes are very uncomfortable, and I do not like the limitation of style.” She states that she was more comfortable without uniforms. Cate states that

“Without uniforms, students were more comfortable. Kids would be happier without uniforms.”

8th grade teacher Mr. White agrees with the mandated dress code for many reasons. He thinks that dress code prevents bullying with clothes because we are all wearing the same thing. Therefore, he thinks the dress code this year is better than last year. He also said that “the dress code impacts the learning and concentration of students because people aren't all distracted on clothes but paying attention to their schoolwork.” At Mr. White’s old school, he had a dress code, and he still has the same opinion about his old school and this school.

**As you can see, many students and staff here at the Ridge have differing opinions on uniforms. Are they good? Are they bad? That’s debatable. But uniforms definitely have their pros and cons. The Indian Ridge family has very diverse and well-informed opinions on the matter, and although the argument continues, both sides have made excellent points.**

# Should Students Be Excused from School for Mental Health?



By Sanya Ahmed, Matthew Wheeler, Gabriella Larson, Arianna Combs

## Yes

At Indian Ridge Middle School students should get mental health days off. Mental health isn't always something that is diagnosed. You may even have a mental health issue yourself and not even realize it. It is important to take days off to give yourself a break. Unplug, do some meditating or anything that helps you relax and reset.

Indian Ridge Middle School Arianna Vassel says that she agrees and thinks students should get mental health days off. Arianna believes that kids won't miss out on schoolwork if they were to miss a day of school, saying that students with mental health issues may already be behind in school. She also thinks that talking to a guidance counselor could help someone with a mental health issue but for her, she would rather be alone listening to music and relax. Talking to Arianna helped us get another point of view on why it's important to have mental health days off.

Another reason why we should have mental health days off at Indian Ridge is because it could bring grades up. Taking a day off from school to reset your mindset can make you more productive. It can also help you realize what is wrong in the first place.

Overall, it is important to have mental health days off at Indian Ridge. It can be helpful because it brings awareness to the topic of mental health, and it could bring grades up.



I believe students should be able to be excused from school for mental health reasons.

First, let me clarify. Mental health is not just being diagnosed by a doctor. Mental health is not something to be ashamed about. Mental health is the health of your thoughts. Just how we take time off when we break a bone, we should take time off if we are mentally broken. You still put a band-aid on when you are bleeding on the outside, so why shouldn't you put one on when you are bleeding on the inside?

Many people shame mental health, only because they don't understand it. This brings me to my first point. Mental health should be included in the terms of being sick. But by our society's standards, mental health is an alien disease. By making mental health a separate field, we raise awareness to the fact that mental health is a real problem. Students who need a day off, should be more than welcome to take time off to sustain their sanity.

Sophia Sierra, a 7th grader at IRMS argues, "Kids would just take advantage of the fact that they can take a free day off, and skip school."

Only a few kids out of hundreds would even consider doing something like that. But should a few misbehaving kids not allow an entire school's population to get the break they deserve? Do a few bad kids stop the school from functioning? Do they have the power to not let good kids take a mental break?

A few misbehaving kids, and people who don't understand what mental health is, should not restrict students from being excused from school for mental health.



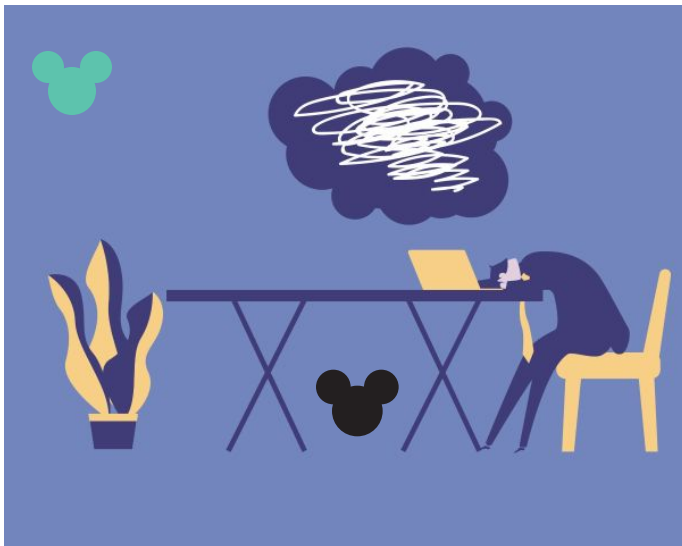
# Should Students Be Excused from School for Mental Health?

By Sanya Ahmed, Matthew Wheeler, Gabriella Larson, Arianna Combs

## No

Students with mental health issues shouldn't need mental health days off during the school year. I believe that since students can already take a sick day off, there is no need to have a mental health day off. Having bad mental health counts as being sick, too. According to a survey conducted of 156 people, 144 said yes to mental health days and 12 said no. I believe most of the 144 people didn't get a good understanding on what the mental health days are.

Students at Indian Ridge Middle School may also take advantage if you were able to be excused for mental health. Adding on, if a student had things going on involving mental health and took an excused mental health day off, when they return to school, they might have unbearable amount of work to do. This could stress them out more making the cause worse. I also think that weekends are days that you would use to rest your mind.



At Indian Ridge Middle School, students should not be allowed to get mental health days off throughout the school year. Mental health is real, but is it worth missing school for? When you come to think about it, you have excused absences with just a phone call from a parent or guardian. Just plopping a name tag on your absence does not change what it really is, a day of no school, filled with lots of mistakes.

Going back to having excused days off school, those missed days could be taken advantage of. We all know at least one kid that just does not care. Anybody could pretend to be having a “mental health day”, but they are doing anything but relaxing. We have the privilege of having weekends off to relax. I mean how many more days off do you need? Any more, and you will end up with the knowledge of a 1st grader with all the work you are missing. Just like how there are kids that do not care, there are kids that do, but there are only a few handfuls. The rest of you guys might not be able to catch up. School is not a game; you will get a good career based on how you did in school. Everything counts here, so slacking off is not ideal right now. Even Arianna Vassel, who said we should have mental health days off, agrees that there are immature kids out there, they are not in for a treat when they get confused and start to see their grades plummet down.



photo credit: iStock/wenjin chen

# Why Social Media is Affecting Education

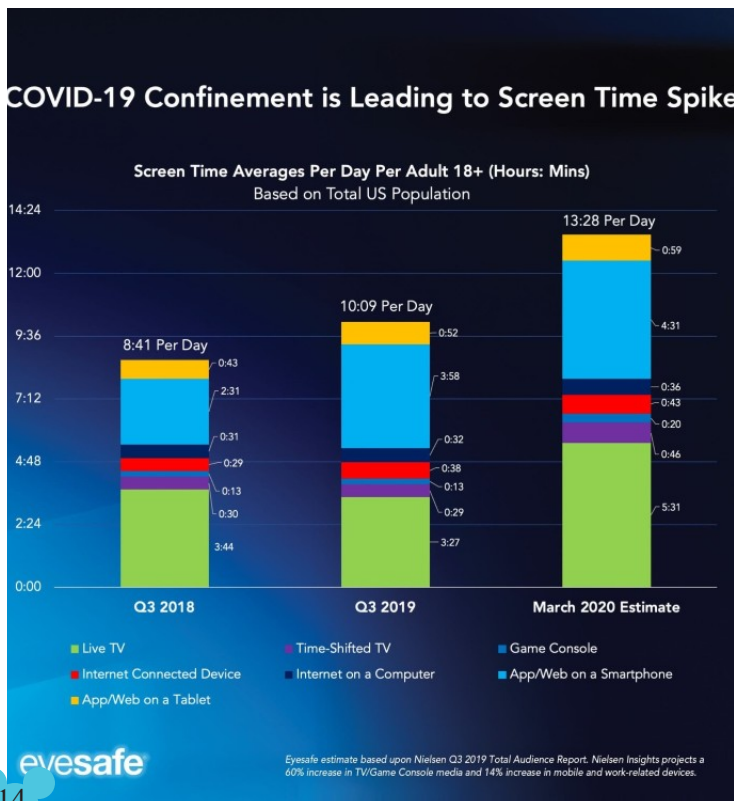
By: Mishary Hossain, Tobias Aguilar, Addison Brawner and Layla Rojas

## Social Media Apps such as, Tik Tok, Snapchat, and Video Games are Hindering the Learning Environment and Here is Why...

Social Media Addiction is common among students at our school. Through a variety of ways, this affects our everyday school schedule.

**Social Media.** We use it all the time, whether it is to contact friends or just posting in general. This can have a significant impact on the classroom. Social media can distract kids from teachings displayed by the teacher. Phones are either hidden under the desk or in the backpack. This can affect their attention span and memory if used incorrectly. Though if used correctly, social media can come as an advantage. “Students that have phones understand the risks vs. the benefits and can make a smart choice to stay off. They are the ones that do the best,” Mrs. Beasley, 6th grade teacher, defends. Phones can teach a student about responsibility if used correctly. If used incorrectly, it can affect knowledge passed on through school.

Why is it so addicting? Studies show typical students spend about 37% of time on social media. This can be addicting for some, because a lot of students try to fit in with popular trends. There is also a huge window of things you can search. This takes up 40% of an average college students’ screen time. Shopping online is also quite common. It saves an abundance of times, way more than going in the mall. According to an article written by Ben Davis, “American 8-to-12-year-olds spent 4 hours and 44 minutes on screen media each day. And teens average 7 hours and 22 minutes — not including time spent using screens for school or homework.” And continues to say that at least 50% of kids are addicted to social media in 2021.



This image is a chart of the spike of screen time in COVID 19. Average screen times are compared from 2018, 2019, and 2020. As you can see, the screen usage from 2020 is drastically higher than the average year. Live TV makes up the majority of screen time. Slightly less time consuming falls to app/browsing on a smart phone. During COVID, this took up 4 hours and 30 minutes of their screen time. In the end, at early 2020, screen time usage was at its peak. It had reached 13 hours for the average adult above 18. The average sleep a human gets is about 8-10 hours. That makes social media take up a majority of people’s time. What do you think might have caused this spike?

Photo Credit: Eyesafe industries.



# Questions



Question 1: Add another way how phones make life easier.

Question 2: Explain a possible theory for why the year of the pandemic had the highest screen time usage.

Question 3: In your own words, summarize how social media addiction affects the schools infrastructure.

Question 4: Explain what is the biggest contribution to social media addiction.

Question 5: What actions do you believe will help reduce social media addiction among children?

## Interviews

Mr. White

Q: Why do you think social media is so addicting?

A: Its addicting because theres things that draw kids in even adults. It shows things that we fantasize about in regards to life, style, and things we want to have but at the same time it can be used a tool.

Q: Do you think kids using social media affects kids learning?

A: I do because its a distraction. Snapchat, Instagram, and tiktok can be captivating. It can draw someone in. So I think that there should be a limit to how long students use social media.

Mrs. Beasley

Q: How do you feel about social media apps?

A: I like them and I use them, I think their a fun way to be on for a couple of minutes and you need to kill some time. But I think we need to be aware at the same time.

Q: Why do you think social media has such a big impact on teens?

A: Because its more a place for getting anything important or relevant, that is where anything like trends develop. That is where anything important comes to life. It's the equivalent of where fashion magazines and gossip comes from when I was a kid.



Mr. White, basketball coach and 8th grade Math teacher (left) says he first hand understands the effect on social media on his pupils.

Mrs. Beasley, 6th grade Multimedia, and TV Prodcution teacher (right) has knowledge on this subject as her class is orientated on social media

Photo Credit: Layla Rojas, Mrs. Beasley



# Upcoming Events

First Day of Fall- September 22

Hispanic Heritage Month- September 15- October 15

Hispanic Heritage Showcase and Talent Show- October 9

Columbus Day- October 11

Early Release- October 19

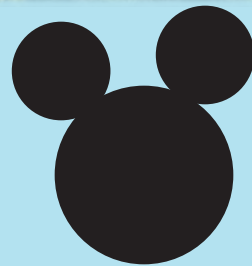
End of 1st Quarter- October 19

No School- October 2



Halloween- October 31

Autumn is here, falling leaves cheer!  
Photo Credits Getty Images



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