



## WEGL The Eagle: Behind the Scenes

By: Jacob Scheuring

Every morning at 8 o'clock, teachers direct their students' attention to their TVs to watch the daily broadcast by Mr. Rosas, Jodie Lalone, Cadie King, and other Eagles' Peak Playhouse members, WEGL The Eagle.

Due to the requirement of a daily broadcast, the morning announcements are filmed live and shot in one take every day. During the broadcast, Cadie and Jodie read from a teleprompter while Aiden Moffitt controls the different cutaways and external clips behind the camera.

After the livestream ends, Cadie, Jodie, Aiden, and Mr. Rosas sit down together and talk about what went well for the day and what they could improve on in the future. For example, they discuss Cadie and Jodie's body language and speaking habits and what they can do to improve themselves and motivate themselves to do better in the future.

When asked about his discrepancies with the current state of WEGL, Mr. Rosas stated that he thinks there is too much dead space where nothing is being said or shown.

Mr. Rosas also noted, "We are far from perfection; we still have imperfections and slip-ups every now and then. For example, we have had to improvise segments when we forgot to pause a YouTube video and an ad played. I also hope to bring a sound effects machine to simulate applause and other noises to enhance the viewing experience."

This is not the first year that EHHS has had WEGL The Eagle. In the second semester of the 2022-2023 school year, Mr. Rosas experimented with the idea and found something that worked in a weekly news broadcast discussing the lunch choices for the week, interviewing different teachers in the school, and other segments.

Mr. Rosas originally planned to have the WEGL program during the first semester of the school year, but due to unforeseen technical difficulties, the project had to be put on hold until he could get his equipment working correctly.

Mr. Rosas hopes to expand the program to a size where he will have "8 to 10 members all doing different things, 2 hosts, 4 people on cameras for different angles, 1 person for YouTube videos and cutaways, and 1 person controlling what the camera shows," as he stated.

WEGL The Eagle has blown a breath of fresh air into the morning

announcements, which many students believed had become monotonous and boring, constantly hearing the same announcements over and over again. Mr. Rosas knows that his project has been a success, and he hopes to turn it into something even more successful in years to come.

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## The Rise, Decline, and the Possible Resurgence of the Box Office

By: Dana Bourgeois

The 2010s were a powerhouse of \$1 billion films. Every year in the decade had at least one film pass \$1 billion. After the turn of the decade, many films, in even popular franchises like the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) have not made nearly as much money as usual, but recently there has been a steady increase.

Before the 2010s, billion dollar films were a rare occurrence. The first film to ever gross over \$1 billion dollars was James Cameron's *Titanic* in 1997 and became the highest grossing film of all time. This beat the previous record held by *Jurassic Park* in 1993. In 2009, Cameron beat his own record with *Avatar*, which was the first film to gross over \$2 billion dollars.

Many other films throughout the 2010s earned over \$1 billion dollars, including *The Avengers* in 2012, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, with a \$1.403 billion gross, *Jurassic World*, with a \$1.671 billion gross, and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, earning over \$2 billion, all in 2015 alone. Sci-fi and superhero blockbusters seemed to be all the rage during this decade and a sure way to earn \$1 billion or close.

The decade concluded with *Avengers: Endgame*, the wrap up of the

first ten years of the MCU in 2019 and took *Avatar*'s title of the highest grossing film. A re-release of *Avatar* reclaimed the title, making *Avengers: Endgame* the second highest grossing film.

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic shut down public places, and theaters were obviously included. Nearly every film went straight to streaming, which many found more convenient than actually going to a theater. Not only was box office performance impacted, but film releases in general. Nearly every film was delayed or sent straight to streaming. Movies that were expected to begin production were delayed a year or two.

2020 was the first year since 2007 not to have a film cross \$1 billion. The highest grossing film of the year was *The Eight Hundred*, which grossed \$461.4 million. A film would not cross this milestone again until the end of 2021 with *Spider-Man: No Way Home*.

When Covid restrictions began to lift, films started to head back into theaters and most simultaneously went to streaming. The most notable case of this was 2021's *Black Widow*. It was set for a May 2020 release date, which was later delayed to May 2021 and eventually July 2021.

The film was projected to be a box office hit since the titular character has been a part of the MCU since the early films. The film ended up grossing \$379.8 million on a \$288.5 million budget. Films need to gross two or three times their budget to be considered a success.

Streaming has become divisive among movie lovers. Many feel it is easier and less expensive, but many also

feel it is taking away from a real cinematic experience. Many believe there are too many platforms with not enough movies or television shows. Streaming services regularly raise prices, which is also a reason many are driven away from having streaming subscriptions.

In November 2023, the rate of people canceling subscriptions rose from 5.1% to 6.3%. Less films are going straight to streaming and this has supported the growth of box office.

2022 showed a huge increase in the past two years of difficult box office runs. Two films grossed over \$1 billion dollars, *Top Gun: Maverick* and *Jurassic World: Dominion*. In addition, *Avatar: The Way of Water*, the sequel to *Avatar*, grossed over \$2 billion that year.

Over the past year, MCU films have fallen out of box office favor. Films that typically would be the top grossers have gone as low as thirty on the worldwide box office list. The highest grossing MCU film of the year was *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*, with \$845.6 million. *The Marvels*, the sequel to *Captain Marvel*, a 2019 film that grossed over \$1 billion, only earned \$206.1 million on a budget of \$270 million.

Many say the biggest reasons for the MCU's latest decline is the franchise's decline in quality and the many properties being released at one time. Not only are there movies, but the franchise has also expanded to Disney+ series.

# Stephanie Garber’s *Caraval* is YA Fantasy Perfection.

By: Maleah Pinnix

Synopsis (Spoiler Free):

*Caraval* follows Scarlett Dragna, a girl who has dreamed of playing a magical game called Caraval that is run by a deceptive man named Legend and his performers. For years, Scarlett has written letters to Legend from her small island, begging him to let her play the game. Year after year, she receives no letter in return, but right when she needs it the most, Legend responds by inviting her and her sister, Donatella, to a private island to play the game.

As the game begins, the lines between reality and fantasy intertwine, and Donatella seems to have been kidnapped as part of the game. Scarlett must find Donatella before the end of night five, or she will face great consequences.

Review:

Getting into a new fantasy series can be very hard. A lot of the time, the first book is used to build the world for the rest of the books. This can cause a lot

of repetitiveness and an altogether boring time while reading the first book. *Caraval* is the first of three books in the series, and it did everything right.

“Welcome, welcome to Caraval! The grandest show on land or by sea. Inside you’ll experience more wonders than most people see in a lifetime” (Garber). *Caraval* First opens the readers into a world that is very surprising. One would expect the immediate embrace of magic, but instead, the reader is shown the real life of the main character. Scarlett and her sister live on a small island with their powerful father who has been abusing them since the disappearance of their mother. So when Scarlett and Donatella head to Caraval, the atmosphere is completely different then the beginning of the story.

The plot is full of surprises and cliffhangers, so that no matter what theory you come up with, it’s quickly and brutally refuted. You’ll be scratching your head until the last page. There’s such a pervasive sense of mystery and

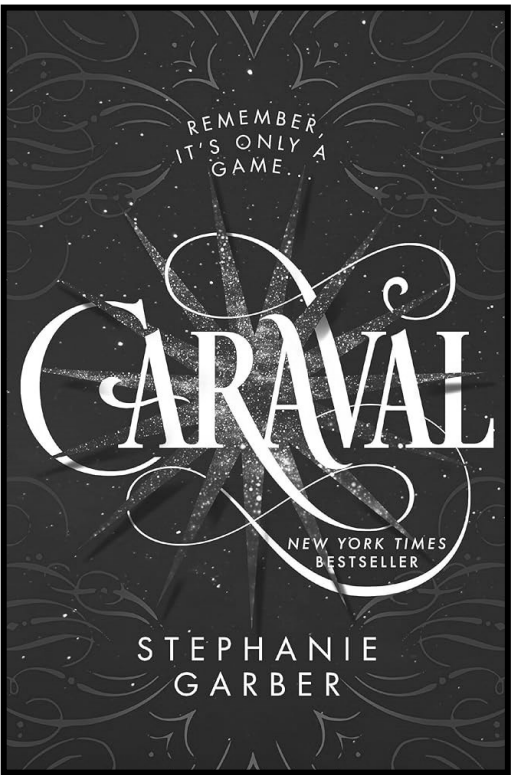
fantastic world-building that it’s almost as if you’re part of the Caraval game, collecting clues alongside Scarlett.

All the characters in the book are incredible. Scarlett in particular is magnificently written. She has an unforgettable backstory and amazing depth. You can’t help but feel for her, from anger and sadness to happiness and elation. Legend, the antagonist, is also an amazing character even though he is rarely seen. He is a man of mystery and that is what makes him interesting and memorable. He can be anyone or no one.

This book also includes a slow-burn romance between our main character and a sailor named Julien. The two characters are filled with banter and tension. There’s also just enough ambiguity, especially regarding Julian’s suspicious past, to make you wonder if they’ll wind up together.

Lastly, the book doesn’t fail to warm the hearts of the readers with the importance of sisterhood. Donatella and Scarlett’s unconditional love for each other is the heart and soul of the story. In a way, it’s their love, not the love between Julian and Scarlett, that is the real love story in this book.

*Caraval* is an easy escape into a magical yet real world. If the series continues this, the trilogy will definitely be one of the greatest in recent years. There is truly nothing done wrong in this book. It is quite simply— YA fantasy perfection.



## Anime Review: One Piece (Romance Dawn Saga)

By: Andrew Tamayo

Toei Animations recently wrapped up animating an important arc for the *One Piece* series, the Wano Country Arc. However, due to length constraints, the only arc I will be covering is two of the Romance Dawn Saga Arcs.

*One Piece* is an adventure anime and manga series written by Eiichiro Oda and animated by Toei Animations written to target 12-18 year olds. This anime focuses on a great age of pirates in which they explore the uncharted seas and compete for a legendary treasure known as the *One Piece*.

The manga is considered one of the best selling pieces of literature with over 516 million copies sold. This puts it only second to popular series *Harry Potter* and even outselling comics such as *Superman*.

A reason the manga is so beloved is because of the amount of attention to detail each character gets. Each side character gets their own individual battles

and times to shine, especially members of the main character crew, the Straw Hats.

Not only are the characters well-developed, but also the overall perspective is very different as a result of the main character being a pirate, a title usually associated with villainy and pillaging.



However, the crew is not fundamentally evil and overall, has noble reasoning behind their moves.

On top of that, Luffy, the captain and main character, has never killed a single person but rather tries to crush their ambitions instead.

During the first arc, viewers are introduced to Monkey D. Luffy, who is classified as a “Rubber Man” due to his fruit-based power known as the “Gomu Gomu No Mi”.

Luffy’s special power, the Gomu Gomu no Mi, allows him to turn his body into rubber in order to stretch and compress.

Luffy’s overall dumbfounded nature as well as his purity even as a pirate helps him navigate this world of piracy in his own unique way. As a result of this unique take on the essence of being a pirate, readers grow to love Luffy as a character.

Despite its length, *One Piece* is a great choice due to the piece-by-piece world-building and Oda’s great foreshadowing and narrative abilities.

As well as his story-telling abilities, Oda has a unique art style that develops as the character’s achieve their ambitions. Whenever a character achieves their dream, they tend to adopt a more refined character design.

However, when a character fails and gives up, their design tends to look somewhat goofy and silly.

Overall, the character design, despite its insignificance to the plot, shows the reader how the character is doing in achieving their dreams.

In short, I would recommend watching *One Piece* if you have the time to finish the nearly 1100 episodes. Because of its popularity, there are massive communities around it that you can engage with and find a lot of similar people.

Overall, *One Piece* is a great anime despite its length and overall, I believe it is worth the 16+ day straight time it takes to watch the entire show.

# Is Technology Bad For Your Brain? Well, It's Complicated

By: Izzy Naragon

Technology has become a part of the average person's everyday life. Some of these technologies include television, computers, smartphones, video game consoles, and more.

Along with this increase in technology use, it is important to understand what happens in the brain when looking at these screens.

Some believe that looking at screens for hours on end affects the brain greatly. However, Dr. Micheal Rich (Director of Center on Media and Child Health at Boston Children's Hospital) agrees, but has a different outlook. He says, "It's not how long we're using screens that really matters; it's how we're using them and what's happening in response."

Watching short videos of brain rot is not helping the brain. Working on digital puzzles, crosswords, scrabble, and chess are good examples of what people should be doing to increase their skills. The brain needs exercise, so any game or puzzles will make the brain work.

Research shows that there are some negative and positive effects when looking at screens. However, in order to use it positively, it has to exercise the brain.

Video games can help people improve their cognitive skills and multitasking. Forty-six volunteers from the ages of 60 - 85, played a game called NeuroRacer. The game consisted of controlling a car on twisty roads while still paying attention to the road signs.

sixteen participants played while

driving and reading road signs. fifteen participants did either driving or naming off road signs. The leftover fifteen did not play the game at all.

After playing the game, only the sixteen participants that drove and read road signs improved with their multitasking and cognitive skills. The other participants were unaffected.

While NeuroRacer helped the brain, some video games seem to harm the brain.

In 2007, Steven J. Kirsh and Jeffery R. W. Mounts conducted an experiment that shows how a violent video game slowed down the brain's reaction time to facial expressions.

They took 197 students that ranged from the ages of 17-23. They had the students play a violent video game for some time. Kirsh and Mounts would then show a simulation of changing expressions and the students would have to read the expression quickly.

The results showed that the students read the happy expressions faster than the angry ones. Overall, the students responded to the expressions slower than before they played the video game.

For example, when people are texting, they are not able to see the expressions or pay attention to what the other person is actually saying. It is important to get human interaction to increase the level of these abilities. Not being able to see these facial expressions, dampens the ability to recognize.

The use of technology among children has increased over the past couple of years. Studies show that the more amount of time that children use screens, the less time they get sleep.

However, this applies to everyone, not just adolescents.

In Boston, Massachusetts, an experiment was conducted in which twelve volunteers read on an E-reader for

five nights. This was repeated but with handheld books instead. According to brighamandwomens.org, the participants who read on the E-reader "took longer to fall asleep, were less sleepy in the evening, and spent less time in REM sleep." The volunteers are decreased in melatonin secretion.

The overuse of technology can also cause some physical health issues unrelated to sleep. Some of which include eye strain, physical inactivity, hearing, and musculoskeletal issues. However, these problems can be solved by some changes.

To help eye strain, it could be useful to do the 20-20-20 rule. Take a twenty second break between twenty minute intervals of looking at a screen and stare at something that is twenty feet away. It's also important to get frequent eye check ups because bad eye sight could also contribute to eyestrain.

Inactivity is simple to solve. The solution is to exercise and move the body more. According to the World Health Organization, everyone should be getting 150 minutes of exercise per week. Another way to solve this problem is to get up, walk around, and stretch to get your body moving.

Looking up or down for long periods of time is straining the neck. This can be easily fixed just by fixing posture. Another way to keep from neck strain is to invest in a standing desk. A standing desk can put a person face to face with their computer in front of them instead of bending their neck up or down.

Technology only seems to be progressing, so it is important that people start taking extra care of their body. Even just taking breaks between electronic use will help.

## Staff Spotlight: Teacher of the Year Jennie Presson

By: Dana Bourgeois

East Hickman High School is home to many exceptional teachers. Mrs. Jennie Presson is among them and has shined this year. Mrs. Presson is an English teacher, the staff sponsor of the yearbook staff, and a staff member on the prom committee. She has been teaching for sixteen years and has taught both middle and high school, grades six through eleven.

She taught a variety of subjects including English, science, history, and a program called AVID, an educational support class. Eleventh grade is her favorite grade to teach, though she has enjoyed teaching every grade in different ways. "Definitely enjoy teaching high school the most, though middle school is fun in its own way." History is her



favorite subject to teach.

Mrs. Presson knew she wanted to be a teacher as a child. "It's something I wanted to do from the time I was little." After marrying and having a family, she decided to pursue her passion. "It was a way for me to help young people better themselves and overcome their struggles."

She

attended Tennessee State University for her Bachelor's Degree and Carson Newman for her Master's.

Mrs.

Presson was chosen as this year's teacher of the year from East Hickman High School. She was surprised due to this only being her second year at EHHS when she

was chosen, and it made her cry. "It made me feel right and like I must be really doing something for students if the other adults recognize that."

Her favorite thing about teaching is being able to build relationships with her students, but her least favorite thing is disciplining students.

She is in charge of the yearbook and says, "I like getting to work with students in an area less academic and more about their interests." However, due to the shortened time of two days a week during SOAR, she finds it difficult and stressful to meet with students and actually work on the paper closely with them.

Mrs. Presson took over the yearbook when Ms. Spain left last year after the Winter break. She discussed taking over with then principal Mrs. Williams. "It was a mix of me offering and being asked to take over."

Outside of school, Mrs. Presson has multiple fun hobbies. She loves reading, kayaking, and spending time with her many pets. She also runs a youth ministry to be able to help teenagers outside of school.

Mrs. Presson's idea of a good day at school is just getting to help her students in whatever way possible. Her best advice to students is for them to "remember their worth and always strive to be the best." "Just be kind, it doesn't cost anything" she also adds. She expects her students to do their very best. "They should get back up when they fail. Don't

# Opinion - The Future of American Education: Trends and Predictions for the Future

By: Andrew Tamayo

The Covid-19 pandemic confined many Americans to their homes during an era of rapidly advancing technology. As a result, many Americans opted to keep their children at home while receiving their education as mandated by quarantine orders.

Thus, began the perpetuation of previously fledging online homeschooling programs. Software products such as Instructure’s Canvas and Zoom’s video calling platform grew in popularity and stock price tremendously.

Many LEAs, or local education authorities often known as “school districts,” found ways to officially recognize and implement this growth of online education into their own schools.

For example, in our county, the district created a new online school known as the Hickman County Learning Academy. At the time, however, the system faced troubles with keeping students accountable. As a result, many students, including myself, fell behind in our work.

Due to accountability issues and a lack of the in-person pressure, students such as myself struggled with this form of education. However, it only seems to be getting more and more popular among students.

One of the reasons homeschooling may be getting popular post-pandemic is due to a lack of trust in local governments to represent the parents when it comes to what is taught in the system.

According to the Pew Research Center, only 20% of Americans trust the

government to do what is right for the people. This creates an environment in which parents tend to try teaching their children themselves or putting them in an environment in which the in-person influence isn’t there.

Another factor in upcoming education trends is the shortage of teachers. The Economic Policy Institute projects that in 2024, there will be 300,000 teaching job vacancies with only 100,000 teachers to fill those spots. This projection seems to be relatively accurate when viewing the effects on our county.

Overall, our education system’s foundation is crumbling. However, some companies believe that they have a solution.

Instructure’s Canvas attempts to facilitate online learning mostly on the collegiate level organized by modules. However, this type of education is usually reserved for the collegiate level as it requires discipline to stay on track.

At the high school level, company Elevate K12 is attempting to utilize an agency model to mimic classroom teaching on a livestream. However, they fail to understand one portion of what engages students.

A real-life teacher will always do a better job of engaging students in their subject compared to someone on a live stream. So, what’s the solution?

I believe that education will become a lot more self-paced in the future. One technology I believe that will be used for this is Artificial Intelligence.

Artificial Intelligence is extremely good at noticing patterns and trends. I believe that this technology will be used in order to assess and facilitate all of the students' learning in the future.

I believe that standardized testing will be used to assess an initial benchmark and a student’s grades and speed at which they achieve those will determine the pace in which the course is completed.

Lastly, I believe that education will be less time-based and more based on performance. In other words, I believe that the tradition of semester-long and year-long classes are over.

I believe that students will finish their courses when they finish them whether it be a few weeks or a whole year.

Overall, I believe that if technology is used correctly in education, we may be able to create a good environment for educators and students alike. However, other experts in the field may believe differently.

On the website for Stanford’s Hoover Institute, Grover J. Whitehurst, a K-12 Task Force participant states, “In 2030 curriculum is at the fore[front] of education rather than serving as it did 20 years ago in the shadow of reform efforts involving teacher performance, choice, standards and accountability, and school governance. Students engage with curriculum in web-based environments that include virtual social agents.”

Overall, I would say that this perspective is a negative future for our students. The decentralization of the school system, despite the disorganization it causes, is one of the things that allows educators to take creative liberty in facilitating their studies.

By centralizing education like this, the only people benefiting are giant technology conglomerates that decide to create software dedicated to the trend. Meanwhile, the students, different in nature from each other, can’t benefit from the individualization the physical classroom can bring.

Overall, there are many potential futures for our children and no one can accurately predict everything that will come into play. However, I believe that those who keep an open eye will witness the change that will either create or disrupt the future for America’s children.

## 2023-2024 Boys’ Basketball: A Season To Remember

By: Jacob Scheuring

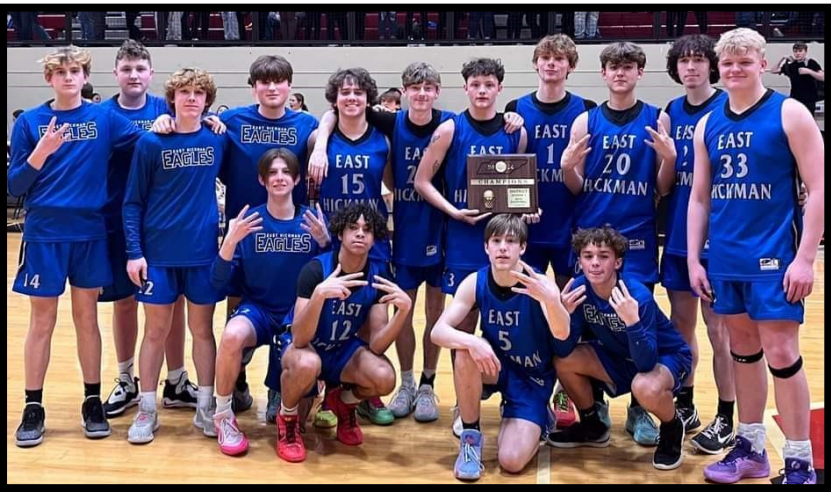
The 2023-2024 East Hickman High School boys’ basketball team saw success unlike any other team in the school’s history. They became the first team to reach the Sub-State Tournament, just one game away from the State Tournament.

In addition, they also saw significant success throughout the season, being crowned district champions after defeating the Hickman County Bulldogs, only to face them again in the Regional Championship at Camden County High School. Despite losing to the Bulldogs in the Regional Championship game, the Eagles moved on to face Cannon County High School for a chance to make it to the State tournament.

The starting five for the Eagles, Braedon Kelly, Carson Hill, Braxton Hill, Mason Nolen, and Nathan Hobbs, all

played a significant part in the team’s success. After all 33 games played, the team scored an average of 54.5 points while allowing 56.7 points per game. Braedon Kelly was the leading scorer, averaging 11.9 points per game.

Coach Matney said, “I am extremely proud of these guys and how



far they have come. From not winning a single game as freshmen to almost going all the way, that just proves we are the best around.”

During the Sub-State game at Cannon County High School, the Eagles put up a combined 50 points, with Nathan Hobbs contributing 17 of those. Despite their efforts, the Eagles would come up

short and lose with a final score of 66-50, bringing their historic season to a close.

At the end of the season, Braedon Kelly and Nathan Hobbs were recognized as two of the best players in their district, Carson Hill as the defensive MVP of the district, Braedon Kelly and Carson Hill as two of the best players in the district tournament.

Nathan Hobbs was the MVP of the district tournament. Carson Hill and Mason Nolen were recognized as two of the best players of the Regional Tournament. Braxton Hill was also recognized as the player with the most hustle and effort on the team. Syllas Quillen was named Junior-Varsity Player of the Year, while Carson Hill was Defensive Player of the Year, and Braedon Kelly was the team’s Offensive Player of the Year. Nathan Hobbs was named Most Valuable Player.

Expectations for next season are high for Nathan as he will be able to carry on the energy from this season into the next.

Coach Matney summed up their season by saying, “Aw, man. It was a never say die season, those kids never quit.”

# Senior Spotlight: Gavin Parrish

By: Maleah Pinnix

When Gavin Parrish was a small child, he imagined himself becoming a zookeeper, but now many years later, Gavin is heading in a completely different direction after graduation.

Gavin plans to attend Tennessee Tech in the fall for chemical engineering. Tennessee Tech is ranked highly for its engineering program, and that is exactly why Gavin chose to continue his education there. But before everyone sees how Gavin can succeed in college, one can also see how Gavin is an extremely well rounded high school student and athlete.

Gavin believes that since his freshman year, his work ethic has improved greatly. This is important because of how involved Gavin is at EHHS. Gavin is a part of multiple clubs, sports, and many other extracurricular activities.

Gavin was involved in Spanish Club before its disbandment, but is still involved with both Student Council and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). With Student Council, Gavin has helped lead many school events such as homecoming, dances, and community service.

With FBLA, Gavin has seen great success. Gavin has competed in website design for three years at the State Leadership Conference, and once competed at the national competition as

well. He was a part of the first group of students to qualify for the National Leadership Conference in EHHS history.

Gavin attended these trips with his favorite teacher, Mrs. Morgan. He says that he appreciates her for how nice and caring she has been to him over his four years at EHHS.

If there is an advanced class available to take, Gavin will be one of the first to sign up for it. He believes that the



hardest part of being a senior is trying to manage his higher level courses such as AP calculus. He has taken many college level courses including his least favorite, AP Physics, and his favorite class, Honors Geometry. Gavin actually wishes that the school could offer in person college classes, rather than them being solely online.

One of Gavin’s greatest

accomplishments is his performance in the bridge competitions. He comments on his journey by saying, “The process starts with coming up with a design that is constructively sound. You have to figure out all these various things, such as how much this will bend, how much pressure is on this piece, finding where to add or take weight away.” This year Gavin placed second in the state and advanced to the national competition and placed thirty-third.

Surprisingly, Gavin has also been able to find the time to do fun activities in school as well. Gavin has been a part of the three time winning Lip Sync Battle group, “The Sterling Fan Club” as well as the winning group for the Homecoming skits.

After graduation, Gavin has a booked up summer itinerary. He plans to take a beach trip with his friends, go kayaking, and do lots of work. Gavin works for his family business that does historic restoration, and he will be working for them all summer to save up for college expenses.

Although Gavin is an incredible student, what is important is what he would bring with him to a deserted island. When asked what 5 items he would need to survive he says: a first aid kit, heavy duty tarp, hatchet, rubix cube, and a dictionary. Being stranded on a deserted island will for sure help him get started with his biggest life goal to build his own home.

Gavin and his hard work will definitely be missed at EHHS, but everyone is excited to see him succeed in his next chapter of life!

# Junior Spotlight: Kaiden Shupe

By: Jacob Scheuring

Kaiden Shupe is a Junior at East Hickman High School. He plays offensive and defensive lineman on the Eagles football team. When he is not practicing with his team, Kaiden goes to D1 Training in Franklin, Tennessee where he trains with Dylan Bradley, the brother of Jeffrey Simmons, a defensive end for the Tennessee Titans.

After he graduates high school, Kaiden plans to attend Columbia State Community College and major in Business Management. He said he wants to go to Columbia State because “ it is cheap, close to home, so I can still hang out with my friends and family, and I can go there free for two years because of TN Promise.”

Outside of school and football, Kaiden likes to hang out with his friends and play on his PlayStation. His favorite games are *Madden NFL 24* and *Fortnite*. When he hangs out with his friends, he plays sports like football and basketball, and he frequently goes to the Fairview Recreational Center.

Kaiden said his biggest inspiration on the field is, “I have to be there for my

team, and as long as I don’t let them down, I know they will always have my back when I need them.” Off the field, he looks to his mom for advice and guidance in his daily life.

Kaiden said if there were anything he would want someone to know, he would want them to know that he likes sports and is a fun person to talk to.

His favorite class this year is U.S. History with Coach Austin. He said this is because “He’s very loud and funny and makes being in the class enjoyable.”

Kaiden is excited about becoming a senior next year, he says, “ I’m just excited to get out of here and actually live the life I want to live.”

Kaiden has a lot of expectations to live up to next year, senior on the football team and a leader amongst his peers. However, he thinks he can handle anything that is thrown at him.



## A Special Thanks To Our Staff At The Eagle’s Eye

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*Co-Editor* -Andrew Tamayo

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# Boys Soccer

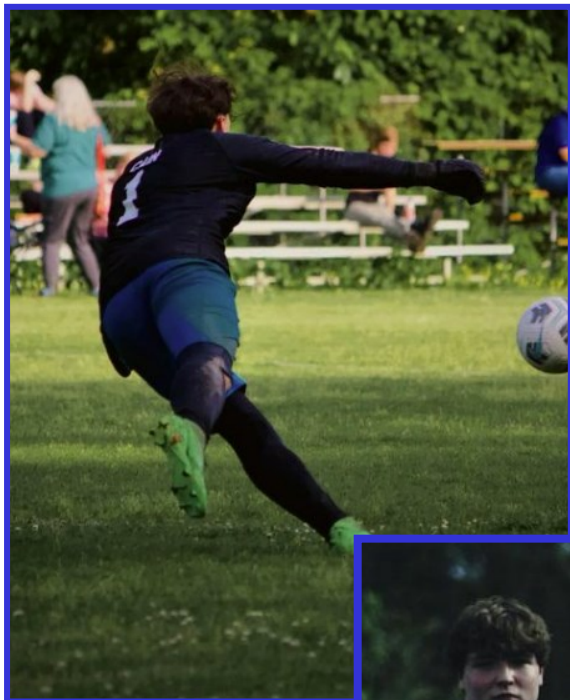
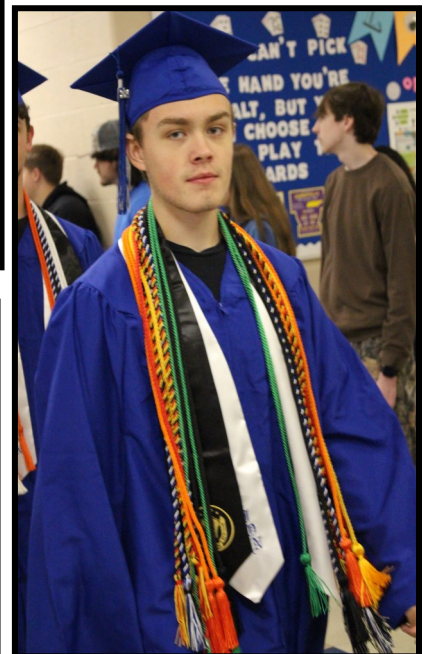


Photo Credits: Konner Milliken

# 2024 Senior Walk



# Academic Pressure on Adolescents

By: Maleah Pinnix

With the 2023-2024 school year coming to an end, it’s important to discuss academic pressure and how it affects students. Students have to constantly be aware of their grades just so they can succeed. Parental expectations, class rank, and college decisions all play a part in academic stress.

School is a place where students learn, grow, and develop. But academic pressure can lead students to feel overwhelmed and not perform at their best.

The National Library of Medicine put out an article about the influence of academic pressure on adolescents. One of the biggest points they discuss is the pressure caused by parents.

During their school years, parents often monitor their child's performance and push them to excel in class and participate in sports or any other extra-curricular activities. But too much pressure and only rewarding them when they achieve high grades can have a negative impact on their mental health.

The family must accept that each child has his or her own skill set and his

or her own way of doing things at school. Parents push their children when they are worried about their future job. Another reason is that parents have set goals in the past that they didn’t reach and now want their child to reach them. Families don’t think about what their young ones want, which increases teen mental illness.

Another reason why a student may feel academic pressure is because students are given a lot of difficult assignments in different classes at the same time. Each class has different requirements, but they all add up to academic pressure and stress. A student's course load can cause a lot of overwhelming feelings that could develop into serious mental health issues over time.

There are many factors that can affect the amount of academic pressure a student feels, such as the ever-increasing pressure to get accepted into a top-tier university. For example, a student may notice that their classmates are doing better than them in their classes, which puts pressure on them to do better.

Ivy Leagues have created a prestigious reputation and have subsequent opportunities. Teenagers across America compete to be the best of the best just to get into one. Ivy Leagues average at around a 4% acceptance rate, and for most students, admission is

unattainable.

Even state schools are starting to become harder to get into due to everyone trying to strive to be the best. Most B average students could get into most state schools, but now the bigger places are rejecting or waitlisting them.

All of these factor into academic stress and can cause harm to student’s lives. Research has shown that academic pressure has a significant impact on problem behavior among teens through conflict between parents and children, as well as on subjective well being. This leads to deviant behavior, including sleep disturbances and substance use.

Excessive academic pressure can also have a negative impact on student relationships. Some students become very competitive, which can lead to conflicts with their peers. Isolation from academic pressure can also result in feelings of loneliness.

Academic pressure is not necessarily bad. It can be beneficial to encourage students to face challenges in the academic world. However, it can be extremely harmful. It is important to differentiate healthy stress from negative stress.

# Our Neighbor Nashville Is Growing Again

By: Izzy Naragon

Nashville is known as one of the fastest growing cities. This has caused the city’s population to increase.

According to wandrly.app, 2020’s population is 14.2% higher than Davidson county's population in 2010. This means that nearly 90,000 people moved to that area in 10 years. In 2023, about 81 to 100 people moved to Nashville daily. So 29,565 people or more moved to Nashville in 2023.

The population increase is due to several factors. Nashville is one of the top cities in the south for the number of jobs it has. In 2022, Nashville is number six in job growth for the nation.

While Nashville is still an expensive place to live, it is still 2% lower than the national average. Many of the people who are moving to Nashville come from places that are at national average or higher.

People know that Nashville is known for its ability to produce a variety of different music, hence the name “Music City.” Nashville produces pop, rock, jazz, blues, and many other types of music. This is one of the many reasons why people call Nashville a “unique” and “vibrant” city.

Along with music, the city has the Country Music Hall of Fame, Tennessee State Museum, The Grand Ole Opry, Bridgestone Arena, The Parthenon, Frist Art Museum, The Catbrid Seat, and The Continental. All of the different eye-

catching attractions also increase Nashville touring rates.

Along with population growth comes more crime, right? However, Nashville has seen a decrease of homicides by 50% from this time the previous year. There have been 10 homicides from January to March this year. Before 2017, Nashville has never seen more than 100 homicides in a year.

Unfortunately, most of the victims of these homicides have been between the young ages of 13 and 24.

**“Larry Ellison, Oracle owner, says that Nashville’s ‘got a unique and vibrant culture.’”**

While homicides have decreased, rape reports have increased. In March 2023, there were 82 reports for that year. This year, 93 reports were made by March as well. This number has increased since then.

Aggravated assaults have decreased by 10.5% this year. By March of 2023, there were 1,079 reports of aggravated assault. This year, there have been 966 reported incidents.

Robberies have dropped 14.9% compared to 2023. Burglary has also seen a decrease by 4.3%. Nationwide, it has decreased by 17.2%.

While most of these issues are decreasing, auto theft is on the rise. 1,099 auto thefts have been reported by March 2024. Compared to last year’s 525, this is a big jump.

Most of these crimes took place in the same areas of Davidson County and Nashville. Most homicides have been in the West, East, South Precincts. Most rape, robbery, and burglary cases have been in the North Precincts.

While Nashville and Davidson County are growing with crime, there is also a shortage of metro police officers. However, they are trying to attract more

hires. Incentives include paying up to \$35 an hour and allowing them to pick the days they work.

The counties surrounding Nashville are also adapting to some population changes. Williamson county, Sumner county, Rutherford county, Wilson county Robertson county, and Cheatam county have all grown in population from 2020 to 2023. Some counties farther outside of Nashville such as Hickman, Dickson, and Cannon county have also seen a small population growth due to Nashville.

While Nashville continues growing, people can expect some changes to the area. For example, Oracle will be placing their world headquarters in Nashville. Larry Ellison, Oracle owner, says that Nashville’s “got a unique and vibrant culture. As we surveyed our employees, Nashville ticked all the boxes. It's the center of the industry we’re most concerned about, which is the healthcare industry."

Oracle plans to build a pedestrian bridge across the Cumberland river. They also plan to build a park that will include their office and community clinic buildings that will have “the latest versions of Oracle software.” They will also be building a floating stage that will be used for concerts.

The new world headquarters will provide 8,500 jobs. The more jobs that Nashville provides, the more opportunities for people to get good jobs. Some counties have people who drive to Nashville for their jobs. This includes Hickman county.

Looking Forward and Back:  
Advice for Freshman and a  
Look to the Past

By: The Eagles’ Eye Staff

East Hickman High School students responded to two questions: What is your favorite memory from elementary school and what advice do you have for incoming freshmen? The nostalgic memories from the student body conjure up visions of recess and happy and engaging activities.

Many people said that some of the best memories were recess, swinging on the swings, playing tag, and “playing with the rainbow parachute thing in the gym.” One said “all my friends would play football outside and have no worries in the world.” Likewise, other students said being free from worry and “not caring about flaws or insecurities and just being a kid” were the best.

Field day made a lasting impression with water balloons and medals for different activities. One person had a very specific memory of “Field Day in 5th grade, it was our celebration before going to middle school, and the school let all the moms come in and braid and spray paint the girls’ hair. It was so much fun having these two huge hot pink braids in my hair.”

However, it was not all recess and play. Lessons in learning how to “be” with others occurred through new friendships. One person said “developing my first crush” was their best memory. Others remembered being in class with specific friends; one remembered going to the principal with a friend for “non-

stop giggling in class.” Some of those relationships became lasting because one person responded that his or her best memory was “meeting the people who became my best friends.”

Remarkably enough, reading was high on the list of memories. People remember “getting in the reading circle.” Someone said that “My favorite memory was in my kindergarten class and Mrs.McCaleb reading to us on the carpet everyday.”

Several students said they remember making gingerbread houses, which warms the heart that holiday activities hold a special place in students’ reflections. Thanks to all the elementary teachers who plan wonderful activities!

Students also shared their advice for future freshmen. Their advice was overwhelmingly positive, and the admonishment to “Do your work.” was repeated again and again. In fact, DO NOT PROCRASTINATE was written just like that—all caps. (Maybe that one should be in bold, also.)

One student advised, “You’re going to grow and change, don’t hold yourself back from great opportunities just because your friends aren’t participating, and always do what is best for you because at the end of the day you are the one responsible for your achievements no one else.” Another wrote, “Do not waste your freshman year and slack off! You will regret not at least trying.”

Some wise words were given with this entry: “The time does go by faster than you think; there is a lot of procrastination about the future career plans, but stick to a goal and figure it out. Try new things you think you might not like. You have so much time to become a

different person in the next four years of your life. It’s crazy how you’re going to look back and see how much you really have changed, including, of course, work ethic.”

Being authentically you was a common theme. One stated, “Stop caring what others are thinking of you asap. It’ll dictate your whole life.” Someone else reiterated, “Don’t let drama affect you or distract you from your normal day to day life. Also, don’t try to be someone you’re not to fit in.” Another wrote, “Make good friends and be a good friend.”

Many current high school students weighed in with clear and timely advice, showing that maturity does happen in high school as students begin to think about what is beyond EHHS. One prompted future freshmen to “Study, don’t waste your time on stupid things and lead a healthy life, don’t consume things that harm your body and remember that you have a goal to meet and if you don’t have it yet, set a goal.”

Many pieces of advice addressed teacher-student rapport. One admonished, “...Do not be too quick to judge your teachers. Try to get to know them, and have them help you when you need it. Don’t be scared to ask for help!” The last piece of advice highlighted is one teachers will appreciate as well as students in the hall: “It is not cool to be mean to teachers; they work harder than you give them credit for and most of the time, if you are kind to them, they are more willing and understanding to work with you through whatever your problem may be. Also, learn the hallway and don’t walk at the pace of a snail—it’s rather annoying.”


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EHHS FBLA: Three Time National Qualifiers

By: Maleah Pinnix

In April of 2024, The EHHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club attended the State Leadership Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Nine students went on the trip and competed in various competitions. Alexi Roberson competed in Intro to Business, Dana Bourgeois competed in Journalism, Lizzie Bentley competed in Personal Finance, Abby Aldrich competed in Job Interview, Tyler Allen, Anna Breece, and Maleah Pinnix competed in Social Media Strategies, and Gavin Parrish and Andrew Tamayo competed in Website Design.

This conference takes place over three days and during that time, students compete in their competitions, participate in workshops and silent discos, and they get to use their free time to explore Chattanooga.

In 2022, four students who attended the State Conference became the first students from EHHS to qualify for the National Conference which took place in Chicago, IL as only sophomores. The following year, three of those students qualified once again for the conference in Atlanta, GA. Now in 2024, those three students have qualified for the National Conference in Orlando, FL to finish off

their senior year. Tyler Allen, Anna Breece, and Maleah Pinnix are the students who have



Back Row Left to Right: Andrew Tamayo, Gavin Parrish, Abby Aldrich, Anna Breece, Alexi Roberson, Tyler Allen, Maleah Pinnix, Lizzie Bentley, Dana Bourgeois

completed this great accomplishment. Every year, they compete in social media strategies where they give a presentation on how to use social media to advertise for a certain event. This year, they had to show how they would advertise for a local animal shelter by creating a promotional event to go along with it.

The group will take this presentation with them to Orlando in hopes of ending their high school careers with a bang. On this trip, they will not only get the opportunity to learn more about the business world, but they will also get to spend their free time at Universal Studios Orlando!

This trip will truly be a one in a lifetime experience for the students. Mrs. Morgan, EHHS's business teacher and FBLA advisor, shared a few words on her feelings about her students' successes. "I'm very proud and excited to be able to take my FBLA students to the National Conference. Since the first time we were able to go three years ago, and now they are seniors and are going a third time, so it's really exciting."

The club will attend the conference at the end of June, with success sure to come.

Farm Bureau Tennessee

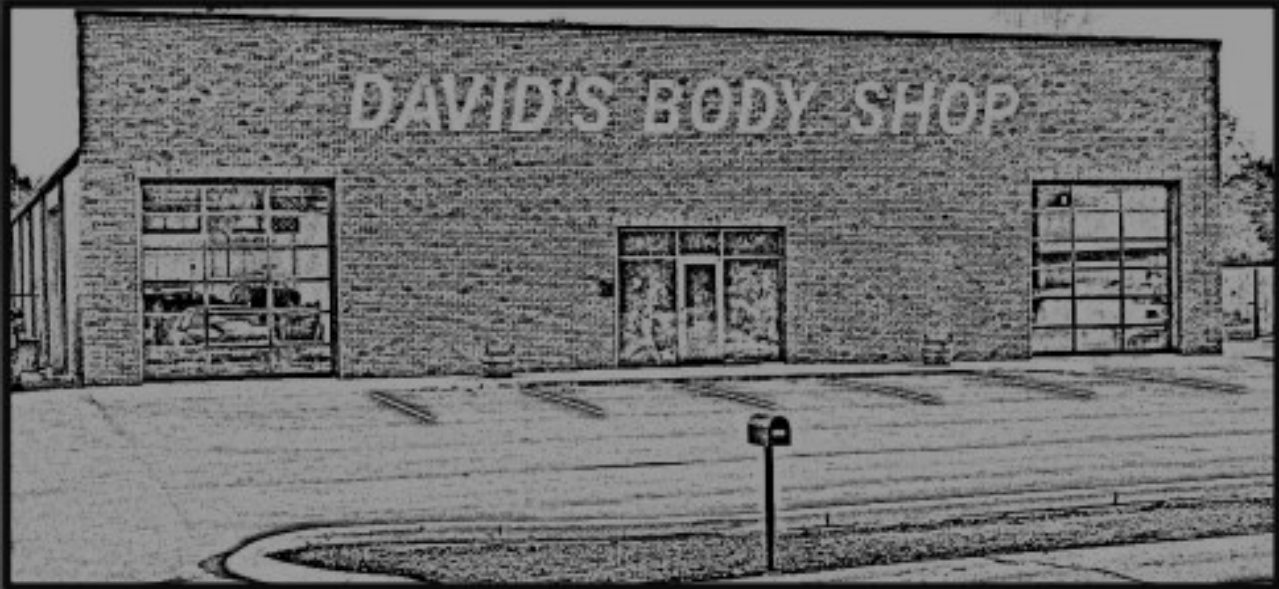
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# A Night in the Enchanted Forest

## 2024 EHHS Prom



### An Evening in the Enchanted Forest: The 2024 EHHS Prom

By: Dana Bourgeois

One hundred and sixty-two EHHS students celebrated the 2023-2024 prom on Saturday, April 20. The prom was a fresh idea for the school, and one that will be remembered. According to Ms. Poth, the last off-campus prom occurred in 2011. Previously, before the construction of East Hickman High School, proms at Hickman County were held off-campus.

Cadie King and Jody Lalone, along with prom sponsors, Jennie Presson and Shelly Mahoney, proposed an off-campus venue to the Board of Education earlier in the year.

The only other off-campus prom hosted by EHHS was held out of county at a hotel which prompted the decision by a former board to suggest that proms be held at the high schools for safety reasons. While there was not an incident with the former off-campus prom, the longer drive was cited as a safety concern. With the current Board of

Education’s approval, the Crossroads, Cowboy Church in Bon Aqua permitted the 2024 prom to be held on its campus. Many students have said it was the best prom in years.

The new setting is a huge factor in this opinion. Students have been wanting to do an off campus prom for a while, moving from the usual setting of the EHHS Grand Hall.

The theme was “Enchanted Forest” which was voted on by the students. The decorations which consisted of vines, white backdrops, and fairy lights were well liked. The prom took place in a pavilion at the church. A ride in a “Cinderella-style” horse-drawn carriage carried guests from their cars to the venue. The food was catered and featured a variety of foods and drinks.

At 8:30, the Senior Walk took place, literally highlighting seniors as they walked upon the light up dance floor. Each senior who walked out received a gift bag with a picture frame inside. Pictures were taken at a backdrop and sold for \$10 a print.

At 9:30, the prom court was announced. Kamea Dawson won queen and Robert Richardson won king.

Prom wrapped up at 11:00 PM. Because of the positive reception, the prom committee plans to have the 2025 prom off campus.

