

HEART & PURSUIT

INSIDE FALL SPORTS PRACTICES

PLUS: CARITAS IN ACTION · HOW WE PREP FOR LARGE EVENTS 6 THE HISTORY BEHIND THE MOST MAGICAL TRIP OF THE YEAR







3. Veritas • Unitas • Caritas - "Travel Edition" Mission drives us - this is how we have shown it off

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Faculty Supervisor Ms. Nicolle Renick

Copy Editors

Katarina Burke Julia Higgins Reagan Mercier Samantha Riley Celia Sensale

Writers

Julia Higgins Paige Martin Stella Masciarelli **Emily Raynor** Emmett Surowiec Celia Sensale

Designers

Katarina Burke Emma D'Agostino Ty Mathieu Reagan Mercier Samantha Riley Rose Sperling Celia Sensale Cameron Thompson Victoria Tenreiro

Photographers

Stella Masciarelli Ty Mathieu Ms. Renick

> Logo Design Janelle Irvin

Cover Design Ty Mathieu

VERITAS • UNITAS • CARITAS

Trip Edition



Race Amity Trip

arlier this year, a group of students attended the Race Amity Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Race Amity is an initiative that aims to unite people of different races and promote equality, unity, and social justice. This memorable experience allowed our Austin Prep students to bond through a shared passion for racial equality. When George Mamakos '26 was asked about the trip, he responded, "One thing I took away from the trip is the importance of implementing cross-cultural friendships to promote social justice and unity. Furthermore, another thing is that to put an end to racism and the divide between cultures such as whites and blacks, we need to stop referring to them as such." Overall, the trip was highly productive in exploring racial inequality in modern society. It also highlighted steps to prevent racism and reduce its negative impact.

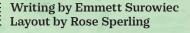
Québec Trip

his school year, a group of Austin Prep students had the opportunity to travel to the province of Québec, Canada. The group visited several destinations throughout the trip including Montmorency Falls, Musée de la civilisation, and the Sugar Shack. The trip was a great time for students to escape the hustle and bustle of school and visit the best tourist destinations the city had to offer. When Madeline Dinunzio '28 was asked about her favorite part of the trip, she noted, "My favorite place during my trip was downtown Québec. It was so fun and interesting getting to explore with my friends and getting to take on a new country. I loved being independent and searching for places to shop and eat. My favorite places were the JellyCat store and this excellent Italian restaurant." She continued, "I loved how everything was within walking distance. One second, you were shopping, the next, you were overlooking the beautiful Le Château Frontenac." Overall, the trip provided a memorable and enriching experience that allowed students to immerse themselves in the culture and beauty of Québec while creating lasting memories with friends.



SAVI Trip

ach year, select members of the sophomore class get I the opportunity to go on the Student Augustinian Values Institute (SAVI) trip. They travel to one of the ten Augustinian high schools and learn about how they implement the values of Unitas, Veritas, and Caritas into their school setting. This year, Austin Prep students visited St. Augustine High School in San Diego, California, where they engaged with other students, participated in a presentation about all of the schools, and learned more about the three Augustinian values. When Katarina Burke '27 was asked about her experience, she responded, "The most enjoyable part of the trip for me was the service at Balboa Park. We walked almost three miles to the park where we could bond with students from the other schools and complete our service by handing out handmade sandwiches to the homeless." Overall, the SAVI trip was an unforgettable experience that deepened the students' understanding of the Augustinian values and fostered lasting connections with peers across the country.





NEWS

Writing by Celia Sensale / Layout by Reagan Mercier

Now Presenting... Brothers Grimm!

ustin Prep brought the drama in their fall performances of Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon, drawing crowds of supporters. Typically, AP Drama puts on an annual spring musical, so adding a fall play gave great opportunities for those in the arts to perform. Actress Fiona Hyland '25 discussed the appeal of adding a play, stating, "It allowed more people to participate, even if they didn't sing or dance. I've never been in any of the musicals before since I'm not a singer, but I wanted to try something a little new and I'm so glad I did because it was such a great experience." Brothers Grimm challenged students

typically involved in the musical to focus on conveying the story through dialogue, rather than song, and allowed actors to work on their line delivery and comedic timing. In the end, the students' hard work all paid off and brought a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment to all those involved. Ms. Clark, the play's Director, described the show's success, remarking, "It was fun to direct *Brothers* Grimm because it was a comedy. It was hard work, too, because there were so many students in the cast. We had 33 actors in the show and it was a busy job to wrangle everyone all together. But the show was a hit and we had hundreds of people in the



audience every night so it was all worth it." Students and parents were immersed in the world of fairytales and fun the actors portrayed, drawn to the witty dialogue. Adding this new play was

fun for audiences and actors alike, and brought students out of their comfort zone to explore a new way of storytelling. Congratulations to the cast and crew for their fantastic work!

Open House: Behind the Scenes

very fall, Austin Prep hosts an Open House for potential students and their families to tour, ask questions, and meet students, faculty, and coaches. The event is the largest event hosted by the Austin Prep Admissions team and requires months of careful planning and preparation. It's a collaboration between every branch of the Austin

Prep community, with many faculty members and coaches in attendance and nearly 200 students involved in the day. Mrs. Simmons, Director of Admissions, emphasized the importance of student involvement, "Without our remarkable students. Austin Prep would not be as special as it is. Prospective families often share how impressed they are with our young people

and Admissions hears over and over again from parents that they would like to see their child follow the journey many of our students have." Student involvement on such an important day and willingness to come in on the weekend to help lead tours, classroom demonstrations, and greet visitors shows the dedication and appreciation Austin Prep

students have toward their community. Mrs. Simmons discussed the importance of this event to Admissions and the amount of work put into it, "Fall Open House is our one chance to host hundreds of families and showcase the very best of what our school offers. The Admissions team holds planning meetings with various department heads in the weeks leading

up to the event to ensure no stone is left unturned." Thankfully, the Admissions team's hard work paid off, so Austin Prep students, faculty, and staff got to show off the great things about our community. Additionally, potential families and students got to see the school's amazing educational, athletic, and religious programs. With over 1,000 guests in attendance—our largest turnout ever—this Open House was a tremendous success!



appreciation for their

The Spirit of Giving

ince the arrival of Mr. Morales, Coordinator of Mission and Inclusion, Austin Prep has entered into a close partnership with St. Mary the Assumption Parish

in Lawrence, MA, and annually delivers food for Thanksgiving and Easter, and gifts for Christmas. The program is a way for students to practice Caritas, and show their



greater community. As Mr. Morales put it, "I think for students to be able to recognize their privilege in their own area and take a step back and be able to help out was exactly what Jesus did, trying to help the poor and needy." The annual Thanksgiving Drive gives students the opportunity to give back during a time of thankfulness and reflection and encapsulates the Austin Prep Mission by encouraging students to serve both their community and God humbly. As a result of students' generosity and participation, the drive has grown from 50 families to 80 in just five years. This growth gives the school community a greater opportunity to brighten the holiday for more families in need. When asked about the most rewarding part of the program, Mr. Morales added, "To show kids the value of life and the

creation of what one person can do with one little thing but with a collection of us, one thing from one person from every person in the community, if we can all step up in the real life world and just try and help each other, we can do a lot." Even though each student only brings in an item or two, the size and kindness of the community really adds up, and tables are piled high with donations waiting to be sorted into baskets. After Austin Prep students help sort the donations into a basket for each family, the school generously donates the turkeys for the basket, which costs around \$2,500 annually. Then, they are sent off to the parish to be delivered to the families. Without a doubt, the success of the Thanksgiving Drive couldn't be done without the relentless effort of Mr. Morales and the selfless contributions of the Austin Prep community.

A Look into the MENTORING PROGRAM

Writing by Emily Raynor / Layout by Emma D'Agostino / Photos by Stella Masciarelli



ustin Prep's mentoring program brings together younger students with older students to create connections, build confidence, and create a welcoming environment. In this program, 6th graders are separated into groups with two Sophomore mentors, and Juniors and Seniors

of Freshmen, These grade collaborations allow everyone to learn from each other, grow friendships, and explore values like Veritas, Unitas, and Caritas.

Austin Mentors is a peer mentoring program developed by the Health & Wellness Office. It was

are mentors to a group

originally called 'Cubby Cares' and has since transformed to include all 6th graders and 9th graders to be paired with Upper School Mentors.

During the monthly meetings, engaging seasonal activities are planned to bring students together outside the classroom. These groups meet at least once a month during study halls.

to spend time getting to know each other, build lifelong relationships and have a positive role model to look up to in the school.

Abigail Vetullo '27 shared, "I wanted to become a member so the incoming 6th graders were able to have a familiar face in the hallway and so starting at a new school would be easier for them." From a different perspective,



Before each meeting, mentors receive an email with instructions to inform their mentees about the meeting's theme and date.

Austin Mentors is unique because it has a studentrun Executive Board which designs and runs the Mentor meetings. During the Austin Mentor meetings, students get

Grace Kanayan '25, an Executive Board Member stated, "My favorite part about being in the Executive Board is being able to come up with fun games and activities all ages like to participate in." Overall, the mentoring program is fun for everyone involved, and the memories made will last forever



MASS & EVENT PREP

Writing by Paige Martin / Layout by Sammie Riley





WHAT GOES INTO PUTTING ON A MASS?

t Austin Prep, many events and Masses are celebrated throughout the year. There are so many people and so much time and effort put into these events to make them run smoothly. Each gathering is thoughtfully designed to create a meaningful experience for the entire school community. Prepping for the Masses helps students learn more about how they can help and shows them the work that is put into them behind the scenes.

When asked about what role students play in the preparation of Mass or events, and how they can contribute to making the event successful, Sr. Maria Nassali, Assistant Head of School, Mission and Ministry, responded, "Students play a vital role in the preparation and celebration of the Mass by volunteering as readers, altar servers, and choir members. I encourage even greater participation by reminding students to join in the Mass responses.

With PowerPoint slides displaying all the responses, there's no reason for anyone not to engage fully in the liturgy." Sr. Maria helps with all of the Masses and plays a huge role in making them run smoothly.

Ms. Susan Belanger, Assistant Head for Administration, also plays a key role in the organization for Masses and events. "Reviewing the previous year's work production sheets and making any needed adjustments in a timely manner, as well as clearly communicating instructions to all applicable parties that help make our Masses and events successful. Most important is a morning pre-check before every Mass or event." When asked what her favorite part about setting up Mass is, she responded, "My favorite part of setting up Mass, or any event is seeing the beauty of the finished product."

After all of the work

is put into each of the Masses, the end result is always so nice to see and is complimented by the beautiful singing from the choir. When asked how she prepares the choir, Dr. McCormack, Director of Music, responded, "We rehearse as often as our busy schedules will allow. You may have noticed that multiple choirs have been singing for our Masses so it's important to review all parts independently before

putting things together." She continued, "The choristers are provided with the music listing of each Mass and then I share the sheet music with them. We review each musical section of the Mass as there are many sung prayers! We focus on the technical concepts first before exploring greater musical expression. Overall, we

have so many amazing faculty, staff and students that work together behind the scenes of our wonderful Masses and events." The choir works hard to contribute to the Mass and the outcome is wonderful. Overall, numerous individuals put in a great deal of effort to organize events and Masses at Austin Prep, and their hard work truly shines!



GOOD WISHES AND GOODWILL

Writing by Emmett Surowiec / Layout by Celia Sensale

t Austin Prep, our individual service is a core component of mission, reflecting the school's commitment to Augustinian values of Truth, Unity, and Love. Through service, students are encouraged to develop a strong sense of social responsibility and compassion, recognizing their ability to make a meaningful impact in their communities. Here are just a few of the many experiences from our students.

My Brother's Table

y Brother's Table is an organization that aims to nourish the community every day through hospitality, free meals, and unconditional love. As the largest soup kitchen on the North Shore, they have been open every day since 1982 serving hot meals to anyone in need.

When Norah Wright '25 (top photo) was asked about her service, she responded, "My favorite part about doing this service was observing the gratitude among the community members who ate at My Brothers Table. I also enjoyed getting to know the kitchen staff and exchanging conversations with fellow volunteers."

About his service, Ty Mathieu '27 (bottom photo) recalled, "I have done service here multiple times and have done different jobs within the organization. This most recent time, we baked seven dozen cookies for the food bank. I chose this service because I think feeding the hungry is one of the best things you can do to help the less fortunate."







CRADLES TO CRAYONS

radles to Crayons is an organization that aims to provide children from birth through age 12 with the everyday essentials they need to thrive. Basic items for children-properly fitting outfits for school, diapers, a backpack, shoes, pajamas, and a coat for cold weather-are vital for their lives.

IPODS FOR WOUNDED VETERANS

Pods for Wounded Veterans is an organization that serves wounded American servicemen and servicewomen from the Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan Wars. Their mission is to make injured veterans' long months of rehabilitation easier and less repetitive. Our all-volunteer teams hand-deliver gifts of electronics, headphones, magazines, and letters of encouragement.



Theodore Goldsmith '28 (photo right) commented, "I went to different charity events where I interacted with veterans and gave them raffle prizes. They were all really grateful and happy. I chose to do this service because they often need help, and I'm happy to provide it. It is a nice charity, but they don't have very many employees, so they always appreciate the help. I also enjoy seeing the veterans and interacting with them. My favorite part of doing this service is seeing the joy on the veterans' faces when they receive the gifts, and how happy they all are to see other veterans and reconnect with them. I love seeing them talk together and laugh together."

When Andreas Visan '27 was asked about his service, he stated, "I helped set up an event where we gave out free hats and other gifts for veterans. I chose to do this because this organization really helps brighten the days of the veterans and they often say that our stand is their favorite part of the whole event. My favorite part was definitely getting to meet all of these amazing people who served our country and all had wonderful stories to tell."

Grace Ditchfield '26 (photo left) recalled her first service, "I remember the first time I was volunteering, I was very nervous because I did not know what the experience would be like. The veterans made me laugh and were very helpful to me, calming my nerves and making me want to go back to volunteer. I chose to do this service because I had a friend in his senior year, and he had been a big part of this organization throughout his high school career. He convinced me that it was a fun way to earn service hours and made me want to volunteer there. My favorite part about doing this service was helping the veterans at the events. They were all so happy to see a younger face there, and I really enjoyed the feeling of making others happy, especially when they were people who served our country."



Jason Onorato '29 (photo left) described his volunteerism at Cradles to Crayons, "We unloaded bags of clothes that were donated and sorted them out by types of clothing and by boy and girl clothes. We sorted, as a group, 12 big bins of clothes. I chose to do this service because I love making people smile. Doing this type of service will bring a smile to the children's faces when they receive the clothes. This might not seem like a great gift to receive if you have a lot of clothes, but to these children, clothes are everything. My favorite part about doing this service was that the clothes were going to children who are homeless, impoverished, and in low-income situations. It was also my favorite part because I knew that 2 hours of my time were going to bring joy to children around the world."

Making Memories in

Bney

Writing by Julia Higgins / Layout by Emma D'Agostino

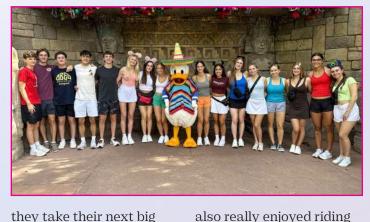
he annual trip to Disney World is the keystone event of Senior year for many students at Austin Prep. It is a chance to bond outside of the classroom and extracurricular activities while gaining independence through travel. "The Senior class trip to Disney originated with the Class of 2014," said Dr. Hickey. "That was my first graduating class as Head of Austin Prep and I worked with

and the daily grind. "It helped me bond with my classmates because I was able to have the opportunity to be around my friends outside the academic setting we are typically in. The full week also allowed me to be with different groups of people each day and strengthened the existing bonds I had by having fun experiences with them!" remarked Tezza Galletta '25. Thanks to this longstanding tradition, the

Senior class makes so many new memories with their friends and classmates and helps them make new bonds with students that they previously didn't know as well.

Many staff members join the students on the trip, including Ms.

Greenwood. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for the Seniors to step off campus and spend time together in a relaxed, joyful setting. It allows them to celebrate their time as a class and simply enjoy being kids before



steps," commented Ms. Greenwood. Although this trip is for the Seniors, the staff has just as much fun being able to go on the rides with each other and act like kids. Ms. Greenwood continued, "I loved seeing how much fun the Seniors had together it's always special to watch them create lasting memories as a class. I

also really enjoyed riding Ratatouille and trying a Poke Bowl from Yak & Yeti for the first time!"

Whether you are a lifer or transferred sophomore year, the Disney trip is something everyone looks forward to. When the trip comes, you make memories that will last a lifetime with all of your classmates!



them to plan a meaningful experience that would create lifetime memories."

The Seniors have five days to hang out with their friends and have fun away from school work, extracurriculars,





STUDENT COUNCIL

Writing by Paige Martin / Layout by Kat Burke

he Student Council at Austin Prep is an essential part of the school community and helps create a bridge between students and staff. The council is composed of students elected from different grades. They organize events, coordinate activities, and work on projects that enhance the overall school experience. When asked what most people don't know about the Student Council. School-Wide President Janna Vounessa '25 remarked, "Most people don't know that we do a lot of creative art for Prom. We design the tickets and even build the welcome banner. This involves some painting and crafts but it looks great in the end." The Student Council works hard to plan each dance and event in order to make them enjoyable for everyone.

Many people underestimate the effort required to carry out the council's work, much of which can be tedious. School-Wide Vice President Eliza Martin '25 remarked, "The hardest part of my work on the student council is encouraging participation. A lot of students don't volunteer for games because they feel like 'nobody does them' or 'it's embarrassing.' It's hard to get people to join if no one wants to be the first to sign up." Many students worry about how others will perceive them if they participate, making it challenging for the Student Council to organize events that feel welcoming and engaging.

Not only does the School-Wide Council put in a lot of work, but the various class councils also work hard. Katarina Burke '27 is on the Sophomore Student Council and was asked what class meetings typically involve, in which she stated, "I create an agenda based on what objectives we must complete in order of necessity. We receive most of these instructions from

the back of our minds. Our council is always taking the next steps to complete objectives quickly and thoroughly." Every member of the Student



the school-wide meetings the day prior, however, some are plans specifically within our grade. As we run through, my council and I brainstorm creative ideas with the desires of our peers constantly in

Council has a specific role, and they work beautifully together to accomplish their goals. They play a vital role in supporting and enhancing student life at Austin Prep!



COACH U TAKES THE COURT

Writing by Julia Higgins / Layout by Ty Mathieu

oach Ushearnda Stroud ("Coach U") came to Austin Prep during the 2021-22 school year, taking the reins as the Girls Varsity Basketball Coach, Coach U has been a fantastic addition to our athletic community, bringing years of experience, a strong reputation, and outstanding coaching skills. Before joining Austin Prep, Coach U had previously been at Brooks School, bringing them great success. Most notably, she led the team to the NEPSAC Class B title in 2019-20 and 2021-22, and was the NEPSAC Class B Coach of the Year in 2022.

One of the main reasons she decided to come here was for "the faith-based

community and their commitment to NEPSAC," commented Coach U. She rebuilt the girls basketball program from the ground up. In order to do so, she "identified students who love the sport of basketball and were eager to train, learn, and compete," she continued. Recruiting has been an integral resource that has helped the program greatly. She explained, "Recruiting is essential for NEPSAC Girls Basketball. Especially in the AA and AAA conferences we are in." In just three seasons, Coach U has improved the Girls Basketball program by leaps and bounds, which amazes everyone. Her goal for this past season was "to embrace the hard work of getting better."

Additionally, Coach U's players really enjoy her coaching style and commitment to the team. Tiffany Burns '27, who came to Austin Prep for the basketball program, said, "Her coaching style is fierce and demanding, but it's out of passion and love." Burns continued, "When I first came here she told me she wanted to build a winning culture and build a legacy at Austin Prep," Fope Ayo '26 also chimed in, "Coach U's coaching style is unique because she doesn't accept mediocrity. She really wants you to succeed and so if she sees that you're not playing to your highest potential, she'll call you out on it. Her goal is for you to reach your goals,

so she really partners with you to achieve them. That's why if she sees you settling, she can't allow it. She also wants to win, and that's evident in everything that she does. She's always talking about a winning culture, and that is what our team strives to create."

One word to describe her? "Easy - competitor," added Ayo.

Coach U has a great passion for the sport which shows in her players. She is a great all-around coach and mentor to the Austin Prep community and the school is proud to have her on board. The sky's the limit for the Austin Prep Girls Basketball program with Coach U leading the charge.





Above: Coach Stroud with Athletic Director Patrick Driscoll '97 on her hiring day with Austin Prep in 2022.









Left: Coach Stroud giving her team instruction during a timeout.



INSIDE FALL SPORTS: The Grit and Grind of Practice

Writing by Stella Masciarelli / Layout by Emma D'Agostino

ach fall, Austin Prep's athletic teams dedicate countless hours to practice, preparing for competition at the highest level. Training sessions are thoughtfully structured to improve physical conditioning, sharpen skills, and develop game strategies. We asked a few athletes what this entails specifically for their sport. Read on to learn more about our teams and what a typical practice looks like for them.



Field Hockey — Stella Masciarelli '27

The Field Hockey team always starts with a warm-up lap and dynamic stretching led by the Seniors. They then continue to pass progressions and shoot on the goalies. After the field players and goalies are warmed up, they move on to high intensity drills which take up the bulk of the practice. Practice ends with a cool down lap and stretch. The team does not end practice until they shout out the teammates who they saw working hard that day. This is a great way to build the team dynamic as everyone was so supportive of each other!

Cross Country — Victoria Tenreiro '25

Cross Country starts their practice with warm-up laps and dynamic stretches led by the Captains and Seniors. They go straight into the workout of the day, which differs depending on the day. Some of the workouts include a long run, mile repeats, hill sprints or fun practices like scavenger hunts. The workouts can get difficult, but they get through it as a team. Victoria Tenreiro '25 explained, "My favorite part about practice is how close it makes all the girls on the team." After the workout, the team works on their strides and then takes a couple laps to cool down. They circle up together for some core conditioning and then they end their practice with stretching and rolling to keep their muscles healthy after a good workout.





Boys Soccer — Dennis Klimashov '28

The Boys Soccer team warms up with dynamic stretching as well as circle stretching. They go straight into a passing progression to get their legs moving. They then head into an intense possession drill and end off their warm up with shooting. Dennis Klimashov '28 remarked, "My favorite part of practice is shooting drills and spending time with my team." After the warmup, they go into the hourglass drill which is when they pass the ball in the shape of an hourglass. They spend a big part of their practice walking through plays for an upcoming game such as their free kicks. After that, they do conditioning or scrimmage for fitness. They end their practice with a stretch and occasional film.



Volleyball – Katarina Burke '27

Volleyball kicks off their practices with 'Rotating 6's.' This is a drill where they scrimmage while switching positions. This gives everyone the opportunity to play in every position on the court. They then work on their serving and receiving before starting their intense drills. '50 in 5' is a very difficult challenge of making 50 perfect passes in 5 minutes. After this, they practice some fun competition in the game of 'Positional Queens,' which is when the team breaks up into smaller teams based on their positions and they compete for points which will add up throughout the season. To close out their practice, the volleyball team circles out and they recognize the accomplishments of their teammates during that practice.



Football — Cameron Thompson '25

At the beginning of football practice, the linemen warm up with tackle dummies while the rest of the team does footwork drills. Then they go straight into throwing and receiving drills to warm up the quarterbacks and wide receivers. They then do a challenging push-up circuit as they spell 'Austin Prep' as they do push-ups. After this, they go into tackling drills, which Cameron Thompson '25 remarked, "Tackling drills are my favorite part of practice." The team then breaks into separate positions and complete drills specific to their position. To end practice, the team joins back together and they run through plays to prepare for the upcoming games.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE CLASS

We asked a group of students 'What's your favorite class and why?' Here's what they had to say!

Interviews and Layout by Victoria Tenreiro / Photos by Ty Mathieu



"My favorite class is AP Chinese Language and Culture. It is a small group, and Mrs. Tian is the best teacher. I highly recommend this class and language for all to take." - Owen Sperling '25

"My favorite class was AP United States History with Mr. Piccini. We learned a lot about our country's history while having fun with a great teacher." - Armen Kourkounian '25





"My favorite class is AP Stats because Ms. Fuller is a great teacher. She makes the class fun even when we are learning hard topics." - Vera Masciarelli '25

"My favorite class is Digital Photography with Ms. Renick. I like this class because it allows me to use my creative abilities and it also gives me a lot of creative freedom." - Maddy Tenreiro '27





"My favorite class is my Yearbook class. Yearbook class is the perfect time for me to develop my weaker skills such as writing and creativity. Additionally, I get the chance to learn about various computer applications that enable me to work on the yearbook, and I can expand their functionality to help complete assignments in my other classes." – Emmett Surowiec '27

"My favorite class is math because of how challenging it is. The hard work that goes into it makes it so rewarding!" - Stella Masciarelli '27





"My favorite class is history with Mrs. Piccini because she makes it really fun and I always learn something new by the end of class." – Lindsay Connor '28

"My favorite class is math because you're always learning new things and Mr. Williamson keeps the environment very fun!" - Olivia Visan '29





"My favorite class is science. I enjoy science because of all the different things we get to do like labs and fun group projects. I love that instead of doing notes we get to learn in more fun and engaging ways." — Avery Hughson '30

"My favorite class is English. Although I love all my classes because the teachers are awesome, if I had to pick one it would be English because I love to read and write." - Naira Minassian '31



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