

ABOUT

US



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A Farewell Message from the Editor-in-Chief

This has been the best year yet! I would also like to thank our fabulous editorial staff for working overtime to create these publications— The Lancelot has never looked better! I am so proud of how well everybody on The Lancelot collaborated this year, despite our numbers being larger than ever. To our advisor Mrs. Hartell, thank you for your guidance and leadership over the years. Finally, thank YOU for reading our magazines, visiting our website, supporting our social media! This edition is extra special because it highlights our graduating seniors, retiring teachers, and all the moments that made this year extra special. I am proud to leave The Lancelot on such a high note. On behalf of The Lancelot staff, we hope you enjoy this final edition of the year!

Signing off,

Lexie Hullivan, Editor-in-Chief of The Lancelot

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The Lancelot is a student-run magazine produced for the Waterford Community. Content decisions are made by staff members and the editorial board.

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SENIOR SEND-OFF


FULL SENIOR CLASS DECISIONS

BY JULIA GATHY



FUN FACTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2025

- **Peyton Caperilla** is going the farthest from Waterford, 4,940 miles to the University of Hawaii
- **26** seniors are going to UCONN from Waterford
- **24** seniors will be going to CT State Community College at Three Rivers

- 
- **Hazel Siu** and **Ian Li** are the only students from Waterford who are going to Ivy League schools, Hazel is going to UPenn and Ian is going to Yale
 - **4** seniors are going into the military.
 - Out of the **15** seniors studying engineering, **Julia Gathy** and **Jiarou Liao** are the only women, studying Mechanical and Bioengineering respectively
 - **8** seniors will be working after graduation

Rimal Abbas will be attending the University of Connecticut Avery Point transitional program. **Tyler Adams** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in statistics. **Pari Agrawal** will be attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst and majoring in biology. **Matthew Allen** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in multidisciplinary engineering. **Emma Annibalini** will be attending Eastern Connecticut State University. **Carlos Antonelli** will be attending Southern Connecticut State University and majoring in psychology. **Talulah Ashton** will be attending Quinnipiac University and majoring in behavioral neuroscience. **Jason Bace** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in biological sciences. **Olivia Baker** will be attending the University of Delaware and majoring in health behavior sciences. **RJ Ballestrini** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and majoring in nuclear engineering. **Molly Bartlett** will be attending Messiah University and majoring in pediatric nursing. **Cole Baumgartner** will be attending the Wentworth Institute of Technology, majoring in civil engineering and construction management and running track. **Joshua Bergstrom** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and majoring in criminal justice. **Andrew Bertrand** will be attending Northeastern University and majoring in bioengineering. **Ava Besade-Hume** will be attending Central Connecticut State University and majoring in psychology. **Tessa Bock** will be attending SUNY College of Environmental Science Forestry and majoring in environmental science. **Evan Bogues** will be attending the University of Connecticut at Avery Point. **Eliana Briggs** will be attending the University of New Hampshire and majoring in elementary education. **Quinn Brigham** will be attending Pennsylvania State University and majoring in journalism. **Autumn Brown** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers for two years and then transferring to Rhode Island College to major in radiology. **Ethan Brown** will be attending University of Connecticut at Avery Point. **Mitchell Burdick** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and majoring in general studies. **Logan Burgess** will be joining the United States Coast Guard as a culinary specialist. **Kaylee Bynum** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers, majoring in nursing and working as an EMT. **Adrianna Caba** will be attending Southern New Hampshire University, majoring in criminal justice and doing cheer. **Peyton Caperilla** will be attending the University of Hawaii and majoring in elementary education. **Hannah Carter** will be attending Worcester State University and majoring in criminal justice. **Alex Casper** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in biological sciences. **Samantha Catala** will be attending Quinnipiac University and majoring in elementary education. **Kai Cochancela** is currently attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Remy Coderre** will be attending Villanova University and majoring in exploratory arts. **Sarah Cohen** will be attending Hofstra University and majoring in film making. **Danica Colwell** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and working at a daycare. **Roman Crowther** will be attending the University of Connecticut Avery Point transitional program. **Joe Danesh** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Sylus Day** will be working at Electric Boat and plans on attending Fashion Institute of Technology to major in fashion. **Lyra DeAngelis** will be attending Western New England University and majoring in pharmacy. **Rose Decker** will be attending Eastern Connecticut State University and majoring in psychology. **Max Deflice** will be working. **Jack Devine** will be attending Bentley University and majoring in management. **Camryn Dickinson** will be attending Roger Williams University, majoring in marketing and graphic design and playing soccer. **Jonathan Dorunda** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in biology. **Dennis Du** will be attending Boston College in the Gabelli Presidential Scholarship Program and majoring in neuroscience. **Thomas Dyment** will be attending CT State Community College Gateway for mechanics. **Katie Dziecinnny** will be attending Bryant University and majoring in marketing. **Faith Eldridge** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers for two years before transferring to the University of New Haven to major in forensic science. **Adrianna Fernald** is currently undecided on her future plans. **Nicholas Filip** will be attending trade school. **Sofia Fioravanti** will be attending the Rochester Institute of Technology, majoring in global public health and ASL interpretation. **Sofia Forster** will be training to become an esthetician. **Miles Gada** will be attending Wheaton College, majoring in business and playing lacrosse. **Rowan Gada** will be attending Western Connecticut State University, majoring in education and playing lacrosse. **Madison Gamble** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and majoring in nursing. **Lucas Gannotti** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in mechanical engineering. **Julia Gathy** will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute and majoring in mechanical engineering. **Abby Gerboth** will be attending

Valparaiso University and majoring in digital media arts. **Lauren Gerboth** will be attending Hope College and majoring in music education. **Ryan Gingras** will be attending Albertus Magnus College, majoring in criminal justice and playing baseball. **Matthew Gonet** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Torin Gordy** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Justin Gray** will be attending the University of Rhode Island and majoring in biomedical engineering. **Jasmeh Grewal** will be attending Stonehill College and majoring in economics. **Caprice Heikkinen** will be attending Babson College and majoring in entrepreneurship. **Jax Higgins** will be attending Southern Connecticut State University, majoring in exercise science and playing football. **Atlas Hoff** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers for a semester, and then transferring to Savannah College of Art and Design to major in illustration major. **Lexie Hullivan** will be attending Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts in the Honors College and majoring in BFA dance performance. **Audrey Hunter** will be attending Southern Connecticut State University and majoring in elementary education. **Nick Ingraham** will be joining the United States Air Force. **Katie Jamroga** will be attending Syracuse University S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and majoring in communications. **Charlotte Jessuck** will be attending the University of New England, majoring in applied exercise science and playing soccer. **Paige Jessuck** will be attending Salve Regina University, majoring in biology and playing soccer. **Nathaniel Johnson** will be entering the work force. **Caleb Jones** will be working in his family landscaping business. **Ethan Jones** will be attending the University of Hartford and majoring in architecture. **Kayleigh Jones** will be attending Knox College, majoring in neuroscience and playing volleyball. **Tionna Julius** will be attending online school at University of Massachusetts Global and majoring in paralegal studies. **Brielle Kenney** will be attending the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, majoring in biology on the pre-med track and playing softball. **Madeline King** will be attending the University of Connecticut at Stamford and majoring in sociology. **William Lathrop** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in electrical engineering. **Ellie Lemmon** will be working on design and drafting for Electric Boat. **Ian Li** will be attending Yale University and majoring in engineering. **Jiarou Liao** will be attending Northeastern University and majoring in bioengineering and biochemistry. **Gabe Lombardi** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in undecided business. **Jenna Long** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in landscape architecture. **Mckenzie Longhenry** will be attending Elon University and majoring in biology. **Clara Mahoney** will be attending the University of New Haven and majoring in criminal justice. **Avery Maiese** will be attending Smith College, majoring in architecture and urbanism, and running cross country and track and field. **Ava Majeski** will be attending Emmanuel College and majoring in elementary education. **Olivia Marelli** will be attending the College of Charleston and majoring in communications. **Dylan Matis** will be attending Wheaton College, majoring in secondary education and playing baseball. **Tori Matyakubov** will be attending the University of Rhode Island and majoring in pharmacy. **Amya McDade** will be attending Southern New Hampshire University and majoring in psychology. **Brianna McNeil** will be attending Lasell University and majoring in sports management. **Parker Melton** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Ada Metivier** is currently attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and will be attending Clark University in the fall, majoring in psychology and nutritional sciences. **Carmine Michech** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Chris Miller** will be working for Curtin Livery. **Addison Mobley** will be attending the University of Connecticut, majoring in communication disorders and minoring in sign language. **Charles Morgan** will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology and majoring in mechanical engineering. **Sawyer Murray** will be starting an apprenticeship to become an electrician. **Mason Nocery** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Jamaris Olivero** will be attending the University of Alabama and majoring in psychology. **Titus Olsen** will be attending Southern Connecticut State University, majoring in general studies and running cross country and track. **Rhys Partridge** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in history. **Emily Paul** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and majoring in psychology. **Harley Pendleton** will be attending La Salle University, majoring in sports management and doing acro tumbling. **Max Petrini** will be attending University of Connecticut at Avery Point, majoring in finance and playing baseball. **Aidan Piccolo** will be working at Electric Boat as an outside electrician and attending CT State Community College at Quinebaug Valley. **Emma Piela** will be attending Southern Connecticut State University and majoring in business. **Jacob Pierce** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and

majoring in respiratory care. **Angeles Pina-Rodriguez** will be attending the University of Connecticut Honors College, majoring in biology on the pre-medicine track. **Gavin Polcaro** will be attending Western Connecticut State University, majoring in business marketing and playing baseball. Jeron Porter is currently undecided on his future plans. **Elizabeth Price** will be attending the University of British Columbia and majoring in art history. **Jacob Racicot** will be attending the University of Connecticut at Avery Point and majoring in marine sciences. **Julianna Raschello** will be pursuing a career in cosmetology. **Zavier Reynolds** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Ava Rivera** will be attending Fairfield University and majoring in behavioral neuroscience. **Karis Rivera** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and majoring in veterinary technology. **Roman Rivera** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and majoring in communication studies. **Cane Robinson** will be attending Central Connecticut State University and majoring in mechanical engineering. **Henry Roenke** will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology and majoring in computer science. **Jaxson Rouisse** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers, majoring in general studies and medical care. Cecilia Rush will be attending Savannah College of Art and Design and majoring in interior design. **Ian Rush** will be attending the University of Connecticut. **Gabriella Russ** will be attending the University of Rhode Island and majoring in marketing. **Sam Salegna** will be attending Bloom transitional program. **Lucas Saunders** will be attending the University of Connecticut at Avery Point, majoring in molecular and cell biology. **Sophia Scarpa** will be attending the College of Charleston and majoring in biology. **Madison Seifert** will be taking a gap year and continuing to work. **Maximus Seliokas** will be attending the University of Connecticut. **Matthew Shampine** will be attending Phillips Academy Andover as a postgraduate for one year before enrolling in a college. **Skylar Shapiro** will be attending Palm Beach Atlantic University and majoring in business. **Cooper Sheehan** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Darrien Sherwood** will be attending Coker University, majoring in finance and playing lacrosse. **Kylee Shyner** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Sophia Sit** will be attending Northeastern University and majoring in international business. **Hazel Siu** will be attending the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business, majoring in business economics and public policy. **Braeden Sollima** will be attending Florida Gulf Coast University and majoring in undecided business. **Kyan Somers** will be pursuing a career in firefighting and emergency medicine. **Bianca Spera** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in psychology on the pre-med track. **Alex Startz** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in electrical engineering. **Adeline Steinhaus** will be attending the United States Air Force Academy and majoring in cyber science. **Ethan Stelik** will be attending Southern Connecticut State University. **Amelia Stoddard** will be attending Eastern Connecticut State University and majoring in social work. **Ethan Stone** will be attending Johnson and Wales University and majoring in culinary. **Benjamin Stratos** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers. **Victoria Sturm** will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in biology. **Noah Sullivan** will be attending the University of Connecticut at Avery Point and majoring in electrical engineering. **Brady Sutman** will be attending Florida Gulf Coast University and majoring in construction management. **Christian Torres** will be attending the New England Institute of Technology and majoring in electrical technology. **Gustavo Travassos Portes** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers for two years, before transferring to Central Connecticut State University and possibly enlisting in the US Army, with the hopes of pursuing a degree in either criminology or art. Kaydence Virgo will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers and majoring in general studies before transferring to a university to study marine biology. **Anna Waddington** will be attending the University of Tampa and majoring in human performance. **Ryder Waddington** will be working. **Clare Ward** will be attending the University of New Hampshire and majoring in psychology. **Porter Watson** will be attending Syracuse University and majoring in sports analytics. **Cameron Webster** will be attending the University of Rhode Island Honors College in the international engineering program, majoring in industrial engineering and Spanish, and spending a year abroad in Spain. Tyler Welch will be attending the University of New England, majoring in medical science and playing soccer. **Braeden Wheeler** will be attending Roger Williams University and majoring in construction management. **Chellsea Wyatt** will be taking a gap year before possibly pursuing a career in the trades. **Shelby Zito** will be attending CT State Community College at Three Rivers majoring in child development, before transferring into the Disney College Program. **Jonathan Zuniga Zuniga** will be attending the University of Connecticut.

SENIOR

PROFILES

Take a look at all the Senior staff who worked on *The Lancelot* this year! See where they're going, what they're studying, who or what inspired them, and their advice to you as you either continue or finish your high school career!

ALEX STARTZ

COPY EDITOR



Overall, Startz says he had a good high school experience. He feels well prepared for college and believes that high school was a good rite of passage into his adult life.

His advice for incoming freshmen would be to not be afraid to ask questions in class. He says everyone should constantly be learning and exploring during school, and asking questions are a big part of that.

He also emphasizes finding at least one small thing about school that you enjoy, whether it be a sport, club, or anything that will make you want to get out of bed every morning.

Senior Alex Startz will be attending University of Connecticut and plans to pursue a major in electrical engineering.

The physics and math classes Startz took throughout high school have most contributed to what he wants to do after high school. He remembers the moment he gained interest for his major; during one of Mr. Lovering's lectures: "I remember how he was talking about potential and kinetic energy and how everything was conserved. It was cool to me to see how everyday objects worked from a scientific perspective."

As far as what he would've done differently in high school, he wishes he explored the humanities more. He filled his schedule with math and science classes, and somewhat regrets it.

For Startz, boys' swimming had a big impact on his high school career. The people on the team with him as well as the coaches helped him grow and change over the last four years.

As far as the future to come, in five years he hopes to see himself finished with his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering, and have applied to law school. He hopes to go into patent law, which would be benefited by the engineering background.

He is ready to find new friends, have new experiences, and take on college. Although he has worries about finding a roommate, he looks forward to being more independent in college.

STAFF REPORTER

KAYLEIGH JONES



Kayleigh Jones, a senior at Waterford High School, has been a part of the journalism class for 1 year. Kayleigh was asked the following questions about her life growing up at Waterford:

She was asked what was the worst and best grade she has ever gotten in school. Overall through middle school and high school the worst grade she's ever gotten in a class is a B- and the best grade she has gotten is an A+.

In high school her favorite teachers were Mrs. Hesch or Mr. Cheney because their teaching style was really beneficial and helped her learn a lot. She adds that she liked them as people too.

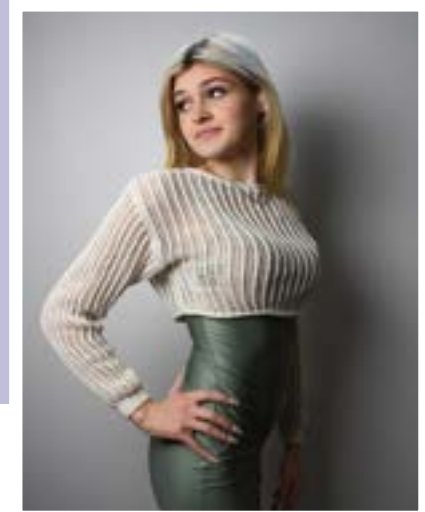
Her favorite drink to have in class is anything iced from Dunkin, she lives up to her superlative of most likely to be late with Dunkin or Starbucks. Her favorite snack to have in class is Motts gummies because, "they are the superior fruit snack."

She decided to go to Know college for many reasons. They gave her the most merit money for college and they have a strong program for those who want to go to grad school and med school. They have great connections with top research universities, which she adds that they are the top 4% producing successful PHD candidates of liberal arts colleges.

The experience that convinced her to major in what she will is she went to a 2 week program WPI (Worcester Polytechnic Institute) for neuroscience

and psychology. The lab portion of the program convinced her that that's what she wanted to do in the future, therefore she picked neuroscience for her major.

She will NOT miss Waterford and is ready to leave the nest. Kayleigh adds that her family lives far away from her anyways, but they are coming to see her games in college, which makes her happy. She has long breaks in college so she can come home to see friends and family.



STAFF REPORTER

FAITH ELDRIDGE

Faith Eldridge has only been a senior for the second half of this school year.

Eldridge dropped out of high school her freshman year and fell behind almost two full years, yet she's still graduating on time.

Eldridge says "At my old school, Avon High School, my absences didn't count towards my grade in the class, so I skipped a lot of classes and had 100 absences, which made me lose four credits and I fell behind almost a full year."

Once she came to Waterford High School, she sat down with Mrs. Batty and came up with a plan. By taking summer classes, online classes, and filling her schedule, Eldridge managed to get back on track.

Eldridge's plan after graduation is to attend Three Rivers Community College for two years and then finish her degree at the University of New Haven. She hopes to find a job in the field of forensic science.

She would like to be remembered as someone who people can always go to and talk to when they need someone. Eldridge explains, "I feel like I understand a lot of issues in the world and a lot of people can trust me because I'm not going to go and tell everyone else because it's not anyone else's business."

One thing Eldridge is proud of herself for is going to summer school, even though she didn't want to, so she would graduate on time. Eldridge says, "I felt very out of place because I was the oldest person there, but I knew it

was going to be worth it."

Eldridge enjoyed courses like criminal justice and forensic science. These classes set her up for classes she wants to take in college and have influenced her for what she wants to pursue in college.

The best advice Eldridge received during her high school career was to fake it until you make it. Even when you're going through the hardest of times you have to put a fake face on because the world doesn't revolve around just your needs.

Advice she would like to give to underclassmen would be... "Never give up. No matter how hard it gets, it truly does get better." There's always light at the end and no matter what you go through you'll always accomplish something.

SKYLAR SHAPIRO

STAFF REPORTER

Skylar Shapiro will be attending Palm Beach Atlantic University in the fall of this year. For her studies, she will be majoring in business and minoring in marketing.

She is interested in studying abroad to get more exposure to new places and cultures.

Shapiro's favorite high school memory was her junior year prom, as she said it was her first time going to the school's prom and it was fun experiencing it with all of her friends.

After high school, Shapiro wants to stay in touch with her friends, she says, "I want to stay connected to the friends I'm closest with because I know that they will have endless support for me in the future

and always be there for me. I think it's good to continue to pursue friendships while being open to making new ones."

One friendship that has had a positive impact on Shapiro during her high school years is with Sophia Scarpa, one of her classmates. Shapiro said, "My friend, Sophia Scarpa, has had a really positive influence on me during high school because she has encouraged me to be more open to things."

One staff member at Waterford High that had the biggest impact on Skylar was Ms. Blain, the school's attendance coordinator. Skylar says, "Ms. Blain has had the biggest impact on me because she is very nice to me when I am late and doesn't make me feel bad for not being on time to school."

High school experiences can develop you into the person you become in the future, for Shapiro, she said she has developed a good work ethic. She

thinks this work ethic will help her in the future by staying consistent with her assignments in college and pushing herself to be the most successful version of herself.

Skylar is most excited about not being in high school and having more freedom in college.



STAFF REPORTER

CAMRYN DICKINSON

Waterford High School senior Camryn Dickinson works as a reporter for our Lancelot.

Dickinson's plans after graduation are to attend Roger Williams University. She will be playing for the soccer team and majoring in marketing.

Dickinson said, "[I am going to] start with the hope that I can double major in marketing and graphic design later. I hope to do interior design after college, but I'm still not definite."

She states that during the COVID-19 pandemic, she became very interested in decoration and visual appearance, which may be a cause of her interest.

Dickinson said, "Education has helped me find myself more. Figuring out what I like and dislike, who I want to spend time with, when I feel accomplished, etc. It helped me find my friends."

One thing that Dickinson is proud of about herself is "how much I have

improved. In sports and academically. I found that the more effort I put into something, the more rewarding it is."

In the community, Dickinson would like to be remembered as a kind and helpful person and someone people can always go to.

Dickinson explains, "I've had a few challenges mentally over the past few years. I started experiencing anxiety, and it's taken a toll on what I've done in school a little. I started experiencing anxiety and getting nervous during tests and in quiet rooms, which caused me to not focus on my tests as much. I talked to my parents and adults around me, and they helped me through this a lot. I started finding habits that [decrease] my stress levels and found the people around me who made me comfortable."

For incoming high school students, she would tell them "not to worry about what other people think. There are so many times when I was worried about what people would think of

me, I stopped being myself, and I only truly started being myself late sophomore/junior year. It makes it that much more emotional to leave because I feel like I didn't fulfill my time here."

The best advice that Dickinson received was:

"In high school, [you can] always find help from the people around you, whether academically or emotionally; there are always people to help you."

SENIOR ASSASSIN

20

HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO GET YOUR TARGET?

25

“A Hit Piece”

BY ALI JENNINGS

Students at Waterford High have had an interesting year with senior assassin. Beginning in April, the annual senior assassin game started with over 100 participants who all paid an entry fee of five dollars, adding up to a grand prize of over 500 dollars. This large sum of money took the competition up a notch. This year’s group of seniors has been significantly more competitive than any of the previous years.

Not only has this year’s group been more competitive, but they’ve also faced many struggles with the game, specifically involving confusion with the game rules. In April alone, the rules for senior assassin changed four times. With higher levels of competitiveness from the participants, students were found going to drastic levels to kill their target. Not only did this cause frustration among those playing the game, but it also caused loads of confusion when it came to the rule book. What is legal? What isn’t?

The game is controlled by an Instagram account. Here, participants could see the rules, send in video footage of them taking out their target, and get updates and information for the game.

Junior Taylor Griswold was the first to run the account. She experienced a lot of backlash as there was difficulty making the rules clear as well as making sure everyone is happy with them.

After multiple rule changes, it’s safe to say that everyone was not pleased with how the game was running.

The Instagram account soon became a place for people to express their frus-

trations about the game.

“@victoriasturm17 tryna run this again??”

“god forbid the rules are made clear to us”

“Wasn’t like this when my girl @victoriasturm17 ran the acc last year”

“yeah idk why we keep changing the rules for people we might have a little crush on”

“god forbid we wanna ask the person who willingly took on the job questions about the game”

Griswold, who was running the account at the time, claims, “It got harder to run the account as people started cheating and broke the laws by trespassing.”

After lots of negative backlash, Griswold had decided that running the account wasn’t the best option for her and the seniors.

“I feel like I didn’t have enough power and too many people went against me so when someone offered to take it over, I figured it’d be best for the seniors to make the most out of the experience.”

Griswold passed the account to Dennis Du, a senior who wasn’t playing the game at the time. Du ran the account for a short two days before deciding that it wasn’t for him either. Though his reasons to part ways with the job differed from Griswold.

“It was a lot of fun running the account and I think I got a lot of good support”

Du continues, “After I organized the stuff, I was like- wait I want to play, so I played”.

This led the account to be run by the third and final person, Senior Victoria Sturm.

Sturm had ran the account in the previous year as a junior, and everyone had appreciated the way she coordinated things, so her running the account made the most sense.

This year, many students participating in the game utilized the mix up in the rules. As one would expect, this caused some students to reach out to the account, asking if certain things were legal or not.

Seniors decided that the best way to play the game was with an app called Splashin’.

As the game started back up, some students went to extreme levels to take out their target. The game ended for Katie Dzieciny when her assassin, Jax Higgins, partnered up with a delivery driver to complete his kill. Higgins shot Dzieciny in her own front door after convincing the Amazon delivery driver to tell the Dzieciny family that her signature was needed for a package. Dzieciny unknowingly went to fulfill this request and was caught with no goggles on and shot in cold blood.

Public assassination is also a common theme this year. Chili’s quickly became a magnet for murder with multiple seniors attempting and completing their kills at the popular restaurant.

A completed kill occurred when Emma Annibalini ran through the crowded restaurant to shoot Cane Robinson in

the public eye before he could even eat his meal.

Camryn Dickinson, a victim of attempted assassination was cornered in Chili's by five seniors, one being Parker Melton, her attempted murderer. While trying to enjoy a night out with friends, Dickinson was scoped out by Dennis Du and Cane Robinson, both trying to see if she had her goggles on. After observing she didn't have any goggles on, the two accomplices let in the group of five through the back door of the restaurant. They ran up to Dickinson's table trying to shoot her, but thankfully she had her floaties on.

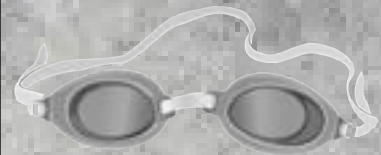
As the number of participants counts down the intensity of the game increases, approaching a dangerous level of commitment. Cops have had to get involved, the fire department, the school administration, and concerned parents and guardians.

Some students have also found themselves in harm's way because of senior assassin, with cars speeding through parking lots, doing U-turns on main roads, and blocking people from driving on streets. Some people have even almost been hit by cars, demonstrating how this game at times has led people to forgo their morals.

Senior Lexie Hullivan mentions, "while senior assassin is a fun competition with peers, it is important to not get too committed to the bit of an actual murderer."

As of now, around 17 players remain in the game. Who will cash out the 500 dollar prize? Who will win the game? To stay updated, the instagram account posts updates and video evidence of every kill.

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Would You Be Friends with Dr. Dumin?

BY MALI STELIK

Dr. D, wife, mom of a college student, and science teacher at Waterford High School, graduated in 1978 from Southington High School. Dr. D described her high school experience to be easy and fun but much different than what she sees today.

In high school Dr. D describes herself to be more introverted, though it depended on who she was around. However, she said, "I had a large group of diverse friends and we had a lot of crazy adventures." She still sees these friends to this day, and considers them to always have her back when needed.

She had a massive number of animals as well: "A cat named Lola, a dog named Pudgy, ducks, fish, gerbils, chinchillas, and a rabbit." She had so many animals because of her dad who loved them.

Dr. D describes herself to be a well behaved and trusted teen, who was often trusted with privileges many teens weren't because of how responsible she was: "I used to be able to leave school and buy McDonald's for my friends and some of the guidance counselors. No one would even question me."

Because she was so greatly behaved, when she did do something wrong it wasn't even blamed on her: "We toilet papered the car of our physics teacher and he blamed a completely different group of kids. I even think they got detention."

Her favorite year of high school was junior year, which is controversial to many, but her junior year was full of fun, "I had lots of friends in my classes, and no stress about college yet. Senior year was fun, but more pressure and drama."

Dr. D kept herself busy in high school, she played basketball and softball for most of high school, "I played varsity basketball for three years and varsity softball for two years. In basketball we won 2 State LL titles and were runner-up the other year. years I played." Senior year she had

years I played." Senior year she had a change of heart and ended up not playing softball, so that she could be a captain of an AAU Jr Olympic Basketball Team.

Dr.D was not only focused on sports, but academics as well, "I was 11th out of 600 and worked fairly hard to earn that. I was in the highest level of every subject except math."

Her favorite class was science, of course, although she loved the Shakespeare class she took, mostly because of the teacher. She says, "our teacher explained all the dirty jokes and gave you extra credit if you'd insult a peer in the hallway with a Shakespearean phrase!" This was quite enjoyable for her.

Dr.D was big into social events. She went to all the dances, although she couldn't go to junior prom because she had an important game that she couldn't miss. She and her friends also went to a lot of parties throughout high school, but if she was simply bored she would go to the roller

In the fall, Dr. D spent her time at Southington. It has the Apple Harvest Festival: "My friends and I would spend almost every night there." The winter was different, "we would sneak

on to Mt. Southington and go sledding before we got caught." Spring was full of sports, and summer was full of work.

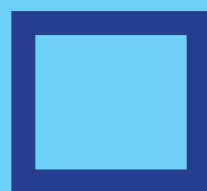
Dr. D worked at Lake Compounce as security, but once she got older she was able to work backstage when they had concerts, "I have a few autographs and met a ton of performers."

After high school Dr. D attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, known as RPI, where she played basketball: "RPI was a lot harder than high school and even crazier." She didn't describe college to be better than high school, just way different.

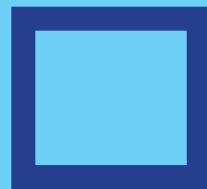
A piece of advice Dr. D would give to high school students today is to "Learn how to learn and realize that you should never stop being a student. The minute you stop learning, you become replaceable. Whatever job you have, you will need to continue to improve or change so know how to do it quickly and well."



Would You Be Friends With Dr.D?



YES



NO

Would You Be Friends with Ms. Sheehan?

BY CHLOE SAAD

Ms. Megan Sheehan, a mother of three, is a Waterford High School physical education teacher who graduated from Bacon Academy in Colchester, CT, in 2004.

Growing up, Sheehan was in a lot of sports and hung out with a good group of friends who would hang out together and do different activities like bowling, going to the beach, driving around, and finding new places to eat.

She was an extroverted child when she was younger. She was always involved in school activities, just like the group of friends she hung out with were all school-spirited and active.

She was always a busy high school student from hanging out with friends, playing sports, or working. The jobs she had were working at Harry's Place, a restaurant that sells burgers and hot dogs. Colchester Bakery and John's Fish Market.

In high school, Sheehan was one of the "sporty" kids. At Senior Superlatives she won the most athletic award. For senior awards she also won the athlete of the year award. She played soccer, basketball, and softball. Sheehan didn't just play sports; she also was in band for all four years of high school. During high school she also referee for soccer.

She played the E contra bass clarinet. In the concerts she played with the students who played the tubas and used their music as well. After any band concert she used to go to a chinese restaurant called gung ho. One of the main reasons she stayed in band was to go on the Disney World field trip her sophomore year but she also stayed her

junior and senior year as well.

At home, she had a dog named Katie and two younger siblings.

Sheehan got her license on New Year's Eve. The first car that she had was a purple Dodge Neon. It had rolling windows and a tape player. Sheehan also put her own CD player in as well.

Ms. Sheehan was a student who "didn't get caught." She had A's or B's in all her classes. The class that she most enjoyed besides PE was math.

Sheehan's favorite year of high school was her senior year because they all went on a trip to Myrtle Beach.

After high school, Sheehan went to Eastern University to play soccer for all four years. She enjoyed college, but she stated, "Nothing is like high school...it is a one-time experience."

Sheehan before she came to Waterford High School (WHS) she taught physical education at Clark Lane Middle School (CLMS) and as well at Quaker Hill (QH) elementary school for one

year. During her time at CLMS she coached boys soccer.

Before Mr. Chris Landry, the athletic director, was Mr. Dave Sousa, who was also Ms. Sheehan's physical education teacher at Bacon Academy and then Sheehan came to teach here she coached for Mr. Susan also was a teacher teaching health and physical education.

Once she came to WHS she coached the Junior Varsity girls basketball team, and also the Junior Varsity girls softball team.

One piece of advice Sheehan would give to high school students today is... "Enjoy your time here because you will never have the high school experience again; there is nothing like it."



Would You Be Friends with Ms. Sheehan?

YES

NO

COMBINED PROM

BY LEXIE HULLIVAN REVIEW: LIT OR LAME?



At the beginning of the school year, one of the most controversial changes to Waterford High was the decision to combine the Junior and Senior Proms into a single event.

While this concept isn't entirely unheard of, as schools like Lyme-Old Lyme High School have traditionally held joint proms due to their smaller class sizes, it was a notable departure from tradition for WHS, where the proms have always been held separately.

Leading up to this year's event, many people still had several concerns. Many questioned whether a combined prom could accommodate the number of attendees comfortably.

With its tall window-lined walls, gorgeous landscape, and spacious dance floor, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum was seemingly the most ideal choice for the location of this year's prom.

Senior Avery Maiese says, "I think it was a big enough venue that it ultimately didn't have as much of an effect as everyone was concerned about. In fact, I think having more people there in such a large space made it even more fun!"

The increased number of students added to the energy of the night, rather than detracting from it.

Senior Eliana Briggs also noted that the lighting at the museum was perfect for capturing Instagram-worthy photos of students in their formalwear, helping everyone preserve memories of the night.

One concern was that a combined prom would lead to limited dress options and duplicate styles. However, thanks to the prom dress Instagram page, where junior and senior girls could upload photos of their dress to ensure no two would show up in the exact same dress, there was no shortage of elegant, flowing dresses for the girls to choose from.

Dresses ranged from sleek, sophisticated black evening gowns to vibrant, voluminous princess-style dresses, allowing each student's personality to shine.

The food was definitely a talking point of the night. At a senior meeting in the field house, the senior class was encouraged to vote on a Google Form for the food they would most like to see served at the event.

Ultimately, seniors voted to have a french fry bar for an appetizer, pasta and chicken for dinner, cookies and brownies for dessert, with a drink bar-- non-alcoholic, of course-- open all night.

The fry bar was a non-controversial choice for a pre-dinner course that pleased many and received loud disagreement from none. However, Senior Clare Ward noted, "the chicken was quite pink. If I have one complaint from the night, the chicken was definitely undercooked. I didn't even bother putting it on my plate."

Juniors, in particular, benefited from the upgrade. In past years, the Junior Prom was traditionally held at the Eugene O'Neill Rose Barn, a charming yet smaller venue with limited food, space, and seating options.

This year, juniors enjoyed the luxury of a larger venue and a more elaborate prom experience.

If combined prom becomes the norm for the upcoming juniors and seniors, both classes will be able to look forward to having the full prom experience each year, while also potentially saving up money to fund an extravagant senior trip.

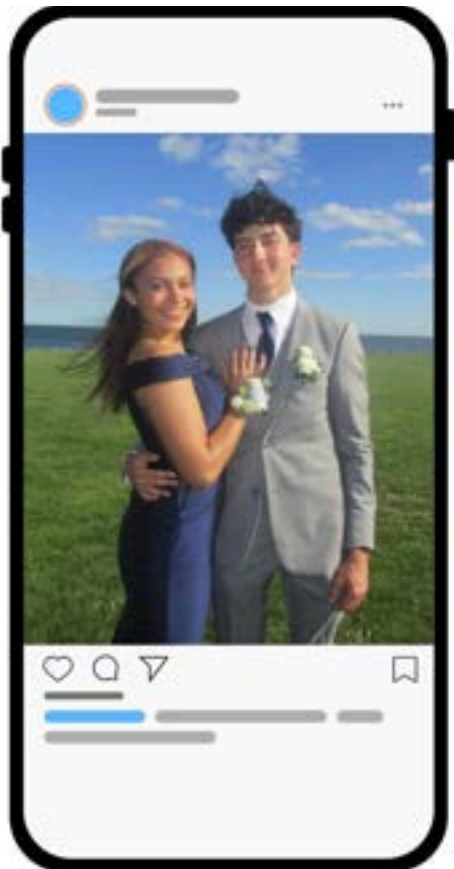
Financially, the event was also a win. The combined prom saved each student roughly \$30 on tickets—no small sum for families already budgeting for tuxedos, dresses, transportation, and more. Most students walked away from the event calling it a success.

The merged prom announcement was introduced amid a number of other controversial start-of-year changes that were initially daunting to many students, and seniors in particular.

Alongside it came the addition of phone caddies in every classroom, the implementation of digital hall passes through Securely, and the removal of both the overflow lot and the half-circle drive as available student parking. For the Class of 2025, these abrupt updates contributed to a sense of frustration, casting the prom change in a negative light at first.

However, as teachers gradually rolled back on the use of phone caddies, the Securely passes began to feel more routine, and student drivers grew accustomed to the second floor parking lots, seniors were more open to the idea of combined prom.

A few weeks post-prom, prom remains a memorable night. Time will tell if the combined prom becomes a lasting tradition—but for now, it seems that the merged event was a success in itself.



Prom Poll

Instagram: @whs.lancelot

LOVED IT!!

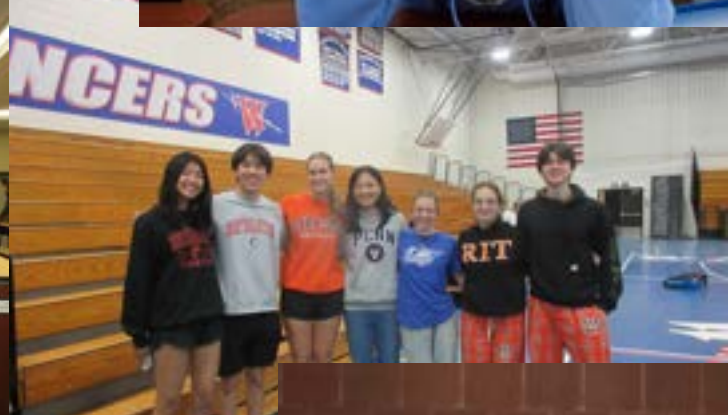


IT WAS GOOD



TERRIBLE...





College Roommate Process

By Skylar Shapiro

As high school comes to an end, seniors prepare for the next chapter of their lives- college. One of the most exciting and nerve-wracking decisions they face is choosing a roommate.

A new technological process that has evolved beyond the standard traditional university housing forms. Many students are turning to social media platforms, mainly Instagram, to find the perfect roommate, building a new circle of friends before they step foot on campus.

W

Once students decide where they want to attend college, many of them jump straight into creating a personalized “college bio”. Most colleges provide multiple reminders and links to their official Instagram page that can direct you to your class’s page. Requiring students to type out and submit a short bio with key info like their major, hobbies, and lifestyle habits such as sleep schedules, and cleanliness preferences to give other incoming freshmen a good idea of the kind of person you are. Along with the bio, students upload a few casual photos of themselves.. From there, students scroll through posts, follow others, and start DMing people who they think could be a potential candidate and good match.

Many seniors from Waterford High School participated in this roommate search, creating their own posts for the college’s page and viewing others.

Senior Sophia Scarpa will be attending the College of Charleston; she found her roommates through 2029 COFC Instagram page. At first Scarpa was unsure about the number of people she wanted to live with in her dorm. After finding a few girls she was interested in, they determined their living situation together and became close friends over the time it took for them all to commit: “It’s a casual but effective way to find someone compatible to live

with and can lead to early friendships because you are given the opportunity to talk with the person many months before college even starts.”

Senior Anna Waddington was accepted to University of Tampa starting the spring semester and was quick to submit her personalized post to the Tampa2029 Instagram where she found many potential girls she would like to room with and answered questions being asked by other students from the page.

“It was a good way to easily find other girls who shared the same hobbies and interests as me. And in my case it was especially helpful because I could distinguish the students starting in the fall vs the spring because it was specified in their bios.”

By connecting through Instagram, students can quickly and efficiently find and connect with others who they may want to share similar living habits or someone with different interests to try something new. Helping coordinate housing arrangements in advance. For many Waterford High School seniors this new approach has made the college rooming process more convenient and personalized for incoming students.



Dear Incoming Freshmen

What We Wish We All Knew

BY GABRIELLA PAGANO

Stepping into high school can feel overwhelming but don't worry, students and staff have been there and have some tips for you. Here's a guide to understanding what to expect in high school, so you can walk in with confidence and make the most of your freshman year:

One of the best ways to make the most of your high school years is to get involved. Join clubs, sports teams, or volunteer organizations that spark your interest. Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and try something new.

Guidance counselor Mrs. Guillemette says, "Be open to new experiences, step out of your comfort zone, sign up for elective classes, and don't be afraid to ask for help!"

Freshman Elliot Lutz says, "Put yourself out there and get involved in school events."

Sophomore Chloe Saad says, "I regret not going to all the football and basketball games and hanging out with my friends after school."

Assistant Principal Mrs. Batty says, "Get involved. Join a club, try out for a sport, attend school events—even if it's just to cheer on a friend. When students are engaged in school/Lancer Nation, they build friendships, grow confidence, and feel more connected."

Security guard Mr. Deon says, "Four years go by really fast."

Junior Alaina Pafias says, "It's very important [to get involved]. The bonds you create, the friendships you make, and the memories you can look back on are amazing."

Freshman Mia Shinevar says, "I regret not getting into more sports because even if it's not something you think you would like, trying something out would be helpful."

When it comes to academics, remember that consistency and effort are key. Stay organized, attend classes regularly, and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. With dedication and perseverance, you can achieve academic success.

Shinevar says, "Be prepared to have more work than middle school. Take the study hall if you get it. Don't be afraid to ask for extra help if you need it."

Assistant Principal Mrs. Moore says, "Don't be afraid to ask for help. There's so many people. Find an adult who you're comfortable with and ask for support when you need it."

Freshman Brooklyn McNeil says, "I regret not studying for my tests because they play a big role in your overall grade."

Junior Dominic Munsel says, "I wish I had locked in on my grades because it catches up to you with your GPA."

Another amazing thing about high school is the opportunity to make new friends and build lasting connections. Be open, approachable, and willing to strike up conversations with your classmates.

Saad says, "Don't judge other people. Don't make fun of other people. Be open to anybody that talks to you and don't ignore them."

Junior Aidan Dahl says, "Don't be shy. Actually talk to people. Join sports."

McNeil says, "Cheer has brought me closer to a lot of the upperclassmen which helped me branch out to more friendships."

Mrs. Moore says, "I think everybody has to find what they love. Certainly there's sports, but that's not for everybody. There's [also] a lot of clubs. I think there's more clubs than people realize. Even just classes, I think there's some classes where you start to build a community with people that like things that you also do."

As you embark on this new chapter, remember that high school can be a roller coaster of emotions and experiences. Believe in yourself, trust the process, and know that brighter days are always ahead.

Saad says, "Find something that will keep you going. Have little goals throughout the whole year instead of one big goal that you're aiming for."

Mrs. Moore says, "It's always good to be yourself. People are genuinely good so come in every day and try to have a positive outlook on things. If something goes wrong, own it."

Freshman Ivy Gallup says, "Upperclassmen aren't scary. Some of your closest friends are going to be upperclassmen."

Pafias says, "You never know what somebody is going through, so always be kind."

English teacher Mrs. Tessier says, "Let us get to know you. We love that each student has their own individual personality and quirks and it's really fun to let that shine. Try not to be shy."

Lutz says, "The community is really nice. The way people carry themselves and help you out, there's a lot of support groups and staff who are there to help you."

Saad says, "Homecoming is amazing because it's a night you can hang out with all your friends and not worry about other things."

Don't hesitate to reach out to teachers for help with classwork, clarification on concepts, or extra guidance when you're struggling. They genuinely want to see you succeed and are often willing to provide additional assistance.

Mrs. Moore says, "Certainly all the teachers are willing to help, but we have things like academy classes that are like smaller group study halls where teachers will do check-ins with kids."

Science teacher Mrs. Poitras says, "We have a lot of resources to help. Every teacher has time after school to dedicate to students who are seeking extra help. We also have resources during study hall or

study academy depending on your schedule."

Attendance matters in high school. Make it a priority to show up to class every day and on time. Being present allows you to learn and stay connected with your teachers and classmates. Mrs. Tessier wants all freshmen to know, "Attendance matters. Unlike in the past, your grades will [also] matter."

Mrs. Guillemette says, "Everyone feels nervous at first- you're not alone! Enjoy and make the most of high school because the four years fly by!"

Mrs. Poitras says, "Teachers like to see kids who are curious and want to learn for the love of learning. When you're asking questions to truly understand, that is much more impressive than asking for just your grade in the class or if the assignment is graded."

The best way to learn and grow as a student is to ask questions. Students often don't like asking questions because they think it's embarrassing but our teachers think differently.

When you show you're interested in learning, it not only helps you understand the subject better but also makes the class more enjoyable. Mrs. Poitras says, "[Asking questions is] an indicator of communicating what you need or don't need or what you need to understand."

It is nice to know that you can approach the upcoming years and experiences with confidence and peace of mind now that you have had the chance to hear directly from students who have successfully overcome similar struggles and worries, and from the teachers who will be helping you on this journey.

"Keep your circle small. Know who your real friends are."
- Brooklyn McNeil

"Put your phone away and interact with humans."
- Mr. Walker

"Don't be afraid to reach out and make friends with the upperclassmen."
- Ali Jennings

"Be respectful to your teachers and participate as much as you can."
- Mr. Blackburn

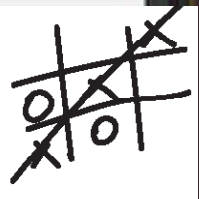
"Show your teachers the same respect as you want in return."
- Elliot Lutz

"Never take anything too seriously and just laugh it off."
- Ava Tucker

"Accept that you're going to lose friends and don't try to start drama."
- Alexandra Caba

"Nobody cares. Don't be so self conscious of what you do."
- Ilona Leone

Who's Report Card



CAEs

F

Gives teachers less time to grade, less time to study, terrible for AP students, no half day, takes away exemptions, doesn't prep students for college, students do not feel informed.

Library Privileges

A-

senior and junior privileges, making it something for underclassmen to look forward to.

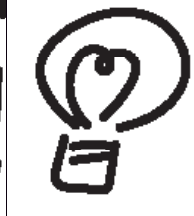
Parking Lot

F

Overcrowded, leading to accidents.

Smoking Detectors

F



Smoke detectors, we need you.



New Classes

A+

computer science, art classes, unified science. The more classes, the better!

Securely

C

annoyingly inconsistent in correlation to how many students actually use it.

Phone Caddies

C

Teachers do not enforce the policy, and admin does not seem to care about having phones in the hallway. However, keeping them in the caddies do keep students more focused.

Cafeteria

C+

solid for when you're hungry, but some days it just doesn't cut it

The Lancet

A+

Best magazine edition yet! Join us to be part of the team!



Spirit Week

B-

there's a need for more creativity and student involvement. Feels inauthentic and bland at times.

Walking

D-

Learn to walk! We have places to



Combined

A-

surprisingly fun having it combined.

Football

A

Great work, Lancet! Keep it up! Proud of you!





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WHS

Seniors' Hopes Before Graduation

BY KENIYAH HILL

As the school year comes to an end, seniors are flooded with emotion anticipating their graduation. There are many things that Waterford High School seniors are hoping to accomplish before they walk across the stage.

From academic to athletic, the endless list of tasks to do with one's last few months of high school is overwhelming and simultaneously thrilling.

Academic goals for seniors are one of the most common. For many, that is specifically passing their AP Exams. Matt Allen explains, "I want to get a 5 on my AP Calculus exam." Lexie Hullivan says, "I want to get a 5 on my AP Government exam."

Receiving good grades for seniors can be the most rewarding experience after years of hard work and dedication. For the students who are athletically ambitious, exemplary performance in their sport is one of their biggest hopes when wrapping their high school career. Many athletes want to feel like they're leaving behind a satisfying season.

Paige Jessuck, captain softball player, shares, "I hope to win ECCs for softball." Similar to many other athletes and their sport, Jessuck has been loyal to softball throughout her life. Winning a championship during one's senior year is symbolic of the hours of effort and determination put into their sport.

Baseball player Matt Shampine also says, "I want to win the state championship for baseball." Athletic achievement for high school students can be the most rewarding due to the physical

and mental commitment. Not only that, seniors can feel a sentimental connection to their sports and teammates. In an athlete's senior year, winning can feel fulfilling and make an athlete feel as though they contributed to something that is bigger than themselves by leaving behind a legacy.

The last few months of senior year can be the time where one begins to focus on personal goals. Ethan Stone says, "I want to get my license."

Amaya McDade explains, "I want to buy a new car." Similar to Torin Gordy who says, "I hope to buy a motorcycle." These purchases can make soon-to-be graduates feel optimistic about their

futures and can be their gift to themselves as the school year comes to an end.

Some seniors have more simplistic goals, such as Emma Piela. She explains, "I want to take good pictures at prom." Although this may not seem to be a big goal, zooming in and enjoying the simple moments of one's senior year allows someone to feel they got the most out of their time.

Overall, setting goals for seniors is crucial, even if the goal itself is small. It is important to have hopes and dreams during senior year, a pivotal time in shaping one's future.



