

MAY 2022

# *THE ORACLE*

STEPHEN T. MATHER HIGH SCHOOL



## *STUDENT JOURNALISTS:*

JASON GANKHUYAG  
LESLIE FITZ  
OMER MAHJOUB  
JEREMIAH GONGZALEZ  
FARHAD M. QASIM  
ADELINE SANJANA  
TIEN TRAN  
QUIYNH TRAN  
TALHA KHAN  
MONSERRATH CAMACHO  
VICTOR MARCU  
GENA CORONEL  
TRINITY ONADEKO  
YASMIN ELAHG

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# *THE MATHER ORACLE*



*SWEDEN AND FINLAND  
ASK NATO TO CONSIDER  
THEIR ADMISSION  
QUICKLY*

## *CAN NATO EXPECT TWO NEW MEMBERS?*

BY JASON GANKHUYAG

Moving past Russia's invasion on Ukraine lies the potential of two more countries seeking NATO membership which, coincidentally, also shares a border with Russia. Finland and Sweden, part of Northern Europe, have voiced consideration for joining NATO, but is it worth it? I'll say yes.

First off, Sweden and Finland are two countries who have continuously worked with NATO, they might as well be non-members in name only. And I'm not talking about political relationships only, they have numerous close interactions through military exercises and international missions. The military exercise worth pointing out is the Trident Juncture, a NATO-led military exercise for an Article 5 scenario. Ironically, if Russia attacks Finland or Sweden when they are admitted to NATO, they're facing two nations that are already trained to fight with NATO as a whole. That's a different kind of military experience for Finland, who already fought Russia during their invasion in WWII. Finland and Sweden are also part of the UK Joint Expeditionary Force, a military alliance that besides Finland and Sweden, all the nations involved are NATO. Seems kind of interesting that the two nations haven't joined already at this point.



Another reason, that some may think to be obvious, is the possibility that Russia may invade Finland or the Baltic Sea, which allows access to both Finland and Sweden. The Baltic Sea is a vital region of ocean that reaches to almost all of Northern Europe and possession of it, if possible, can lead to dominant control of the countries exposed by it. Sweden has already reported multiple airspace violations by Russia before and a possible submarine appearance. Sweden took this seriously, as expected, and re-occupied an island in the Baltic Sea that provides a strategic military position when crossing the sea. Finland is in the same situation with Ukraine, having a border with Russia and also has a border with Sweden so Sweden has something else to worry about if an invasion occurs.

Something that many people may overlook is that NATO would most likely want Finland and Sweden to join them as well. As Finland borders with Russia, if they were to join NATO, they would extend their existing border against Russia. It also fills up a crucial gap in the defense in Northern Europe, which compared to NATO is overwhelmed by Russian forces. Although Turkey has expressed opposition towards Finland's and Sweden's admission, it is most likely not going to end with NATO rejecting the two nations.

There are worries that Russia may attempt an invasion against Finland to prevent them joining NATO as well as invade the Baltic Sea to attack Sweden since they are already doing it to Ukraine. Although the possibility exists, based on Russia's performance against Ukraine, I don't think we need to worry too much. What could happen to prevent such an attack is that Finland and Sweden get accepted fast enough so that Russia can't plan an attack in time. NATO's Article 5 states that if one of the members is attacked, it is treated as an attack to all members. I'm sure Russia would not pick that kind of fight. If Russia launched an invasion in time, then they would face both the UK and Britain as they have signed security pacts to prepare for any aggressive actions. So Finland and Russia can have some breathing room as they make their consideration and hopefully have it permanently if they are admitted.

The two nations should not be alone when an unpredictable Russia decides to move troops to their border for a "military exercise". If it had to be one or the other, they're better off joining the side that has continuously proved to be able to cooperate and maintain a long, friendly relationship, that being NATO. With the Russian-Ukraine conflict still being updated on the news, I believe that the prospect of Sweden and Finland joining NATO would be great news to me and that it should definitely happen.



**PHOTO CREDIT: REUTERS**

*British Prime Minister Boris Johnson agreed to protect Sweden and Finland on May 11.*



# REMOTE LEARNING: A DETERIORATION OF A STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE?

WHEN THE PANDEMIC FORCED SCHOOLS TO GO REMOTE, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ALIKE REALIZED HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO ATTEND SCHOOL AT HOME.

BY JASON GANKHUYAG

April 3, Chicago - A loud ringing of the alarm started the junior's (requested to be anonymous) day as usual during the weekdays. It rang for about 3 seconds until he rose up and turned off the alarm, laying back in bed afterwards. The morning sun lit up the room as he finally resolved himself to get off the bed. It was the same routine every school morning: get dressed, brush his teeth, and scroll through YouTube while eating breakfast. However, he didn't get ready to leave the house, nor did he even need to. He went on the desktop computer and got on a google meet to see his teacher greeting the rest of the class, with everyone behind a camera. The junior gave a heavy sigh as he thought about staring at a screen for hours again. This was how almost every student in CPS started their morning during the school year of 2020-21, when the COVID-19 pandemic caused schools to transfer to remote learning.

Due to the rapid spread of COVID-19, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced on Aug. 5 that CPS will be going fully remote for fall 2020. Due to the hesitant decision to go remote, many systems and processes were made hastily and various problems were expected to occur. Some of these problems impacted a lot of students at home, such as poor internet service or lack of a private room. Teachers also shared such problems, causing canceled classes or having substitute teachers who were unaware of what the classwork was.

"Being at a home environment does not give students the ability to have a professional mindset", He says as sounds can be heard from the living television. Many students lack an isolated room or have other responsibilities that have higher priority than class to them, such as helping their siblings or taking care of their pet. The junior had a teacher whose dog often came to the room to be with its owner and a student that would walk their dog during class if they weren't doing work that day. Children also made slight distractions or interruptions for the teachers during lectures or when explaining work.

Outside distractions weren't the only things that disrupted one's attention class. As many classes did not require students to turn on their camera, there were quite a number of opportunities that they had to slack off or in a way ditch classes by opening the google meet and just going on another tab or on their phone. The junior admitted to doing this as well stating, "Other than my AP classes, I was always doing something during class. Those things either took part of my attention or all of it."



PHOTO CREDIT: JASON GANKHUYAG  
MOST STUDENTS REPORTED SPENDING THEIR SCHOOL YEAR ON A DESK/TABLE AT HOME.

One of the, if not the biggest, problems that affected the experience of remote learning was motivation. Many schools had their attendance decrease significantly since the start of the new school year and since students could just join the meet and leave the screen on, that number may have been much lower in reality. Grades were at their lowest for students, including those who typically maintained As and Bs. Their lack of motivation just couldn't let students put in the effort needed for the class. The most reported reason for their low motivation was that they had to stare at a screen for a long period of time and thus couldn't feel the same atmosphere as being in a real classroom. The fact that multiple students also didn't have their cameras on further enforced the idea of being isolated for students and the idea of talking to a wall for teachers. Mason shared his own experience with this struggle, "My motivation for school was at a all-time low during the remote learning." When asked how he would view another year of remote learning if the pandemic was still at large, he said it would be another horrible experience.



# VIOLENCE AT MATHER HIGH SCHOOL

*Principal of Mather High School, Peter Affuant, speaks on how discipline is conducted within his school*

*CHECK OUT WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:*

**NEWSLETTER:**

*VIOLENCE AT MATHER HIGH SCHOOL*

**BASIC NEWS STORY:**

*NEW SECURITY RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT SAFETY PROTOCOLS*

CHICAGO April 4th, 2022- The clock hit 4pm on Friday, March 11 when the videos began to surface on *Snapchat*. Most are blurry due to the user jumping around and their camera quality, but what is occurring is clear to all. Blood spills onto the concrete as cars try to pass by the ever growing rowdy crowd. Students are fighting again. But this time, two are being attacked by many. The entire situation raised questions about how administrators plan to deal with this, and deal with physical altercations in general.

Peter Affuant, the principal here at Mather High School, spoke about student altercations. The main question brought to his attention was how the school goes about punishing students who get into physical altercations with other students, both within and outside of school property. Mr. Affuant says, **“We, first of all, make sure everyone is safe...”** He does this by first using security to separate students from one another, and cool them down by speaking with them. By getting down to the reason of the altercation, staff is able to find a way to prevent it in the future.

The number of altercations here at Mather have seen a steady decline as the year progresses, with about 30 students having been in one. To put that in perspective, that's an entire classroom that has gotten into a fight this school year. According to the official CPS website, **“suspensions continue to decline, with a 41 percent reduction in in-school suspensions and a 76 percent reduction in the rate of out-of-school suspensions since 2012”**.

*by Leslie Fitz: Abilene DeJesus (Right), Ellin Lopez (Left)*

*Demonstration of a fight in the hallways, where they typically occur during passing periods.*





Another thing that was mentioned is that It's the same students who keep getting into trouble. This being said, I inquired about the suspension process, seeing a solution to the recurring students causing trouble.

**"There's actually a new process of suspension now. It needs to be approved by the board, which could take days."** Affuant says. Despite the new system, and the requirement of approval, there has been a decrease in violent behavior, as it seems to be working. As many students wondered, 'why didn't they just suspend them', the process of de-escalation has been key in stopping violence at Mather. Its unclear as to whether or not this process applies to other CPS schools, but the student code of conduct for all CPS schools states **"A student serving out-of-school suspension is not allowed to come onto school property, participate in extracurricular activities, or attend school-sponsored events. A student may be considered trespassing if he or she comes onto school grounds while suspended out of school"**.

*A senior at Mather, Yahairi Sebastian says "Fights are entertaining, but we often forget that these people can get seriously injured, or even die".*

## *New Security raises questions about safety protocols*

### *Mather High School increases safety protocols to combat concerns*

*CHICAGO, IL- During the week of Feb. 13, students of Stephen T. Mather High School were surprised to arrive to see everyone getting screened along with new faces among security staff. Questions were raised and students discussed whether or not this was necessary.*

*After speaking with Courtney Scott, one of the most respected among students and longest working security guards in the staff, he says that the increase in staff and metal detectors makes him feel "supported". He also expressed the positive results that ensued because of increased security saying that "there's a decrease in tardies" along with "more staff to fill in gaps where trouble can begin".*

*One of our deans, Jamal Lane, says that "safety concerns vary day to day" and that we now have "more eyes to keep everyone safe and determine who is supposed to be in the building".*

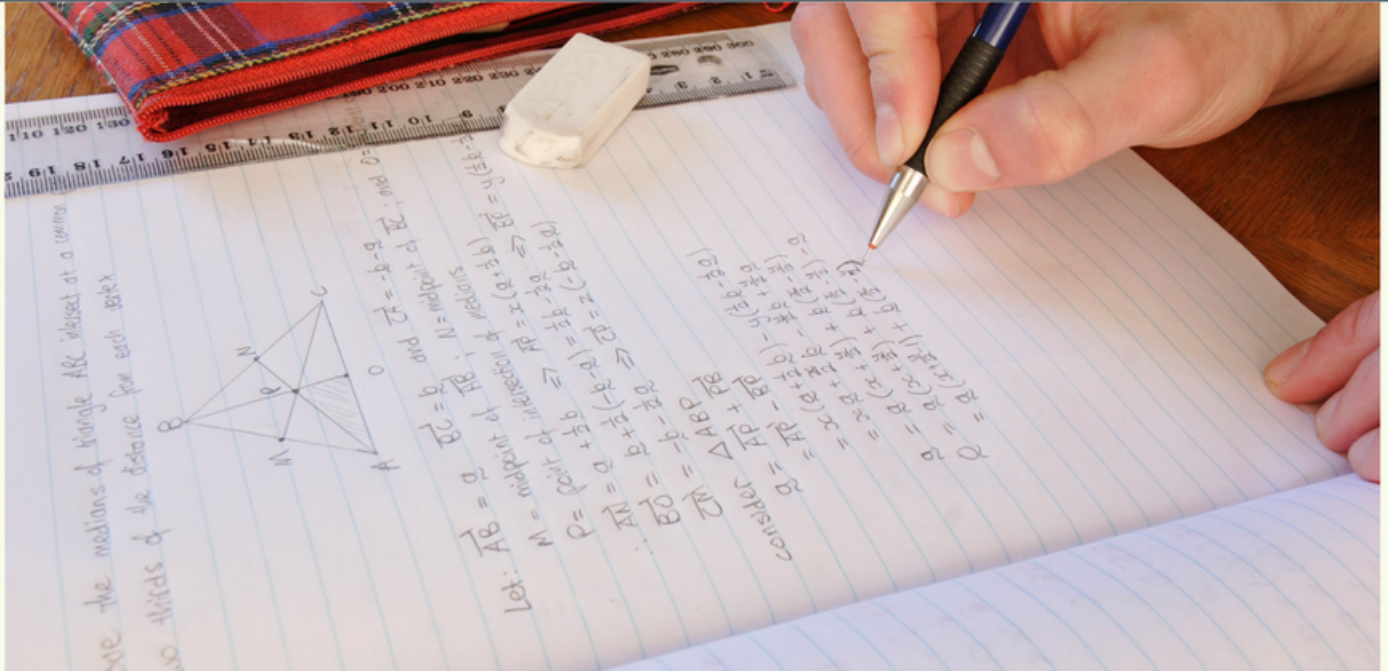


*By: Leslie Fitz  
New Scanners by  
Door 1*



# WHY WORK AT HOME?

IS HOMEWORK EFFECTIVE IN EARLY LEARNING



BY OMER MAHJOUB

Here's a proposal.

Imagine this, you go to school, take a couple buses which is pretty stressful on its own. You get to school, go through all 7 class periods and you have TONS of work to get through. but hey, look at you, getting all that work done. You get home and change, you think of taking a long nap but as soon as you lay down you remember you have a bunch of assignments due for you teachers. Now you tell me after going through this, would you be over the moon and energetic, or would you feel like someones adding rocks to the jar that is your brain which is supposed to hold the heavenly fruits of knowledge.

Homework, or a homework assignment, is a set of tasks assigned to students by their teachers to be completed outside the classroom. Generally speaking, homework does not improve academic performance among young children, meaning that homework isn't meant to be for young elementary kids. And with the difficulty level that some students see in homework, students often have to use the internet or other resources for help, which provides disadvantages for students without internet access.

And I myself experienced a system with homework not being a deciding factor of grading. Where I grew up, Sudan, the education system usually uses tests at the end of every month or two. These tests are usually used to assess the level and the understanding of the student, then comes the final which you take at the end of the year for each subject. That final was the only important test since it decided whether you move on to the next chapter and also decide what level you are so you're put in a class that is best for you.

Now for some this seems like either a horrible system or a decent one but in need of improvement, which is true since there is actually no art, computer or any sort of fine art in the program. This system technically wasn't homework free, teachers still assigned homework since we obviously need to do something and if you don't, well you get hit with a ruler (yea not ideal). My point is in my opinion If they have added group projects to a grading scale and those earlier tests are actually something, that system would be a perfect system.

In my humble opinion, Homework doesn't help with understanding a subject and it only adds to the stress they probably already have. You could argue that the point of homework is or practice of a subject, but there are other ways to do so such as group projects, in-school assignments and even quizzes. Idea of homework is an idea that doesn't age with time, back then that did in fact need your own critical thinking or finding someone who has that skill, which at least involved making social interactions so that was a plus back then. But now that just isn't the case, the internet is right in front of you, why do you need to socialize when the answers are right there. Nowadays, the internet is becoming more and more as a teacher for young adults

All I'm saying is this, why give work to kids knowing full well they aren't going to do it themselves, when you can give a quiz that acts as an assessment to see the strong and weak points. build on the strong points and give attention to the weak spots, that way everyone is up to speed. The education system needs a serious makeover in order to bring it up to the times, it also needs a motto/norm and build around it, in Sudan the motto was "التربية قبل التعليم" which was a way to say that the point was teach kids manners give them a bump to develop understanding before teaching them anything else which is something i believe should be the focus of every school system.





Metal detectors at door 4 before you come in the building, put in place for security reasons

Picture by : Omer Mahjoub

# *A CPS SCHOOL'S POLICY PROCESS*

## HOW DO CPS SCHOOLS CREATE POLICIES AND IMPLEMENT THEM

BY : Omer Mahjoub

On Jan, 18, CPS students from Various schools participated in a walkout in protest of the new COVID-19 Safety measures and student voice, only shining more light on the issue of student representation and student voice. Considering these school walkouts happening throughout the country, this adds to a serious discussion about student representation and what role they might be playing in their own learning and education.

As students are going into the school for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, and with students still adjusting to being back in school, they walk into a school that implemented new policies and dress codes for the school year. With the school throughout the year implementing new policies that are meant to somewhat curb the increase in violent incidents in the school, but a question floats over everyone's mind: who really creates these policies, and what is the student's role in the entire process?

“Policies are typically developed if we find a gap in an area where more support is needed” Ms Lyons said. The school in the current year has put in place many policies such as regular screening when coming in, or the new 3 minute tardy rule. These types of rules were put in place to combat common issues the school is facing this year such as student attendance and a social media threat earlier this year.

"I think it depends on the policy we are talking about. There are policies that are decided by the Board of Education" Ms Lyons explains, "A school based policy might be one that is around dress code, although part of that is in the Code of Conduct as well", adding "If we are doing a school based policy, we typically try to involve all voices, students, staff, and parents".

Julie Lyons, an assistant principal at Mather High school, Prior to her time at Mather, she was a teacher at Amundsen high school and before that she worked in advertising. Her Involvement in the school's policies varies, she states "School based policies yes I do have a voice in them. But we split up responsibilities, so I might not be leading the crafting of the policy - it might be another staff member or administrator".

With a main question remaining: What role do the students play in those policies?, well according to Ms Lyons the answer was simple, "We utilize the Student Voice Committee to help contribute. We also have a student Climate and Culture team that we use as well.", later adding "we typically try to involve all voices, students, staff, and parents. We work together to develop something that we all think we will be able to uphold within the building".

"Policies are typically developed if we find a gap in an area where more support is needed." continuing "We implement different plans and then do a process check to find out what is working and what is not working, and if the policy is having its intended impact on what we were trying to do".

in recent years students have become more and more vocal about issue in the community whether it affects them or not, and with the issues facing schools from remote learning and pandemic, to violent threats and all sorts of school issues, students around the country, some might add the world, are not showing any sign of them staying silent.





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## *THE AGE OLD DEBATE*

The debate basketball fans have discussed for decades.

BY: JEREMIAH GONZALEZ

The truth few hold, but the one to be spoken.

Michael Jordan and LeBron James are forever tied together with the intent to find the true greatest. Looking at the stats, accomplishments, character, and impact. Fighting till the vein on your neck pops out and yelling "what do you mean" for the 90th time. Now someone who is looking in from the outside, will only see a group of hooligans yelling at the top of their lungs for two people they have a shred of relation to. However the people involved in the community have heard or participated in the debate of Jordan vs. James. I myself have dabbled in the debate. Being from Chicago, I will forever be on Team Jordan till the day I die, but with a more rational mind I can see through the fog of ignorance. Both are players, with different achievements and impacts which were seen by different generations. So that's how we need to approach it. Jordan will forever be Michael Jordan and James will forever be LeBron James, forever existing in their own existence.

The debate began when LeBron came into the National Basketball League(NBA) in 2003 as the next messiah after Michael Jordan(MJ) ravaged the league for the good part of a decade starting in the late 80s and ending in 1998. Now once people realize LeBron James lived up to the expectations placed on him and exceeded them, the comparison began. Dividing NBA fans of old to the ones of young. NBA fans on side Jordan will give you a laundry list of his championships, statistical achievements in a physical 80s and 90s era, and an impactful brand. James's fans will go to his longevity, record breaking statistics such as James becoming the second leading scorer of NBA history, or they will make the point that LeBron James had much tougher opponents then Jordan ever did. Which I take offense to because Jordan went up against hall fame talent such as Patrick Ewing, Magic Johnson, Karl Marlone, Charles Barkley, and Larry Bird. However my true mission throughout this editorial to cement the idea of the debate being undebatable.

The notation that one has to be greater than one other is flawed. Why can't both be revolutionary to the game of basketball and stand in their own greatness. Michael Jordan rejuvenated the game of basketball to become a household sport and put up number no had seen to that point. Which is why for so many MJ is the greatest basketball player of all time while also having an everlasting brand of Air Jordan which has had a cultural influence for decades. However you then have LeBron James in his 20th season in the league, still averaging top tier numbers, breaking records set by other legends in the sport, and having a positive impact on the sport and outside of it. These men are two people with two different identities, different paths, different impacts. They both have done extraordinary things with their life and continue to do so, but why do we feel there needs to be a greatest, can we just celebrate these two men, I think so.

The truth is, that there are two truths and they lie within these men.



# The Night of young life

## Story of Prom

By: Jeremiah Gonzalez

CHICAGO, MARCH 30, 2022 - THE STARRING LIGHTS, LUXURIOUS VENUE, GLAMOROUS CLOTHING, TOP HITS BLARING, GATHERED CHATTER. THE FORMULA OF A HIGH SCHOOL PROM. THE NIGHT MOST SAY THEY WILL NEVER FORGET. MATHER HIGH SCHOOL PROM IS SOON TO COME, ON MAY 14, 2022 AT THE FANCIEST OF VENUES WHICH IS THE METROPOLITAN LOCATED IN THE FAMED WILLIS TOWER. IN GREAT ANTICIPATION FOR THE EVENT ONE HAS TO WONDER, WHAT DID PROM IN THE REMOTE LEARNING YEAR OF CPS LAST YEAR LOOK LIKE? DID IT HOLD THE SAME ESSENCE THAT THIS YEAR'S PROM IS EXPECTED TO BRING?

"THE GOOD THING WAS, A LOT MORE STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO COME, BECAUSE IT WAS AT MATHER, AND IT WAS CHEAPER". MRS.DANGUILAN MATHER HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AND SENIOR ACTIVITIES ORGANIZER TALKING ABOUT LAST YEAR'S PROM DURING REMOTE LEARNING. THE PROM WAS IN THE COURTYARD AT MATHER HIGH SCHOOL, NOT THE USUAL FANCY VENUE PROMS OF THE PAST HAD. HOWEVER SHE STATES THAT IT WAS A GOOD THING BECAUSE STUDENTS WHOSE PARENTS PROBABLY WOULD NOT ALLOW THEM TO GO TO A DOWNTOWN VENUE DID LET THEM GO TO THE PROM IN THE COURTYARD, AND ALSO THOSE WHO COULD NOT AFFORD NORMAL TICKET PRICES COULD AFFORD THE CHEAPER COURTYARD TICKETS. HOWEVER WITH THE PUSH OF A NORMAL SCHOOL YEAR THIS YEAR, THE HOPE FOR A PROM MATCHING THE PUSH IS PROVING TO BE TRUE. SENIORS TALKING ABOUT SUIT AND DRESS CHOICES AND WHO'S GOING TO ORDER THE LIMO.



"I WENT WITH MY BOYFRIEND AT THE TIME, MY BEST FRIEND AND HER DATE. I WAS A 'JOCK' BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL SO IT WAS A LITTLE STRESSFUL FOR ME FINDING A DRESS AND HAVING TO GET MY HAIR AND MAKEUP DONE." DANGUILAN TALKING ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE AT HER PROM, WHICH WOULD BE RELATABLE TO MANY STUDENTS GOING TO PROM THIS YEAR. SHE FOLLOWED WITH SAYING, "BUT IT WAS A FUN TIME FOR ALL. I'M GLAD I WENT." SHE ENJOYED HER TIME AT HER PROM, MAKING HER STRESS WORTHWHILE AND WITH OUR PROM NEARING, HOPE FOR THE SAME NARRATIVE IS EXPECTED. EVEN AS DANGUILAN MENTIONED SHE WAS A 'JOCK' IN HIGH SCHOOL SO DRESSING UP WAS NOT REALLY HER STYLE BUT SHE DID AND WAS GLAD SHE DID.

"A PROM COMMITTEE, BECAUSE WE WANT THE STUDENTS TO HAVE THEIR FEEDBACK, THEIR ONES THAT PICK THE THEME..." DANGUILAN EXPLAINS THE STUDENTS' INVOLVEMENT WHEN ORGANIZING PROM, STATING THE STUDENTS ARE A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROM PROCESS. WE ARE TASKED WITH PICKING THE THEME, DECORATIONS, AND GIVEAWAYS LIKE THE PROM ROYALTY CROWNS.

"I ASK THE SENIOR HOMEROOM TEACHERS IF THEY'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT, AND AS OF RIGHT NOW I HAVE THREE THAT ARE HELPING". DANGUILAN IS SPEAKING ON TEACHERS' INVOLVEMENT IN HELPING PROM COME TO FRUITION. MOST TEACHERS UNDERSTAND THE EXCITEMENT PROM BRINGS BECAUSE THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED PROM THEMSELVES. SO BY THEM HELPING IT EXHIBITS THE CARE THEY HAVE IN BRINGING AN EXCITING PROM AS THEMSELVES EXPERIENCED.

PROM IS THE NIGHT OF YOUNG LIFE. OUR FINAL WHOOO-RAAA MOMENT IN OUR HIGH SCHOOL LIFE. DANGUILAN WAS ASKED A FINAL QUESTION, ASKING ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PROM TO THE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE. HER RESPONSE, "YOU ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE IN LIFE TO EXPERIENCE CERTAIN THINGS, AND IF IT'S GIVEN TO YOU AND YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO DO IT, I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE THAT OPPORTUNITY."



# WAR ON MENTAL HEALTH

TEACHER VIEW ON THE CURRENT MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM THAT HAS BEEN POPPING UP IN SCHOOLS.



BY FARHAD MUHAMMAD QASIM

**Chicago IL-** An anonymous teacher at Stephen T. Mather High School was interviewed during the 3rd period, from 9:50 am to 10:15 am, concerning the issue of Mental Health and the resources available here at Mather, as of today, to students.

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The anonymous teacher, when asked about mental health and the cause for its growing concern, stated that it is simply hard to understand some of these students. They have all these problems and are in clear need of help, but in the end they don't ask for proper help, and try to deal with the world by themselves.

“I don't think it's as much about resources, but students willing to use these resources. They are available and sufficient, but no one is smart enough to put away their pride and ask for help.”

When asked, if this was always the case, they thought for a bit before stating, “Not always, no, it has only grown in the recent years with the growing number of school shootings and pandemic problems crawling up.”

*"LIFE IS MEANT FOR  
THOSE WHO SHARE  
THE SAME ILLNESS,  
AND THE WORLD IS  
MEANT FOR THOSE  
WHO SHARE THE SAME  
DREAMS"*

*-SO BAEK-HYANG*





## ***Poisoned Mind***

As students still struggle to adjust, many highschoolers share their opinions on the pandemic and the effects that they have endured through.

BY FARHAD MUHAMMAD QASIM

CHICAGO-Another new morning, inside a small apartment another groan comes out, as the breathing evens out from the slow and deep to a rhythmic and steady. Too tired and sore to properly complain, he fumbles around to find his phone. As he checks the time, another muffled groan escapes his mouth, almost muffling his own complaint. It's 7:55 am, only 5 minutes left before the supposed "1st period" starts. After cursing whatever Gods, Devils, and Buddhas that he could remember for around one minute, he got up and got refreshed. Afterwards, he sat dazedly in front of a Chromebook screen afterwards for a couple of minutes before remembering the time, and started opening google classroom only to be once again "surprised" at seeing the instructions on the screen and not seeing a single person. On the presented screen, it read "say 'here' in chat for attendance, then you're free to leave and do the 3 reading assignments posted on google classroom. Don't forget to answer the questions." No human interaction, no faces, no noise, no nothing. The identical cycle followed the rest of the day.

Schools went out of in-person learning right just when kids were starting to show excitement for spring break. As kids thought they were just getting more break time as they enjoyed themselves, they were given the news that they'll be going remote. Both children and adults were given false hope over and over again as they were told they'll start again soon again and again. That soon turned out to be a year and a half later. During that time, all those kids and adults lost their schedules, work ethic, social skills, mental stability, and most of all time. And when they came back to school, they were expected to have the skills to continue without ever having been through the 1 and half year gap. They were just supposed to be "normal" again.

"It was honestly depressing, the family was struggling with keeping their jobs, me and my siblings trying our hardest to adapt, and then the whole anxieties keeping us mentally strained." said Khan, a senior student at Stephen T. Mather High School. Khan's family had been struggling with the epidemic for a while due to them being fairly new to the US.

People all over the world share the same difficulties. Khan used to be a straight A student, but after finding out about the death of two of his uncles he had started to give up school work and grades to support his family. The epidemic took one thing that could help him in the building of his future, which was the grades he cherished once. After that he fell off the radar. Some counselors tried to contact him, but after the first three meetings he gave up on the rest as well, because he found out that talking through the screen about life doesn't help with life's problems.



Similarly, when schools finally restarted students were quite happy. But after the first two weeks, they found out that nothing had changed. Although the school was accommodating the students' adjustment to school pretty well, the students found it a bit too hard to get used to. One student had this to say, "They really expected us to come to school, and get back to school life as if this was just another school year. They acted like we didn't lose a whole year to a sickness, and we didn't change at all during this time. It was kinda cruel and unkind. A lot of people expected some more sympathy." said Aaron. This was a sentiment shared by more than half of the student body. Aaron was someone who suffered from chronic back pain due to a genetic condition that ran in his family. He lost two household members due to the virus. This was still a huge change to him. His whole family was still adjusting and he was putting on a strong front for his family to help them. He was emotionally and mentally exhausted. When the school year started, he expected to get some time to rest and build himself back up, to finally have some to allow himself to grieve. But the school had a different agenda.

Everyone had suffered and was expecting more from a system that they all agreed was broken. The people in school might have cared for them, but the system did not allow them too much movement. It was hard to make the known lines any blurrier, teachers were given goals of what every student should know and they didn't have many choices. While people were just trying to recover from their suffering, school was there like a tyrant expecting its people to work and expecting nothing less.

Students felt like their pain was not listened to. Teachers were a bit better than students since they were in the building half a year before the students. One teacher said, "It was indeed a tough time for many. It was hard to see so many kids with potential that you saw a year ago lose that flame that pushed them forward. It left a bitter aftertaste."



# *THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY, WHAT DO WE REALLY HAVE?*

**How students are impacted by their lack of privacy and HIPAA rights.**



**By: Adeline Sanjana**  
**Sunday, May 22, 2022**  
**CHICAGO, IL**

Want to make your own health decisions, because your parents don't approve, well too bad!

A high school student's right to privacy has often been misconstrued by staff, parents, and other authorities all over our nation. Although a student should have the right to privacy in regards to their medical records, especially once they turn 18, this doesn't always seem to be the case.

Once a child turns 18, they are protected by HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), which protects an individual's medical records and health information. However, most schools aren't required to follow HIPAA guidelines. This can put a student at risk if their parents disapprove of the health decisions, like getting the COVID-19 vaccines without their knowledge.

If a school nurse or clerk informs a parent of their child's vaccination status when the parent is anti-vaxx, this may cause a lot of unnecessary tension between the child and parent.

This very same situation occurred with a friend of mine. After receiving her 2nd dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination, she was experiencing the side effects such as headache, body pain, mild fever, and overall fatigue and decided to go to the school nurse. When talking to the school nurse and attendance coordinator, she mentions that her mother is very anti-vax, she's one of those types to believe that the vaccine has a microchip in it and that the government is tracking you with it.

My friend hints that the nurse and attendance coordinator should not tell her mother that she was feeling unwell due to her 2nd dose. The nurse and coordinator do just the opposite and tell her mom that she was experiencing these side effects because of the vaccine, not just the 1st dose, but her 2nd dose.

There are many students out there in similar situations like my friend, when a parent and child have conflicting views on politics, science, religion, and medicine, this can cause a lot of stress within a family. With my friend, upon her mother finding out that she had received the vaccine against her wishes, made it clear that she wasn't happy about this. This can impact a student's mental health negatively, and possibly put their safety at risk.

All this fuss for what? At 18, you are legally allowed to make your own health decisions, and HIPAA applies to you as a patient in a healthcare setting. You need to provide written consent for your medical records to be viewed by anyone who isn't you or your doctor. Everything is confidential in the healthcare setting, and it should be the same in the school nurse's office.

School nurses are still healthcare professionals and they should be subject to HIPAA as well. And at 18 years of age, you're considered an adult in all 50 states. Why should your HIPAA and privacy rights be any different in high school?

Even if HIPAA doesn't apply to schools, the school staff should respect the student's requests to not share this information with their parents. This is especially important if this might pose a risk and cause tension between the child and their parents. The student knows what's best for them in their situation and the school should trust their judgment.

Of course, those on the other side may think "your parents have the right to know about their kids" and "well, high schoolers aren't able to make their own decisions", well I think that we know what's best for us as 18 year olds, legal adults who should have autonomy over our own body. We can do the needed research and use our prior knowledge to make the health decisions that we deem necessary.

What's the difference between a high school senior who's 18 and a college freshman who is also 18? Why are our privacy rights any different from theirs? Really my only piece of advice to those trying to resolve this issue is, just listen to us and treat us like the adults we are!



**The nurse's office, where students go when they're feeling unwell.**



# *THE AFTERMATH OF REMOTE LEARNING*

**The impact remote learning had on students and teachers across the nation.**



**By: Adeline Sanjana**

**Thursday, April 7, 2022**

**CHICAGO, IL**

At Mather High School's library, chemistry teacher Theresa Milz sits near the big picture windows overlooking the playground, tall trees, and green grass, on a nice, sunny day. The calm atmosphere of the library is filled with quiet students typing away on their Chromebooks, scribbling the answers to their homework, or just chatting with their friends. This setting is an apparent contrast to the chaotic, loud, and bustling hallways of Mather. Students and teachers often missed the chaos of their schools once the switch to remote learning took place in March of 2020. This lasted almost two years with schools reopening for the 2021-2022 academic school year in the fall.

Remote learning severely slowed down the amount of curriculum content covered throughout the 2020-2021 school year. 56% of teachers covered only half, or less than half, of the content that they would have gone through compared to past years. Only 1 out of 5 teachers said they were on the same schedule for the curriculum as years past. "I was really looking forward to teaching chemistry in person, not the same as teaching chemistry on a computer," says Mrs. Milz. Teachers have all the resources they need to teach efficiently and effectively in-person, rather than online and in their own homes.

Mrs. Milz explains, "Being worried about the world, society, and my relatives, that constant concern forced me to find as many things as I did to appreciate during that time. Otherwise, it would've just been overwhelmingly sad, I probably wouldn't have gotten anything done." Remote learning, only caused teachers and students to feel more unmotivated, stressed, and experienced major anxiety and depression due to the prolonged social isolation. They were also faced with other issues such as financial struggles, health concerns, family troubles, and mental health struggles, all of these factors becoming roadblocks to students' education and work for the teachers.

Remote learning also caused students and teachers to fall behind with the curriculum, feeling as if it wasn't a practical way to learn and educate. Instead of going through the trials and tribulations, a classroom setting provides when it comes to assignments and the curriculum, remote learning caused students to resort to looking up the answers and becoming afraid to make mistakes.

They prioritized getting the work done, rather than learning and working through the process. Even if kids tried their best to learn the process, didn't look up the answers, and actively participated, they didn't retain the information they learned as well compared to a classroom environment. As Mrs. Milz describes, "Students could basically hide, and not ever really have to put forth and take risks if they didn't want to...risk avoidance really hurt their education...Having an answer and having gotten an answer are two very different things."

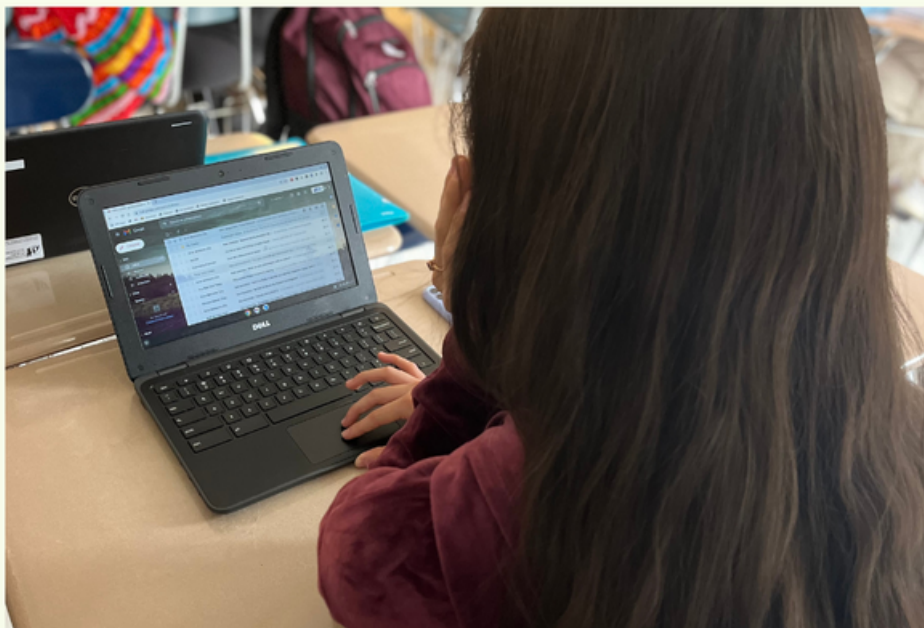
Mather's administration attempted to show teachers and students as much support as they could with gifts, Ranger days, technology support, extracurricular virtual activities, and much more, but this didn't really change the fact that the majority of people just wanted to go back to school for the fall. Mather offered Chromebooks and CPS provided free internet access, but teaching on a computer may never be as effective and efficient as in-person learning. The classroom provides a purely academic-focused environment for students and teachers. Students can perform tasks such as making models, performing labs, group activities, etc. Teachers can provide immediate feedback around the classroom, and directly interact with students, something that cannot be achieved online.

Many students, teachers, and parents were pleased to hear that CPS schools were fully reopening for the 2021-2022 academic school year. There were still some concerns about COVID safety guidelines and another possible spike in cases. Oswaldo Grajeda, a senior at Mather comments, "My biggest concern was how would people be cautious of their health with others around them. I was afraid that people would lie about their health status in order to come to school and that students wouldn't wear their masks properly."

Despite these concerns, Mather and CPS had strict safety guidelines and regulations put in place. CPS kept the mask mandate in place longer than schools in the suburbs, encouraged COVID testing, vaccine clinics, social distancing, and quarantine for documented cases or exposures. Mather didn't see a huge spike in cases compared to other schools, which set a good precedent for the rest of the school year. It seems like Mather could continue in-person learning without any unforeseen closures.

"Coming back this fall wasn't weird at all, it was like a relief. You know like, ah, here it is again, here's school, here's the chaos, here's the 1,700 students walking around.", Mrs. Milz says. The majority of students and teachers felt the same way coming back to school this fall. Students have fewer distractions, they can concentrate better, and receive a more direct, personalized education from their teachers. Spending time with and being around classmates, peers, and co-workers after almost two years of isolation was a relief for many. Students were able to properly learn in the classroom, and teachers were able to teach in-person with all the necessary resources, providing a better education than remote learning ever can.

Students of all ages can now hope to enjoy the rest of their education, back in the building. Most students and staff can agree with Mrs. Milz saying, "I'm very happy to be back."



**Increased use of the Chromebooks in the classroom after the return to in-person learning, as shown by the student in this picture.**



MARCH 14, 2022

# *MASK ARE NOW OPTIONAL FOR CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL*

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL MAKING MASK-OPTIONAL



## *FEATURE STORY*

BY TIEN TRAN

Chicago Public School has made a decision to move to a mask-optional policy starting March 14. All Cps students and staff now can choose whether to wear masks or not since the Covid cases are decreasing. This decision has been great for some people but also has led to many disagreements for some students and teachers, which cautioned that the move violated a safety agreement.

The district stated on Monday that it will implement a mask-optional policy, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's most recent recommendations. The school district recommended wearing masks when the Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations in their region are high.

Nowadays, a lot of students are fully vaccinated, so making masks optional is great, but also not so great at the same time, because moving to mask-optional would also undo progress and threaten the health and the safety of a large swath of unvaccinated students on the South and West Sides. About 30% of students aged 5 to 11 are fully vaccinated, while 57 percent have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine. Approximately 56% of 12- to 17-year-olds are fully vaccinated, and 68% of students have gotten at least one dose. Students who are not vaccinated should continue to wear masks when going to school.

A High School Student named Thu Dang has argued that " I believe Chicago Public School makes masks optional because the number of people who tested positive is decreasing, but I don't think this is a great idea since the Covid is not completely over yet." " I think it is important for us to continue to wear masks because the Covid is still there, and we don't know when it will end. It might have a higher chance of people getting it again whether you are vaccinated or not, it still affects you, so for our safety, we should wear masks to protect ourselves from getting Covid."

However, the mask optional is now a choice. People can choose to wear it if they want to since it is not mandatory as it did when the pandemic started.





*Girl bathroom at  
700 hallway*

## Basic News Story

By Tien Tran

# **A student was found ditching class**

A student at Mather High School was found  
ditching in the bathroom

On Feb 15, an anonymous student at Mather High School was found ditching in the bathroom in the 700 hallway at 9:30 a.m. A few minutes before the period ended, the student returned to class to go to the next period.

An anonymous student was standing behind the wall next to the mirror, talking loudly on the phone with somebody in the bathroom. Later, that anonymous student left the bathroom to go to their next class.

Someone who witnessed the scene said that, "I think students ditch class because they're too lazy to go to class or they want to play on their phone, but I think this is a bad idea if they want to graduate."

# VIDEOTAPING VIOLATION

BY: QUYNH TRINH

There is no excuse for students who record the video during all fights.

Fighting is a significant issue in any school worldwide, but students who witness the fight believe that recording the video is the right thing to do, but they are unaware of the consequences. Instead of recording the video, students should report it and do what they are supposed to.

Students should immediately report the fight to security; staying there to watch it would not help them in that circumstance. When a student gets caught filming fights on school grounds or uploading the footage using school computers, the school may take disciplinary action. However, if students participate in such behavior outside of school, the school has limited recourse.

According to Mather High School's principal, the school must "be cautious" when penalizing students for their social media posts.

Mr. Auffant stated, "When it is not school-related, it is not our responsibility, and we have no control over it." "However, we can take action if [recording] occurs on school grounds and is uploaded on social media."

If students were forced to put their phones away, this would not be a problem. But unfortunately, this is all too unlikely to

be the case. And, before suggesting the student is documenting the fight, let me remind you that most schools already have security cameras, which eliminates the one practical purpose for recording a violent battle.

Stop sharing the video on social media so that we can educate students about the consequences of bad behavior and the rule of videotaping. Understand that publishing the video will not fix the situation; rather, it will worsen it. When a fight breaks out, students must be educated to be helpers rather than fanatics or opportunistic observers. Schools do not provide much instruction on how to react responsibly during a conflict. They should do more. Perhaps a day or two from school will help kids learn that their phone isn't the most important tool in a situation. It's their brain.

We have to show them how to achieve the distinction in a more positive way.







*"This is the 700 hallway  
bathroom"*

# ***A GIRL DITCHING IN THE BATHROOM***

BY: QUYNH TRINH

## **A STUDENT AT MATHER HIGH SCHOOL SKIPPED CLASS AND STAYED IN THE BATHROOM**

A senior student from Mather High School was walking down the 700 hallway when she heard a sound from the girl's bathroom on February 15, 2022, at 11:10 AM. Finally, after the frustrating situation, she walked back to her 4th period after using the bathroom.

An anonymous senior student claims she was enraged when she saw two girls ditching and staying in the restroom and using their phones while skipping.

"I was surprised that they skipped class and chose to stay in the bathroom instead of attending class, but what irritated me was that they were on the phone talking to their friends. Aren't they supposed to go to school to study, not to stay in the bathroom and talk to their friends on the phone? "

# ***ELON MUSK CHOOSES TWITTER OVER ENDING WORLD HUNGER***

MAY 19TH, 2022 7:52 P.M.

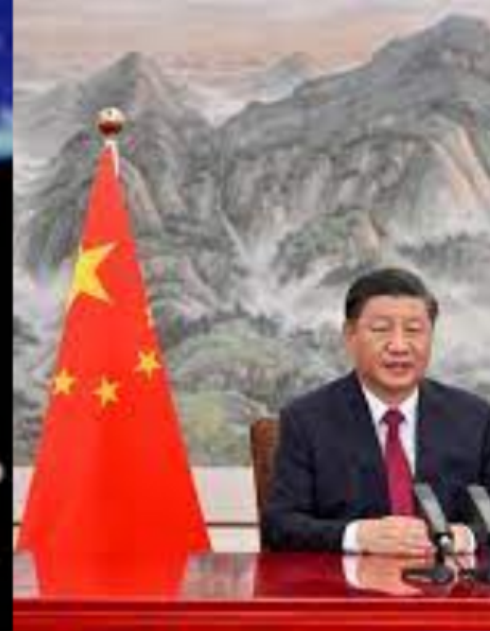


BY: TALHA KHAN

Elon Musk buying the social media has brought in a lot of attention to him despite him having no ambitionate plans for the social platform. As he purhcanes twitter for \$44 Billion, Musk has expressed his great desire for free speech

Tesla stocks have taken a turn and now Elon is migrating from business to buisness. The billionaire has invested himself into space technology, cars, Paypal and now even social media. But some dramatic consequences that elon musk may undergo in the future include the loss of value in tesla stocks, and his relationship with china, a company that does not share the same love for twitter but welcomed musk with billions of dollars of land for a Tesla factory in Shanghai 2019.





WHAT DOES CHINA HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

They have banned the use of the social media in their country; but they take advantage of it in their own ways to promote certain propaganda. But without a doubt, twitter is essentially a business and Elon who is a proud owner of 9.2% of the company lacks enough influence to cause any major change.



On another note, Elon Musk had once had a conversation with the World Food Program Chief, David Beasley. After he had tweeted it would take \$6.6 billion to end world hunger, but no support came from the man worth \$218.1 billion. You have to think, if 1500 people in the world control half of the world's wealth, How are we living? What as a society can we do to change the state of the world?

# *MURDER OUTSIDE GRAVEYARD: AN IRONIC DEATH.*

MAY 7TH, 2022 3:40 P.M.



## *WOMEN HIT WITH BMW PRONOUNCED DEAD AT THE SCENE*

BY: TALHA KHAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

It is disgusting what the BMW driver did. The news has not reached many stations.

At 1:08 p.m., the 32-year-old woman was standing at the stop for the eastbound No. 84 Peterson bus in the 2100 block of West Peterson Avenue in West Rogers Park, police said.

"On a usual work day I go to Dunkin Donuts for lunch. I have to take peterson. When I was on my way back I saw 2 cops, an absolutely shredded bus stop, and a dead body that was not covered" Says CS, a 44 year old computer engineer on his way back from lunch when he had witnessed what he had previously described in an interview that we had with him. "It still horrifies until today" he had kept notifying us.





## *POLICE PERSPECTIVE*

A 42-year-old man driving a black BMW plowed into the bus shelter and hit the woman, police said.

The woman at the bus stop was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver was taken to AMITA Health St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, where he was reported in good condition. The street of Peterson Avenue where the accident happened is part of a between the Edens Expressway and Dusable Lake Shore Drive, a very famously used route, Rosehill Cemetery occupies the south side of Peterson Avenue in the area, while a Target store is located across the street.



The next day, NBC and other local new stations caught hold of the story, as the sanitation center also arrived to clean up the mess and debris left at the sight of the bus stop that the reporters had in the background.



# PROM 2022!

MATHER HIGH SCHOOL



CHECK OUT WHAT'S IN

## FEATURE STORY

BY MONSERRATH CAMACHO

Upcoming Prom has to be one of the most exciting times of the year for the seniors. When seniors go out to buy our prom dresses and the boys get their suits, that time when the guys ask the girls out to prom, It's hands down the prettiest thing. When girls go out with their mom or their friends to go prom shopping. When it's the day of prom, getting ready, getting their hair and nails and makeup done. It's hands down the best experience a senior could go to.



# PROM 2022

*The UED Art Fair shows just how talented and creative the students are. We are proud of all the young artists.*

## PROM '22

While I was at lunch I asked one of my friends named Denisse Silva, what she thought about prom, if prom was worth going to. She said that she was excited to go to prom with her friends, she said prom was worth going to, she stated “Prom is a once in a lifetime experience, to be able to go to a dance with all your friends for the last time before we graduate.” she also said “you should go to prom with your friends and or your date, it’s a fun experience. Somewhere with no drama, just having fun with your friends/date, dancing, forgetting about everything.”



I also interviewed another senior whose name is Maria Vasquez, she said “Senior year is something stressful, with debating if you want to go to college or not, & what college you want to go to. Prom should be the moment where you forget about all of that and just enjoy the time with your friends, because you never know if you guys will still keep in touch after graduation.” With that being said, Prom is still hands down the best part of High School and IT IS an event worth going too. Enjoy your Senior year, leave memorable memories.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EL DORADO



## *ARE STUDENTS SKIPPING THEIR CLASSES*

*Security guard finds students  
ditching.*

By Alexander Herrera  
Mather high school

During the past three months students have been ditching their classes. A security guard who wishes to remain unidentified has spoken up, and said he has been seeing student's ditching around fourth & sixth period. The security guard said he had seen two students who were ditching school.

One student was headed towards door six. The individual who was sneaking out was wearing a blue hoodie and black pants, and another one who was running down the four hundred hallway wearing all black during this time. The security guard informed his coworker where the student was heading.





# WORLD POLLUTION

OKAY LET'S JUST GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.

Before I get to talking about how pollution is bad for the environment or how it harms the body let me just say that pollution is everywhere let's just get that straight. I do see it leaving just not anytime soon or who knows maybe it will stay, maybe not depending on the people or companies, but all I know is that it can leave a scar on someone or some place. People don't seem to realize that this is a big issue that can last years, maybe decades.

*People aren't aware that over the past two years at least 90 percent of the global population has been exposed to this type of unhealthy acid rain. It's sad to see this happen to our planet let alone our people. Companies that cause this toxic air don't seem to do anything at all. You guys are the reason our health problems are the way they are, yet you look from wherever you guys are hiding and see it but choose to ignore it. with your money right next to and your nice fancy home.*

So we understand how it kills the environment, but there are certain people who are more vulnerable to this problem, such as those who engage in physical activity outside, which can increase the chance of a heart attack. Particularly on children they are the most at risk with their lungs still developing and every time they run they breathe faster which can give pollution easy access to their body's. We all have a space to live, yet we destroy it to make room for our liking and understand that these companies and these people we depend on aren't doing anything we aren't doing anything.



Like I said, pollution is everywhere you have it every day. Countries all around the world are suffering from this type of disease, but let's focus more on Bangladesh. It is one of the most polluted countries. The amount of vehicles and industries can harm well we already know the environment. But the people considering that they live through this type of area everyday have health problems.

Let me tell the people who are in charge and I'm not saying that they are the only ones to blame, we are at fault as well. Why is it so hard to fix this situation? We, you, all of us sit here not doing anything letting it happen, so I guess you can say we are so weak minded that we don't bother looking after ourselves. You would soon realize that this would be a problem when it's too late let's say having heart problems, trouble breathing. By then you would want to stop pollution or just don't care about it's up to you to decide from there.

# *YOUR MIND OVER EVERYTHING*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MATHER HIGH SCHOOL



BY VICTOR MARCU

Without good mental health, it's hard for anyone to succeed.

What is mental health?

“A person's condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being”

Mental health disorders have always been an issue in society for as far as humans have existed. Unfortunately for the majority, proper care is never received as resources for care have always lacked since awareness of mental health and technical references to it only truly began coming to light in the late 1940s and early 50s.

Today, there's been an undoubtedly increase in the number of people affected by mental health disorders due to a number of factors but the most influencing being COVID and the 2020 lockdown.





## *(CONTINUED)*

The isolation and distress that came with quarantine left people of all ages in a feeling of uncertainty and only caused a greater amount of our population to develop mental health disorders. Socialization, confidence, physical activity, etc, were just some of the countless things deprived of people's daily lives that heavily impacted mental health negatively.

Unfortunately for our youth, it is them who were impacted the hardest. "37% experienced poor mental health during COVID-19 and 44% experienced persistent feelings of sadness". Students missed once-in-a-lifetime opportunities like walking the stage for graduation, events like prom, and even just sitting in a classroom environment receiving the best possible education. Piled-up memories like this can slowly lead to mental illness for some individuals. It's our future generations we are most reliant on for innovation like climate change, pollution, and conflict solutions yet they are the ones experiencing a huge setback with little proper care behind it.

The effects of this can cause years of delay for an innovative idea but in the world we live today, a difference like that can be too late. Therefore, it's important we make care for mental health more accessible and less of something that's looked down upon because, without it, we will never succeed as a whole society.

Depression, substance abuse, social isolation, and much more are just some of the many effects caused by mental illness which can eventually lead to suicide if left untreated. "Nearly one in five adults live with a mental illness in the US", this sums up to 53 million which accounts for 21% of our population. Imagine the percentage hike if teens had participated in that survey and more people were honest.

It is crucial we talk to health professionals when feeling down but most importantly unite now so we can create better solutions for those struggling. People should not be looked down upon when experiencing a mental illness because, with the right treatment, it can go from looking like a permanent piece of your life to a temporary chapter that comes before greatness.



## *THE INCREASE IN SECURITY AT MATHER*

MATHERS GROWING SECURITY PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT,  
AND PROTOCOLS

Chicago, IL-

Since students return from winter break, Mather has undoubtedly increased its security throughout the school. From the new security staff in charge of monitoring the hallways and enforcing new protocols to the newly bought bag scanners placed by doors 1 & 4, it's certain there's been a dramatic increase in security since the flaky start to the school year.

Starting the year, Mather did have a rough start, from the multiple fights occurring on and off school grounds to the large number of students ditching class, clearly, something was wrong and needed change.

When asked about why there was a sudden increase in security and money invested into new scanners, security guard Jesse Stanton, who's worked at Mather for 3 years, responded "It's for the safety of students & visitors and because of the increase of pepper spray/mace brought into the building".



One of the new bag scanners placed by door 4

Mathers increased security staff also caught the eyes of many students of many after their return from winter break. When asked about Mather's situation since the added security, Stanton responded with "Yeah, I think it's better, we're able to get a grasp on the number of students that walk on the halls during class periods. It could be better, but it's much better than it's been".



MAY 25TH, 2022

# *ROE V. WADE*

THE DISCUSSION



## *ROE V. WADE AND THE CONTROVERSY AND FEAR WOMEN FACE*

BY GENA CORONEL

I am sorry but how is this a normality for us today.

As a woman and as a growing adult I've seen and learned about the horrific struggles that women have gone through over decades. No matter how many years it has been since the last Women's Right Movement in 1960, it seems as if time has never continued.

Why is it that in today's time men and women, well actually whomever believe that it's in their own right to make the decision for Women in regards to abortion laws. But as many know this has never been something of news or to be surprised of as this has been an ongoing problem for decades now.



***"Keep your Bans off My Body "***

This is probably one of the recaps that I'd like to begin with before we start off, in the month February 2022 there began the upcalling of Roe V. Wade in which many are familiar with that define womens rights to abortion and the abortion laws that obtain with the infamous case. For a better background understanding Roe V. Wade is a Supreme court case that was endorsed into the constitutional laws in which this case protects pregnant women without any government restrictions. This was a monumental landmark decision that was made on January 12, 1973. At Least 50 years since the act of Roe V. Wade was made into a law, but as we all know by now it does seem like things just never change. Although the upcall regarding abortion laws came around February 2022 it seems as that it just began to show some light upon the decision of abortion laws being overuled. Weather it has been unclear to many, with the Supreme court taking it into their own hands to overrule abortion laws it is allowing any state to either sustain or ban abortions which in this case could lead to many criminal offenses against women.



"The justices held their final arguments of the current term on Wednesday. The court has set a series of sessions over the next two months to release rulings in its still-unresolved cases, including the Mississippi abortion case." As stated in the article Politico released May 5, 2022.

As a women it's enraging as to how after half a century our country could still delegate if Abortion laws should be allowed or our rights should be retracted and banned all because, a percentage believe that it is a crime.

As a kid I remember the many times in school we talked about history and how every historic event as well as what led up to them.

Will you look at that, history is repeating itself.





# The Ditching Students

By: Gena Coronel

Mr. J, the dean of students at Mather High School was walking around the halls with a couple other security guards on January 13th at 9:20 am. Mr.J was walking around and having discussions with his colleagues when they had an encounter with approximately four girls sneaking out of the girls locker room in the 700 hall.

According to the girls and other witnesses, the girls were supposed to be in their second period gym class but were caught by deans in the hallways. The group of girls were split into two groups in which case one group was in the locker rooms and the other two girls were in the halls roaming around. Both groups of girls were later then caught roaming and hiding in the locker room, seeing as how Mr.J and the rest of the security guards had to call for backup in order to enter the girls locker room. When speaking with a witness, they mentioned that Mr.J was upset regarding students ditching. Witness then went on to quote Mr.J saying " It's upsetting how many students choose to ditch and although they may have a reason as to why I just will never understand"

# *MATHER ORACLE*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MATHER HIGH SCHOOL



## *EDITORIAL (ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE)*

BY TRINITY ONADEKO

First Orchestra event since the pandemic

On Feb 11, 2022 students at Mather played at an orchestra performance at the school from 6-7pm. For the parents and any guests that wanted to see the event.

They played songs like Drunken Ledwig and Titanic. Students played at the event for a grade. Students who are in orchestra played either Violin, Cello, Viola, or Double Bass. One student who performed said, “When though the show might mess up, the show must go on”. Although students did perform for a grade in that class, some students didn’t play or show up at all.

A Senior named Mohammed Hassan played at the event. He said that, “ It went pretty good and plenty of audience”. When asked on why he played at the event, he responded “I wanted to make my parents proud by playing on stage”.



# MATHER ORACLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MATHER HIGH SCHOOL



## DECISION DAY

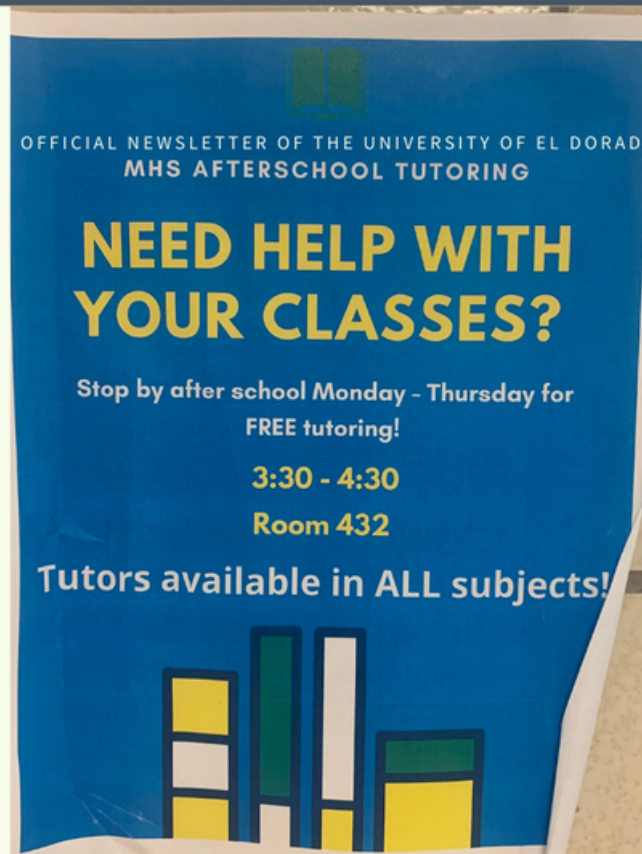
### DECIDING FOR THE RIGHT COLLEGE FOR YOU

Decision day is a day when students (specifically seniors) around the U.S. choose their college that they are going to go to for school as their next chapter of their life. For students decision day could be easy while for others it could be a difficult decision for them. An important decision as well because that is where they are going to go to school to pursue their major of their choice for the next four years (usually four).

Decision day could be so hard for people is because "It's a really important decision to make which will have significant impact on your life so it may overwhelm some people" as said Neydi, a senior at Mather high school that also has to make a decision about her college that she wants to go to as well. College will be a new experience for seniors getting ready for adulthood. There are many things to look forward to about college and also things not to look forward too. Neydi said "I think decision day is exciting". It's all about choosing the right college for you. Which a lot of factors can play in that decision. She said she decided on her school: "My cousin went there and had brought said good qualities of the school which encouraged me to just attend the school."

There are so many things to look forward to in college. "I'm excited about being more independent and focusing on things that I am interested in. And the overall college experience". Another quote from my interviewee. Which is what a lot of people are excited about college. But also many things on not to be excited about college. "The workload because I already be struggling with the work I get s that's my biggest concern". Which is one thing I am worried about the college. College is an excited thing but also scary thing too. That is why decision day exists. Its for giving us time to figure where do we want to go and study. To have enough time to make the right decision for our future.

# *LOWER GRADES NEAR THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR*



## *WHAT IS THE ISSUE FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE GETTING LOWER GRADES*

BY YASMIN ELAHG

I think the main reason for Students getting lower grades is near the end of the school year; sometimes there could be serious reasoning and sometimes a student could just not care about their grades much. Student thinks that getting lower grades isn't important especially for seniors because they're out of high school and they think that they're going to college, And don't really need that grade but when you look at it it's really important for them to be getting good grades as it's a normal term.



Now Let's Talk about the serious part about getting lower grades ,Some students may be dealing with other classes that could be harder for them;even though you've been accepted into a college your grades still count; ,Another reason may be that at the the end of the year many teachers give cumulative exams that cover all the material learned throughout the year, He or she may not do very well and end up with a lower grade that could drop them really bad.

And what I want people to do is stay focused in class. and don't get so many Attendance because that also could affect you to not catch up on things easily and things will be just everywhere.

# *LOWER GRADES NEAR THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR*



## *LIFE BEFORE AND AFTER THE PANDEMIC*

BY YASMIN ELAHG

“life was lovely before; Rebecca has experienced over the last 2 years of her life, before the pandemic she was last anxious and more easy on things around her; During the pandemic she has changed a lot mentally more worried and anxious; she is kinda aware of the surroundings instead of being chill. Now life kinda feels really hard and difficult . The things that she hears around her make her more wise ,having anidea of people and things mostly.



AT FIRST SHE TAKES THIS PANDEMIC LAST  
SERIOUSLY AND WHEN SHE HEARD PEOPLES  
DYING AND OTHER SHE KNOWS DYING; AND  
WHEN SHE GOT COVID HERSELF SHE GOT  
REALLY SERIOUS AFTER THEN IT'S REALLY  
HARD TO LIVE ALL THIS IS HAPPENING  
OVERNIGHT THINGS GOT REALLY CRAZY BUT  
MOSTLY I FELT SAFE AT HOME DURING THIS  
DIFFICULT TIME. SHE CHOSE TO STAY HOME AND  
SHE DIDN'T THINK ABOUT HERSELF, SHE  
THOUGHT ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE SHE  
HAS SIBLINGS AND; SHE DOESN'T WANNA BRING  
THEM DISEASES.

ONLINE SCHOOL WAS REALLY HARD AND DIFFICULT;  
TAKING CARE OF HER SIBLING WAS CHALLENGING FOR  
HER AS WELL. THIS PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED ME A LOT  
AND MENTALLY ALSO TRUSTING WAS THAT ALSO. THIS  
PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED HER LIFE A LOT. SHE GAINS A  
LOT OF EXPERIENCES; SKILLS AND SOME THINGS SHE CAN  
USE IN THE FUTURE. BEING PATIENT AND THINKING  
ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY.  
REBECCA FELT THIS WAY BECAUSE SHE WAS BEING  
TAUGHT OTHER STUFF THAN THE PANDEMIC; SHE  
ALWAYS TRUSTS THERE IS A SOLUTION TO HER