

The Truman Times

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Harry S Truman High School's Student Newspaper

February 10, 2016



Photo by Ms. Panzironi.

Scaffolding to cover building for five years

By Danicia McLeggon and Lucia Perez

Truman High School's building has been under construction since September 2015 and will continue to have scaffolding until 2020.

"The purpose of the scaffolding is the pointing of the bricks," Principal Ms. Alfano said. "They do it to check if there are any loose bricks. The scaffolding is there so no loose bricks can fall on students' heads."

Truman's building itself was completed in 1973, making it 43 years old this year. At this point, the building needs to undergo construction in order to protect students and staff, maintain its structure and keep everyone safe.

The scaffolding is a five year project and includes five stages. This decision was reached during a meeting with the Office of Construction. The

pointing of the bricks was initially supposed to commence many years ago.

"This was not my decision," Alfano said. "But safety always comes first. Students are always outside in the morning and after school. God forbid that a brick falls on their head."

While student safety is the purpose of construction, most students were con-

(Scaffolding continued on page 2)

NYC schools debate removing metal detectors

By Tai Ballantine

In 2004, Mayor Michael Bloomberg placed metal detectors in most New York City public schools, but this decision may soon be overturned by current Mayor Bill de Blasio.

The adding of metal detectors to NYC public schools in 2004 caused an uproar from students and even a protest from those attending Dewitt Clinton High School in the Bronx.

De Blasio has started the process of taking metal detectors out of schools by issuing a new law requiring schools to release quarterly reports stating whether the metal detectors are working and whether the school feels it should have the metal detectors removed.

For more than a decade, metal detectors have been in New York City schools and have kept most

weapons and other deadly objects out of school.

Everyday, 91,000 students in at least 193 schools are greeted by an ID machine, scanning machine and metal detector.

Donna Lieberman of the New York Civil Liberties Union suggests that the reason for the removing of the scanners is because they make students feel "unwelcome." This new policy is not popular among the people it affects.

"I feel like de Blasio shouldn't take them out because there is a lot of violence and bullying in schools," senior Justine Scott said. "Once he takes them out, kids may bring weapons to school and that'll just be more lives lost."

The Mayor is also conducting an investigation

(Detectors continued on page 2)

2016 Presidential Election

By Zion Wiggins and Kevone Williams

On Nov. 6, 2016, America will vote for its 45th president. There are only two Democrats still running in the race, four dropped out of the election, and two aren't running. The only two candidates still running are Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

The Republican candidates include Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, Chris Christie, Marco Rubio, Jim Gilmore, Carly Fiorina, John Kasich and Rick Santorum. Of these, the two likeliest contenders based on the Iowa caucus are Ted Cruz and Donald Trump.

As November approaches, here is what you need to know about the candidates and their major political platforms. *(Continues to next page.)*

Democrat

Hillary Clinton: Former Secretary of State.

ISIS: Aims to "defeat and destroy" ISIS.

Gun Control: Proposes expanding background checks, banning assault weapons and repealing a law that legally protects gun manufacturers. Clinton pledges to take executive action to "tighten the gun show loophole if Congress does not act."

Health Care: Defends Affordable Care Act and proposes limited out-of-pocket drug costs.

Same-Sex Marriage: Agrees with Supreme Court ruling; recent supporter for LGBT rights.

Climate Change: Proposes a plan that will generate renewable energy to power every American home within 10 years.

Republican

Ted Cruz: First term Senator from Texas

Gun Control: Defends the Second Amendment: "You don't get rid of the bad guys by getting rid of our guns. You get rid of bad guys by using our guns."

Health Care: Hopes to repeal "every word of Obamacare" and instead, proposes the ability to buy health care across state lines.

Same-Sex Marriage: Critiques same-sex marriages and believes that marriage laws should be left to the states.

Climate Change: Believes there has not been any "meaningful" climate change for years.

Syrian Refugees: Wants them settled in the Middle East. Christians "targeted for genocide" should find refuge in the US.

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Welcome to the first issue of The Truman Times.

Our newspaper is student-written and student-driven.

Our stories center around the school, our community and our world.

If you are interested in joining or helping The Truman Times staff, or if you'd like to share a story idea, contact Ms. Singh in room 562 or email her at ms.singh.truman@gmail.com.

We hope you enjoy reading our first issue, and we look forward to hearing from you.

(Elections continued from page 1)

Democrat

Bernie Sanders: Senator from Vermont; served in Congress as independent for more than two decades.

Gun Control: Proposes to close gun-show loophole, ban assault weapons and implement instant background checks.

Syrian Refugees: Believes that the United States should take “full responsibility” in helping refugees.

Right to Choose: Voted for the woman’s right to choose instead of allowing government intrusion.

Climate Change: Believes it is “threatening the planet in horrendous ways.” Sanders proposes taxing carbon emissions.

Same-Sex Marriages: Supports the Supreme Court decision.

Republican

Donald Trump: Billionaire businessman from Queens, NY. Recently endorsed by Sarah Palin.

Gun Control: Proponent of the Second Amendment and has vowed to veto any gun control measure.

Immigration: “I will build a great, great wall on our southern border, and I will have Mexico pay for that wall.” Trump proposes to deport undocumented immigrants back to their home countries. He also said that Muslims should be temporarily barred from entering the country.

Syrian Refugees: Does not want to allow refugees in the US.

ISIS: “I would bomb the hell out of ISIS.”

Health Care: Believes in private plans to promote competition.

As campaigns develop, some remain wary of finances and how elections are funded.

“The Presidential elections are always rigged financially because individuals who have the most money have the best chance to win,” global history teacher Mr. Miller said. “Other people with really good ideas and opinions get muffled out even during the debates.”

As the debates and caucuses continue, stay up to date with each candidate’s platform so you make the right decision in November.

(Scaffolding continued from page 1)

fused or unaware about the definition of the word “scaffolding,” not realizing that it refers to the construction they walk past everyday.

Despite this confusion, some students maintained a positive attitude about the scaffolding.

“If it keeps the snow from falling on my head, then by all means,” senior Trimane Plummer said.

The scaffolding also protects teachers from the snow, amongst other natural forces.

“The construction actually makes me excited because I’m curious to know what, if anything, will look

differently once it’s down,” English teacher Ms. Martinez said. “Though it will take many years to finish, it’s still cool to not have to worry about the elements falling full force on my head the minute I step out the door of the school.”

While the scaffolding obstructs the building itself and protects staff and students from unwanted weather, it plays an important role in safety and maintenance of the school’s exterior.

Considering the length of the project, current freshmen, or those in the class of 2019, will not get to see the building without construction until after they graduate.

Truman wins PSAL 2015-16 Championships

By Danicia McLeggon

The Truman Mustangs Varsity Football team won the PSAL Football Championship. This is the first time in five years that the team has won a championship.

“It was a huge accomplishment,” Coach Shepherd, who has been the varsity coach for nine years, said. “I’m proud to see my team win. The team understood the concept of winning this year.”

There have been a lot of changes since the last time the Mustangs won. The team put in double seasons to practice in order to improve as a team.

“I’m very proud of my team,” junior Trevor Carson said. “We have created a brotherhood instead of a team.”

Captain senior Dayvon Ford is impressed by the team for winning the PSAL Bowl.

“It feels great to complete something you work so hard and long for,” Ford said.

The players on the foot-



Photo courtesy of Coach Shepherd.

ball team created a family that created a bond between them all. The contributing factors of winning the championships have been the team’s effort as well as their coach.

“You had ten other brothers on that field fighting with all to get the same job done,” Ford said. “We had 10 weeks of regular season and four weeks of playoff season. Shepherd had us mentally and physically tired at the time.”

The long practices had strained the play-

ers but it was worth it.

“Winning the championship brought a lot of smiles,” senior Michael Taylor said. “Not just for me but for a lot of different people.”

The Mustangs have made the school proud and have achieved a lot for themselves and the school.

For next year, the sophomores have to work equally as hard to achieve the title again.

“They can do anything if they put their minds to it,” Taylor said.

(Detectors continued from page 1)

into the scanning of students at over 300 schools.

The last school shooting in a NYC public school was in 2002 at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Manhattan.

Two sophomore students, Andre Wilkins, 15, and Andre Napper, 17, were shot inside the school by Vincent Rodriguez, 18, who did not attend the school.

Some teachers worry that removing metal detectors could bring harm and recreate another school tragedy in New York City schools.

“I think it is a big mistake,” global teacher Mr. Mckenna said. “There are too many students and things that could potentially enter the building.”

Some students agree. “I wouldn’t feel protected knowing there aren’t no metal detectors around,” junior Tamara Burney said. “What if someone is sneaking in a knife or a harmful object? Who’s going to stop them?”

According to the NY Dai-

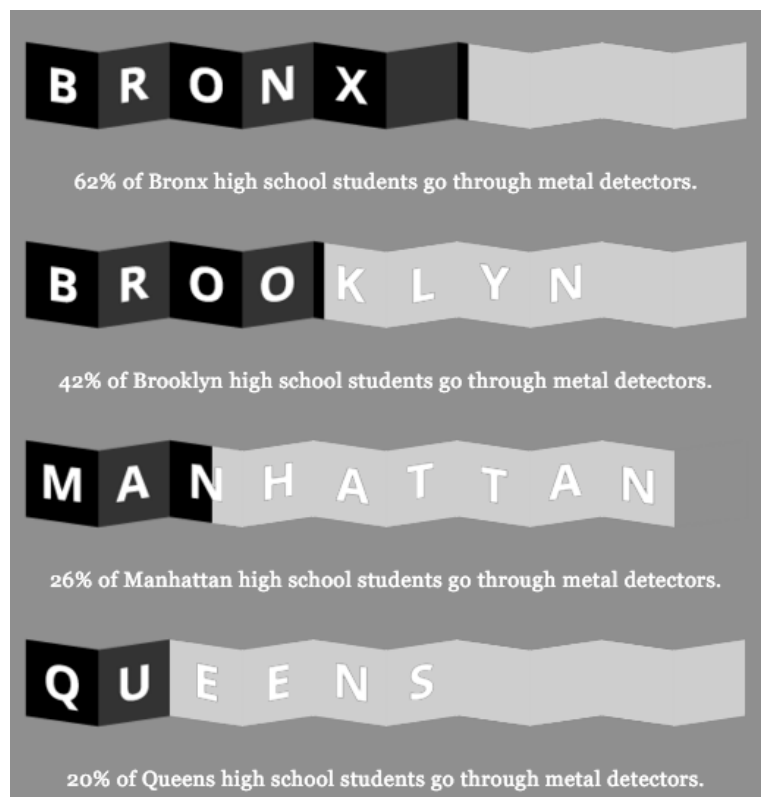
ly News, in the 2013-2014 school year alone, 1,200 guns, knives and box cutters were taken away from students during the metal detector scanning process.

As of 2015, there were 5,147 safety agents working in New York City public schools, but this may

change if metal detectors are taken out of schools. This loss in machine security may pave the way for a gain in human security.

No date has been given yet for the removal, so schools will have to wait to see if and when the metallic structures will exit the buildings.

Statistics by Borough



0 percent of Staten Island students go through metal detectors. Image from w NYC.org.

Resolving to keep 2016 resolutions

By Lucia Perez

It's February, so you've probably already forgotten that list of New Year's resolutions you made last month.

Why is it hard for us to keep our resolutions? According to the Daily Mail, two out of five people who start a diet as part of their resolution end up breaking it in the first week.

We often make many New Year's resolution. The most common ones include:

1. Get into shape
2. Eat healthier and diet
3. Learn something new
4. Be less stressed
5. Volunteer
6. Travel more often.

Chris Doss, a licensed-clinical social worker at the Community Counseling

Center of Southern Nevada, believes we should change our wording and use "goal" instead of "resolution" because a goal is more flexible.

"A resolution is more like, 'I'm gonna change right now,'" Ross said. "A goal is, 'I have time to get this accomplished'."

By changing our words, we may become more likely to stick to our plans for the upcoming year.

Students make their own goals and hope to change their lifestyles.

"My New Year's resolutions is to become a vegetarian," sophomore Emerald Fletcher said. "I want to turn work in on time, exercise more and become more feminine."

Teachers also have their set of resolutions, or goals.

"I would like to

quit the desire to curse and punch the kids," a teacher who asked to remain anonymous said. "But it would only last two days."

Whether it's losing weight or practicing more self-control (for both students and teachers), maintain your resolutions, or goals, by following these suggestions:

- Write down your resolutions and the specific steps you should take to accomplish them.
- Focus on one thing at a time. Don't overwhelm yourself with all the goals at once.
- Always maintain a positive attitude. Don't let one day ruin your entire progress.
- Speaking of progress, start tracking it. Break your resolutions into stages so you can see how much you have accomplished.
- And of course, celebrate your accomplishments!

By changing your resolutions into goals, you can motivate yourself to make a change and actually keep it, even past February.



Mass shootings on the rise

By Kevone Williams

President Barack Obama took executive action on Jan. 4, 2016 to help prevent further mass shootings and future gun violence.

This will expand background checks on those buying guns and ensure that people who sell less than 50 guns per year are registered.

"I commend President Obama for his recent actions toward tightening the gun control laws," living environment teacher Ms. Azer said. "This country is in a dire need for a commander to take action

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, or Virginia Tech. In 2012, a shooter at Sandy Hook Elementary School killed 24 people, in which more than half were children.

Most of these mass shootings happen in schools or during large public events. With each incident, one question recurs: should schools be worried about security in relation to shootings?

Some students think that security measures at Truman are adequate.

"We should not be worried about mass shootings happening," senior Kevin Riley said. "Mayor Bill de Blasio is doing a good job of putting more security guards in schools."

Others also believe that Truman's safety is sufficient.

"The school administration is doing what it is supposed to," senior Justin Anglero said.

Some teachers agree and are also not worried about a shooting at school.

"The administrators have been doing a good job

and everyone here has respected each other," math teacher Ms. O'Donnell said. "An intruder would have a hard time getting into the schools as there is adequate equipment, such as metal detectors."

Other teachers, however, are not as optimistic.

"I don't think 'worried' is necessarily the correct term," ESL teacher Mr. Sugar said. "We should all be concerned, whether we're students or staff, about the safety in the community."

America is not the only

country that faces gun abuse.

After the Dunblane school massacre in 1996 in the United Kingdom, 16 students and one teacher died. Within one year, legislation was passed to get rid of a majority of automatic rifles and most handguns.

The same, however, has not occurred in the United States.

"As a society, we need to figure out a better way of dealing with our grievances rather than resorting to gun violence," Sugar said.

According to Christine

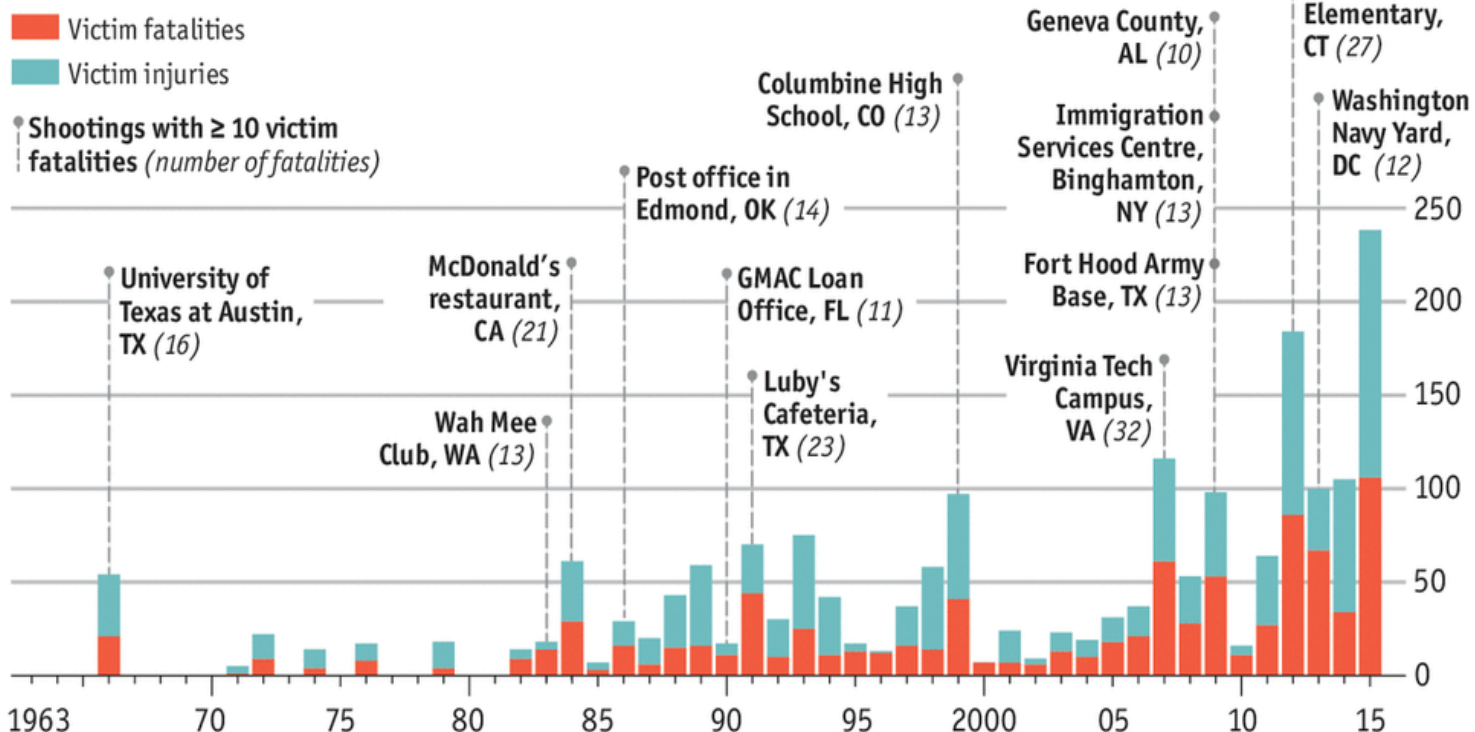
Emba for The Washington Post, the US is home to about 35 to 50 percent of the world's civilian-owned guns.

This percentage could change now that President Obama's executive action has taken place.

This decision, however, could be overturned based on the next elected president.

Mass shootings

August 1st 1966 - July 23rd 2015*



Source: Stanford Geospatial Centre

*Shootings with three or more victims; not comprehensive

Infographic from the Economist.

The season of love



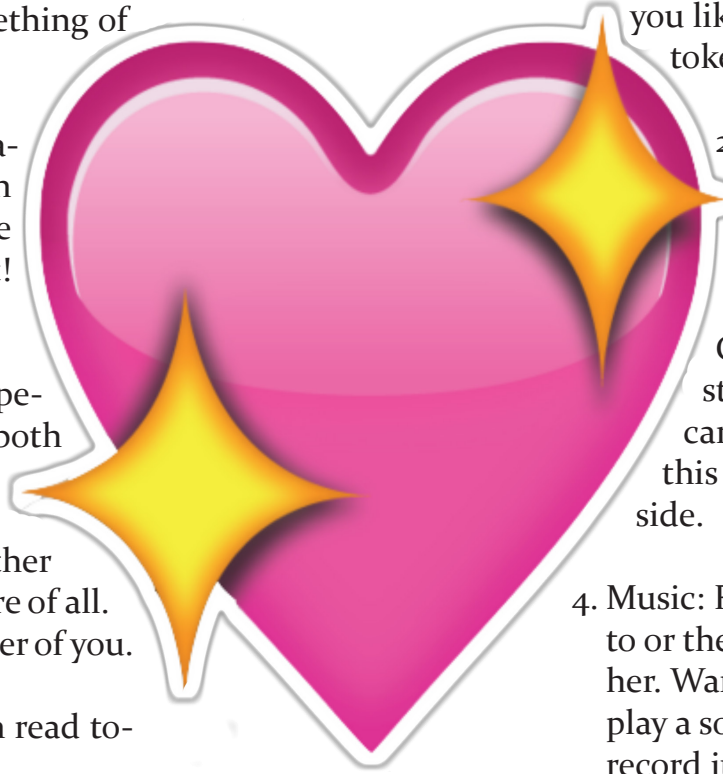
By Tasnesshade Stone and Zion Wiggins

Love is in the air. It's that time of year when most people profess their love for their special someone, but sometimes, there is a fork in the road and decisions must be made. What do you get or do for your partner that will make them feel as special as they are? What about someone who's heart you want to win over?

Here are some great ideas for you to consider, whether you're already in a relationship or want to finally ask someone out on a date.

For the one you have:

1. Handmade coupon book: Make a book of simple coupons (free hugs, do something of your partner's choice).
2. Ice Skating: A unique and memorable way to spend quality time with your boyfriend or girlfriend. Or take a trip to Central Park and dine out! Have day for yourselves.
3. Matching Jewelry: To make it extra special, get jewelry with the date you both made it official.
4. Body Care: Get your significant other soaps, perfume, cologne, or a mixture of all. This scent will always remind him/her of you.
5. Books: Get something you both can read together.
6. Write a poem: stating your feelings of how he/she makes you feel.



For the one you want:

1. A Scavenger Hunt: Create a list of reasons why you like him/her. Leave little notes, hints or tokens for them to find.
2. Invite Out: Plan a memorable date (ice skating, a comedy show) that both of you will enjoy.
3. Candy: Everyone has a sweet tooth! Go to the nearest pharmacy or grocery store and get some of his/her favorite candies or chocolates. You never know... this gesture might get you on their sweet side.
4. Music: Find out the type of music he/she listen to or their favourite song and play it for him/her. Want to make it extra special? Learn to play a song that reminds you of him/her and record it onto Soundcloud.
5. Teddy Bear: A nice big teddy never hurts!

Remember, at the end of the day, it's not all about what you get the person. It's the thought that counts. Don't wait until Valentine's Day to treat them to something special. Do it all the time and your relationship is guaranteed to last way longer than you would ever imagine. Make each day one to remember!

Top 8 most anticipated games of 2016

By Nicholas Pol

2016 is turning out to be another big year for video games. Video game developers are releasing some huge Triple-A games, or big budget games, for us this year.

These are the games that are ambitious in their gameplay and story; these are the games we anxiously await this year.

I'm excluding those exclusive to PC gaming and those with annual releases, such as Call of Duty and NBA 2K17.

Instead, I'm focusing on games coming out for home consoles, such as Xbox One and Playstation 4.

8. Final Fantasy 15

Final Fantasy is coming back for this generation of gaming and been highly anticipated since the lackluster 13 and 14. Many RPG and Final Fantasy fans are eager to play by its teaser, which shows real-time battles, a first for the series, and astounding graphics.

7. Doom

Doom is coming back and fans of the series have been waiting two console generations for a new entry. This entry is not a sequel as developers have opted for a reboot. By the trailers, however, Doom looks like an extremely action-packed first-person

shooter that many can't wait to get their hands on.

6. Deus Ex: Mankind Divided

The acclaimed action role-playing game makes its return. Mankind Divided is the sequel to Human Revolution. Mankind Divided's story brings up many social issues in the games' universe as augmented humans are discriminated against and are the lowest in the social ladder.

5. Quantum Break: Xbox One

This Xbox exclusive is perhaps the most innovative in terms of gameplay as players will have time

manipulation powers that so far, look amazing. One thing developers wanted to go for was an innovative story. A series will be released alongside that will enable the players to choose which scenario they want--this will also affect the game's story.

4. Tom Clancy's The Division

Set in a desolate New York, players will play as a member of the Division who seeks to create order in New York after a deadly virus killed most of the population. The game focuses on an RPG style with multiplayer gameplay that allows players to explore New York with their friends and other players in order to complete quests together.

3. Far Cry Primal

The Ubisoft series returns in a spin-off set in the Stone Age. This is a huge turn for the series as you'll get to play as cavemen in an open world filled with things that wish to kill you, a unique scenario and storyline. This is the most innovative Far Cry to date but once it releases, people shall

determine how good it is.

2. Street Fighter V: PS 4

The classic fighting series returns for the eighth generation of gaming that fans have been eagerly awaiting. You'll get to play as your favorite Street Fighter character and fight in this epic installation.

Fans are intrigued as they can't wait to face their friends on Street Fighter V.

1. Uncharted 4: A Thief's End: PS 4

The Uncharted series will come to an epic conclusion as it will be the last in the series and is the most anticipated game of 2016.

Players will once again play as Nathan Drake, our most favorite treasure hunter who has been living a normal life with his wife, Elena Fisher.

Until, of course, Drake's brother, once thought to be dead, returns and the brothers embark on one last journey, making Uncharted 4: A Thief's End, the best and most anticipated video game of 2016.



Image from far-cry.ubisoft.com

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Students should be allowed to come to first period late

By Zion Wiggins and Nadim Hossain

Truman students have a problem with latenesses. School doors are closed sometime between 8:15 a.m. and 8:20 a.m. and that's obviously too early.

The problem isn't only affecting that particular student, but it also affects the teacher and the class as well.

"Usually 12 out of 30 of my students are absent for first period," art teacher Ms. Vennoch said. "It makes the whole class fall behind and makes the class go slow during the morning."

First period starts at 8 a.m. and most students can't make it on time, either because they don't try to, depending on their teacher, or they don't feel as if they have to.

This falls on the student, but there are some students who just can't make it because they have little sib-

lings to take to school first or there was incident on the train or the busses outside slowed down the process.

So, they are forced to stay in the cafeteria until the end of first to make it to second period.

We believe that this is the most head scratching concept ever.

Of the three teachers asked, two said that their first period attendance isn't all that great.

Mr. Castillo, who teaches a first period junior physics class, claims his attendance is terrible.

"19 of my 35 students are absent during first period," another teacher who asked to remain anonymous said.

While teachers deal with the latenesses and absences of students, students have to provide their own excuses for why they can't make it to their classes on time.

"I wake up every morning at five and leave my house

around seven," an anonymous sophomore said. "I still can't make it on time. Why do I have to miss a whole period rather than just be late a couple minutes?"

Other students agree. "Facts!" senior Jason Turneur said. "They should let us through because the school buses block the road and make us late. Sometimes the buses are too full and we gotta wait for another bus."

These students are right.

Why should students miss a whole period for getting to the building five minutes late? Why aren't they allowed to go upstairs to their class, get a late pass, hand it to their teacher, sit down and learn?

If we want our graduation rates and our grades in general to improve, then Truman should allow our students to attend first period late.

It's better than not being there at all.



Photo by Nadim Hossain.

More screen time for students Schools should incorporate more technology in education

By Tai Ballantine

A recent study taken by Growing Wireless shows that a whopping 91 percent of teenagers use different technology, such as tablets, phones and computers, to access the Internet.

It is common sense to integrate this technology into our learning and use it as an advantage instead of shutting it out of schools as if it's a terrible thing that destroys brain cells and deteriorates kids.

It's safe to say that this generation of students is one that relies on technology in their lives, so it only makes sense that it should be integrated in schools as well.

"Technology is one of the main aspects of students getting a better understanding of things in our generation," junior Joseph Agyeman said.

Most schools don't even allow the use of any type of technology during the day besides a calculator.

Some schools, such as Truman, even suspend students for using their phones, claiming that this distracts students. But



Many computer labs, such as this one, sit empty on most days.

what if we could use technology in schools and still get our work done?

"It seems S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, math) appears to be the next growing field," robotics team coach Mr. Chadwick said. "If we don't give young people a foundation, how can we expect them to know what colleges to go to and what majors to pursue?"

Some schools have already put this to the test

and students really can benefit from the idea.

In New Jersey, a history teacher uses iPads in order to show students better detail in paintings and to view documents; his class has full attendance everyday. Students take all tests on their iPads and usually succeed in the classroom.

In 2011, a study by Notre Dame proved that iPads were most useful for brainstorming, taking part

in group work and aggregating information.

This just shows that letting students learn in a more technology-based way is at least worth the shot, especially if a school is failing in the way it currently teaches various subjects and topics. Students will be more interested and prone to making it to class to take part in the usage of technology.

Not everyone, however, fully agrees.

"Technology in school can be both positive and a negative," senior Ivory River said. "It's positive simply because we get to do work and projects and listen to music to help us finish faster. It's negative because in this generation, you give them an inch, they take a yard."

It's true--students can go on Facebook and social media instead of staying focused, but school should just be more fun and interesting by incorporating more technology.

We spend most of our time here; we shouldn't feel like we are going to jury duty every morning when we wake up to go to school.

In order to make school more attractive, there must be a compromise between what the school wants and what students want.

Truman is a big school and we have many computer labs. Teachers should take advantage of these facilities and try to get iPads and tablets in their classes. This just might do the trick to keep kids in school and learning at all times while having fun.

More parental involvement needed

By Nicholas Pol

We all need that little help in school. We might not admit it, but we might feel scared when our parents check our Pupilpath or look at our report cards.

Does this mean we should exclude them from our schoolwork and our personal lives?

We should do the opposite: parents should be a child's guidance in their childhood and teenage years.

Parents are there to help and teach us the difference between right and wrong.

We should not be scared to ask our parents or guardians for help, and parents shouldn't be hesitant to be more involved in their child's schoolwork.

After all, they have been there before and a little experience never hurts.

"Parents should be involved because we're still underage," junior Zuleyka Sanchez said.

Since we are young, some may think that we still lack responsibility.

Others, however, may say that once we hit a certain grade, we must be given the responsibility to be trusted since it is up to us to make decisions.

"We're getting older," junior Emerson Salgado said. "They are our choices to make now."

Whether we think we are responsible or not, parents shouldn't be excluded from our education as

their advice and wisdom can help tremendously.

Pupilpath gives parents the ability to see how their child is doing in their classes.

Parents can sign up by using the signup code their child received in school, but some kids hide this information from their parents.

This method can be improved if the school mailed or emailed them the code instead of handing it out during school.

This would promote parental involvement.

According to Child Trends, children whose parents are more involved in their school can have improved behavior and are more likely to pass their classes.

The only time parents shouldn't be overly involved is when it comes to homework. Homework allows kids to find answers on their own and makes them more independent.

In The Atlantic's article, Don't Help Your Kids With Homework, when kids enter middle school, parents are more likely to not even help as they may no longer remember what they learned.

Parents should strictly play an adviser role and monitor their child's behavior. Parents can do this by meeting with their child's teachers or messaging them periodically.

Students could have an easier time in class, satisfying the parent, child, teacher and the school as a whole.

EDITORIAL

Cut the habit of cutting class with teachers

Life can sometimes get the best of us. We are faced with our share of good days and those that leave us struggling.

But even throughout all the hardships and stress we go through as students, we still need to attend class.

Even on the worst of days, students need to wake up early in order to make it to class.

No matter how annoying the teacher may be or how unfair you believe their grading policy is, high school is not over until you are handed your diploma at the end of your four years.

But some students most likely still won't follow this advice.

So, where will you go then? What if you want to ignore your responsibilities and be able to "chill"?

Often, we notice that there are groups of students in assistant principals' offices or teachers' classrooms.

Of course, some of them may be there for service or have another valid excuse, but mostly, it's the same group of students there for multiple periods.

These students are cutting classes and losing their grades.

The rest of us wonder why these students are allowed

to make these decisions.

While our graduation rates into colleges other than Bronx Community are decreasing, Truman has some bright and intelligent students in its hallways.

But how do we know we don't have more than is accounted for when students just aren't reaching their full potential?

Maybe the rate of stu-

per seniors trying to make up credits just to graduate a year after their friends.

Attendance is a big part of our class participation grade. Participation is 35 percent of Truman's grading policy.

If that isn't scary enough for you, what if you miss a test on those days you decide to skip and cut class?

Tests and quizzes are typically 30 percent of your grade. Now, 65 percent of your grade disappears just by being in the wrong place during your actual class.

Attendance is very important and most teachers take it very seriously at Truman.

But there are some teachers

who should feel guilty for allowing their students to slack off and hurt their future by sitting in their rooms when students actually belong elsewhere.

Teachers, however, are not the only ones to blame. Their input and responsibility can only go so far.

We need to take ownership and follow our programs so we can graduate on time and have a successful future.

If we don't, then life may actually get the best of us and we may find ourselves "chilling" at an unemployment office.

“
Maybe the rate of students graduating... is going down because so many students are “allowed” to skip class and “chill” all school year.

dents graduating and doing excellent things with their lives is going down because so many students are “allowed” to skip class and “chill” all school year.

At the end of each school year, many athletes and seniors find themselves reviewing their transcripts and realizing their immense lack of credits.

They attempt to boost their grades in order to get into a better college, but at this point, it may be too late and all that “chilling” may have racked up and prevented their graduation.

And now, we have su-

PupilPath

Electoral College, or the reason people feel their votes don't count

By Nia Crosdale

With the 2016 elections coming up fast, the question that has loomed over the heads of the American people is the influence of the Electoral College and whether it should be abolished.

The Electoral College is

a small-scale election with only the representatives, or “electors,” in Congress.

The problem with the Electoral College is that the electors don't necessarily have to pick the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote in their state.

This problem became a

huge issue during during the Bush-Gore election of 2000.

Though Al Gore won the popular vote, Bush had more Electoral College votes, so Bush won the presidency.

And then, Bush left the country in the great recession.

“Bush's presidency only managed to oversee the cre-

ation of fewer than 1.1 million jobs,” Matthew Rozsa of the Daily Dot said. “By far the lowest of any president since Harry Truman.”

True, the Electoral College was created so that smaller states could have equal say in the choice of who should be president,

but if anything, it just creates a larger problem.

“The Electoral College system further distorts the presidential campaign,” Eric Black of the Minnesota Post said. “The candidates are granted extra

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weight to the parochial needs of the swing states.”

This means that the larger states with more representative in Congress get more electoral votes, so that’s likely where the presidential candidate will campaign more.

This also means that smaller states get less of a chance and say to see the people who may run the country someday.

In theory, this probably seems like such a great idea. But when you think about it, this actually dilutes the American people’s vote.

These electors don’t really have to choose what most of the people from that state want.

They could choose any candidate they want and they won’t be penalized for it.

Those chosen as electors might not really be speaking for the people who need help in those small states.

Many people would wonder: what does this have to do with high school students?

Most of them will not be able to vote by the time the election rolls around.

Well, one candidate that seems to have young people concerned is Donald J. Trump.

“I would feel disappointed if Trump won,” sophomore Cassidy Hürd said. “Because he would destroy America.”

With the use of the Electoral College voting system, Trump could potentially win, not only the Republican vote, but the presidential election in itself.

He wouldn’t need an overwhelming amount of votes from the people in order to win the presidency.

All Trump would need is a few large states’ votes and the Trump presidency and reign is born.

High school students should care and become invested in this process.

As American citizens, we will eventually grow up and have to uphold the greatness that this country was built upon and fulfill our duty as responsible citizens and exercise our right to vote.

But, if an unfair system is still around by the time that our generation is in power, then what is the point of working so hard to maintain this country if it holds no moral compass?

> **HAVE A STORY YOU WANT TO WRITE?**

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Email your work or submissions to:

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Want to join? See **Ms. Singh in room 562!**

Meetings are on Mondays and Wednesdays

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On track for advancement Truman girls track team races ahead

By Ruben Chico

Harry S Truman's 19-member roster of the Lady Mustang track team has competed at a high-level in both indoor and outdoor seasons under the leadership of Truman English teacher and coach, Mrs. Jones.

The team this year is aiming high and there have already been flashes of brilliance by the team.

Mariam Magassouba gained her second overall time at the Jan. 3 "Day of Distance" meet in Manhattan. Magassouba completed the 50-meter dash in 7.41 seconds.

The Lady Mustangs earned third place overall at the Jim McKay and Pilgrim meets during the 4x200 and 4x400 relay races.

These teams included athletic efforts from runners Shakkira Pryce, Tricia Sadler, Alimata Cisse, Mariam Magassouba and Jheivonna Johnson.

"Mariam, Antonia and Toniann have shown a lot of growth since they first joined," Jones said.

In addition to being competitive at track events, the team has shown an effort to expand their success at the field event level with

Assistant Coach Mr. Lewis, another English teacher.

Lewis is training a handful of hurdlers who are hungry for success at the vaulting events. There are already many signs of success.

Alycia Rawlin's 5th place ranking at the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 12.05 seconds at the Jim McKay games and sophomore hurdlers Nina Bosuo and Nancy Asante clocked in similar times and showed improvement throughout meets and practices.

Many of the girls in the team are excited and ambitious with their team's progression thus far.

Truman is excited for the future of their team, and there is a lot of hope behind this team and their outdoor season.

The young and eager team is showing their teeth with these impressive performances.

It is certain that underneath the leaderships of Coach Jones and Assistant Coach Lewis, along with continued determination, the team is bound for a great season in Truman sports.

"We have a lot of work to do," said Jones. "And it will take a lot strength and endurance."



The Truman wrestling team with their coach, Mr. Cook.

Photo by Shawn Basdeo.

"Crunch time" The wrestling team plans on becoming champions

By Ruben Chico
and Nia Crosdale

The Truman wrestling family has been hard at work turning themselves into champions with the guidance of their coach, Mr. Cook.

Prior to this season, the winter folkstyle team had missed the playoffs by a small margin while in a three-way tie with A.E. Smith and KIPP High School.

Folkstyle wrestling has the standard neutral position where both wrestlers are on their feet and include referee's positions where the bottom wrestler is trying to get out or reverse for points.

This also happened to the spring freestyle team when they made it to playoffs but lost in the second round to Curtis High School.

Freestyle wrestling also has a bottom position, but you're only down for 15 seconds and then brought back to your feet.

"Proverbial blood sweat and tears goes into wrestling," Cook said.

These heartbreaking losses caused a fire to ignite in the teams to work harder than they have before.

One result of this hard work was when three members of the team went to Fargo Nationals and one even

placed and became an All American freestyle wrestler.

These members included juniors Jacob Putter, Colette Hamilton and Pearl Fletcher, who won eighth place.

The hard work and efforts of the team has led to a personal impact as well, as teammates feel themselves challenging their bodies and mentalities.

"Wrestling helped me to become a better man," Putter said.

These achievements helped to further invigorate the whole team to work even harder.

Now, with an eighth period gym class, the team can practice harder and longer.

This winter season, the team has held an undefeated spot at the top of their league and plan to take it all the way to the playoffs.

The winter team, however, is not the only one at work.

The spring team has also been practicing with the winter team in order to improve their skills.

Some members are even on the team in official matches.

"Before I got to Truman," Cook said. "They had multiple city championships."

The team is determined to become greater than its predecessors and once again, become the

premier team in the city.

Though this will take hard work, the whole team is prepared to put in the hours needed to achieve greatness.

As spring season rears its head, the Truman wrestlers look to prove themselves and to become champions in the new year.

The team is not only working on their skills, but also at their relationships.

"When I joined the Truman wrestling team," junior Natasha Padilla said. "I gained people to call my family."

The members consider one another like family rather than just teammates.

Like every other family, they have problems, but at the end of the day, they stick together in order to better themselves as not only individuals, but also as a cohesive group.

"The wrestling team is more like a family than anything," Cook said. "They know what you've been through and they know what you're going through."

There is much excitement and hope for the team's performance and if they continue business as usual, Truman may be looking forward to adding another piece of silverware to its trophy collection.



Junior Mariam Magassouba at the Millrose Trials.
Photo from PSAL/Edpix.phanfare.com