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# The Scroll



VOLUME XLV ISSUE 1

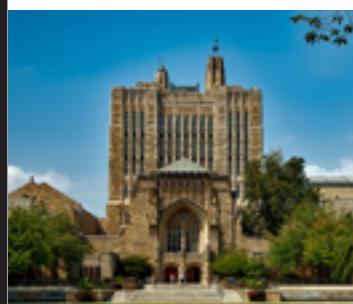
## BENEATH THE HEADLINES...

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OAKLAND MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 31, 2019

## RUN KC3

*Quarterback Kai Castle plays for more than himself*



*After leading the county in passing in 2018, Castle now reigns as the county's top rusher in 2019 through his team's first eight games*

Elijah Sumalbag  
*Staff Writer*

From throwing a perfect pass and making our stadium roar, to silencing away crowds by ripping through the home team's defense, Quarterback Kai Castle is truly an athlete that has risen above all else.

The reason behind every loud cheer from our student section

and our huge crowds at hOME is because of Castle and our Scorpion Football team. They terrify the rival team with heavy handed offense and stifling defense every Friday night, backed up by their astounding record, sitting atop the county standings. Castle himself has earned the leading top spot among county athletes in rushing yards, an impressive feat for a Quarterback.

Rightfully earning many

accolades through his highschool career, such as this year's "September Athlete of the Month," leading the county in passing yards last year, and previously winning major awards such as 1st Team All County, Athlete of the Month and Offensive Player of the Year, Castle has been making noise on and off the field, building a reputation as Howard County's most feared player. Castle was recently described as

"Tough as Nails" by the Baltimore Sun, who covered Oakland Mills' Homecoming win against Long Reach. Castle ran the ball for the majority of the game, totalling a whopping 136 yards rushing and a touchdown in just a single game; showing out to OM's huge homecoming game.

*Castle continued  
on page 2*

## Join in on the Madness OM's Newest Theater Production



Chase Truitt  
*Staff Writer*

Lewis Carroll once wrote, "We're all mad here, I'm mad, You're mad." This year under new director Emily Hoffen, the OMHS theater company will be taking on Carroll's iconic Alice in Wonderland. In this adaptation

of the novel, the audience will follow a seven-year-old Alice who gets trapped in a whirlwind of madness and confusion in her coming of age journey.

We first meet Alice under a tree while she is sleeping when she goes down the rabbit hole which is followed by the famous adventure through Wonderland. Alice (freshman Willow King) finds out everything isn't as it

seems, and that not everyone can be trusted.

During our time in Wonderland, we meet many lovable characters that stick with us, and we find them in the White Rabbit (senior Theo Yu), the Cheshire Cat/ White Queen (senior Xan Hopkins), The Red Queen (junior Faith Highland), the Mad Hatter/ Mouse (senior Khoa Tran), and the ever-loved

villainess The Queen of Hearts (senior Haley Barham).

According to Highland, her most memorable moment working on the show was being told to make the Red Queen out to be like a "Baltimore Pepper-

*Theatre continued  
on page 2*



*Photo Credit: Chase Truitt*



Theatre *continued from page 1*

mint Lemonade (zingy, surprising, and likable)." Other cast members said the read-through has been the most memorable part of this show because it was the first time the entire cast was together, and it was described as a judgment-free zone with electric energy. Ms. Hoffen described the play as a "fantasy wrapped into a fever dream." Yu agreed saying that "everything is not as it seems," in Wonderland, and King elaborated that the play is "everything a seven and a half-year-old could want, but it all goes wrong." The beauty of this particular play is that it can become anything the viewer wants it to be.

Ms. Hoffen specifically chose "Alice in Wonderland" because she loved the idea of a girl becoming a queen and learning to utilize her voice. She believes that it can relate to people, and that it shows that there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Her favorite moments are at the end

of rehearsals when she asks the cast for highlights. Ms. Hoffen loves to see students happy and sharing their pride in their work and collaboration. The energy she gets to see from the cast helps maintain good vibes among the ensemble. The show demonstrates the dedication from the whole theater department. Come join in on the madness brought to life on our very own stage.

The play will run from Thursday, November 7th to Saturday, November 9th. All three shows will be at 7:00 p.m., and it's an \$8 admission at the door or online. We hope you come to see "Alice in Wonderland" and fall down the rabbit hole with us. And in the spring, get ready for another iconic musical that is going to hit the OMHS stage... "Footloose!"

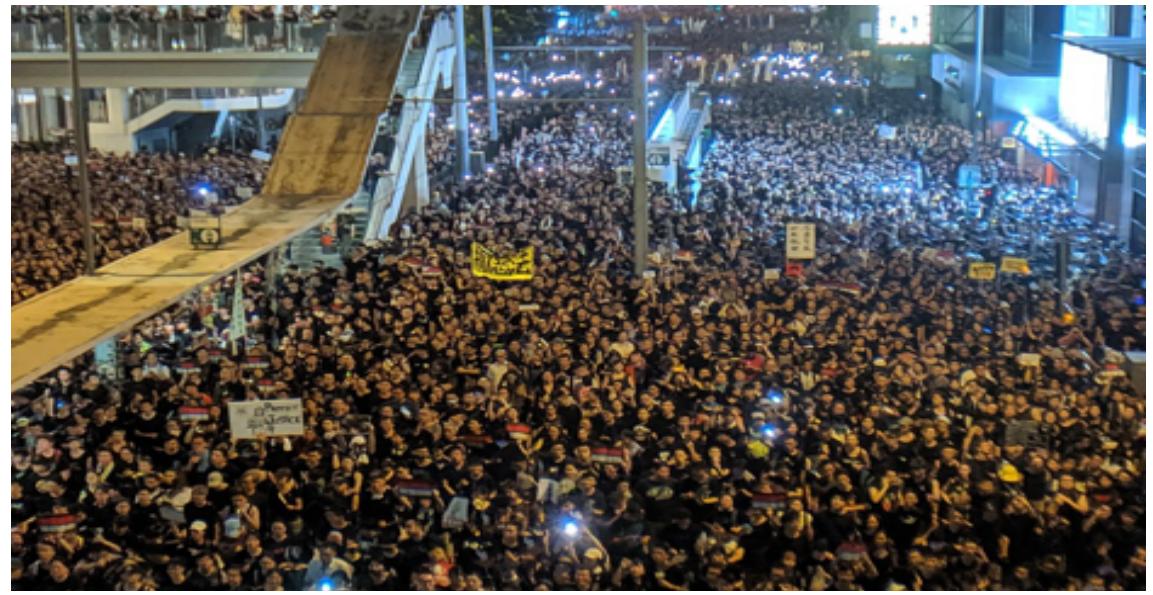
**Castle** *continued from page 1*

OM's huge homecoming game. Castle suggested the maybe Long Reach didn't actually "know what they've been told" about Castle and Oakland Mills. To prepare for any game, Castle said, "Normally I listen to music and to focus on all the stuff I need to focus on, like the play-calls and going over certain stuff with our offense," he said. "My mindset going into the game is to just be a dog, and don't let up for nobody," he added. Upon being asked if flak from opposing schools affects his game, Castle said, "Not one bit. I just really use it as motivation to bust them... If they're talking trash, that's just motivation for me." Yet degrading chants aren't the only form of attention Castle and our football team have been getting. Ever since the start of the Scorpions' four-game win streak, local media and newspaper

pers have been getting their fill of high action sports news from Oakland Mills games. The Baltimore Sun headlined their article by labeling Castle as "tough as nails" because of his prodigious performance which mirrored last year when Castle led another great season. "I don't think they're wrong," Castle shares his thoughts on his recent media praise. "But I don't really look in the hype as much. I just like to play, y'know?" Castle hasn't only been receiving praise in newspapers. Through social media, his highlights are reposted praised on Instagram, Snapchat, and other apps alike from people in and out of the community. According to Castle, it's these people who have supported him along the way that inspires him to play, especially his mom. Castle doesn't take all the credit for Oakland Mills' success on the field. He mentions the brotherhood of his fellow teammates. "I'd say the relationship between teammates is more like we're a family..."

## Hong Kong Protests

### *Region's autonomy sparks outrage*



Thousands of protesters march in the streets in opposition to the extradition bill

**David Land**  
Online Editor

Hong Kong is a small, autonomous, coastal region in the southern part of China that is home to 7.4 million people, and one of the largest economic centers in the world. Despite economic prosperity in the area, Hong Kong has recently become a hotbed of conflict between the government and the people. This began in June of 2019 when the government of China proposed a bill that would allow for people who are arrested in Hong Kong to be tried by the mainland judicial system. This upset the people of Hong Kong who have largely enjoyed a system separated from the communist government in an arrangement known as "one country, two systems." There were fears that this bill would undermine Hong Kong's autonomy and allow for journalists, dissidents, and political activists to be persecuted by the government known for censorship and a disposal of those

considered political outliers. This proposition prompted a majority of young, college age citizens to demonstrate in the streets with there being estimates of total protesters ranging from 338,000 to 2,000,000. As protests continued throughout the summer, tensions escalated until violence began breaking out in the streets with police firing on protesters with rubber bullets and tear gas grenades.

On July 1, the protesters stormed the Legislative Council Complex and occupied the building in an attempt to stall the vote on the Chinese extradition bill and voice their five demands: a full withdrawal of the extradition bill from the legal process, a retraction of the characterization of the protests as "riots," the release and exoneration of arrested protesters, the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry into police behavior, universal suffrage for the legislative council and chief executive elections, and the resignation of Carrie Lam, the chief executive of Hong Kong.

After the storming, the

violence continued to increase with reports of triads (Chinese crime organizations) assaulting protesters while police watched. As of October 1st a video has surfaced of a Chinese police officer shooting and killing an 18 year old demonstrator, creating outrage among civilian sympathizers. This outrage inevitably led to the implementation of the "Emergency Regulations Ordinance" in which it outlaws the usage of masks by protesters in order to allow for ease of identification regarding demonstrators. This battle between an authoritarian regime and an autonomous facet of democracy in its shadow marks a moment in history in which the world will either view a spark of revolution igniting the flames of freedom, or a light stamped out due to silence among those who watch but say nothing.

This conflict is even affecting businesses in the United States. To be informed further on the influence of the conflict's effect in the U.S see "Blizzard Faces Backlash."



Castle describes, "[our relationship among teammates] affects us a lot, really based off how we got each other's backs, even when it's rough during the game." Oakland Mills theme of community and togetherness is reflected in our football team; as other players confirm that there is a closeness among the team that isn't seen everywhere. The news is not the only source

that is impressed by Castle. Chris Aco, a former OM student, says, "He's one of my closest homeboys and he's the realist person I've ever met. He's a great friend and an even better football player. One day, we'll wake up and be watching the Super Bowl and Kai Castle will be scoring touchdowns back to back."

Whether Castle's future involves him holding NFL's

Lombardi Trophy over a sea of confetti or not, one thing is for sure: Oakland Mills has your back. No matter what. We are OM, and we are indeed Strongest Together. Castle agrees, asking for everyone to "just keep rooting for us. I believe we can go all the way with this. It's a scene every night."

## Blizzard Faces Backlash

### *J. Allen Brack responds*



**Sadman Hassan**  
Staff Writer

It has been four months since the protests in Hong Kong have started after a bill that would extradite criminals in Hong Kong to be tried in mainland China was proposed. The citizens of Hong Kong have been holding demonstrations against the police and Chinese government. Hong Kong has some autonomy and more rights than the rest of the country and the protesters claimed that the bill would cause the city to lose autonomy and lead them under full control of China. Currently the bill has been withdrawn and Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Carrie Lam, said it would be suspended. The protests have led to many violent clashes between the demonstrators and the police with the use of tear gas, batons, and pepper spray. Many people have been voicing their support for the protesters and the police. For more information on the Hong Kong protests, see Protests rage in Hong Kong over region's Autonomy by David Land. The protests have had an effect in many places around the world, and has caused controversy in many companies such as the NBA and recently on the 8th of October, 2019, video game company Blizzard Entertainment who established games such as

Diablo, Overwatch, and World of Warcraft, banned professional player Ng Wai Chung for one year and cancelled his prize money of \$10,000. Ng Wai Chung or "Blitzchung" was playing the Hearthstone Grandmasters Tournament for a video game Hearthstone and in a post-game interview he said "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times," while wearing a gas mask like the ones being worn by Hong Kong demonstrators during a live streamed interview. Blizzard, who ran the tournament and founded Hearthstone, defended their decision by saying that this statement violated the rules of the competition involving "public disrepute, offends a portion or group of the public or otherwise damages." Blizzard also fired the two casters who were streaming the event.

Supporters of Hong Kong protesters argue that Blizzard banned the player in order to appease China and keep their profits in there, pointing out that Blizzard's parent company Activision Blizzard has connections with Tencent, a videogame company from China. Many on social media were outraged due to the ban of Blitzchung and started boycotting other Blizzard games. Mark Kern, who is a developer of Blizzard's game, World of Warcraft, has been vocal on Twitter about his support for the protesters and disdain for Blizzard by stating, "This hurts.

*Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons*

But until Blizzard reverses their decision on @blitzchungHS I am giving up playing Classic WoW, which I helped make and helped convince Blizzard to relaunch. There will be no Mark of Kern guild after all. Let me explain why I am #BoycottBlizzard." Many on social media have been protesting by trying to make the character Mei from Blizzard's Overwatch a pro Hong Kong democracy symbol. A group of Blizzard employees have also responded by staging a walkout the day after. "The action Blizzard took against the player was pretty appalling but not surprising," an employee at Blizzard declared. "Blizzard makes a lot of money in China, but now the company is in this awkward position where we can't abide by our values."

After a week of outrage, Blizzard responded by shortening Blitzchung's ban to six months from a year and gave Blitzchung the prize money. Blizzard Entertainment's President J. Allen Brack has responded to the criticism that they took action to appease China by saying, "The specific views expressed by blitzchung were NOT a factor in the decision we made. I want to be clear: our relationships in China had no influence on our decision." The situation in Hong Kong is a slippery tightrope for many companies and Blizzard was the latest company in a position to deal with it.

## Fall Fashion

*With a new season comes new trends*

**Jasmine Harrison-Cortes**  
Staff Writer

Now that it is fall, it's obviously time to put away the sandals and tank tops, and bring in the cozy sweaters and cardigans. It's time for the fall season with all the fall trends, (and yes, it is okay to wear white after Labor Day). 2019 has brought back a lot of vintage trends and styles from earlier decades. For example, hair clips, denim miniskirts, and bell bottoms have slowly made their way back into mainstream fashion this year.

The newest trends of this fall consist of: biker shorts, bell bottoms, denim miniskirts, and hair clips. Even though biker shorts are traditionally summer attire, they have made a reappearance this season. Biker shorts have been popular since the summer of 2018 and are still in style. They can be worn with almost anything, like a t-shirt, sweater, or jacket. Bell Bottoms, as mentioned before, are also starting to come back slowly. As a result of a 70's revival trend, Bell Bottoms are worn to give your outfit a bold flare to match with a simple tee. Similarly, denim miniskirts are also coming

back in style. Fashion doesn't always have to be about the clothing, it can differ from your hair, shoes, and makeup. Hair clips are a staple this season; they can range from bright, bold, neon colors to dark, cool colors. You can use hair clips to color coordinate with your outfit or to make a bold statement with just one color. Also, hair colored wax is a new trend that is a fantastic way to temporarily change your hair color without actually dying it. This also gives the full experience of trying multiple hair colors. Overall, these are some of the top trends in the fall, I can't wait to see them around OM.

## School Calendar

November 1 ~ Schools close three hours early (end of marking period)

November 2 ~ Oakland Mills craft fair

November 7-9 ~ Fall Play: Alice in Wonderland (7 pm)

November 11 ~ First quarter report cards issued

November 14 ~ NHS inductions

November 25-26 ~ Schools close three hours early

November 27-29 ~ Schools closed

December 2-4 ~ Senior portraits

December 5 ~ Varsity basketball vs. Joppatowne

Girls: 4:00 @ OMHS, Boys: 5:30 @ OMHS

December 11 ~ Varsity basketball vs. Howard

Girls: 5:30 @ OMHS, Boys: 5:30 @ HHS

December 13 ~ Varsity basketball vs. Atholton

Girls: 7:00 @ OMHS, Boys: 7:00 @ AHS

December 16 ~ Varsity basketball vs. Dundalk

Boys: 5:30 @ DHS

December 16 ~ MCAP (Algebra I)

December 17-20 ~ MCAP (English 10)

December 23-January 1 ~ Winter break - schools closed

The opinions that appear in this section do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of The Scroll or the staff and administration of Oakland Mills High School, but are merely an expression of views of a segment of the student populace. If you want your views to appear in The Scroll and be heard by the students, parents, and faculty, send letters to Ms. Katlyn Moore, advisor, or email to [thescroll.om@gmail.com](mailto:thescroll.om@gmail.com). The Scroll is your newspaper and you ought to have a say in what goes into it. However, The Scroll reserves the right to edit any submitted letters to remove objectionable or offensive content and language. Due to space limitations, letters may not be printed for publication or they may appear in later issues.



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## Ivy Leagues: Worth It? *Are the perceived benefits substantial?*



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

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**Leah Gaskins**  
*Editorials Editor*

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Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and the University of Pennsylvania. If you've grown up in the United States, chances are that you can spot the common factor between these eight schools and the disparity between them and schools like the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and Morgan State University. So, what is it? What is the big difference between those eight schools and the latter two? Well, the first eight are Ivy League colleges, and the other two are not. You've seen the prestige of Ivy Leagues in media like television shows, movies, and fiction, and you might find those degrees in the resumes of prominent figures in the U.S like Barack Obama and John Legend. There's no doubt that these colleges hold a large amount of clout and prestige in America, but is a degree from Yale and Princeton objectively superior to a degree from any other college?

To put it simply, no, they aren't! There are thousands of colleges to pick from in the United States alone, and each offers freshman applicants and graduates different benefits and educational opportunities. The factors that bind the Ivy League colleges together are their alumni, emphasis on academic excellence, high selectivity in admissions, and the academic and social elitism demonstrated in both media and reality. These are the factors that contribute to what makes an Ivy League school an Ivy League school and are often qualities that many students seek. There are many

students that go through high school, and sometimes even earlier, with the intention that they must go to such and such schools and that the schools they settle for must be an Ivy League or equally prestigious. This is largely the result of conditioning America's student youth to never settle. Because of this, many students overlook the opportunities other colleges offer despite their ranking and clout (or lack thereof) and fail to realize that Ivy League Colleges are not the only ones worth attending. "Ivy League colleges don't have a monopoly on beautiful campuses, high teaching standards, strong alumni networks or any other factors that make an Ivy League college appealing," says Cappex, a diverse team of over sixty college graduates that provide tools, information, and guidance for students in the college process, "So think about what really attracted you to Yale. Chances are good that you can find it at another college."

Another misconception is that a degree from an Ivy League college automatically paves a path to success when in actuality, that is simply not true. Education is what you make of it, regardless of where you obtain it. Cappex strongly emphasizes this. "College is what you make of it. Just because you attend an Ivy League school doesn't mean you'll graduate with honors or even graduate at all. Likewise, an Ivy League college name on your diploma and resume doesn't guarantee you'll find your dream job straight out of college. You make your own success through the hard work you do in school, whether it's Princeton or the local community college."

But the members of Cappex aren't the only ones who believe this. Abby Carney, a freelance

features writer and general assignment reporter, shares her insight. "So what about that vaunted name recognition? Sure, many of my colleagues and competitors have ritzier alma maters than I do. As a journalist, I have competed against NYU, Columbia, and Northeastern grads for jobs. And yet, not a single interviewer has ever asked me about my educational background," Carney explains. "In fact, almost every interview I've ever received was due to a connection—one that I've gained through pure determination and moxie, not a school brand," she adds.

It is safe to say that Ivy League colleges are not one-way tickets to a secure career that yields success and are not the only schools with beautiful campuses and high standards, but the benefits of attending Ivy League colleges are not non-existent either. As often as employers might disregard where you've obtained your degree, many employers will favor applicants with the name recognition of an Ivy League degree since they will immediately know that you've attended an extremely competitive school. The same could be said for graduate school admissions officers, too. "Ivy League universities have great international reputations that not many other colleges can claim. You'll also get the opportunity to network with highly successful and influential alumni," Samantha Lindsay, a blog content writer for PrepScholar, writes.

Despite this, degrees from Ivy League colleges are not objectively superior to degrees from other schools. It simply depends on what you're looking for in education and how you make it work for you and your future!

## Beyond the Diploma: Alternatives to College

*While college is certainly great, it isn't the only post-HS option*

**Hareem Qureshi**  
Features Editor

If you're a senior, then it's likely that all your peers are talking about college. Where your days were once spent watching television and going out with friends, you now work tirelessly to fill out forms, write essays, and track down your teachers and counselors. Our years in high school are spent preparing "for college." We have to learn Cornell notes for college, calculus for college, cursive for college, and so on. Everything is supposedly setting us on the path to a higher education, and yet there's a hard truth that we don't like to admit: not everyone goes to college. Many people don't go to college for a multitude of reasons. But that doesn't mean your life is over because of it. Our society has a habit of assuming college is synonymous with success, that a degree is synonymous with intelligence, and that people who don't go to college are inherently lazy, unintelligent, or doomed to fail.

But this simply isn't true. You don't need to get into college directly after high school in order to make something of yourself, and below are a few options that allow you to do just that.

There are many reasons why one wouldn't be going directly to college after high school. One reason may be that the hypothetical student didn't graduate. Even if you don't graduate from high school, you still have options. For starters, you can start over, or in other words, repeating the school year. The



*Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons*

option seems obvious, but many students opt out of repeating a school year, even willing to go as far as dropping out to avoid it. The sentiment is understandable considering the stigma towards repeating a grade, but this option is free of the hassle that comes with searching for well paying jobs or admission to schools without a diploma.

Additionally, one can take one of two national tests, the GED (General Education Development) or the High School Equivalency Exam. Passing one of these tests is nationally

considered the equivalent of earning a diploma. The latter of the tests is only available to students who are seventeen or eighteen. The exam consists of a math, science, social studies, and reading section, followed by an essay. The test is available in English and Spanish, and the first four sections are multiple choice. Preparation courses and study material are available online and at local libraries. Students who are two months from turning eighteen or older can take the GED. The test seems daunting at first glance, taking over seven

hours to complete, but before you get too worried, most libraries offer study material for free, as well as preparation courses.

Another reason one may not be going to college is money. College is immensely expensive, and scholarships can be difficult to attain. A more affordable option is online school. Online school is a growing trend that becomes more popular each year. California has an online community college that was opened this year known as Calbright College, which received over a thousand applications. Many colleges offer

courses online, and this form of school can easily be adapted into even the busiest of schedules. Online colleges are often more affordable than traditional college and could be appealing to people with time-consuming or tiring jobs. Online courses are usually accessed via the colleges' main website. Online classes will then, typically, consist of slideshows and videos as lecture material, followed by an online assignment such as quizzes. Online classes will also feature periodical class discussions in chat groups or video chats.

Finally, you can join the workforce. There are many jobs out there that only require a high school diploma and getting jobs are a great way to build social skills, work ethic, confidence, and to explore yourself. Someone who is uncertain of what they want to do with their future could get an idea of what type of job works for them and what doesn't through experiencing those jobs. Getting a job can also teach you about managing money, and gives you a taste of adult life.

These are some of the options out there for people who won't be pursuing college directly after high school. High school is a place where students explore their skills and interests and navigate their aspirations for young adult life. What works for one person will not work for the other, and college simply isn't for everyone. Regardless, everyone has the potential to make their aspirations a reality with or without a degree. With that in mind, study, work hard, and remember to live life for you, even if it goes against societal conventions.

## Want to Get Paid?

*New law allows certain college athletes to receive compensation*

**Ben West**  
Staff Writer

College a wonderful place where young men and women start a new chapter in their lives. For five-star athletes this may now include to get paid while in college. A recent bill was just passed in California that declares athletes can now be paid for the sale of the jersey and for appearing in commercials. This is big because previously, college players couldn't be paid for doing commercials or selling merchandise with their name on it. But there is a catch to all of this: only athletes that play football and basketball are allowed to profit off of this bill. So soccer, golf, baseball, and other sports still have to follow the traditional rules, which means no ads or money for them. The actual ef-

fects of this bill won't start until January 1, 2023. However, most people don't like the idea of college athletes being paid. For instance, on the show First Take, Tim Tebow, a Heisman winner in football, conveyed his disapproval, saying, "...because when I was at the University of Florida, I think my jersey was one of the top jerseys around the world ... and I didn't make a dollar from it, but nor did I want to. Because I knew, going into college, what it was all about."

Some critics are also saying that this could affect how people might join teams based on how much money they can get for just joining a single team. Simply put, college athletes shouldn't be paid. I believe players will start to sign with schools that will bring in more revenue and sponsorships. The actual sport wouldn't come first; the money for the players would.



*Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons*

## The Cream of the Crop of Performing Arts

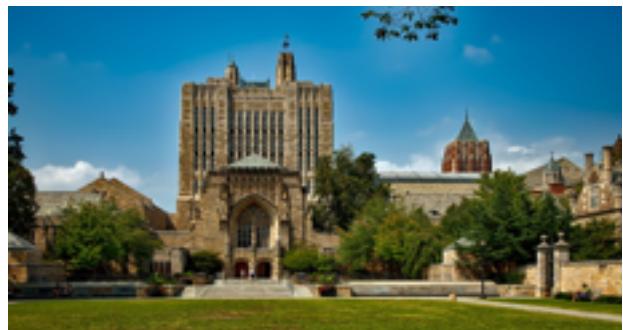
### *The five best performing arts colleges*

Entertainment can be presented in various formats. One of the most well-known formats is on a stage, particularly in the forms of theatre and dance. The performing arts can aid in helping people find their own voice, learn to collaborate and communicate with others, and immerse in themselves without interference from their environment. These impacts are why the performing arts are taught in school. Education in the performing arts is great initial step to a professional career; so it helps to know where to find the best programs. Here are the five best performing arts colleges in the United States. This list was composed according to Prestige, instructor to student ratio, and high academic work ethic:

*List created by Aaron Watts*

#### **Yale University**

Despite the other schools being fantastic choices for students serious about drama, Yale is a cut above the rest due to its prestige as an Ivy League institution. It is one of the best universities in the United States. Yale School of Drama offers graduate training in many performing arts fields, such as acting, design (which covers sets, costumes, lighting, projection, and sound), directing, dramaturgy and dramatic criticism, playwriting, stage management, technical design and production, theater management.



#### **Northwestern University**

The learning program at Northwestern University offers teachings in performance, history, and theory to cover the bases of performing arts. The top degree majors include an MFA in Directing, Stage Design, and Writing for the Screen and Stage. Northwestern also offers a good undergraduate degree in Theatre and Dance, as well as a Certificate in Music Theatre.



#### **The Juilliard School**

A highly prestigious school founded in 1900, it has 275 Steinway pianos stored in the facility, which is the largest collection of any institute in the world. They offer BFA or MFA degrees in Acting and Playwriting. They also offer performance opportunities throughout the first and second year of the student's college career.



#### **Carnegie Mellon**

The school offers BFA in acting and a top musical theatre degree, design with a concentration of costume, lighting, scenic, video, or media, dramaturgy, and production technology and management. They also offer The John Wells Directing Program. Their graduate school also offers MFA degrees in costume production, design, dramatic writing, and production technology and management. This top ranking drama school is also the oldest performing arts school in the United States, founded in 1914.



#### **CalArts**

It is a theatre at the private California Institute of the Arts and was founded by Walt Disney in 1961 as the first school in the United States designed to specifically award educational degrees to students in visual and performing arts. The school awards BA in Acting and a MA in Acting, Directing, and Writing. They also have programs for costume and set design. It is rather selective with a 27.5% acceptance rate.



## Equality Within Inequality

### *How being unique gets us closer together*



Photo Source: Pixabay

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**Ayat Chapman**  
Staff Writer

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As of this year, almost eight billion human beings live on the planet Earth. As you're reading this, create a hypothetical scenario of being in a park. Look around for a second and take note of all the people you see. This park or wherever else you are right now is a small example of the eight billion person society we live in. There's a large chance that everyone you see looks vastly different from what's on their head to what's on their feet. Now, let's say you're in a more private setting such as a nine-to-five job. It's common for businesses to have a uniform for their employees to wear such as a suit. There wouldn't be many differences to spot in their appearance. Of course, life is a lot more complicated than what one would initially take at face value. A business may look equal in uniform, but there are so many different jobs and roles that go into a business that make it impossible for everyone to be on equal footing. It is true that in the large world that we inhabit, none of us are really the same. We all have different visions of how to enjoy life and have different

plans to get the most out of it. At the same time, no matter how different we are, we are all equal in our humanity. Today, I aim to describe this idea by taking three of the multiple differences that used to influence or still influence how humans look at others in society, explaining how these views have come about in history, and using these differences to note just how much closer society has gotten as a whole. Through time, gender has metamorphosed to be more than just being a man or being a woman. Historically, people were divided by two opposing, yet equally stereotypical ways described as gender roles. According to Planned Parenthood, "girls and women are generally expected to dress in typically feminine ways and be polite, accommodating, and nurturing. Men are generally expected to be strong, aggressive, and bold." Gender roles are often something enforced in society that many either do or don't realize they're enforcing on different scales. For example, in certain places, women can't vote. At the same time, men often do not have custody of their children in a divorce where both parents are on equal footing. One example is more microscopic, but all of it is harmful towards people, establishing limits on what we can and cannot do. This

has led to society as a whole doing things to make these gender norms outdated. Over time, women created feminist movements that allowed them to gain more equality while men have become more allowed to express their emotions around others without feeling antagonized because it isn't "manly." These unique reactions to being labeled allow all of us to show more of who we really are beyond the stereotypes that have been attached to us due to factors we couldn't have controlled.

Race has been a factor for division amongst people for centuries. A different shade of color in the wrong area could have unforeseen and unwarranted consequences in the past. One of the more well known examples of this in history would be Atlantic slave trade. Africans were sold into slavery to forcefully participate in labor that would benefit the Europeans. Even after slavery had ceased to exist, race relations were still tense in places such as the United States with multiple instances such as the segregation of white people and African Americans. Through various civil rights movements across the world, race relations steadily got better and society became more inclusive of minorities. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had emphasized in his famous

"I Have A Dream" speech that he wanted his children to be judged not by the color of their skin "but by the content of their character," and society had listened to him. In this decade, race discrimination has been less and less apparent as society as a whole has been looking towards being more diverse. Minority races have gotten an increase in opportunities of building their future over the years bridging the gap of differences between them and white people in society. Some inequalities are less seen and more experienced. It is likely that you either know someone that has a disability or that you are someone with a disability of their own. The World Bank states that "15% of the world's population" experience a disability which turns out to be one billion people. Much like the other differences listed, it was difficult for people with disabilities to be treated with respect in the past. The main problems included children gaining alternative forms of education to fit their needs and adults being able to find employment without being held back because of their disabilities. In modern day society, people with disabilities are treated just like people without them thanks to legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 prohibiting the discrimi-

nation of people with disabilities in public life. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a plan created by the United Nations had asserted that disability "cannot be a reason or criteria for lack of access to development programming and the realization of human rights." School systems like HCPSS accommodate for children with disabilities as well with special education programs. Disabilities in 2019 are physical, mental, and emotional roadblocks for sure, but much like the other differences listed, their social roadblocks have been lessened.

Earth is an interesting planet full of many different people who inhabit it. The more we as humanity grow as a civilization, the more that we attempt to branch out from one another and see life for how we think it should be. The fact that it's uncommon to find someone who tries to act like another person is evident of how humanity has progressed. It's 2019, and we are at the cusp of a new decade and a grown up generation of people ready to take the world by storm. No one can emulate you well other than you, so be you while you still have time.

## NFL Midseason Report

*Patriots, 49ers among league's most dominant teams*

**Tanner Malinowski**  
Editor-in-Chief

As the NFL regular season approaches the beginning of its latter half, the league has witnessed the continued dominance of a reigning champion, the emergence of a previously inferior team, and troubling starts for a few supposed contenders. After week eight, two teams (the New England Patriots and the San Francisco 49ers) find themselves unblemished, while two other teams (the Cincinnati Bengals and the Miami Dolphins) are still in pursuit of their first win. Overall, some teams have lived up to expectations, others have exceeded them, and a few teams are still trying to meet the expectations placed upon them:

**Best Team:**  
New England Patriots  
(8-0, first in AFC East)

While Tom Brady and offense are usually the reason for the Patriots' success, it has been the New England defense that has been the story this season. Anchored by linebackers Kyle Van Noy and Jamie Collins, along with shutdown cornerback Stephon Gilmore, the Patriots defense through week eight has been historically good, holding opponents to a meager 7.6 points per game. Recently-acquired receiver Mohammad Sanu looks to play a role in New England's quest for an eleventh-straight AFC East title.

**Worst Team:**  
Miami Dolphins  
(0-7, fourth in AFC East)

Expectations in South Florida were already low when the season kicked off on September 8, but a 59-10 shellacking at the hands of the Baltimore Ravens on opening day cast a rude awakening on what has been a tumultuous season for the Dolphins. Ranked last in nearly every offensive and defensive statistical category, the Dolphins have a legitimate chance at becoming the third team in NFL history to finish 0-16.

**Biggest Surprises:**

San Francisco 49ers  
(7-0, first in NFC West)

After a disastrous 4-12 campaign, the 49ers are turning heads this season by establishing themselves



Through week eight, the 49ers (above) and the Patriots (below) are the only two remaining undefeated teams



as one of the premier defensive teams in the league. Under the guidance of defensive coordinator Robert Saleh, San Francisco ranks first in total defense (224.4 ypg) and has forced sixteen takeaways through its first seven games. After missing most of the 2018 season with a torn ACL, quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo and the Niners' offense are humming along, scoring an average of 26 points per game. If the Niners can weather their difficult schedule in the second half of the season, a division title is theirs for the taking.

**Buffalo Bills**  
(5-2, second in AFC East)

Despite second-year quarterback Josh Allen's struggles, the Bills find themselves at 5-2 heading into week nine, largely in part to a solid defense (303 ypg, third-best in the NFL) highlighted by cornerback Tre'Davious White (three interceptions) and linebacker Tremaine Edmunds (52 total tackles-leads team). Aided by a light schedule in the second half of the season, the Bills have an opportunity to make the postseason for only the second time this millennium,

and may even challenge the Patriots for the AFC East title.

**Green Bay Packers**  
(7-1, first in NFC North)

After a rough 6-9-1 season that saw the departure of longtime head coach Mike McCarthy, the Packers have put their disappointing 2018 campaign in the rear-view mirror and are cruising right along through their first eight games in 2019. Under the direction of first-year coach Matt LaFleur, Green Bay has raced out to an impressive 7-1 start, largely in part due to quarterback Aaron Rodgers' brilliance (13 passing touchdowns) along with the solid play of running back Aaron Jones (8 touchdowns). The Packers will compete with the Minnesota Vikings (6-2) for first place in the NFC North as the regular season begins its latter half.

**Biggest Disappointments:**

Chicago Bears  
(3-4, fourth in NFC North)

Expected by many to be legitimate Super Bowl contenders, coach Matt Nagy and the Bears find them-

goal line against the Titans that cost his team a win. Overall, the Chargers are in danger of missing the playoffs unless coach Anthony Lynn and company can string together a few tough wins in the coming weeks.

**Cleveland Browns**  
(2-5, third in AFC North)

This season was supposed to usher in a new era of Browns football, an era fruitful with victories and long-term success; a long-overdue change for the seemingly snakebitten franchise that has not made a playoff appearance since 2002. With quarterback Baker Mayfield putting together a tremendous rookie season in 2018, Cleveland seemed to be in good hands moving forward, even after a 7-8-1 finish the previous season. However, the Browns shocked the league in March by acquiring star wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. from the New York Giants, a move that suddenly made the Browns legitimate Super Bowl contenders. Under the guidance of new head coach Freddie Kitchens, the Browns seemed ready to finally compete as they took the field in week one. Eight weeks later, the Browns find themselves in third place in the AFC North after a disappointing 2-5 start. Mayfield hasn't had nearly as much success so far in his second season, as evidenced by his dreadful 1-2 touchdown-to-interception ratio. Unless Mayfield and the Browns can turn it around in the season's second half, it will be a long offseason flooded with questions of what went wrong.

The first eight weeks of the season have been rather fruitful with parity and competition, setting the stage for numerous exciting scenarios down the stretch. While New England and San Francisco chase perfection, Miami and Cincinnati will attempt to avoid ignominy. Meanwhile, teams like Buffalo and Green Bay seek to return to the postseason after missing out last season, and Chicago and Los Angeles will look to get back on track in order to address unfinished business from 2018. The regular season will culminate on December 29, and a world champion will be crowned in Miami on the night of February 2.

## What's Everyone's Favorite Candy?

Halloween is the time of the year where people watch scary movies while engorging themselves with candy. At one point in our lives, we all have been trick-or-treating with hopes of getting that certain candy. Your favorite candy, whether it's chocolate, lollipops, or hard candy, when you go into your bag, you immediately search for your favorite candy and sell or throw away the rest. But what is the best candy? Here at Oakland Mills, I did a poll on a hundred different students asking them their personal top five favorite Halloween candies. There was a lot of similar favorites between all of the students. Overall the top 10 choices from the poll are:



11 votes

10



13 votes

9



15 votes

8



16 votes

7



19 votes

6



23 votes

5



24 votes

4



30 votes

3



32 votes

2



37 votes

1

Survey completed by Maya Vereen



Cartoon created by David Afforo



# Halloween

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## Top Ten DIY Costumes

Halloween is one of the most anticipated, fun traditions we have to look forward to every year. Sometimes it can get a little hard to find a costume or maybe you just don't feel like going out and buying one. If you need some quick and easy inspiration, here are our top ten DIY (Do It Yourself) costumes.

1. Edna Mode from The Incredibles - Edna Mode is known as the sassy, petite designer in The Incredibles who designs suits especially for heroes. Her signature blunt cut bob and large round glasses are her most memorable physical attributes and also make for an easy yet distinctive costume. All you need to achieve her posh look would be a plain black dress, black stockings, black shoes, and round glasses. If you feel extra fancy you can throw in a black wig with bangs!

2. Salt or Pepper - Two of the most common condiments used are salt and pepper! They're also very simple in appearance: white and black. Dressing up as Salt can be as simple as wearing a white shirt with a black cut out letter, "S", with white shoes. Dressing up as pepper is very simple as well! A black shirt with a white cut out letter "P", and black shoes. It also makes for a simple and cute duo!

3. Rosie the Riveter - Although this is an old iconic symbol from World War 2, it also makes for a quick, easy, and trendy costume. All that's needed is a blue collared shirt, a red polka dot or basic red bandana, pants and shoes of your choice! Just like that, you're representing a strong, working woman.

4. Arthur - A popular animated show, titled Arthur, features an Aardvark and his adventures in school. There are several circulating memes of Arthur; so it would be both funny and relevant. Arthur's attire consists of a yellow sweater shirt with a white collared shirt underneath, blue jeans, red sneakers, and round glasses.

5. A "VSCO" girl - In recent social media culture, a new 'style' has emerged consisting of an oversized shirt, shorts, a hydro flask, and a "scrunchie." It is a basic and easy style to achieve but don't forget to say "and I oop" and laugh like a water sprinkler!

6. Queen of Hearts - The Queen of Hearts from Alice in Wonderland is one of Disney's most famous villains. All you need for this DIY is a red dress, a collar with cards, and red lipstick. To make the card collar, all you need to do is wrap a piece of paper around your neck and trim it to be the right size. Then staple cards all around it. Layer them on top of each other for a fanned effect.

7. Snapchat Filter (Dog) - Even though you may use them for your selfies almost everyday you can also be one for Halloween. All you need is cardboard, a printer, glue, a headband, and a string. Print the dog filter out, trace the nose onto the cardboard, cut the cardboard in the shape that you traced out, then glue it into the cardboard. Then put holes in the corner of the nose, put the string inside the holes, and put it around your nose. For the ears, trace that also on to other cardboard then glue it on to the headband.

8. Fridge - For the fridge, you need a white or silver cardboard box. Cut some holes in the side of the box and cut the middle of the box like you are opening a package. Cut the bottom of the box out. You can decorate the front like a fridge and wear the costume comfortably all night!

9. Rainbow - For the rainbow look, all you need is a white shirt, red fabric, orange fabric, yellow fabric, green fabric, blue fabric, indigo fabric, and purple fabric. You have to cut the fabric in a curve shaped like a rainbow and place it in the order as the rainbow on the T-shirt.

10. Cotton Candy - For this "sweet" costume all you need is a lot of pillow stuffing, a white t-shirt, glue, and tights. You need to glue the pillow stuffing all over the shirt. If you want, you can wear a cotton candy stick as a hat for that, you need poster paper to wrap around your head to make sure it fits you. Then staple it to make it stay together and wear it with your costume.

List compiled by Rashida Cole and Sjean-Israel Howard

