

# APPLAUSE

Vol. 10 Issue 1

School of the Arts

October 7, 2008



Welcome back, SOA!

## Editor's Note



It's been a very busy month for *Applause*. Our staff, most of which are new, have been hard at work to create the very best Back to School issue. This issue focuses on the many changes at School of the Arts, and on that note *Applause* would like to extend a warm welcome to our new principal and all new SOA faculty.

SOA students have been very busy over summer vacation, so make sure to check out our *Summer Experiences* centerfold.

I'm incredibly excited about being the new editor-in-chief of *Applause*, and I hope we give you the best possible school newspaper this year!  
Sincerely,

*K. Chaney Long*

Letter to the editor? E-mail Chaney at [Chaney.SOA@Gmail.com](mailto:Chaney.SOA@Gmail.com)

## Cover art by Kenish Magwood

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# Sallie Peeples

## Applause

the official student run paper of

### Charleston County School of the Arts

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Major: Creative Writing, 11th grade  
Favorite Bands: Modest Mouse, Natalie Portman's Shaved Head



**K. Chaney Long**  
Major: Theater, 11th grade  
Favorite movie: *Batman Returns*  
Favorite TV show at the moment: "Lost"



**Chelsea Adent**  
Major: Band, 10th grade  
Book I'm currently reading: *Breaking Dawn*  
Favorite Movie: *Titanic*



**DeAnna Kerley**  
Major: Creative writing, 11th grade  
Favorite Band: The White Stripes  
Last read: *The Great Gatsby*



**Dorothy Behre**  
Major: Creative Writing, 12th grade  
Favorite time killer: Solitaire  
Favorite movies: *Amélie*



**Forrest Putnam**  
Major: Creative Writing, 12th grade  
Favorite Band: Jefferson Airplane



**Kimberly Jenkins**  
Major: Strings, 12th grade  
Favorite Colors: garnet and black  
Favorite show: "CSI: Miami"



**Lizzie Caulder**  
Major: Band, 10th grade  
Favorite movie: *Forest Gump*  
Favorite fast food: Taco Bell  
Favorite colors: Blue and green



**Monique Collins**  
Major: Creative Writing, 12th grade  
Favorite smell: Cotton candy  
Favorite money: 100 dollar bills



**Becca Forman**  
Major: Creative Writing, 10th  
Where do you live: Downtown  
Favorite food: Greek  
Favorite movie: *Twelve Monkeys*



**David Sass**  
Major: Creative Writing, 11th grade  
Favorite Author: Dan Abnett  
Aspiration: Writing for the Black Library Publishing Company



**Sam Whitley**  
Major: Creative Writing, 12th grade  
Favorite Movie: *The Story of Ricky*  
Favorite book: *Jurassic Park*



**Tanya Lewandowski**  
Major: Dance, 12th grade  
Aspiration: To receive my doctorate in psychiatry



**Wes Snell**  
Major: Creative Writing, 11th grade  
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## SOA Applause

### PACT testing comes to an end By Monique Collins

Guess what middle-schoolers? The dreaded PACT test has finally come to its demise. Although you may be excited to hear this news, the fact that the PACT will be replaced by another test might not bring as much joy to your hearts. But fear not, the new test (which has not yet been named) will be more efficient for both you and your teachers. It will provide faster results and earlier dates, says middle school guidance counselor, Mrs. Miller. The writing portion of the test will begin in March while the science, ELA, math and social studies portions

will begin in May.

With the new test, teachers will be able to see exactly what students need help with, and the vague results of advanced, proficient, basic and below basic will be a thing of the past. Now isn't that great news? Of course it is, and if you don't believe me, your trustworthy journalist, then just ask some of your teachers.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she was "very glad" that a new test was being formed and Mrs. Priester couldn't agree more. Although I agree with them, because I too was a victim of the vague PACT test, I

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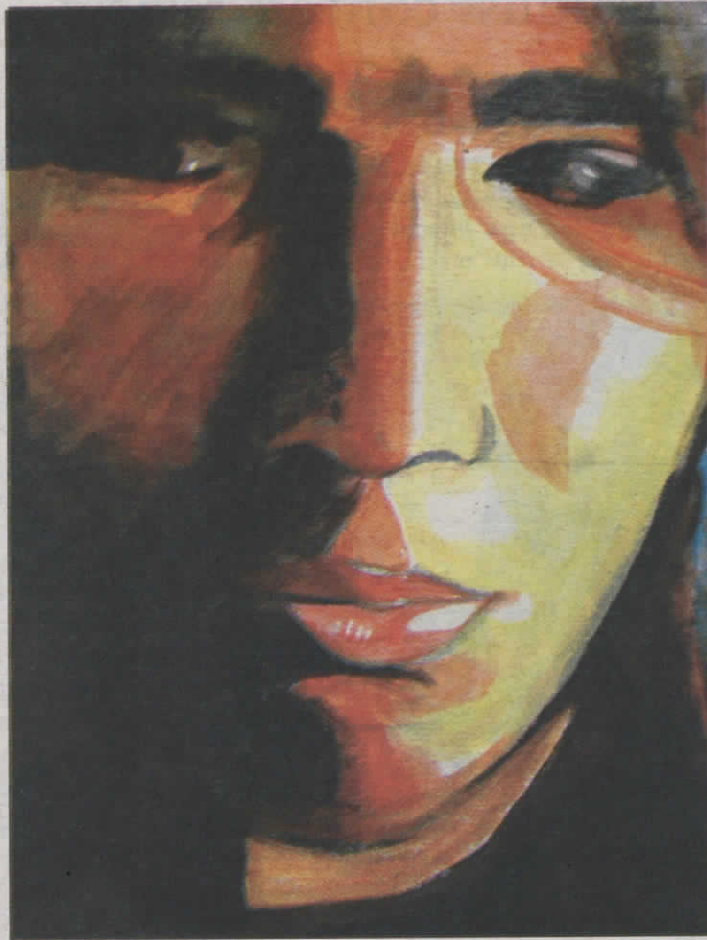
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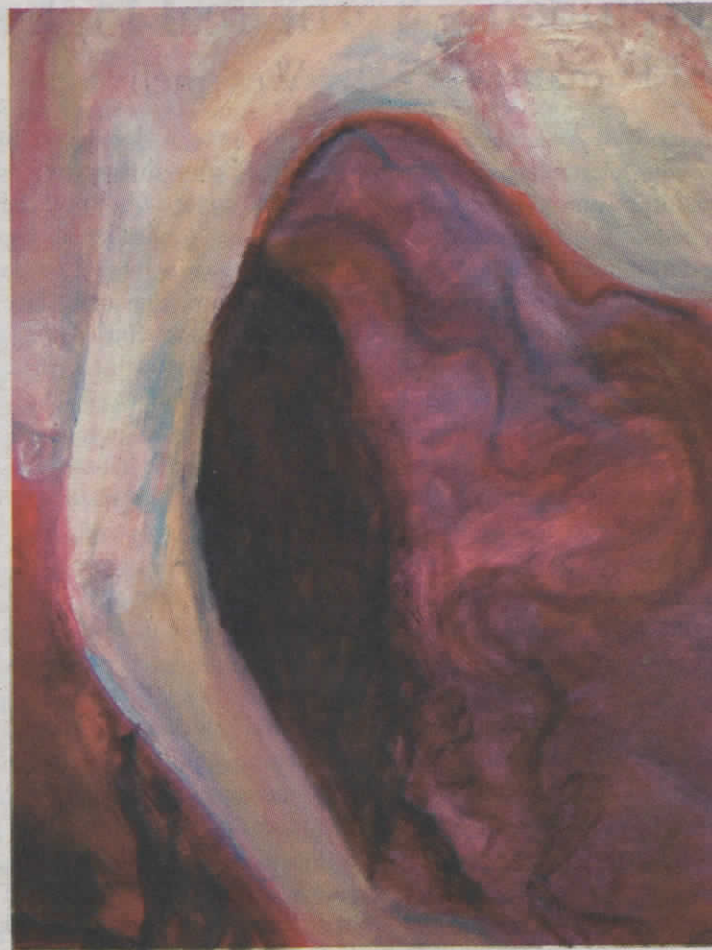
also agree with Mrs. Lawson who said that she hoped the new test would prove to be more efficient than the last.

Will the new test stand up to its expectations and are you, middle-schoolers, happy to see the end of the PACT? Daniel George, a sixth

grade dancer, said he was happy to see the end of PACT because "it was annoying last year." Cassidy Rindge, a sixth grade dancer was glad to hear about the new test and hopeful that it would prove to be better than the last.



By Senior Nick Bates



By Senior Sarah Dimuzio

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## Red Orchids

By Forrest Putnam

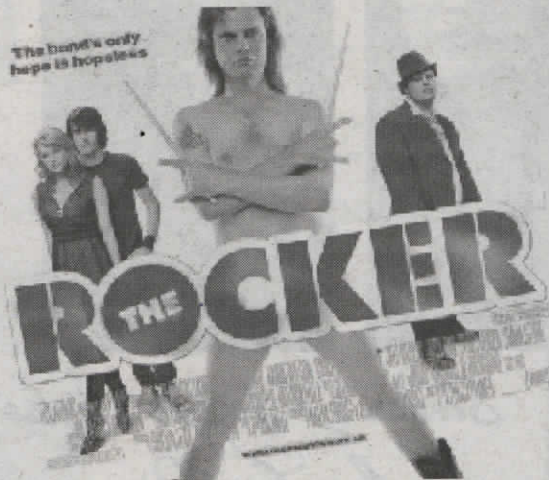
In a busy West Ashley mini-mall is one of Charleston's finest restaurants. The restaurant reveals its classiness the moment you step in the door. The service is quick, professional, and friendly. This is not your typical Chinese fast-food. It is authentic regional Chinese fare prepared by highly trained chefs. The prices are shockingly low, considering that the offerings are superior in both quality and quantity to even the fanciest of rivals.

It is hard to fathom a better appetizer than the wontons, fried to a delicate golden crisp and filled with creamy crab stuffing. The lamb entrée is complexly seasoned with scallions and white onions added to the generous helping of tender meat. It is best served with fried rice, and requires a cold drink to keep you from melting. Homemade ice cream pastries and some sort of magical iced tea are a sample of their sweeter items, and there is a wide selection of unique mixed drinks. Apart from the undersized tables, there is nothing negative to say about this place. If you are looking for a dining experience that will rejuvenate you, there is no better option than Red Orchids.

## Movie Review: *The Rocker* falls flat

By DeAnna Kerley

Directed by Peter Cattaneo and starring Rainn Wilson from "The Office," "The Rocker" tells the story of a middle-aged man's rise to fame. After being cut from the band Vesuvius, Robert "Fish" Fishman is left to return to the mundane life of a tie-wearing businessman. Flash forward twenty years to find Fish out of a job and Vesuvius at the top of the rock 'n' roll charts. Just when Fish believes there is no hope left in the world, he decides to join his nephew's band as the drummer.



## The real Fight Club: Sevendust concert review

By Wes Snell

It was a legendary night for the Music Farm, the recently renovated downtown concert hotspot. Sevendust, an alternative grunge/metal band from Atlanta, was roaring with a purpose. They had just returned from a tour in Afghanistan and channeled the powerful emotions of their trip into the music they played. The lead singer, Lajon Witherspoon, raised the hair on the back of my neck with an impassioned speech on the war and his respect for the soldiers he had met. The crowd screamed and the guitars wailed in response. The crunching timbre of their classics like "Black," "Driven," and "Prayer" thickened the air. It was a fun night.

Sevendust was founded in 1992, and since then they have developed a dedicated following. I saw men with tattoos of SEVENDUST burned across their bare chests and backs; these were the same men who I saw beating each other in the maelstrom of a mosh pit

that formed as soon as Sevendust arrived onstage. It surprised me to see that hardly any of the moshers were young. Most were older than thirty. But what impressed me most was the look of relief on their faces



as they were pummeled to the ground, the sense of release as they threw themselves to the mercy of the crowd. No matter how bad things got, every time someone was knocked down a dozen hands reached to

pick him up.

These men were not animals or berserkers, but normal people. Sevendust's music allowed these men to let go for one night, to peel back the faces they wore in public (usually with the help of alcohol) and unleash the demons underneath. There was joy in the battle, and I took part in the revelry as much as I could.

When I emerged from the Music Farm, the quiet, polite Charleston air deafened me. Sevendust had stolen the vitality of our voices and in low hoarse tones we discussed the intensity of the show. I don't normally listen to the hard rock of bands like Sevendust, but such shows are always worth attending. There are few greater adrenaline rushes than a thousand-strong crowd beating the repressed anger out of each other. If one can look past the angry faces and constant roaring, being a part of such a powerful energy is a humbling experience. And who doesn't need that?

## Classic Movie: *My Fair Lady*

By Lizzie Caulder

George Cukor's musical, *My Fair Lady*, is a classic tale based on George Bernard Shaw's play, *Pygmalion*. Poor flower girl, Eliza Doolittle (Audrey Hepburn) is discovered by linguist Henry Higgins (Rex Harrison). Higgins is enthralled by her poor grammar and atrocious accent and makes a bet with his colleague to transform her into a lady in just six months. Yet Higgins does not realize the extraordinary handful spirited Ms. Doolittle can be.

This witty picture has unexpected twists and turns with seventeen musical num-

bers, filled with romance, sorrow, and comedy. Its only downside is it seems to drag on at times. Most people would consider a three-hour movie a little too long, but the better parts of the movie makeup for this flaw. Other than the length, it is an attention grabber from the very start.

This 1964 film was nominated for twelve Oscars and won eight Academy awards. These include Best Picture and Director. The irresistible movie will be watched and cherished for years to come.

### To the SOA Applause staff

I look forward to watching you grow as aspiring writers and journalists, and I wish you the best of luck on another tremendous publication year.

Sincerley,  
Mr. McAngus

Being an avid fan of "The Office," I expected nothing less than a script filled with sharp witticisms and clever punch lines. Although the film definitely has its moments, it often relies on slapstick comedy for cheap laughs from the audience. Coupled with a slow-moving plot and slightly awkward performances, "The Rocker" definitely leaves something to be desired. In short, save your money for something more worthwhile.

# The Downside of stricter rules and policies at School of the Arts

By Wes Snell



Has anyone noticed (I'm talking to the students here) just how few rights we actually have? Did anyone read the fine print when they signed the Code of Conduct forms, or realize what that signature implied? *Did anyone read the Code of Conduct!?*

Most of you probably answered "no" to one, two, or all three of these questions. Allow me to clear up some of the facts for you; while in a state- or federal-funded academic institution, regardless of age, most of the "laws that we find self-evident," that we would anywhere else call Constitutional rights, are stripped from us. Students are, and teachers to some extent as well, virtual prisoners within school walls. There are no shots that we may call. We are denied Freedom of Speech, as well as the Fourth, Fifth, and Tenth Constitutional Amendments, rights upon

which our country was founded. We don't even have the right to use the bathroom when we need to, eat when we're hungry, or wear what we like to school.

At School of the Arts, many of the "rules" that may be necessary in a large school like Wando or James Island High are enforced arbitrarily. It's been up to the teachers as to how they run their classroom. From what I have seen, this more liberal method has promoted a student body that feels less confined at school, more able to be expressive at an art school where expression should be a priority. The teacher-student relationship here is far superior to those of other schools I've attended. A large part of that is the mutual respect between the staff and students, emphasis on *mutual*. That the administration deigns to limit the few rights we have is disrespectful to the students. Some of these rules may make sense on paper, but not when applied to the living. I think hunger or exhaustion is a greater distraction than an energizing coffee or healthy snack. With

such a late lunchtime, a small snack is necessary to keep us awake and healthy in that long stretch from early morning to afternoon. As for the hats, I simply can't find anything terrible enough about them to ban their use altogether. They're not weapons we use to mask our sleep in class or rebel against "The Man." Some people simply like wearing hats.

I've heard the arguments towards promoting a more efficient learning atmosphere, and to some extent I agree. I'm not calling for anarchy; students should feel safe at school. However, efficiency is not the only relevant component of a student. We are not, after all, robots. But rarely do I hear of school rules used to promote a *happier* or *more enjoyable* learning atmosphere for students. And that's just as important; studies have many times proven that a sense of comfort and freedom promotes a more efficient student.

A new system of discipline has taken control of SOA. Stricter rules are now

enforced: no hats, no food, no drinks other than water. And now, I.D. tags. I went to Wando High School my freshman year. I've seen how quickly I.D. tags turn students' voices into bar codes. We are among the top schools in the country. And it's not because we are a very efficient, placid, rule-abiding student body, quite the opposite, in fact. Though our free-spiritedness (or eccentricity) has given us a unique reputation, we are equally renowned for our academic prowess and artistic talent. It's because we auditioned to get in here. We *want* to go here. And as such I think we deserve a little empathy from the administration, a little more freedom to express ourselves and truly enjoy the school of we worked so hard to become a part of. The SOA administration needs to take not only the students' brains into consideration, but our minds and souls as well.

Comments? [Wes.SOA@gmail.com](mailto:Wes.SOA@gmail.com)

# The Upside of stricter rules and policies at School of the Arts

By K. Chaney Long



Yes, the administration at School of the Arts has definitely been cracking down on the rules this year, but the term "virtual prisoners" is a tad melodramatic. Yes, it can be argued that our constitutional rights are limited when we enter the school doors, but already, as minors, we don't have that many constitutional rights to begin with. I agree that there is a great deal of mutual respect between the students and staff. It's part of what makes up the pleasant atmosphere at SOA, and enforcing a few more rules probably won't affect that.

The rules are made to maintain a safe and efficient learning environment. I too have noticed that snacking has almost been completely eradicated in the classrooms. The "no food in the classroom" rule is definitely

being enforced this year, and though it is inconvenient to go through class foodless, it's not exactly impossible. Students begin arriving in class at 7:55 and lunch is served at either 12:30 or 1:15. Students don't have to go much more than four and a half hours without food. Is it impossible to go three and a half hours without collapsing from starvation, really? A definite benefit of the no food rule is the lack of creepy little crawlers. The school can be a Mecca for bugs, and one shard of dropped food has the ability to attract every cockroach in a hundred mile radius. Which is more distracting to the learning environment: a growling stomach, or a classroom full of students standing on their desks and shrieking from the fear of cockroaches?

Another new enforcement at school has been the crackdown on the dress code. The dress code hasn't really been enforced that harshly over the past few years, and now, comparatively, it seems a lot stricter. This is the first time in a while that the no spaghetti

strap rule (which, by the way, has been in the code of conduct dress code section for years) has been enforced. Occasionally this rule can be a little harsh, but in reality this is still school, and yes, it's hot outside but that still doesn't make itty bitty outfits appropriate school apparel. There's nothing more distracting than having to see a little "too much" of whoever's sitting next you. And as for hats, they haven't been banned completely. Students are still allowed to wear hats outside. Not wearing hats inside isn't just a rule; it's a sign of respect. It's been a rule of society as a whole to not wear hats inside. Being told to remove one's hat should not be viewed as an infringement on one's rights. That's a little bit like saying it's an infringement on one's rights to be asked to eat with your mouth closed.

In an interview with Mr. Reinhart, he explained that the new I.D. tags won't really be as much of an inconvenience as everyone thinks. Students only have to have their tags with them at all times, but they don't have

to be displayed on a lanyard. In the end the tags should actually make our brutally long lunch lines a whole lot shorter, and it's hard to argue that that's a bad thing.

In the grand scheme of things SOA is still a fairly lenient school. Our teachers usually value our opinions and we're still allowed to be ourselves at school. Despite the fact that we auditioned for our places here, it is still a public school and there are still almost a thousand students here. In order to maintain a coherent and efficient learning environment there needs to be some boundaries. Hopefully what we learn here will help us to go on and become knowledgeable and responsible adults. Maybe what we learn will help us to become responsible adults that go on to create our own schools, with our own set of rules.

Comments? [Chaney.SOA@gmail.com](mailto:Chaney.SOA@gmail.com)

# Summer Experiences

## Seth Zimmerman, 11th grade



I got off the plane, and it was just an airport. Looking around, seeing the land, I thought to myself, why is this place so special? I couldn't tell you where I realized why Israel is such an important country. It could have been walking through the waterways in the City of David. Maybe it was placing my note in the Western Wall; leaving a piece of me that would be a part of the land forever. What I realized was that Israel is my country; it is the only Jewish state in the world, where I am

accepted because I AM A JEW. I got off the plane and it was just an airport. I got on the plane leaving home.

## Ian Brown, 12th grade

Ian Brown went to see *Dark Knight* on the night it came out, dressed as Batman.



## Shannon McNellis, 12th grade

Shannon McNellis hung out at Marion Square in her free time while going to the Governor's School at the College of Charleston.



## Madison Smith, 10th grade

This summer I went to Costa Rica and visited La Fortuna and Playa Negra, where I have a house. I went volcano climbing, hiking, white water rafting and climbed a waterfall while in the mountains. When I got to the beach, I went snorkeling and relaxed in handmade hammocks. It was a great time to be with my family while also enjoying the sun.



## Colleen Brennan, 10th grade

I went to Europe with People to People for three weeks this summer. We went to France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and Italy. It was amazing and I can't wait to go back!



## David Sass, 11th grade

This summer, I went to Yellowstone National Park with my family. We did a lot of biking, hiking, white water rafting, and kayaking. And we saw lots of bison and moose!





# Students and faculty expand their horizons

## Collins Rice, 11th grade

My summer was spent channeling Wes Anderson and Sofia Coppola as a film student at the North Carolina School of the Art's Summer Session. I learned everything that goes into making a movie from location scouting, to cinematography, to editing the final product. I even got to write and direct my very own short film!



## Charlie Martindale, 10th grade

Over the summer I went to Guyana, South America and went on a mission trip with my church. We stayed at an orphanage in Cornelia Ida. Our main mission was for the kids of the orphanage, but we also came to do VBS (Vacation Bible School) at a local Christian church. We did crafts, games, music, snacks, stories, and memory verses. I had a fantastic trip. It was an experience to remember.



## Johanna Schlitt, 11th grade

This summer I went to Broadway Theatre Project and learned from many talented musical theatre artists.



## Mr. Orvin, History teacher

Mr. Orvin had an active summer, spending time fishing and exercising. More than anything, there was "a whole lot of chasing my two year old."

But his favorite part? "Being able to spend time with my family."



## Robert Kleiman, 12th grade

This summer I traveled to Eastern Europe, which included Poland, Czech Republic, and Israel with my youth group. I was fortunate to be able to go abroad, see the world, bring it back to SOA, and keep it with me forever. Earlier in the summer I attended a youth leadership conference called NYLC. My summer was really great, and I wouldn't change it for anything.



## Tara Grantham, 12th grade

I went to Europe with Mrs. Reilly and twelve other girls from School of the Arts. This picture was taken in Venice. If you held out bread crumbs, the pigeons would come and eat them right out of your hands!



## Meet Mr. James Reinhart: School of the Arts' new principal

By K. Chaney Long

The beginning of the school year has marked many changes for School of the Arts. There have been many additions to the faculty, and perhaps the most significant change has been Mr. James Reinhart, the new principal of School of the Arts.

Mr. Reinhart has been a principal in Grand Haven, Michigan for the last 6 years, and learned about a job opportunity at School of the Arts last year. After asking his wife about the possibility of moving from Michigan, Mr. Reinhart came down and took a tour of the school. "I saw a lot of activity and performance and a lot of learning," he describes. "I was sold on it by the time I walked out the door."

Before moving to Michigan, Mr. Reinhart and his wife lived in Hilton Head for ten years. In that time Mr. Reinhart got to know the Charleston area through visits. Mr. Reinhart described his home in Michigan as, "a tourist town on one of our great lakes." I asked him if living in Michigan and living here seem

like two different worlds. "Well, yes and no," he explains. "It's still kind of a water community and there's still tourism here." He described Charleston as being a little more metropolitan and went on to say, "as far as culture and quality of life, it's a little bit different. Having two little boys I only have a small window of time when we can go to the lake and go play because the water gets cold there. We have a lot longer here."

As a teen, Mr. Reinhart attended an all boys Catholic prep school where he was involved in sports. "I was on the basketball team, the football team, and the track team," he says.

Mr. Reinhart compares his high school

to School of the Arts saying, "Here it's not so much of a competitive nature. It's more of a cooperative nature, but I

thought it was a great school and I made many friends that I still have today."

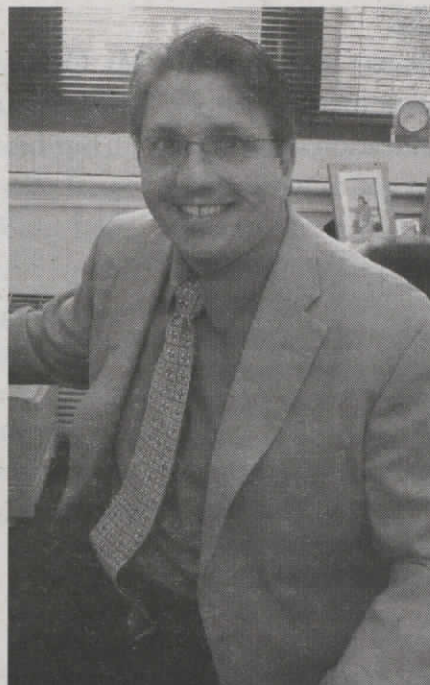
I asked Mr. Reinhart about the much talked about student ID's. He explained, "School ID's are not a Mr. Reinhart or an SOA thing, it's a school district thing. It's kind of getting us up to speed with the rest of the world. I'm not

going mandate

that we all wear them. We're just going

ask that this year you always have them with you."

I asked Mr. Reinhart what he wanted to see change at SOA. "This is my twentieth year in education so the piece that I appreciate is that kids are kids. I'm here for kids. I'm dedicated and committed to what I'm going to do for you, your families, and the community." Mr. Reinhart continued saying, "What I'd like to do here ultimately is just to provide the best learning opportunities you can have, and continue to support our teaching staff to make sure they know how to do that, and to support the student body so they're aware of their opportunities and they take advantage of that. We're looking for personal best performance from everyone and it takes a lot of work from behind the scenes to make sure that we can do that." Mr. Reinhart went on to say, "it's about us all working together for a common goal, and that's to give you the best opportunities you need to succeed."



## Mrs. Cromartie: A new vice principal joins the SOA administration

By Dorothy Behre

Q: Where are you from?

A: I'm from Stuttgart, Germany. My family moved to the United States when I was about two and a half, and we came through Ellis Island. After that, we moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Q: What brought you to Charleston?

A: I was lucky enough to land a job in Charleston County four years ago at West Ashley High School. I was there for three years, and when downtown decided to reposition assistant principals I was chosen to come here. They said I got the "crème de la crème job," and I think I did!

Q: What was your first impression of the School of the Arts?

A: I was awestruck at how well behaved, polite, and courteous the students were and at how engaged the teachers were from day one. The very first day of school, we were off and running, no one wasted any time. Students here always say to me "yes ma'am and no ma'am." It is how it should be.

Also, students here are very interested in their education. While at a lot of other places not every student has a parent that can take time to make sure that he gets what he needs, that is not the case here at SOA. There are a lot of pluses here, including a wonderful new principal that has great ideas for the school and who I think is going to take us great places.

Q: What was your high school experience like?

A: Very different from this. I was at a very large school where I was just one of many. I don't know if the teachers really knew my name, and all I wanted was out. I wanted to go to college and get on my way to earn my own money. It was very different from

here.

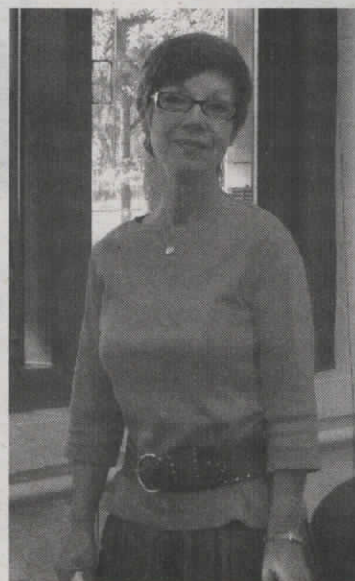
Q: Do you have any experience in the arts?

A: I am a stained glass artist. It takes a lot of practice to get really good at it. Also, I can sew about anything you can imagine. And I love to bake. I love sweets and so baking is probably my favorite thing to do.

Q: What are you looking forward to about the year?

A: I'm really looking forward to getting acquainted. When you know the people and care about them,

then you can know how to direct them in the right path. When you know what the students' talents are, you can tap



those talents. It's important to know the students' and teachers' likes and talents so that we can make sure everyone is getting the most out of school.

Q: Do you have any changes in mind for the school?

A: I think our biggest challenge here is communication. I think that a new facility, where we will all be housed under one roof will help us tremendously. Improving communication is my goal.

Q: Are you excited about moving to a new campus?

A: Yes, very! I think that it will help with our communication problem. Right now we are so spread out that a lot of the time, unless you make an effort, you don't see the people in the back and they don't see the people in the front. I think that will be very different once we are all in one building.

Q: Any advice for SOA students?

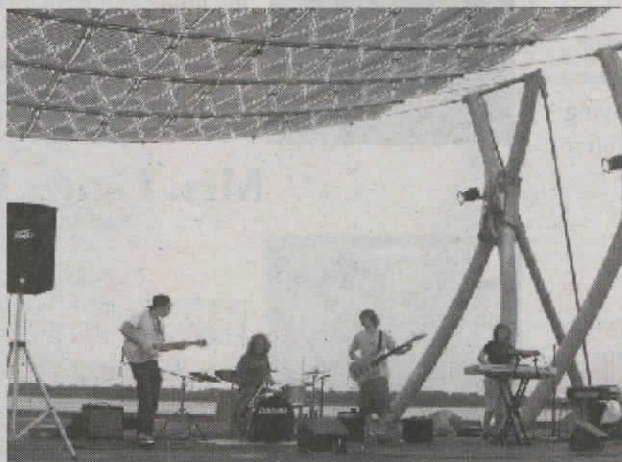
A: Take one day at a time and enjoy the journey.

# Slanguage: Rebecca Forman sits down with SOA's very own student band

By Rebecca Forman

Two years ago, four SOA students were brought together through their love of rock music. They met through jazz band in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and *Slanguage* was born. It came out with no vocalist, and a little rough around the edges, but it was nonetheless born. Since then, they have played at numerous venues, including River Front Park, and they will play an upcoming show at the Crab House. I recently sat down with their drummer, John Crimminger, to talk with him about the band and their future goals. The first of many surprises was that he was the only member of *Slanguage* that was an actual band major. The other members include Adam Fallen, a visual artist at SOA, Robert Widlowski, a strings major, and Trey Cooper, who plays piano for both SOA and the band. Don't let the shaggy hair and Grateful Dead shirts fool you. It is easy to see this band has immense talent, and a lot of drive. Though, yes, most students

have enthusiasm for their art, when you throw in jazz band on top of your major, plus school work, plus that inconvenience called a life, it's hard to imagine keeping a band together. Few have the drive to



relaxing sound, a mix of Hendrix, Allman Brothers, Grateful Dead, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. All band members have read the book *Scar Tissue*, the autobiography of Anthony Kiedis, the leader singer of the Red Hot Chili Peppers. John refers to the book as their Bible. When I asked John about other influences, I was given a list of classic rock and blues, and it came as no surprise that the artists listed above were included. He describes *Slanguage* as a funk/rock fusion, with a bit of jazz thrown in. Funk-rock is an obvious contradiction, but when you hear their bluesy riffs and Bonham-esque drum beats, you pick up on just how creative the band's sound actually is.

Did I mention they have no singer? It shocked me too, especially with a name like "Slanguage," which actually originated from John and Adam discussing the language of the future, that he proposed would be made up of mostly slang. But

aside from Adam and Robert's occasional singing, they have no official vocalist. You may think of that as a bad thing, but the band seems pretty apathetic.

"We definitely have to make up for the vocals with the guitar and piano. We have to make a melody," John explained. "So, if anything, the instrumentals are probably better off without a singer."

So what actually makes them important? Other than their creativity and impressive accomplishments, you can find them on your common MySpace band search. I'd say they're better than that though, because they're one of us. We're part of the same school that brought them together and molded their sound, the school they've practiced at every day, and the school that's taught them the core technicalities of music. We attend the school that taught them the same things about music that we're learning, and someday, when one of our artists makes it we'll get to be a part of that too.

# Urban Artists: The controversial and questionable art form of graffiti

By Alek Mihok

Whether it's portrayed by the public persona as vandalism, beauty, dirty, clean, meaningful or meaningless, graffiti is a thriving organism on the back of the metropolis we inhabit that just has to learn to be accepted, for better or for worse.

"Mayor Joe Reilly calls graffiti 'pure vandalism'; do you think that's a fair assumption", I asked William August Northcut, one of the most talented and prominent urban artists in Charleston.

"Pure vandalism?" he pauses. "It can't be, for vandalism requires no creativity, no thought. It is simply art; an art that I live for."

Ever since famed artist Sheppard Fairy lit up the city to a fresher, urban style of art thirty years ago, Charleston has quickly become one of the marvelous graffiti hotspots in the South-East. For decades it has developed into inspiration for imminent new artists focusing on a more modern concept of color and design, many of these people include prominent SOA students, both in the Visual Arts field and other majors.

"It's safe to say that about 70% of these so-called 'taggers' are just punks trying to get

up. But I don't really judge them for it, because I have no idea how their mind works. I only know my own, and that's what I try to focus on."

The words spilt across the room as I listened; taking in every detail he chose to share. My body was half blackening the page with the elaborate words pouring out of his mouth, half watching the hazel-glazed eyes hidden behind the thick rims of his Ray Bans. He was thinking; he's always thinking. They were eyes that were mysterious, yet friendly, eyes that were sheltered, yet open and inviting to anyone who sought to see them,



eyes that could belong to both a superhero and a villain, eyes of an artist. His work is a modern and urban clash of creativity and color, always appealing to the eyes. When faced with the simple question of 'do you have any advice for aspiring urban artists', he gave me a puzzled look through the mirrored panes of his glasses. "As soon as you start to base your work around a media-installed vogue for the sake of popularity, you have lost your meaning as an artist. Trying solely to appease the viewing public and fit the fashion of what seems cool may reflect talent, but it devalues your artistry. Influence is important, but just make sure your work expresses something other than 'this is neat, right?'" And then his mind opened up

for me, just like his dark eyes do. William Northcut is not one to desperately follow the constant changes of the modern style in art; he flows to the gentle pulse of his own creative stream, a soulful collaboration entwined within his own movement.

"Graffiti is important. I mean, it changed my life, and I'm not necessarily easy to alter the decisions of. I'm not sure if it was for the better or for the worse, but I am glad it did."

Aluminum aerosol cans full of dyed Xenon and titanium dioxide paints aren't an empty inconvenience to society. They represent a form of art incomparable to any other, representing itself in places that other art depictions are never seen. It influences the lives children and adults alike, from teenage minds to the city limits, from the city limits to the world around; graffiti has had and will have an exceptionally important impact on our society.

"Local and international urban artists have paved the way, and the road only gets bigger from there. Whether you care about it or not, this is only the beginning", Northcut states.

# SOA welcomes new teachers

## Mr. Donnellon: History



When faced with the question of "What attracted you to the School of the Arts?" Mr. Donnellon replied, "The smell and the flooding." I knew SOA's newest history teacher meant business. Mr. Donnellon majored in history at Oakland University in Michigan, he brings an interesting four years of experience, having taught students that had been expelled from other schools. His favorite thing about teaching is that he gets to teach artists, because he himself is an artist. Mr. Donnellon has been playing guitar most of his life, and before teaching history he was a guitar teacher. Mr. Donnellon says he is anticipating the embarrassing teaching moments to come. -**Alek Mihok**

## Mrs. Crawford: Spanish



Mrs. Bethany Crawford has brought the Spanish language and culture to the School of the Arts. Having grown up in Chile, Spanish speaking culture is an essential part of her life. She has taught Spanish for twenty six years. Mrs. Crawford attended Charleston Southern University, and received her masters degree from the College of Charleston in language and linguistics. Her daughter has been at the School of the Arts since the sixth grade, which is how Mrs. Crawford knew that SOA, "would be a great place to work." -**Dorothy Behre**

## Mrs. Passarello: English



Mrs. Ruth Passarello who teaches English III, has lived in many different places such as Goose Bay, Canada, Washington, DC, and Georgetown, SC but decided to settle down in her hometown of Summerville.

Since 1981 she has been teaching classes ranging from Alternative Ed. to Honors English IV. The reason she loves to teach is because of the students, saying that they make "coming to work a joy."

She loves to dance, and used to enter competitions with her husband. Ballet has been her favorite since she was a little girl. This year she has danced her way to the School of the Arts English Department. -**Dorothy Behre**

## Mrs. Priester: Composition



As the new eighth grade writing teacher, Mrs. Priester is fitting in well with SOA's artistic scene. Having obtained a degree in Theatre from Lander University and performed in several plays, she later acquired a Masters of Arts in English Education from The Citadel.

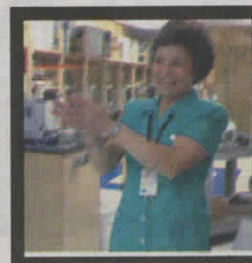
Her advice to students: "An education will give you the freedom to do what you want to do. Study hard and find out what you enjoy doing. Working takes up a big part of your life, and the only to get through it is to love it!" -**DeAnna Kerley**

## Dr. Jessica Bundschuh: Creative Writing



Dr. Bundschuh leads a remarkable life. She has studied all over the country, earning a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and English Literature from the University of Houston, an MFA in Poetry from the University of Maryland, and a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies. Later, she taught at C of C, University of Houston, University of Maryland, and even at a university in Germany. Her advice to students? "Love the mysterious; don't try to explain it away." -**DeAnna Kerley**

## Mrs. Lentz: Physics



Mrs. Lentz was born in Charleston, and lived in Japan for five years. While living there, she taught conversational English and also teaches classes at her church. She graduated from Winthrop University with a BA in biology and a minor in chemistry. Mrs. Lentz gives the advice to her students to never stop trying, stay focused and accomplish your dreams.

-**Chelsea Adent**

## Mrs. Trott: Media Center



Raised as an Air Force brat, Susan Trott has lived all over the country, including Virginia, California, and of course, South Carolina. She attended Winthrop, U.S.C., and The Citadel, and has earned a BFA in art, an MLIS in library science, and an M. Ed. in reading.

In her short month here, she has loved meeting all of the interesting characters at SOA, and helping out in the Media Center. She enjoys reading for pleasure, one thing she believes all students would benefit from. -**Rebecca Forman**

## Mrs. Stack: Pre-Algebra



Mrs. Karrie Stack teaches pre-algebra. Her favorite part of teaching at SOA is seeing her students in their majors, and also having "the best team and homeroom."

She lived outside of San Francisco before attending the University of Iowa. There she majored in elementary education and math education; however, she explored other career options besides teaching. She was a "Fairy Godmother in Training" at Disney World. Aside from teaching pre-algebra, she also has a flair for "princess hair-do's." -**Dorothy Behre**

## Mr. Evanosky: Health



Mr. Evanosky, our newest addition to the Health department, has traveled a long way from his original starting point in Perry Hall, Maryland. He attended Towson University in Towson, MD where he studied health science, majoring in School Health. It seems that Mr. Evanosky has a passion for teaching students, and when asked his favorite part of teaching he stated "I love the discussions I have with the students."

-**Tanya Lewandowski**

# Italy: Nine SOA students make everlasting memories on Italy vacation

By Rebecca Forman

You are on a Gondola ride in Venice, floating down a canal with a baritone and a guitarist in the boat next to you. You are awe-struck. Your gondolier won't sing to you, so you sing to him, and despite his stoic expression, he smiles. Surrounded by friends and your Swedish tour guide, this may be a defining moment in your life. You are in Italy, and though you've been sent for free, you've been working for months to get there.

This summer, nine SOA students: Jessica Danes, Taylor DeNett, Madeleine Cooper, Tara Grantham, Davy Grantham, Dana Gilmore, Hope Hendrix, Cali Mashado, and Emma Ostapeck flew around France and Italy without any charge, sponsored by *ES Tours*. I interviewed Madeleine Cooper, a junior, about her experiences in Europe. If you don't know her, Madeleine is a charming, band major, full of enthusiasm for the trip.

She started by telling me about France, the first stop on their trip, where they landed after a six hour flight. Upon arrival, they were whisked away to a quaint French perfume shop; and though tired from the flight, they were stirred by the adventure. This would be their first insight

as to what nine days in Europe would be like. Next, they took a bus into Nice and Cannes, and ended up in Monaco.

"Monaco is indescribable," Cooper said. "We stayed on Lake Como. It's very expensive and fancy. We went on a boat tour and got to see all different parts of the lake. It's really the biggest thing I've ever seen." One thing I noticed as Madeleine tried to explain the beauty of Lake Como was how hard it was for her to describe. You could hear her trail off, trying to depict a fresh memory through words, but the truth is, there is just no way to describe a culture. It's something you have to experience yourself.

Next, they took a bus to Italy, and stopped at Cinque Terra, a very small, rural town. They stayed in a hotel atop a mountain, so getting the bus up there proved difficult, but Italy itself was full of surprises.

"I was amazed at how many people knew English and talked to us," she said. "We were worried no one would understand us, but we communicated really well. There are no SUVs, only really tiny cars and motorinos. They take two to four hour naps in the afternoons, during

which all the stores close."

On their next stop, Florence, they stayed in a hotel on the Arno River, which Madeleine describes as one of the most beautiful places she's stayed. In Florence, they had a lot of free time. It was a big shopping place, and a great place for food.

"Florence is really a lot like Charleston, very touristy, but if you're there awhile you realize how much culture there is," she said.

Their only big field trip in Florence was to a leather making shop, where they learned the difference between real and fake leather, and were taught how to make a Florentine jewelry box. A Florentine jewelry box is one of Florence's most well known souvenirs, made from leather and wood, and carved into intricate shapes.

Next came Venice. They spent a great deal of time in St. Mark's Square, full

of pigeons so fat they are unable to fly and an outside orchestra that played beautifully enough to make the students miss their instruments. They visited the Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Basilica, both very famous landmarks in Italy. The basilica was decorated with gilded domes, dating back to 1063. It was also the last landmark they would visit in Italy.

The next day, the girls were flown back to America. The airplane food made them sick compared to Italy's fresh pasta. They have been left with timeless memories. Probably a good thing, as they now have to write five one thousand word essays to fulfill the credit the trip gave them, which will be graded by Ms. Riley and sent in to *ES Tours*. So was it worth it?

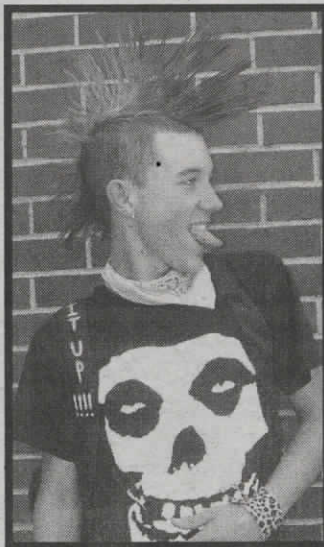
"Absolutely," Madeleine said, without even a moment's pause, "it was by far one of the coolest experiences of my life. I speak for all of us when I say that."

## Rock-n my style: SOA's diverse looks

By Monique Collins

We all know of SOA's diversity, expressed through the various art majors, but did you hear about the unofficial major on campus? It's called Style. Style is expressed differently in every individual. It allows students to paint themselves: gangsta, hippie, punk, skater, preppy, emo or a look totally of their own creation. The fashion is: "Me." It's the unique you, it's what makes you happy, what makes you stand out.

The student to the right, Rhett Cuthbert, a 9<sup>th</sup> grade theater major, is rock-n a punk-rock style. His inspiration is music. He loves The Dead Kennedys, The Misfits,



The Global Threat, Slipknot and heavy metal bands. His green Mohawk is a "big symbol" in punk-rock music, he explained, and the reason he decided on the do. The bandana around his neck is a personal choice and his Misfits shirt matched with the belt, further reveals his love for the band. The patches on his black jeans are of clothing companies, bands and he even has the traditional anarchy symbol. This kid is definitely rock-n his style, are you rock-n yours?

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## Sass Attack: Sass rants on the injustice of summer jobs

By David Sass



I returned, and with a vengeance. Your not so friendly, average teenage super-slacker is back to criticize everything you hold dear. Okay, so maybe my return isn't *that* cool, but whatever; the point is, I'm back, and I'm still just as discontent with the world as ever. And I'm still too lazy to do anything about it. So here goes nothing.

The morning after the last day of school, you wake up early and start to get ready for school. And then, you realize, "Hold a tick, school's out for the next two and a half months!" And after a little celebratory dance in your PJs, you crash back into bed; grateful that you don't have to get up until whenever the Pegasus you want (for the next seventy or so days, that is; you aren't *that* lucky). Four hours later, you roll over in bed

and realize that you weren't having a nightmare about an alarm clock chasing you; your phone has been ringing like a maniac for the last hour. And then it hits you like an angry journalist who missed the scoop of the century: today was your first day of work at your summer job. Major failure.

Maybe this didn't happen to you. It didn't happen to me (I think...). Either way, there goes more than half your summer; just so you have the money to do the things you now don't have the time to do. As past *Applause* writer and editor Blake Engel put so eloquently in the Horoscopes of the January issue, "If you want to go places in life, you must get a job. To get a job, you must resign yourself to being in one place for the majority of your day. This is the grim irony of the 9-5."

This summer, I had my first job ever as a lifeguard, and as much as I want to say that being a lifeguard is great and awesome, etc., it's nowhere near as glamorous or easy as all the media makes it seem (*Baywatch* is a liar!). It's actually

an extremely depressing job. You have to sit on a stand for half an hour in the sun watching people having fun without you in the nice, cool water, waiting for the next guard to come so you can go to the next stand to watch the exact same thing for another half an hour. Whoop-de-do! The whole time, you're practically praying like crazy that no one drowns, because you're so afraid that you might freeze up when it happens. Oh well, at least it puts a little bit of loot in my wallet.

You all know that working stinks like a bald guy trying to headbang. If, by some chance, you actually had a decent job, like working at an EB Games or maybe a gladiatorial coliseum (yes, with lions and tigers and bears), then I really hate you, because you stole the job I wanted. And if you have yet to have ever had a real job (mowing Grandma's lawn DOES NOT count), then just you wait.

*Dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Sass Phillips*

e-mail: [Sass.SOA@gmail.com](mailto:Sass.SOA@gmail.com)

## You'll wish you didn't know: Sam explores the bizarre

By Sam Whitley



*Russia has made the headlines recently due to the war in Georgia. As interests in the old Soviet Union grow, perhaps one of its greatest citizens remains forgotten. Ilya Ivanovich Ivanov*

was a man with a dream. He was a man that went against all odds and attempted the impossible: to create a half-man, half-chimpanzee.

The year was 1926. Having first developed the method for artificial insemination, Ivanov had already created several hybrids, such as the world's very first zedonk (a zebra mixed with a donkey). Seeking to fight against the religious fervor of their peers, the Soviet Union sought to

prove Darwin right. To accomplish this, Ivanov sought to interbreed humans and chimpanzees, spawning what is referred to as a "humanzee." Rumors persist that he received funding from Stalin, who wanted a living war machine. I think he just wanted to call it guerilla warfare.

To the delight of everyone who isn't insane, none of the tested chimpanzees became pregnant, and Ivanov could find no woman willing to bear his horrible ape creatures. Sadly, in 1930, he fell under fire for his political beliefs, and was exiled to Alma Ata in Kazakhstan. Dying a short two years later, he deprived the world of his scientific genius. He came closer than any man to achieving the timeless dream of seeing a chimp fly an airplane. God speed, Ivanov. He's making abominations with angels now.

e-mail: [Sam.SOA@gmail.com](mailto:Sam.SOA@gmail.com)

## Horoscopes

By Zordon

**Libra** (September 23 – October 22): Be sure to drink your Ovaltine. Little Orphan Annie needs YOUR help!

**Scorpio** (October 23 – November 21): Broke? Try selling atomic secrets.

**Sagittarius** (November 22 – December 21): It's all your fault and they'll never forgive you.

**Capricorn** (December 22 – January 19): That's not an ice cream truck. The FBI is on to you!

**Aquarius** (January 20 – February 18): There's a surprise in your refrigerator.

**Pisces** (February 19- March 20): There are hundreds of nuclear missiles pointed at you this very second. Better duck and cover!

**Aries** (March 21 – April 19): There is a monster at the end of this newspaper. I am so scared of monsters!

**Taurus** (April 20 – May 20): I wouldn't have eaten that if I were you.

**Gemini** (May 21 – June 21): Be careful: if you lose a fight to a midget, you will become one yourself.

**Cancer** (June 22- July 22): I have the chat log, so you might as well start telling the truth.

**Leo** (July 23 – August 22): Do not attempt to ford the river. Caulk the wagon and float it.

**Virgo** (August 23 – September 22): The eggs will be hatching soon.

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“What I’m going to learn.”  
Sophia Mitchum- 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Dance



“The nice teachers.”  
Emily Baxley- 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Strings



“The new teachers and people.”  
Dean Britt- 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Vocal



“Learning new dances.”  
Mackenzie Betfort- 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Dance



“The Washington D.C. trip.”  
Jazzy Jordan- 8<sup>th</sup> grade, V. Arts

“What are you most excited about for the new school year?”



“Being the oldest of the middle school.”  
Collin Baldwin- 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Theatre



“Being in highschool.”  
Paul Cain- 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Strings



“New changes and freedom.”  
Catherine Gilmore- 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Strings



“To get out.”  
Ryan Clawson- 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Vocal



“Getting to meet new people.”  
Lauren Hatchell- 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Theatre



“Being one step closer to graduation.”  
Lauren DiNicola- 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Creative Writing



“To be with my friends.”  
Adam Bailey- 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Band



“Graduation!”  
Kalyx Johnson- 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Band



“Applying to college.”  
Lamar Hunter- 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Band