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Volume 104 | Issue 3 | March 2022

# Tigers speak up

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# A letter from the editor:

The culture of competition is toxic and ubiquitous in modern society – a deadly combination. There is constant one-upping each other and pressure to strive for more, to be better, to try harder – to be the best, if not perfect.

The objective of this issue is not to stoke these flames, rather to celebrate and reflect on the talented people and unique traditions at GJHS, while also identifying areas for potential improvement chosen by the students. The Orange and Black sent out a poll asking students for the “bests” and “worsts” of GJHS, everything from best/worst book genres to best/worst bathrooms inside the school. While “best and worst” is not the ideal word choice for this issue, we wanted as inclusive of a response as possible and they were the most effective for a large audience to quickly and easily understand the poll.

This issue is a compilation of the data collected from more than 250 students in a series of stories, photos, graphs, and pie charts. Read about famous GJHS alumni, favorite lunch hubs, and successful Tigers sports teams. The aim of this issue is to help you become more connected with your peers by seeing what they have to say about silly issues such as the worst fashion trends and more serious ones such as the new school building being built.

As the student newspaper for GJHS, we feel obligated to give students a voice. This edition does just that.

-Ashley Guddat, *Editor in Chief*

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## Letters to the Editor

The Orange & Black welcomes and encourages letters to the editors. This is a chance to express your viewpoint on important issues. Letters should be limited to 250 words. They will be edited for space and legal considerations, but not for inaccuracies, grammar or spelling. Letters must contain information pertinent to the students of GJHS. The staff retains the right to not publish any letter not meeting these requirements. Unsigned letters will not be published. Please submit typed letters in person to Room 140-141 or via email or to steve.fox@d51schools.org

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# Traditions good & bad

by becca nedohon

Grand Junction High School has many traditions that developed over the years, some stemming back decades. One that most recently made a comeback was the GJHS Homecoming Parade.

"It's so much fun to see all of the kids dressed up and the parents so fired up," said GJHS English teacher Carla King. King is glad to see the homecoming parade return to our fall agenda.

The community gathers on the sidewalks downtown to watch the student-made floats tour Main Street during the traditional parade. The floats are usually designed to showcase what the club or extracurricular does, and what makes them special.

According to the poll sent out by the Orange and Black, senior ditch day, senior pranks, and the bonfire are the most popular traditions among students. The most unpopular traditions according to the student body was our fight song, spirit days, and the homecoming parade.

Before a fence was erected around the perimeter of the pond next to the school's neighboring funeral service, it was typical for students to get pushed in. It was considered a "rite of passage."

"I think a lot of traditions have kind of gone by the wayside but when they used to 'pond students,' it became a verb 'throwing them in the pond.' It was mostly freshmen getting pushed into the pond but it wasn't really an issue once the fence was put up," said GJHS social studies teacher Mark Carris about his least favorite school tradition.

"One of my favorite traditions is the chariot

race at halftime of the Homecoming football game. It's always fun to watch and see how students are creative in their engineering of their individual chariots. It's a fun way to promote friendly competition and teamwork with the student body," said GJHS Dean of Students, Thomas Lefebre.

The senior class won the chariot race this year, beating out teams made of the three lower classes as well as the team made up of GJHS Staff.

"One of the things that made me fall in love with this place was the amount of tradition and culture here at Junction. Someone once told me that 'Junction is the high school, Grand Junction is the town.' I was here for a month and I said, 'I never wanna leave,'" said Carris.



graphics by becca nedohon

by danny duffy

The Grand Valley is renowned for its beautiful nature and opportunities in outdoor recreation. Students at Grand Junction High School are often able to get outside to take advantage of this amazing location in many diverse and unique ways. These activities include skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and climbing.

Jacob Feller is a sophomore at GJHS who enjoys rock climbing in his free time. He has been climbing since seventh grade, when his brother got him into the sport. His brother began taking him along on his climbing trips.

“During the winter time I go to the climbing gym three days after school to get ready for climbing during the summer,” said Feller. The climbing gym in Grand Junction is Grand Valley Climbing.

He loves the thrill and adrenaline rush of climbing and even though some moments can be scary, they end up being some of his favorite moments. Feller described climbing as a calming and rewarding experience.

Bryce Flanagan is a GJHS freshman. His outdoor activity of choice is mountain biking. He got into biking about two years ago when he moved to the Grand Valley.

The area is known around the country for exceptional mountain biking so it is a great place to get into the sport. Flanagan likes to go to the Lunch Loops trails in Grand Junction and the Kokopelli trail system in Fruita.

“My favorite memory is of when I first completed a pro line on Horsethief Bench,” said Flanagan, referring to one of the most technical trails at Kokopelli.

The excitement of biking makes it a great way for Flanagan to stay active while still

having fun. Although he is not a part of the club, GJHS is part of the Grand Valley Youth Cycling team that competes in mountain biking events across the state.

Many outdoor-oriented people dread the winter because they are unable to get out as much during this time. This is not the case for GJHS junior Miller Jones, as he loves to get out and take advantage of the winter weather through skiing. He has been skiing with his family since he was 2 years old. He skis all over the state, including Powderhorn, Snowmass, and Telluride.

“Through the school ski club we have a lot of good opportunities to save money and find a good community to ski with,” said Miller, referring to the popular Ski and Board Club at GJHS.

Miller said he also loves to ski off the beaten track at mountains, going out to build jumps and set up rails.



Sophomore Jacob Feller rock climbing



Junior Miller Jones skiing



# GJHS athletes get your head in the game

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year GJHS sports teams have achieved big things, but which sports team is the real MVP? Students at GJHS took a poll about the most successful boys and girls sports at GJHS. Out of 260 responses, 29.3% voted boys basketball as the most successful boys sport at our school. This team's success can be exemplified by their current record of 15-8 heading into playoffs. Their success stems from trusting in each other, their coaches and the sport itself.

"[The boys basketball coaches] want them to play hard, play smart, play together and have fun," said assistant coach Daniel Schmalz. The team's success is also driven by the strong senior leadership on the team. The team consists of seven seniors. Wonde Yao-Clay, senior on the GJHS basketball team, has been playing since he was eight with the end goal of being on a state team. However, this goal will not be achieved without a healthy hard working environment between the players and the game.

"We play better as a team, we don't play [selfishly]," said Yao-Clay. This is the healthy environment that is needed to be successful. The team is very defensive driven which is also

key to their success. Another huge factor that leads to the tigers success is the support from students, parents and administrators. "I like the environment, especially playing here, the student section goes crazy," said Yao-Clay. With the season coming to an end these boys have left it all on the court and should be proud of their successes. It was not surprising the students voted this team as the best boys sport at GJHS as they have earned it.

For the girls sports, girls lacrosse was voted as the most successful. This team is composed of girls from GJHS, CHS, PHS and some smaller schools around the valley. Head coach, Maddie Hathaway, teaches at Central High School and has been coaching lacrosse for seven years but last year was her first year as head coach for the team. Last year during the 2020-2021 season, the girls lacrosse team finished with an undefeated regular game season and made it to the semi-finals. What is impressive about this team's success is that they still managed to have a successful season while dealing with rising COVID cases. "I think coming back from the canceled COVID season, they really had something to prove. All in all we just missed lacrosse." said head coach Hathaway. They still played their

hearts out and took away a great season from all the craziness going on in the world. After all, they played well which helped lead the team to success. They ended with a record of 10-0 including them advancing to the playoffs. Their teamwork and healthy environment is what helped lead them to their 10-0 success. Teagan Wilkins, junior, plays goalie for the tigers. She started playing lacrosse when she was a freshman. "Our team has a really good environment, we all work great together and are super close," said Wilkins. Making it as far as they did is the furthest any Grand Junction girls lacrosse team has made it in the playoffs. They played a tough team from Denver and fell out of the playoffs but they had an incredible run. Especially since the season ran into the summer due to Covid the time and hard work these girls put in really showed on the field. This team is looking forward to the 2022 season and continuing to succeed.

story by alondra **sanchez**  
photos by riley **pope**

# academic excellence in AP Seminar & Research

story and photo by  
maddy parkhurst

With more than 20 Advanced Placement classes offered at Grand Junction High School, some students choose to take it to a higher level by completing AP Seminar and AP Research. There have only been two students who completed all of the requirements for the Capstone program at GJHS, completing the full AP requirements to be awarded with special honors.

AP Seminar is one of the advanced classes offered here at GJHS. This AP class teaches students how to analyze different sources while working on a project. In this course students learn to read, research, write, argue, and present like a college student.

GJHS sophomore Alex Rowell said, "The class is beneficial because it teaches you how to research and be analytical with your sources."

Rowell was introduced to the program by her counselor during her freshman year. She decided to join the class because she hadn't taken an AP class yet and wanted to see what it was like.

AP Research is another option available



to students. In this class Mr. David Sleeper teaches students to engage in collegiate-level research surrounding a topic of their choosing. Then students will pose a question about the topic and try to find a solution.

If students pass this class along with AP Seminar they will receive a certificate of completion of the AP Capstone program from the College Board. Students who complete four AP classes along with AP Seminar and AP Research, and achieve a score of 3 or better on the final exams, are rewarded with an AP Capstone

Diploma from the College Board.

GJHS junior Kaylee Renz said, "This has benefited me because it's helped me learn how to research and write a paper on what I've researched."

Renz is taking AP Research this year. She found out about the class through her counselor her freshman year. She has taken AP Seminar, as well.

If any students are interested in the advanced AP classes you can contact your counselor and see if they are a good fit for you.

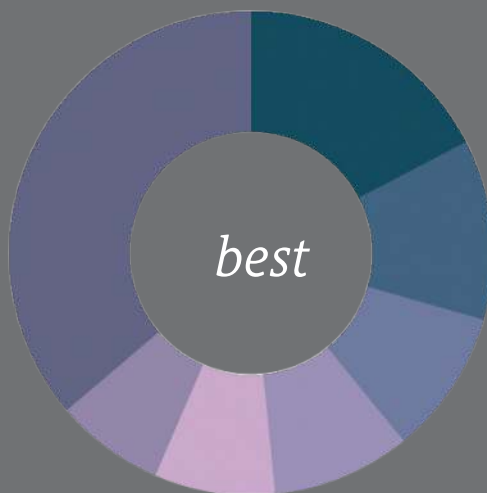
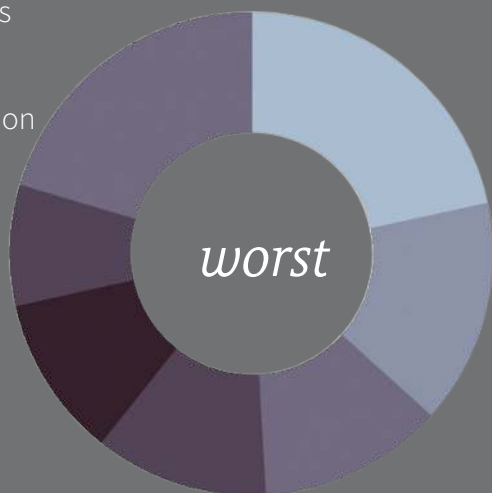
## *In order to receive the AP Capstone Diploma you must take:*

-AP Seminar and AP Research      -3 other AP classes

### *AP classes offered at GJHS:*

- |                                    |                                     |                             |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| -Art History                       | -Spanish Language and Culture       | -Physics C                  |
| -Biology                           | -Computer Science A                 | -Psychology                 |
| -Calculus AB                       | -Computer Science Principles        | -Seminar                    |
| -Chemistry                         | -Economics (Macro & Micro)          | -Statistics                 |
| -Comparative Government & Politics | -English Language and Composition   | -US Government and Politics |
| -Environmental Science             | -English Literature and Composition | -US History                 |
| -European History                  | -Physics                            | -World History              |
| -Human Geography                   |                                     |                             |

- Romance
- Westerns
- Manga
- Poetry
- Non-fiction
- Other



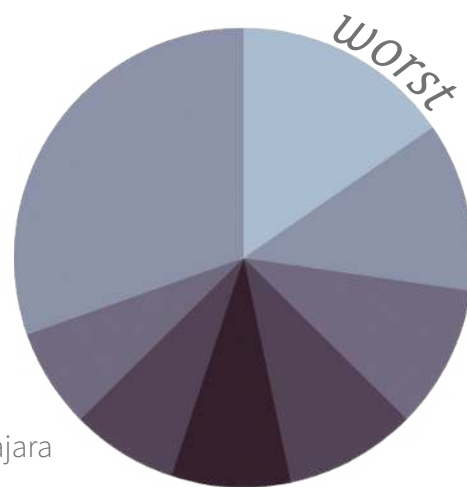
## Book Genre



## Lunch Places

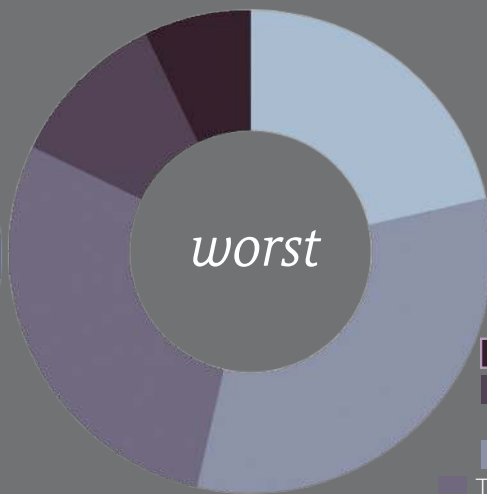
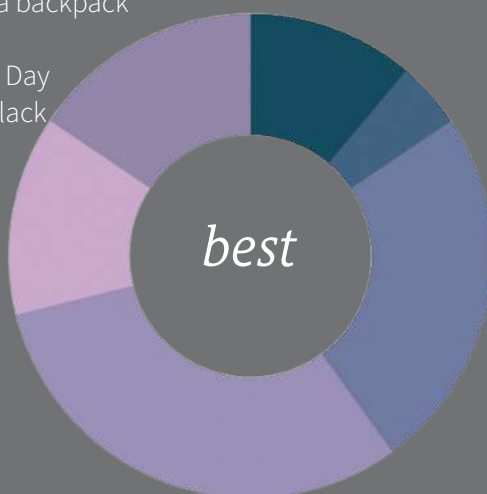
- Chick-Fil-A
- Taco Bell
- Subway
- Costa Vida
- McDonald's
- Chipotle

- Arby's
- Chick-Fil-A
- Fiesta Guadalajara
- Taco Bell
- McDonald's
- Other



## Spirit Day

- College Day
- Anything but a backpack
- PJ Day
- Sports/Jersey Day
- Orange and Black



- Color Wars
- Anything but a backpack
- PJ Day
- Throwback Day
- Orange & Black

story by abby price  
photos by maddy parkhurst

Teachers make a huge impact on hundreds of students everyday so it's important that teachers influence students in a positive way

Over 200 GJHS students took a poll and answered the question: What qualities do you like most in a teacher?

GJHS sophomore Sofia Bottino responded with: "I like when [teachers] care more about the student than their grade in the class."

Many students agree that teachers who show interest in their lives tend to be their favorites.

"Mr. Whiteford, he actually inspired me to go to class and get myself together," said Bottino.

The way students engage in learning varies. And also teaching styles vary. A common response was that students love when they don't just get handed packet after packet and get loaded with a ton of homework.

"Instead of just handing out packets all the time...(when) they interact with you," said Luce.

Many times students dread going to school because they struggle with school work or having motivation to persevere. However, most students agree they need a positive and welcoming environment to be able to feel safe and do their best work.

"They'll understand mental health issues, and they will work around projects," said GJHS



freshman Addison Luce in the survey.

According to the poll, students love when a teacher adds in fun activities while still learning. Teachers who can make the class laugh a little makes work easier to do.

"When they have a good teaching style, that's one of my big things," said Luce.

Being laid back is cool, but many students agree they like it when their teacher can maintain discipline in the classroom. Students like when teachers balance work with fun as well, it sets a good balance and gives students something to strive towards. It sets guidelines and helps them stick to a schedule. Some students agree it helps them stay on track and get their work done.

A big part of going to school and learning everyday is helping you prepare for the future. No matter what route you decide to take it's always nice if someone is there to cheer you on and help you along the way. Quite a few students agree that their teachers inspire them on the daily and make coming to school worth it.

"Mrs. Imel is good with that," said Luce.

Teachers have the potential to influence students. Although there are things teachers can work on, teaching is a difficult profession which is why it's important to be thankful for your teachers and all the effort they put into making school more than a place.



Least likely to come to class

# Attendance at GJHS

story and photo by brady ancill

Attendance at Grand Junction High School is always fluctuating, but COVID-19 and a year-long transition to remote learning caused more irregularities than normal. The global pandemic, whether due to fear from the virus or an easy excuse to ditch, has led to reduced attendance rates in recent years.

According to school data, from the 2019-2020 school year to the current school year, overall attendance has dropped from 88.27% to 78.84%. It is a notable drop of nearly 10% in just two years.

"We had been working to see an upward swing [in attendance]" when COVID-19 forced an extra long spring break, said GJHS Principal Meghan Roenicke. More students were showing up to class than previous years before COVID disrupted school, she said.

Roenicke added that the year COVID hit "was [GJHS's] highest year of attendance" in all the years she has worked here. Remote learning has made education and participating in class more difficult for many students.

"With online learning, [school] has been more complex," said GJHS freshman Madelyn Woodring.

The transition from middle school to high school is hard enough for many students. Coming into high school after the effects of COVID was expected to be difficult for many students. That would explain lower attendance rates for freshmen.

However, that is not the whole story. In fact, seniors and sophomores have attendance percentages of 82.55% and 84.00% percent respectively, while the percent for freshmen is

nearly 85%.

"Our sophomores and our seniors struggle [coming to class]," said Roenicke. She believes the solution is creating a school culture that values attendance.

"If you really want to succeed in school, you have to be there both physically and mentally," said GJHS senior Joel Daugherty.

Though some students understand the consequences of missing class, many do not. Roenicke and many school staff members are working on techniques to attempt to raise

attendance among all students.

"A lot of students are just ill and we don't want them here at school," said Yaneth Gutierrez, Spanish teacher at GJHS. Many of Gutierrez's students miss class because of sports games or because of being sick.

This creates a difficult situation for GJHS staff. They want good attendance, yet they also want students to participate in sports and to stay home if they are sick.

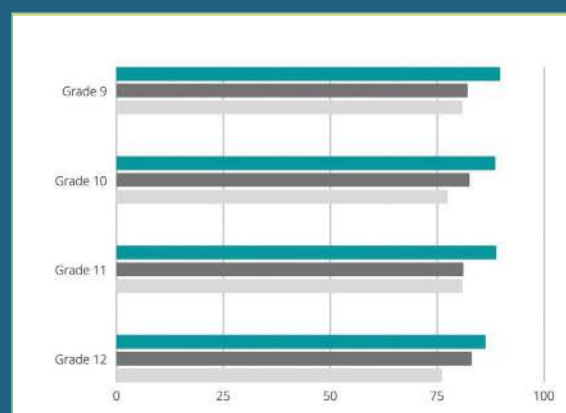
Roenicke and other teachers are working to show the value of coming to class. Now that COVID-19 is hopefully coming to an end, GJHS

students and staff should be hopeful for the future.

Roenicke is also optimistic about the effects an all-new building will have on students and attendance. Roenicke visited a school with a similar design to the plans in the works for GJHS.

"Even when kids were on release, kids would choose to stay at the school and work," said Roenicke. In the future, Roenicke hopes for a school with students of all ages working together to get the best education possible.

"Attending is a lot more than just being there in person. Make sure you're giving your entire self to what you're learning," said Daugherty.



Attendance by school year,  
separated by grade

2019-2020

2020-2021

2021-2022

Lunch:

# The best & worst

by: izzy cornelison

**P**icture it. It's 11:13 a.m., you're in your fourth period class, and -ugh- are you hungry.

You didn't pack a lunch so you decide you're gonna go out to eat. But you have no idea what you want. In a recent poll put out by the Orange & Black, students of GJHS revealed favorite, and least favorite, places to eat.

"[I like Chick-Fil-a] because it's fast, and they have the best food," said GJHS senior Joesiah Wissink.

Out of 233 responses, 79 people said the best place to drive to get lunch was Chick-Fil-A. According to google maps, it'll take you about five minutes to get to Chick-Fil-A, however that is in minimal or no traffic. And with a 40-minute lunchtime, a ten minute drive is feasible, but that's not accounting for the usually long line Chick-Fil-A has. If you're willing to take the risk, those chicken nuggets might just be worth it.

Amongst the 'other' category, the most repeated was 'my house' taking up 11.9% of the 'other' votes for driving while Dairy Queen was the most voted for, 42.86% of the other votes, for the best place to walk to.

Among the others there were some interesting answers, including one student who said the best place was 'Thomas Berry's house.'

"I like to eat at Thomas Berry's house because of the delicate cuisine he provides. And he plays violin while he serves the filet mignon," quipped GJHS senior Johnny Flanagan.

"I am a great cook, and a great entertainer," said Berry, also a senior. So with 2.5% it may not be the all time best place to eat, but it's one of them.

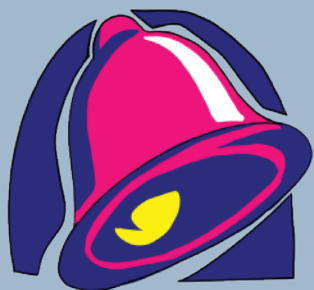
The best place to walk to, with 52 out of 243 votes accounting for 21.4%, is Subway.

GJHS freshman Kate Davis said, "It's just not quite as heavy, so it's nice [because] it's different [from] other fast food. And it's relatively fast."

The poll resulted in a number of conflicting results: Chick-Fil-A was voted the best and worst to drive to and Taco Bell was voted the best and worst to walk to.

Taco Bell received 21 out of 277 votes as the worst place to drive to (making it second worst by 6 votes) and 55 out of 243 votes for worst place to walk to. Making it the overall worst place to eat. Taegan Mercer, a sophomore at GJHS, agreed.

"[Taco Bell is the worst] because it's so busy," Mercer said. "Everyone goes to Taco Bell."



graphics by: izzy cornelison and  
becca nedohon

# celebrating our successes

# GJHS ALUMNI

Grand Junction High School was originally founded in 1891. After more than 125 years of education, GJHS has graduated thousands of students. Many Tiger alumni have gone on to achieve incredible things, including some of our own teachers.

“The teachers [at GJHS] care about all their students,” said Larry Lefebre, GJHS campus liaison and himself a member of the distinguished alumni. Lefebre is one of many alumni who have stuck around because of the value of a GJHS education.

“[GJHS] grants students a lot of freedom and autonomy,” said Coady Shawcroft, another alumni of GJHS who is also an experienced teacher. Shawcroft thinks GJHS does a great job of allowing students to discover and maneuver life for themselves, which creates very driven and successful people in the future.



Perhaps the most famous GJHS alumni is Dalton Trumbo, a man who graduated from Grand Junction High School in 1924. Dalton was a successful student, who himself was a part of the Orange and Black student newspaper.

After his graduation, Dalton became one of the highest paid Hollywood screenwriters for works such as “Kitty Foyle,” “Thirty Seconds over Tokyo,” and most notably “Spartacus.”

Though he became a controversial Hollywood figure due to communist accusations, Dalton remained an award-winning screenwriter and novelist throughout his career. His life is depicted in a 2015 movie called “Trumbo” and a downtown Grand Junction sculpture of him typing in a bathtub is located outside the Avalon Theater.

Tim Foster, after his graduation from Grand Junction High School, worked as director of a state agency, as a policy advisor for the governor of Colorado, and as an elected official as a state representative.

Foster became the 11th president of Colorado Mesa University and served in the position for 17 years before retiring in 2021. Foster was influential to ballot issue 4B, helping secure a new high school for Grand Junction.



Monica Marquez graduated from Grand Junction High School in 1987. After graduating, she attended Stanford University and then Yale where she obtained her law degree. Marquez currently serves as Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. She has also been awarded with several Bar Association awards and other law

related recognitions due to her distinguished professional career.



Bill Musgrave, one of the all-time best athletes at Grand Junction High School, is another well known alumni. Musgrave graduated in 1986 as Colorado High School Athlete of the Year and went on to play quarterback at the University of Oregon and in the NFL. Musgrave has 21 years of NFL coaching experience

including serving as offensive coordinator of the Denver Broncos. He is currently the offensive coordinator of the California Golden Bears. According to Musgrave, GJHS “provided an incredible community that prepared everyone for anything that was thrown at them.”

story by brady **ancell**

# College comes early

The staff and students of GJHS have been ecstatic about the new school that is going to be built after the bond passed in November of 2021.

However, the transition to the new school will be more than just moving into a new building-- there will be an entirely different system we will be adopting. Architects have proposed an idea, as directed by the school district, in which there will be no designated classrooms for teachers. Instead, there will be classrooms equipped with basic materials for say, a Comp. 10 class, but teachers who teach Comp. 10 will all share that classroom and move to different classrooms where they will teach their different classes.

Essentially, the new school will have a collegiate feel where both the teachers and students are moving around the building each period.

"It causes a staleness that public schools shouldn't want to foster. It's OK to go to a college and it's kind of a different level right, but when you come to high school or middle school or elementary school it just feels like there should be a place for the teacher... I feel like there is personality lost in it," said David Sleeper, English teacher at GJHS.

This entire concept is supposed to support the Academy model GJHS has worked hard to implement over the past few years.

"The district told us they want an academy type model so we are trying to design the building to accommodate that," said Peter Icenogle with the Blythe Group, one of the head architects of the new building.

Although many are unaware of it, in the freshman seminar classes, students are grouped together by their field of interest (ex. Health and Human Services, Engineering, etc.). The new building will be set up where each wing houses classrooms specific to these fields, which is why both students and staff will be moving around the building.

However, nothing is set in stone. Teachers have been invited to many meetings held by the architects to get feedback on the current plans.

"The whole goal with [the new

building] is flexibility in the future," said Icenogle.

According to Icenogle, the function and the set-up of the building is subject to change even after the building is finished. The final set-up in the building will be determined by attendance, scheduling, and the needs and wants of the students and staff.

The current plan, however, in which teachers will not have

*"The whole goal with the new building is flexibility in the future,"*  
-Icenogle

their own classrooms raises many concerns.

First and foremost, privacy is an issue. Because teachers would only have a personal office cubicle, students needing one-on-one private support from a teacher might find it hard to reach out to get help. Although there will be conference rooms for such purposes, the availability and accessibility of those rooms for student use is ambiguous.

More than just serious conversations, however, teachers having their own classes encourage students to come in at lunch just to visit and get to know each other, not strictly from an in-class setting.

"I feel like I wouldn't have a teacher to talk to," said Bailey Schmidt, senior at GJHS.

Also, most teachers become teachers because they like being

around students. Taking away their classrooms would also take away from this draw for teachers.

"I think about all the mini-conversations I have just in those five minutes of passing period, between you coming and going from my room. If I'm running to my next class... I'm not able to do that at all," said Sleeper.

Furthermore, classrooms are often decorated with student work and resources to reinforce student learning. They also represent a teacher's personality and

"I don't think [not having designated classrooms] is too good of an idea. I feel like a lot you can tell about a teacher is their classroom," said Sadie Waters, senior at GJHS.

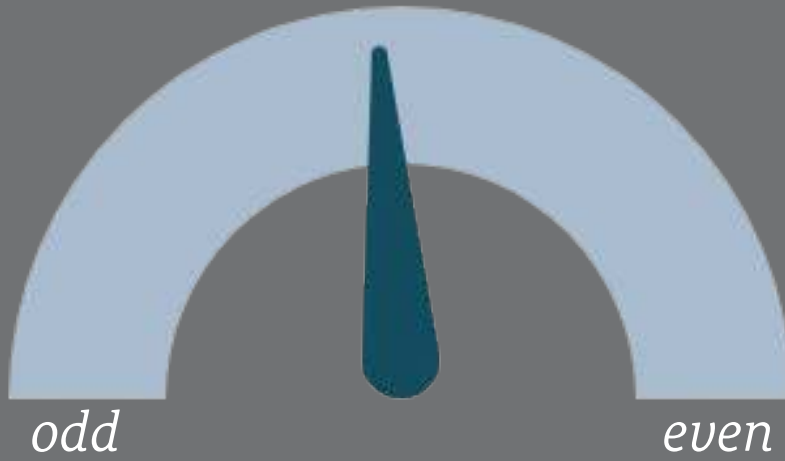
Moreover, some teachers say their classrooms are integral to their teaching style. Without the flexibility to arrange their classrooms how they want and provide students with what teachers believe are the necessary materials for their classes, it is unknown how this will impact student learning.

Lastly, the fear is the school culture would take a downward turn.

It is hard to know how exactly the set up of the new building will affect student learning and the overall culture of the school, but everything is subject to change. Architects are awaiting student and staff feedback before finalizing plans for the new building to start construction in June.



photo and story by  
ashley guddat



## Bathrooms



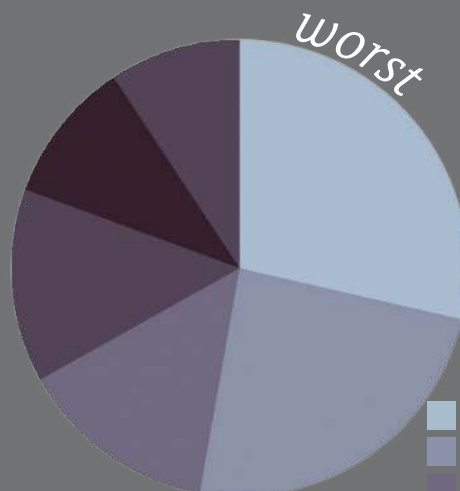
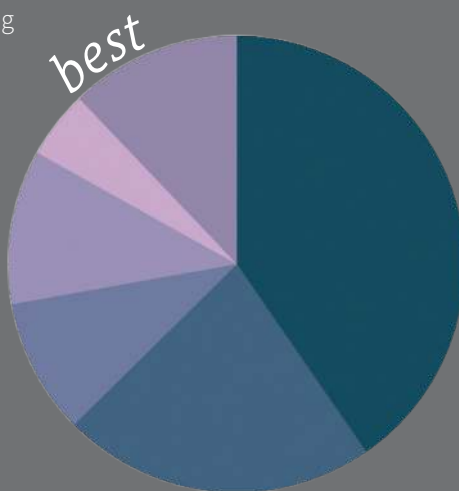
- All Gender
- Gym
- Locker Room
- Lower U
- Upper U
- 400 Building

- Locker rooms
- Gym bathrooms
- All gender (commons)
- Upper U
- 600 building
- Lower U



## Parking Spot

- Main Parking
- Math Building
- Alley Way
- Band Field
- Other



- Main Parking
- Alleyway
- Math Building
- Band Field
- Tennis Courts

*worst*

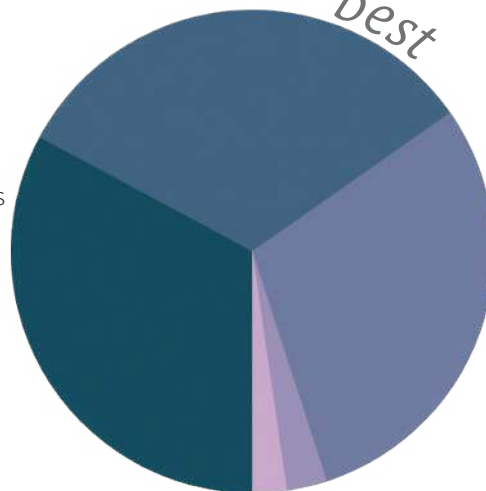


## Dance

- Sadie Hawkins
- Winter Formal
- Homecoming
- Prom
- Color dance

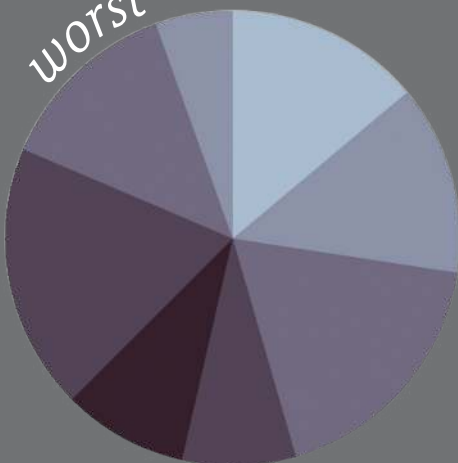
- Sadie Hawkins
- Color Dance
- Prom
- Homecoming
- Winter Formal

*best*

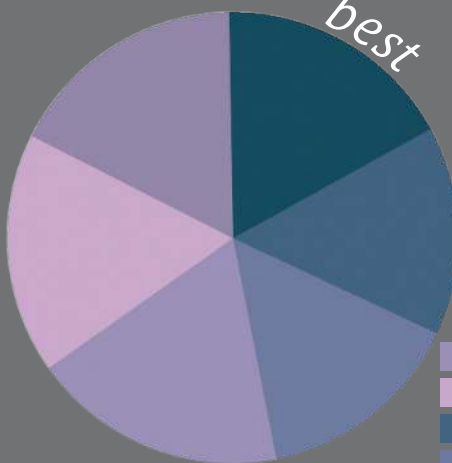


- Commons
- Teacher's Classroom
- Parking Lot
- Outside
- Gym

*worst*



*best*



- Outside
- Commons
- Parking Lot
- Teachers Classroom
- Library
- Other

## Place to Chill

*worst*

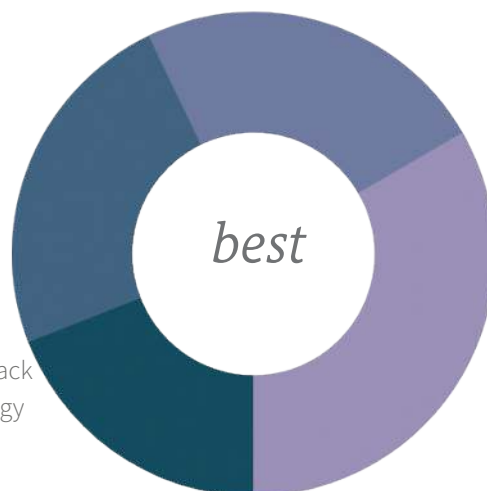


## Fashion Trends

- Ripped Jeans
- Goth
- Cowboy
- Mullets
- Camo

- Flannels
- Hoodies
- Orange and Black
- Oversized/Baggy

*best*



Vending machines help

# Curb the hunger



story and photo by maddy parkhurst

**G**JHS has many different food options from the cafeteria to vending machines and even a new addition with the TigerTown store.

One solution to help students curb their hunger throughout a school day are vending machines. There are three vending machines that have food in them in the main building. The food in the vending machines are primarily chips and some crackers. The price for the food in the vending machine is 75 cents to \$1.

GJHS freshman Jaiden Olsen said, "I like having the vending machines at school because fast food is expensive so it's nice to have a cheaper option."

There are also five drink vending machines that students can access in the main building. The prices range from \$1.25 to \$2.25. Students have many options ranging from water to soda. The company that distributes the drinks is Coca Cola.

In a school-wide survey, 40% of students said the best vending machine was by the gym and the worst being the one in the Commons.

But students don't just have vending machines to choose from. There is the newly opened Tiger Times store. It's run by the students in the High School Business class. They are open in the morning and after school next to the counseling offices in the Commons.

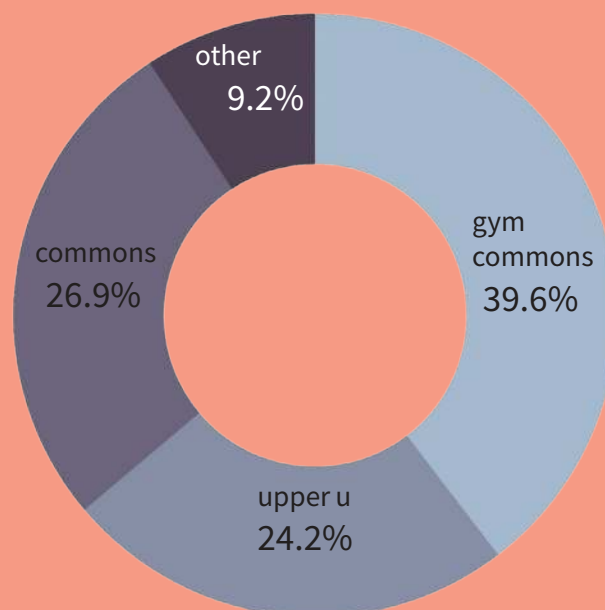
The students decided to start the store inspired

school pride and to get hands-on experience with working a business. In addition to food, the store sells GJHS clothing items.

GJHS sophomore Emma Ryan works with the Tiger Times store. Ryan said, "The store is bringing a community together in the school."

The store sells Bang energy drinks for \$3, coffee and hot chocolate for \$2, and flavored water for \$1.50. Candy bars are \$2, and a pack of gum sells for \$1. The money from the store is being put back into operating the store.

While many students go off campus for lunch, these options help fill the void between meals.



by michael **taylor**

**M**any students at Grand Junction High School play instruments. There are many opportunities at the school to learn instruments like in orchestra, band, or marching band. Other students play instruments outside school.

Thomas Berry is a violin player in the school orchestra and has been playing violin for 13 years. Berry thinks that Orchestra is the best music program and that the violin is the best instrument in orchestra.

"I try to practice for two hours a day, but I usually get about an hour and a half," said Berry. In order for Berry to participate in camps and performances he needs to practice multiple hours a day.

"I was five when [my parents] let me pick an instrument to play and I picked the violin," said Berry. Berry's whole family plays instruments and encouraged him to also learn an instrument. Berry's family helps

because I have done it so much," said Berry.

Berry has gotten used to playing his violin in front of people after years of practice. He said that he still worries a little bit about messing up because he knows it can be embarrassing and that it can happen at any point.

"I've got an interview with Brigham Young University. This will determine if I will get in and if they give me scholarships," said Berry. Berry has been preparing music to play at his interview in order to prove that he is good enough to be a part of BYU's music program.

"It's really satisfying to work at something. And sometimes I can feel the emotions and see what the artists are trying to put into the music," said Berry. Berry's favorite part about the violin is getting the reward for working hard and seeing his progress. He also likes the hidden message that is behind the music he is playing and what the artist is trying to show.

## Most Likely to be the Next Mozart

# Thomas Berry

photo by riley **pope**

him progress with the violin by paying for his lessons, tutoring him, and providing any materials needed for him to succeed.

In order for Berry to become a better violin player and to enhance his musical talents he goes yearly to camps where he spends all day practicing his violin.

"I usually go to summer camps for a week or two in the summer. I went to a two-week [camp] this summer at Denver University," said Berry.

"I plan to either minor or major in violin performance," said Berry. Berry wants to have a career using the violin, if that means playing in small orchestras or teaching violin.

"I have Colorado All State Orchestra, so that will be really fun playing in a top orchestra," said Berry. He has played in All State before and says that it is a unique experience that allows him to learn from professional musicians and play at a high level. There is nothing like this in the valley, so it allows Berry to play with people all over Colorado.

"It used to be hard but I don't worry about it as much



# AP and Otherwise

## the hardest class at GJHS

by michael **taylor**

There is plenty of debate at Grand Junction High School on which classes are the best and the worst, or the hardest and the easiest, among the hundreds offered.

Josh Warinner, GJHS assistant principal, is the AP Coordinator at the school. Because of his position, he has a unique perspective on the hardest class. AP classes are known to be some of the hardest classes taught at GJHS. Warinner thinks that AP Calculus, Stats, and Physics are some of the difficult.

"The students that want to be successful are the ones taking AP classes," said Warinner.

AP classes are harder than GJ's traditional classes because at the end of the AP class students take a test that decides if they get college credit or not. Not only do AP classes give high school credit, they also can give college credit.

GJHS junior Matthew Silzel said his hardest class is AP Calculus, which is taught by Mrs. Kayla Rhyne

"There's such a small amount of people so it's really hard to do group work so you have to do a lot of the stuff on your own," said Silzel. This affects Silzel's learning style because he enjoys group work.

"We have homework every day so I probably spend an hour every night," said Silzel.

In order to help the AP Calculus students with all of the tough material and homework they have, additional study sessions help them understand the material even more.

GJHS junior Celina Hildebrand is taking four AP classes and said her hardest class is AP Biology which is taught by Mrs. Michelle Davis.

"Mrs. Davis holds after school study sessions and I go into advisory sometimes," said Hildebrand.

Mrs. Davis is always willing to help and Hildebrand said that the other students help too.

"We spend an hour every night reading. We read from our textbook from the class and sometimes we do essay questions," said Hildebrand. AP Biology is hard and has a lot of work involved but Hildebrand loves biology and loves the class.

GJHS senior Asher Goldberg has taken many AP classes and said that his hardest class was not an AP class, but instead precalculus. Precalc is considered one of the hardest classes that is not AP. It is taught by Mrs. Kayla Rhyne and Mr. Matt Hurni.

"It was sort of the path I got on. I don't know what I would

have done if I wouldn't have taken Precalc," said Goldberg.

Goldberg felt like precalculus was the only option he had to take for a math class. Goldberg also said that no matter the effort he put into it, he could not understand it. Goldberg did say that even though it was a hard class it was beneficial because it made other classes feel easy.

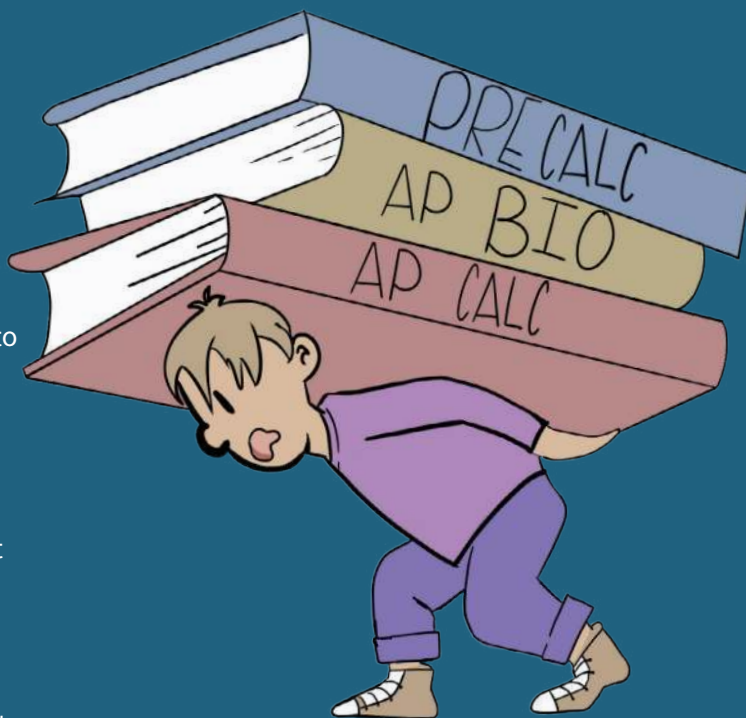
"I think [students] should take AP classes because it helps them to be well-rounded learners and prepares them for college," said Warinner.

Although AP classes are usually harder than the traditional classes, Warinner has seen firsthand how much AP helps students in their learning and in college.

"Math has been something I've always thrived in," said Silzel.

Silzel said he wanted something that would challenge him. He does not know what he wants to do after he graduates, but he thinks that AP Calculus will open up and give him multiple choices.

Even though these are considered among the hardest classes at GJHS, they prepare students for life after high school.



graphic by izzy **cornelison**

# Does it smell like **SCHOOL SPIRIT?**

by **riley pope**

**G**rand Junction High School like any other high school strives for a welcoming school environment. However, school spirit stems from the students and their willingness to participate, which can seem challenging to some students at GJHS.

Reina Clark, junior, loves participating in spirit days and showing her school spirit at athletic events.

"It's nice to see all your classmates participating [in spirit days]," said Clark. Clark noticed that people show less interest in participating in spirit events as the year goes on. However, administrators and leadership groups around the school are hoping to change this mindset.

"The middle of the school year gets pretty rough from an academic standpoint, so the student body as a whole begins to pull focus from school spirit to the stress of schoolwork," said senior Caymie Crone, Student Body Officer (SBO) Co-President.

One of the main goals of the Student Council is to boost school spirit and provide a welcoming environment for all students.

"Student Council boosts spirit by unifying the school in game themes, spirit days, and fun events where students can feel like they belong as a tiger," said Crone. Unfortunately, there is only so much the Student Council can do to boost school spirit-- the

photos by **alondra sanchez**

rest stems from students' willingness to participate.

Yago Agullo, junior, is a foreign exchange student from Spain who has been very involved thus far during his time at GJHS.

"My experience [of school spirit] in Spain is not like this," Agullo said. Agullo explained that school in Spain is not saturated with spirit-building events such as dances and sports.

"It's weird for me because in Spain, you go to school, do your classes and go home," said Agullo. This is the same case for many students at GJHS.

Senior, Lily Tyre, has noticed that less underclassmen participate in spirit days and that could be due to the lack of support from upperclassmen.

"[Seniors] don't encourage it very much and we just do our own thing," said Tyre. Tyre suggested talking to underclassmen and getting them excited

to participate.

"I wish [underclassmen would] participate more since they are a major component of our voice and they don't use it," said Tyre. Tyre and Agullo say basketball games are their favorite to go to and support their classmates on the court. Tyre is looking forward to showing her school spirit up until she graduates especially during the spirit week leading up to Prom.

"Oh man, it's fun!" said Tyre.



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