



# EAGLE MAGAZINE

# QB

***ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL - 92-3***



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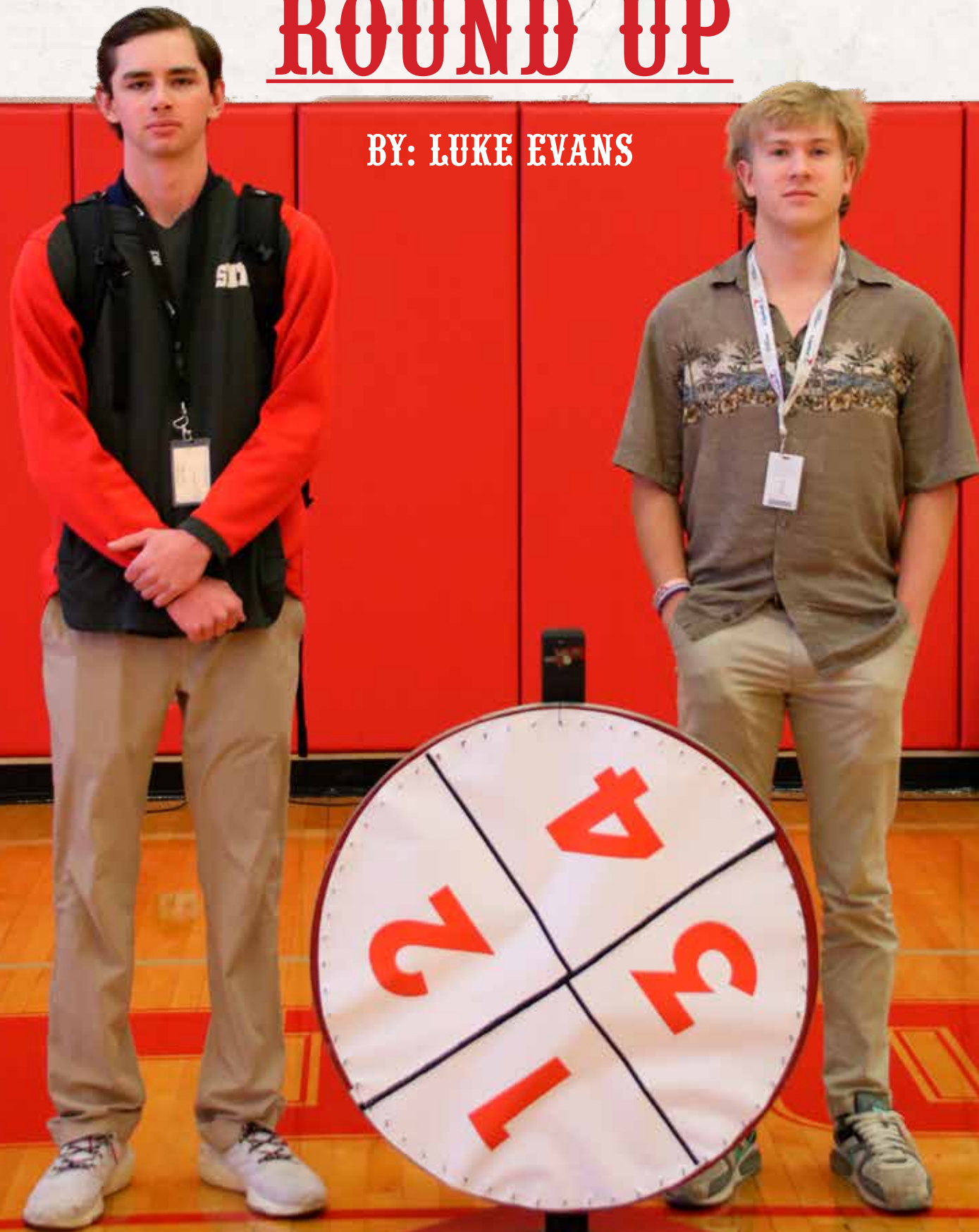
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# THE RETURN OF ROUND UP

BY: LUKE EVANS



It is already spring 2022, meaning that the most exciting and important time of the year for St. Thomas High School has come and gone yet again. After last year's hybrid style Round Up with the incredibly entertaining videos from Gus Boettcher and Patrick Pham alongside the exciting assemblies on the football field, St. Thomas has returned to its traditional assemblies with the entire school packed into Reckling Gym, Cemo Auditorium, and the football stands. There is a new sheriff in town, as the 2021-2022 Round Up Board has been assembled.

Two members of the executive board who have been doing the heavy lifting of putting together this year's Round Up are senior executive board members Andrew Cromwell and Landon Croker. Andrew and Landon were part of the first group of juniors last year to be brought on to the Round Up Board in order to see behind the scenes of what it takes to count money, make major sales, and put together assemblies that motivate the student body and inform underclassmen.

While planning Round Up assemblies, announcements, and counting may seem like a breeze to many underclassmen, this is simply not the case and it takes certain types of students to be able to create a fun and refreshing Round Up season.

Landon describes his approach to Round Up saying,

## ROUND UP 2022



Anthony Equale '23 participating in one of the Round Up Assemblies

"We like to think of the Round Up season as a marathon. Each assembly is entertaining and big in its own right... but we would rather ensure that the entire performance of the Round Up season is the best that it can be" Croker said.

However, this feat is easier said than done, "coming up with assembly ideas that would interest the entire school, and not fit niche interests was pretty difficult. We wanted to ensure that we can entertain as many people for as long as possible" Croker said. One of the hardest parts of Round Up is keeping the students entertained during each and every assembly. Throughout this Round Up season the board has held a bull riding contest, hot dog eating contest, minute to win it games, a slip and

slide relay race, and student v. faculty dodgeball games. These assemblies have included all types of students, allowed teachers to join in on the fun, and even had some notable guest speakers speak in order to build morale.

While these individual assemblies are a necessary part of the Round Up season, there is one event that happens just four times in a student's St. Thomas' experience that every alumni remembers: The Final Reveal. The Final Reveal is the legacy of the Round Up Board. Not only will the amount of money that they raised be remembered, but the reveal itself will be remembered as well. This is the moment that every Round Up Board member has been looking forward to since their first reveal, so how exactly did the 2022 board go about planning one of greatest reveals in St. Thomas history?

"Planning the final reveal was extremely punctual and time-consuming. We had begun initial stages of planning weeks in advance, and every week our outline for the final reveal became clearer and more defined. We even came up on a Sunday once to do a walkthrough of the reveal. We had to make sure everything was possible and happened in unison" Cromwell said. The reveal included multiple super cars, a helicopter, and of course, a record shattering \$670,000 turn in reveal.

Clearly running Round Up is one of the largest responsibilities that a student can take on at St. Thomas including balancing schedules and encouraging ticket sales. However, Croker and Cromwell both agree that being a part of such an incredible tradition that helps so many students and friends attend St. Thomas in addition to being part of one of the most legendary Round Up seasons ever has been a true honor, and they cannot wait to see what future classes can do.



Pictured Left: Seniors Landon Croker, Andrew Cromwell, and Robert Longo strategizing before the first assembly .



# CHASING CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Edward Seymour

These past few years, track and field at St. Thomas has been wildly successful, winning the State Championship in 2019 and 2021. They were also expected to win the 2020 State Meet, which was sadly canceled due to covid. This record gives this year's team some big expectations to live up to, but it seems that they are ready to take on this challenge. Many of the members started conditioning and training well before off-season workouts started, preparing to add another State win to the record books.

Track and Field season officially started on January 10th with after-school workouts. Depending on which events the runner or thrower competes in determines what workout they follow. For example, a hurdles runner such as Evan Crosswait would have a much different workout

than someone running the 800 or the mile. The team spends around an hour and a half on the track before hitting the weight room for their last half hour of practice. With seven full weeks of practice before the first meet, STH track and field is ready to start off this soon to be successful season strong.

The team's first meet occurred on February 24 and 25th. The Varsity team placed 1st overall with 218 points beating second place, Houston Westside, by 29 points. St. Thomas dominated the relays. Marquis Kiatta, Cameron Price, Aaron Blackman, and Johann Cardenas took first place in the 4x100 with a time of 45.27. In the 4x200, Kiatta, Joe Rick Madden, Aaron Blackman, and Johnathan Ridley earned another first place with a time of 1:38.48, just



Grant Arnold 22' in his run up for the triple jump to earn his top 6 place.



Left: Joseph Romero 22', shows off his letters  
Right: Wyatt Green 22' brings in some points for shotput.



Marquis Kiatta 24' sprints toward the sand pit to jump over 19 feet, taking first in the long jump

barley beating second place.

Other first-place finishes included Kiatta winning the long-jump, Madden and Carrick Brogan taking first and second for the pole vault, Charlie Boettcher taking first in discus and second in shot-put followed by Wyatt Green in third. Besides these first place finishes, St. Thomas track and field consistently had athletes placing in the top five. In nearly every event, there were not just one, but sometimes two or three St. Thomas athletes that placed well enough to bring in points for the team.

So far, the team has performed up to their own high expectations of themselves, but there is still improvement to be made. Winning this year's state meet will be no easy challenge, but this first meet shows the potential the 2022 St. Thomas Track and Field team has.







# The Power of the STH Student Body

Author: Anthony Equale

Every day, I am approached by my peers with concerns, or even complaints, about how the day to day life is run at St. Thomas, stating that “I wish we had \_\_\_\_” or “I wish we didn’t have to do \_\_\_\_.” Students come to me with these concerns because I have placed myself in multiple positions of influence around campus by taking part in the Student Council, being on the RoundUp Board, and, now, having an editorial role for The Eagle. Through these positions, I have been given the opportunity to learn the Ins and Outs of how St. Thomas is run, and if there is one thing I have realized it is that if students want to see St. Thomas change for the better, then they must make a voice for themselves by integrating themselves more around campus.

I do not share my personal experiences because I am trying to be boastful, but rather to get across the message that there is only so much I, or any other involved STH student, can do in the matter of making a major change. I could not agree more with the fact that there needs to be changes made around campus that will lead to a better and more enjoyable learning environment, but this transformation cannot happen unless the whole student body is eager to change. Eagles, it is time to step it up. Time to make a difference around campus. Time to make your mark at St. Thomas.

“I think it is important for students to be involved, to be connected to the community. Whether that be through sports, student council, clubs, service, or any type of leadership role”, Dr. Dominguez said. Throughout my time at St. Thomas, I have come to realize that there are two distinct groups in the student body: those who actively participate almost to an extensive point and those who do the bare

minimum or even do not even attempt to engage at all. I encourage those of you who fall into the first group to continue to push yourselves and begin to influence these other guys to participate in campus activities. To the latter, I promise that the high school experience is more rewarding if you find an extracurricular or club that really interests you. Get involved.

Only 60% of the student body at St. Thomas is actively involved in the day-to-day campus life. Somehow, with all of the clubs and extracurriculars available to us students, there are still about 250 guys who are not integrating themselves into the STH community. Every role, both major and minor, is vital to the success of the student body as a whole. The more students to engage and participate, the more of an influence the student body has in shaping life at St. Thomas.

The primary goal of the teachers, administrators, and faculty of St. Thomas is to transform the boys that first walk through the doors into men who will positively impact society. In the 2020 presidential election, only 67% of Americans took advantage of the right to vote. How are Americans to expect to see positive changes made in their country if they cannot even encourage 33% of their own body to voice their opinion? Similarly, how are us students to expect to see beneficial changes, such as improving the efficiency of the lunch line or implementing more student freedom, if we cannot inspire our own peers to partake in a single extracurricular?

“Our job is not to tell the students what they can and can’t do or to create programming for the students. Our job is to position the students to think for themselves and for us to listen when they are ready to talk”, articulated Mr. O’Brien.

Public figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malala Yousafzai found a name for themselves by speaking for what they believed was right. Neither one of these figures was born into money or was granted a higher position in government, but they found a way to positively impact society by leading large groups of people

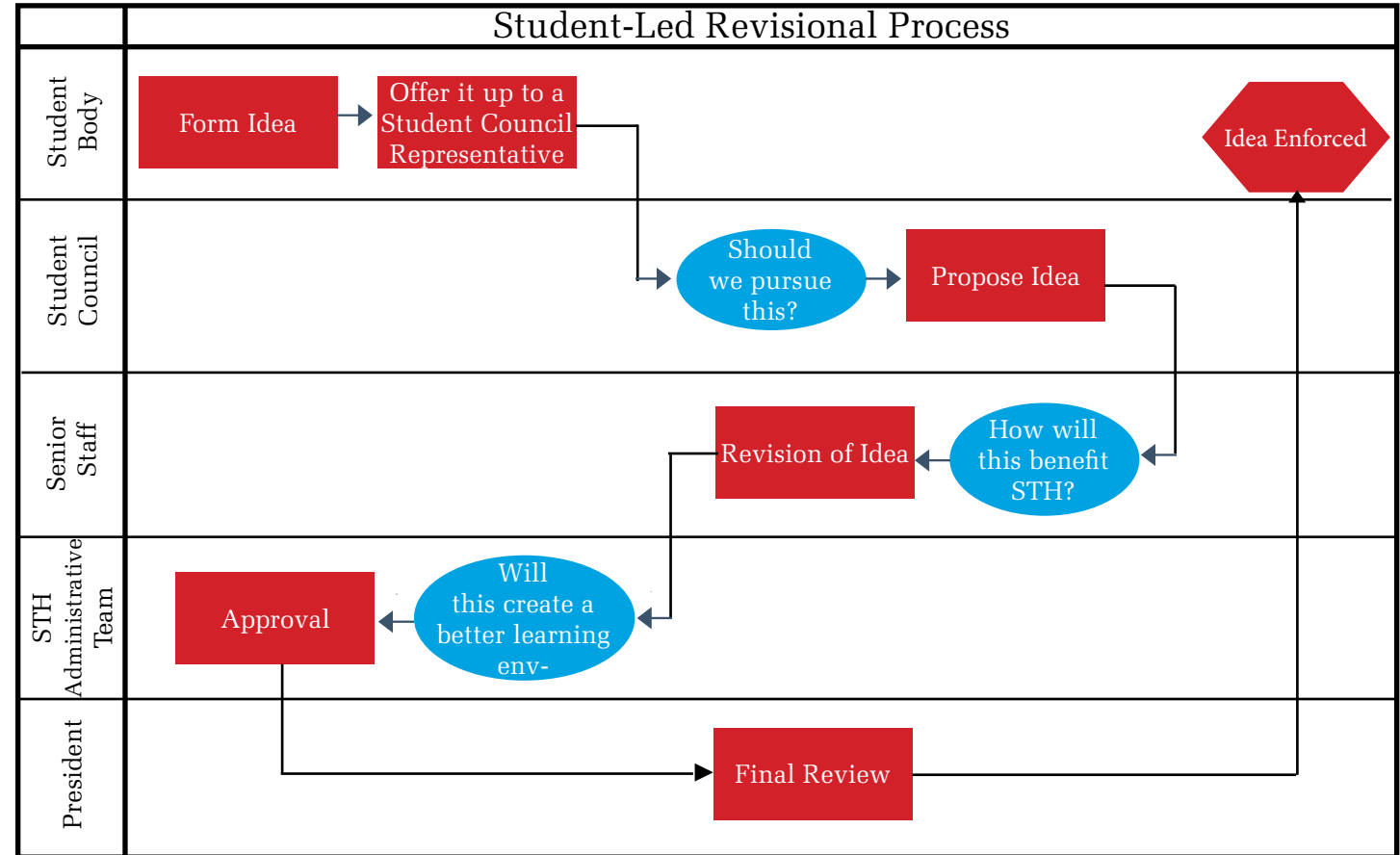
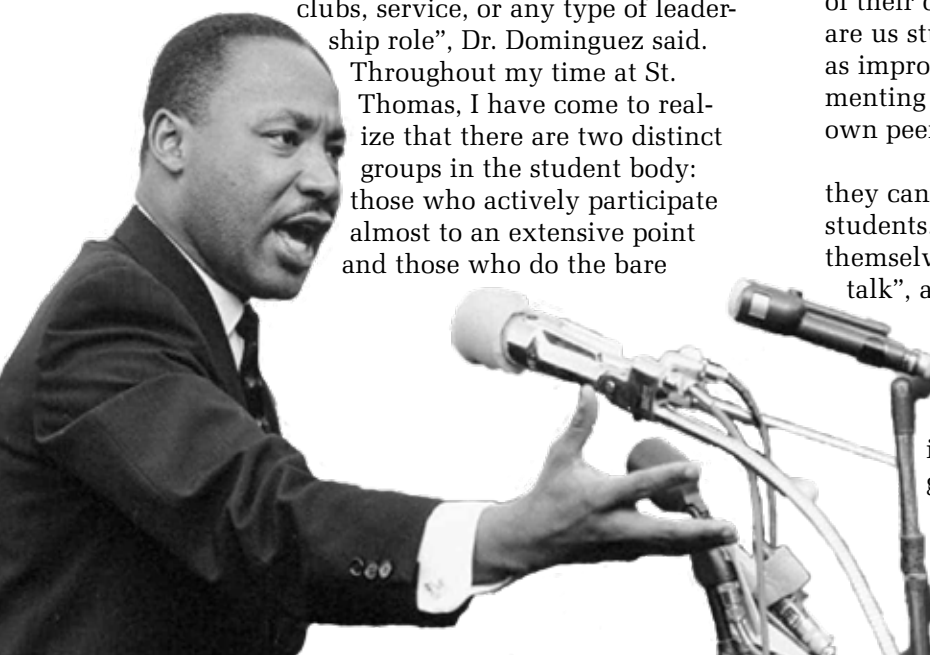
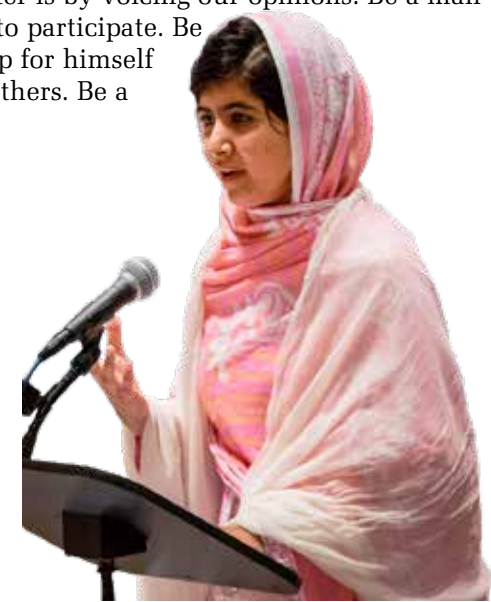
to bring about equality and increase educational rights around the world. Obviously, these examples are on a much greater scale; however, the lives of great men and women such as these can serve as inspiration for how to make a positive impact. If King and Yousafzai are able to sacrifice their lives advocating for what they believe in, then the St. Thomas student body as a whole can find its voice when seeking change inside the walls of our campus.

Take a look at the flow chart below. It displays each step that must be taken in order to change a student-generated idea into an enforced ruling amongst the STH community. Let us, for example, focus on the idea of free dress granted every Friday for the whole school year. The first step is for members of the student body to propose the idea to a Student Council Representative and to support it with strong evidence as to why this will prove beneficial. The representative will then offer up the idea at the next Student Council meeting and, assuming that the idea is accepted, the Student Body President, Wyatt Green, will offer it up to the Dean of Students, Mr. Takacs. From there, Mr. Takacs will review the proposal and assess its benefits. Once the Dean of Students approves of the idea, he will then pass it on to Dr. Dominguez and his board of advisors. He will then do a final review of the proposition, questioning if it will create a more comfortable learning environment, and finally approve of it. Lastly, Father Murphy, the President, will give his final remarks on the decision and the proposal for

dress-down Fridays will be put into practice amongst the student body.

The layout of this long process is not meant to frighten you out of offering up an idea or to tempt you not to have open communication with your student council representatives. On the contrary, this long process displays how a singular student, who was open about his ideas and opinions, was able to positively impact the entire school. Change starts from the bottom, up. By becoming more involved and making a name for yourself, the student body will be able to create the learning environment they greatly deserve.

Students, this is ourschool. The only way we can change it for the better is by voicing our opinions. Be a man who inspires others to participate. Be a man who speaks up for himself and for his Eagle brothers. Be a Man of St. Thomas.





# THE CLASS OF 2022

... AND WHERE THEY ARE GOING NEXT

BY: RUBEN VARA

## Nico Lopez



Coming to St Thomas from Regis middle school with a handful of friends, Nico Lopez was excited for the challenges and opportunities that he would come to find in his transition to high school. Throughout his four years at St Thomas Nico has been a considerably active and successful student. To name a few of Nico's achievements at St Thomas, he is a varsity athlete in both soccer and rugby, the captain of the esports team, and a member of the National Honor Society. Nico has loved his time at St Thomas and plans on attending Texas A&M University to study Business next fall. His one piece of advice to his younger eagle brothers is "to cherish every moment."



## Andrew Cantoni



Andrew Cantoni, most commonly referred to by his Eagle brothers as just "Cantoni," has gone through all four years at St Thomas with a smile. Coming from Sacred Heart Middle School in Conroe, Cantoni is among many students who have made the commitment to travel a considerable distance to school every day. Cantoni's favorite part about St Thomas has been playing football and soccer and the friends he has made doing so. Just like he did on the field for the Eagles, Cantoni successfully tackled the academic challenges of St Thomas and is excited to further his education at the University of Mississippi. He plans on studying graphic design or communications and encourages the younger generation of St Thomas to "just make sure they have a good time."



## Luke Evans



Coming to St Thomas from St Anthony of Padua in the Woodlands, Luke Evans is another student who has made the commitment to travel a considerable distance to school every day. During his four years at St Thomas, Luke Evans has made sure to make the drive worthwhile as an exemplary student, athlete, and leader. Luke is a permanent St Thomas Club honors member, varsity baseball player, and has acquired a number of leadership positions in organizations such as the National Honor Society and Senior Leaders. Getting accepted into his dream college, Luke Evans' hard work is paying off and he can't wait to attend Boston College in the fall to study political science and economics. As a final piece of advice, Luke Evans assures the underclassmen of St Thomas that "hard work pays off" and to "enjoy their time in high school."





# MILLING STEEL

By Mitch Onufrow

They say a picture says a thousand words. Anyone who has been in Coach Mills' room knows how true that is.

Brett Mills, better known as Coach Mills, is a teacher and coach who has been at St Thomas for 20 years. Anybody who has been in his classroom has noticed just how many things he has on his walls, and the thing that really stands out is the amount of trophies, pictures, and articles from various news sources. While many teachers decorate and personalize their room, only one teacher keeps 10 different trophies on their wall, and that teacher is Coach Mills. I don't mean trophies as in something he cherishes, I mean shiny trophies engraved at the bottom, most of them with a rugby ball filled with signatures on top of it.

The pictures on his walls, however, say far more than a thousand words. They tell of an entire season, an entire year, his family, a pride that can only be felt by a father. Anybody who loves a good story will love his room. Coach Mills wears his accomplishments on his walls with pride, but it is far more than simply his accomplishments as a coach or even his accomplishments as a man. They tell his story and the best times of his life. Those moments, not only have shaped him into who he is, but that have shaped others into who they are. That is what he does and that is what loves to do. He shapes the men of tomorrow.

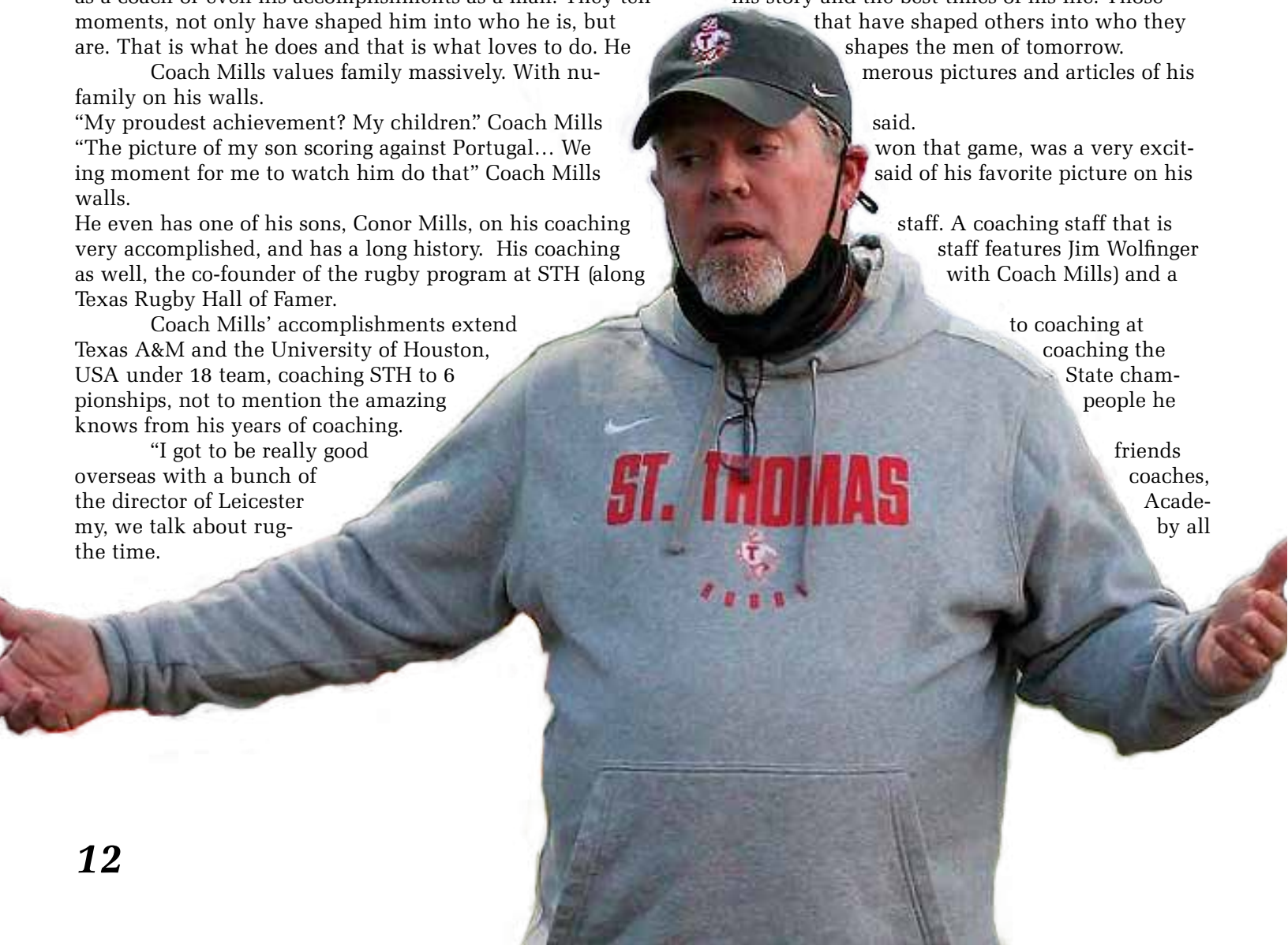
Coach Mills values family massively. With numerous pictures and articles of his family on his walls.

"My proudest achievement? My children." Coach Mills said. "The picture of my son scoring against Portugal... We won that game, was a very exciting moment for me to watch him do that" Coach Mills said of his favorite picture on his walls.

He even has one of his sons, Conor Mills, on his coaching staff. A coaching staff that is very accomplished, and has a long history. His coaching staff features Jim Wolfinger as well, the co-founder of the rugby program at STH (along with Coach Mills) and a Texas Rugby Hall of Famer.

Coach Mills' accomplishments extend to coaching at Texas A&M and the University of Houston, coaching the USA under 18 team, coaching STH to 6 State championships, not to mention the amazing people he knows from his years of coaching.

"I got to be really good overseas with a bunch of friends coaches, the director of Leicester by all my, we talk about rugby the time. Acade-



"It broadened my perception. Obviously I knew rugby is a worldwide sport, but it's also a worldwide community, and everybody is very supportive within that community," said Coach Mills.

While all of these achievements are great, it's not the championships that Coach Mills focuses on, but rather, it is the building of a culture around the team, and building men.

"What I'm concerned about is having players grow in character and helping them become better men and better for all the challenges they'll face down the road. Whether that be college or marriage or whatever" said Coach Mills.

A big part of growing players is making sure they can properly balance everything, especially school. Coach Mills will often push players to prioritize school work. After all, he is the Dean of Social Studies at STH.

Coach Mills also wants to instill confidence in players, letting them take the reins in their training.



Coach Mills (left) receiving an award from Rugby Texas with Jim Wolfinger (right)

He tells the upperclassmen to help out the newer players, puts players in positions they can lead from, and lets players govern themselves in large part.

The two things he asks of his players are as follows: work hard and make your teammates better. This is his key to building both championships and to building good men. This philosophy is applicable to any team game and anything in which you have to work with others. One of the best things anybody can do is make those around them better, and one of the best ways to do this is to work hard. Even small changes in one's manner and the standard they hold themselves to is infectious to those around them. This is also why he puts an emphasis on culture in the team and making sure players stay up to the standards of the

school.

Culture comes in massive part from the school and the fact that players are representing STH. This means that the virtues of STH are carried on the field and with everything on the rugby team. Building men is important, and Coach Mills doesn't care about benching his best players if they misbehave. To him it's not just a rugby team, it's the STH rugby team.

Coach Mills has a long history at St Thomas, with many players and students going on to do great things. Coach Mills just wants to prepare them for whatever is next. He wants to help shape and create strong men for the future and for future generations. An analogy he uses often is of the katana: a sword said to be made by folding steel on itself. Folding the steel removes impurities in the metal and strengthens the steel. Mills tries to get students and players to have good values and habits through keeping those same values in everything he does and tells others to do. That's how he makes good men, that's how he makes strong men. That's how he mills steel.



A part Coach Mills' room, filled with trophies, pictures, and rugby balls.





# Keep Calm and Serve an Ace

By: Arjun Chahal



Arjun Chahal '23 hits a backhand in practice match.

The tennis season is almost upon us and aspirations are high. Last year the team found success in the district tournament, with players Octavio Hinojosa '22 and Arjun Chahal '23 placing third and fourth respectively, qualifying them for the state tournament in Waco. All varsity players from last year are returning, and the many underclassmen on the team promise a strong future in the tennis program here at St. Thomas.

While all varsity players from last year are returning, hope is still in the air for new players with four new spots being added to the customary eight. Change is the theme of the year with practice returning to the Memorial Park sports complex after last year's renovations. The coaches hope to use this wonderful facility to the fullest extent with runs through the park at least twice a week and more space to conduct practices. "We are excited to be back at Memorial, and more courts means more people, so the team will be as competitive as possible," said Coach Matthew Simon.

With everyone on varsity already having at least a year of experience under their belts, the team hopes to achieve success on the court. "We hope to win the District Tournament as a team and place top 3 at the State Tournament this year" said Coach Simon. As the players mature with age and experience, these goals are very possible with hard work and team communication throughout the season.

While tennis may be an individual sport, the team motivates one another and pushes players to become the best they can be. Team spirit is the key to a successful team. "If we work together well, this season will be fun and successful," captain and oldest player on the team Octavio Hinojosa '22 said.

All in all, this tennis season is an opportunity for players to make names for themselves and have fun in a team environment that exemplifies the brotherhood here at St. Thomas High School.

## Schedule

Feb 18- EHS Met Invitational  
Feb 24- SJ XXIII at STH  
March 1- STH at Kelly  
March 3- Concordia at STH  
March 8- STH at SPX  
March 10- Bye  
March 22- Bye  
March 24- STH at Village  
March 28-29- District Tournament  
April 4-5- State Championships in Waco

## Varsity Lineup 2021-2022

### Players:

- Arjun Chahal '23
- Octavio Hinojosa '22
- Aidan Clark '24
- Adrian Pruneda '24
- David Neason '24
- Daniel Neason '24
- Aidan Urbach '24
- Trace Gauss '24

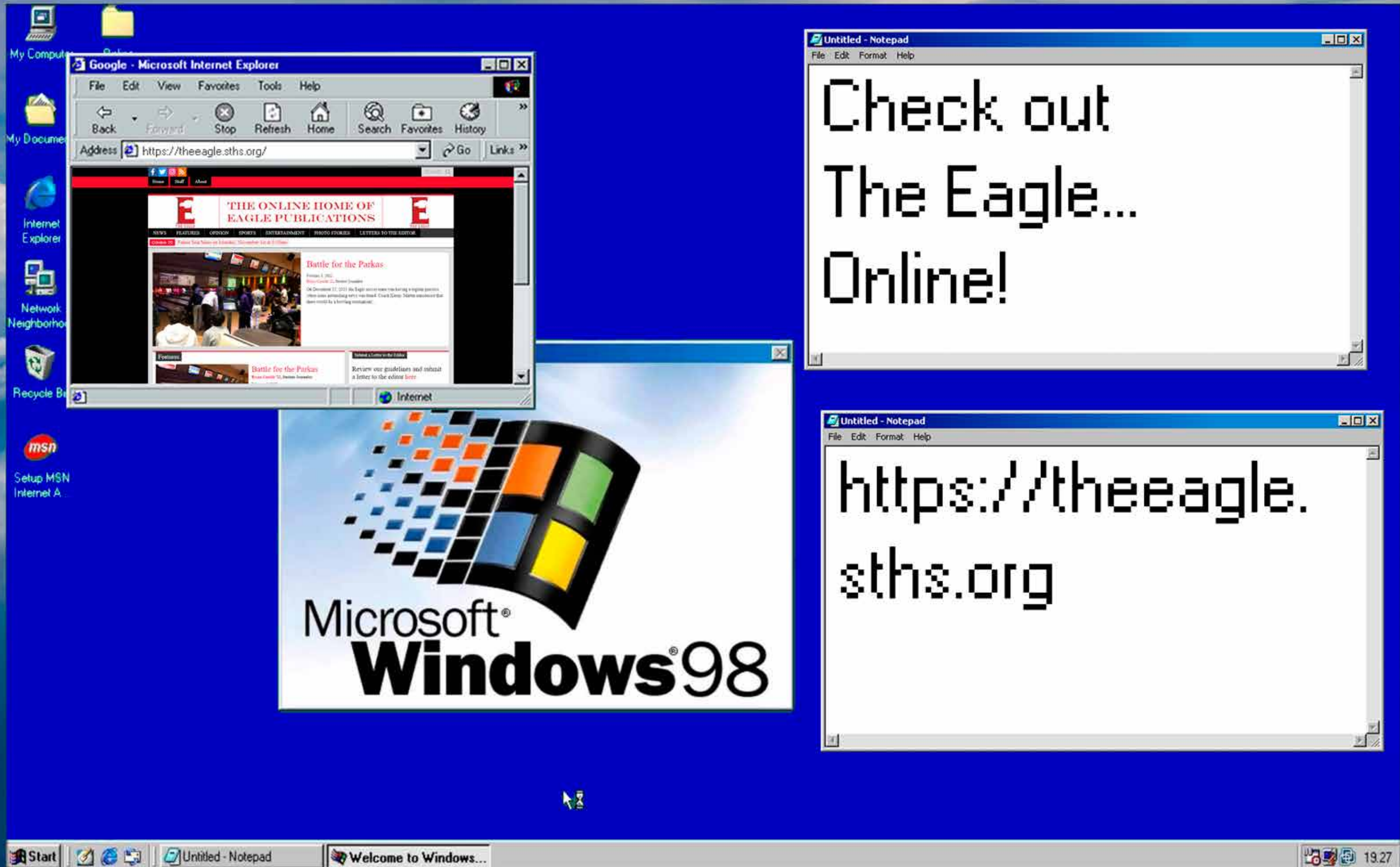
### Alternates:

- Grayson Haight '23
- Theodore Pastorius '24
- Santiago Sainz-Valle '24
- Luca Vallone '25

### Coaches:

- Matthew Simon
- David Fritsch '94





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sths.org



# Improvise, Adapt, Overcome

BY: ETHAN VINSON

**This past year,** St. Thomas has been faced with many trials and tribulations. As we enter into 2022, we reflect on a time in the fall semester filled with uncertainty. The counseling department has always been at the core of helping students with college admissions, course selection, and much more.

In August of 2021, St. Thomas lost a key counselor in Mr. Jeffrey Tesone to a tragic car accident. After his unexpected passing, there was a lot of uncertainty about the void that would, or would not be filled. In October, St. Thomas announced that two new counselors would be joining the department. This was in an effort to ease the workloads of the counselors who had received a large number of extra students due not only to the passing of Mr. Tesone, but at around the same time another counselor, Mrs. Steffany Bowman taking a leave of absence. The two new counselors had a lot of expectations riding on their shoulders from both students and parents.

The two new counselors were Mrs. Shanee Bryan and Mrs. Marisa Waybright. When Mrs. Bryan was initially hired and added to the counseling team at St. Thomas she had big shoes to fill but was up for the challenge and ready to get back into the world of counseling.

“I was excited to come in, I was at St. Agnes academy before and was also doing some private consulting. I missed the team and being around the students. I

was really excited to come in, but I was most nervous about going from an all-girls to an all-boys environment” Bryan said.

Mrs. Brian has adapted very well to receiving the large influx of students. One of her favorite aspects of helping students is with building their courses and schedules.

“I think that a lot of students take classes because the school tells you to take them. College is a lot more intricate than that and they focus heavily on who takes a deep dive into the curriculum. It’s my job to show everyone connections and guide them through the college selection process and I love doing that” Bryan said.

Mrs. Bryan also understands the importance of independence throughout the process of looking at colleges. Part of adapting to the new environment was understanding the dynamics of what men in our age range needed help with during the process. A large factor was making sure that all students were heard and understood.

“Really letting you all know that you have a voice and that you can advocate and that its your process and not my process is

one of the most important aspects of the entire experience that I enjoy the most” Bryan said.

Mrs. Bryan was not the only new addition to the counseling staff. Mrs. Waybright was also another new member who began at the same time. She first started as a teacher in low income areas. After five years of teaching 7th graders she became intrigued with college counseling. She first discovered her interest in counseling while seeing her rising 8th graders come to her for advice.

“When my 7th graders became 8th graders at my school, they would all come back to me to help them apply for high school. I just realized I enjoyed that and asked myself ‘why am I not doing this as my main job?’” Waybright said.

After taking a class on how to counsel high school Juniors and Seniors at YES prep, she eventually became the director of counseling at that school. During the pandemic she made the decision to leave that job in search of more personal counseling opportunities.

“I wanted to do more of what I enjoyed and I realized I enjoyed working more with students than



Mrs. Bryan giving a presentation to STH Juniors on how to create an effective resume to use in college applications.

being on a team of adults who make all the decisions” Waybright said.

After she left, she would go on to get her masters in school counseling. She is currently in graduate school while simultaneously working at St. Thomas. Since St. Thomas is a private school and there were previous ties to YES prep in the head of counseling Mrs. Stephenson. St. Thomas was happy to welcome Mrs. Waybright to the school.

Immediately after starting, both Mrs. Bryan and Mrs. Waybright were fully immersed and involved. Having to not only learn all the new systems and needs of the students but also be able to accommodate all families involved was something they were both prepared for. The St. Thomas community has been very lucky to receive two accomplished and kind individuals during such an arduous period. Both of

these new counselors made an incredible impact and will continue to do so for the rest of the school year and possibly even longer.



Mrs. Waybright assisting Junior Zach Rocha with his college resume. (Photo credit: Tristan Esquivel)



Octavio  
Hinojosa

Joe  
Anton



BY MARK CHEEK



While many St. Thomas students take to lifted pickups, conforming to a rather unfortunate stereotype, a select few have gone a complete 180. Unlike most students, they saw the impracticality of a F150, why would they possibly need a 4wd truck? For Octavio and Joe, the obvious choice of car when they became eligible drivers was the Mini Cooper. After all, a Mini can easily take on gravel roads and dirt tracks that many full-size trucks never see.

Octavio enjoys his standard transmission Mini Cooper S and its surprisingly great rates. The horsepower, not the insurance, that is terrible for a male teenager.

“My favorite part of driving my Mini is being able to drive a manual sports car” Octavio said.

With 180 horsepower the Mini may sound underwhelming, that's less than half of the weakest truck, but what the mini lacks in power it earns in weight. In a race to 60 it is only one to two seconds faster than a moderately

“My favorite part of driving my Mini is being able to drive a manual sports car”

equipped truck, but in practice it is much faster. The mini has its wheels at the corners of the car and its weight low and centralized, so it can corner at 0.85g

compared to a full-size truck of approx. 0.7g. All this means that the Mini is much faster in practice, able to hold much more speed in corners (very helpful when trying to beat a red light while turning).

Joe loves his Mini for the easy parking, he can take advantage of compact car spaces and all the spaces where klutzes in BMW's park over the line.

“I get choice parking spots others are forced to pass by” Joe said.



This



is what the Mini is known for to all who are educated in cinematography watching the British classic and the American remake, The Italian Job. Both movies star Mini coopers as the choice getaway vehicle for a gold heist. In the original the Minis can be seen driving through impossible gaps in tight streets and on the roof of the Torino Palavela, Turin, Italy. The modern minis make their way under LA through sewer pipes with millions of dollars' worth of gold in the boot.

The original Mini Cooper was a pop icon in England in the 60s. Everyone from plumbers to rock stars drove a Mini. Soon John Cooper discovered just what Octavio did, the mini was an excellent sports car. He took advantage of the wide stance, central mass, and low weight of the mini, turning it into a rally icon. The Mini outpaced the French, the Germans, and the Italians in their bloated and clumsy sedans. The Mini's penultimate achievement was their three wins at the Monte Carlo rally from 1964 to 1967. The crowning accomplishment being that there was a Mini truck.

Unfortunately, the Mini died with all the other British car manufacturers in the late 70s. However, there was new hope when

BMW revived the brand, producing the first modern Mini in 2001. The modern Mini is a fantastic car, but alas it is plagued with the same flaws as every other BMW, overcomplication and poor durability. The entertainment system is overcomplex and dysfunctional, and the badges and license plates fall off the car. So go buy a Mini, enjoy the go-kart feel; but don't hold it too long or you might just drive the wheels off it.

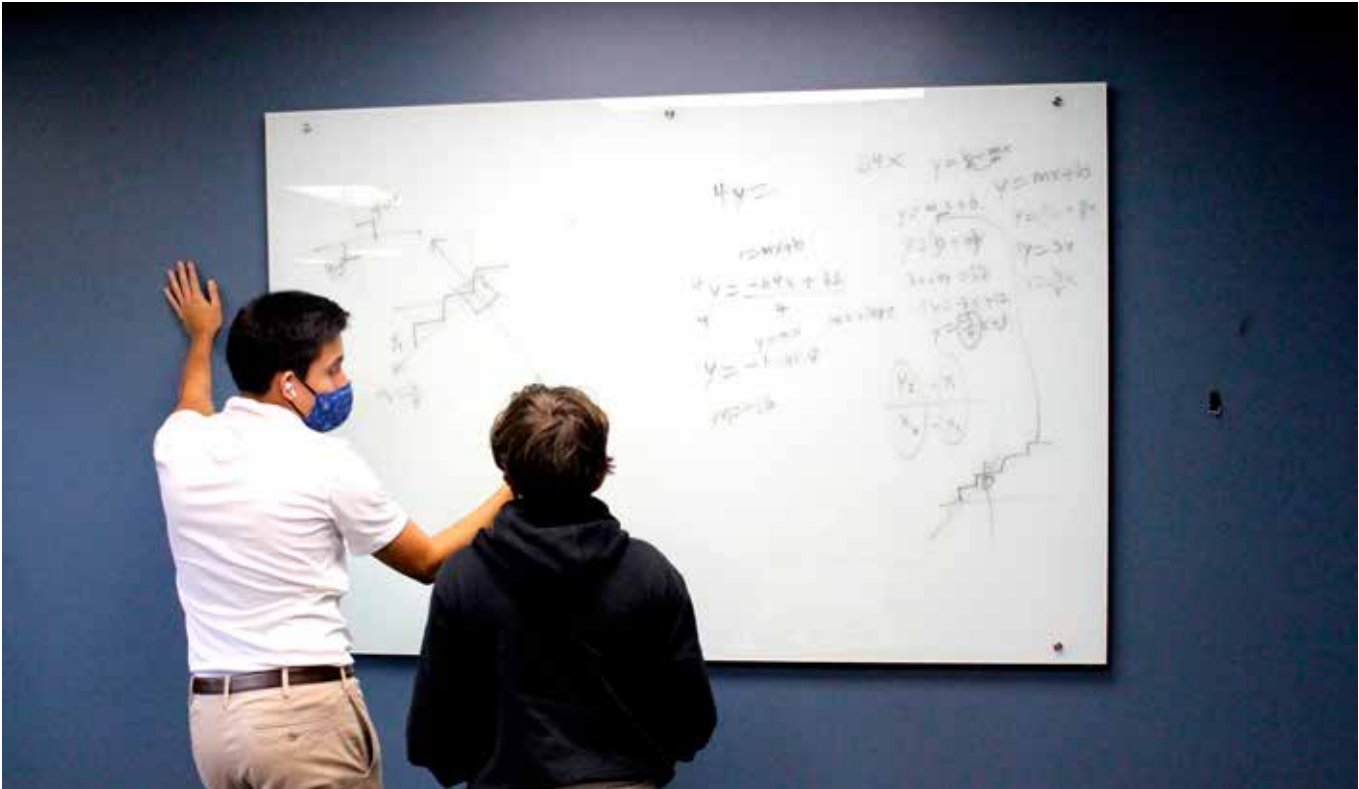
“I get choice parking spots others are forced to pass by”



# Jobs For the Future

BY: BRIAN LIVELY

Below: Joseph Romero '22 helps a younger student with math. Math is essential for future jobs, as math is the building blocks for the language of computers.



This is Generation-Z, otherwise known as the iGen. This generation has more access to information at will than anyone ever in the entire history of mankind. This is due to the exponential growth in digital technology, of course. One of the fastest-growing sectors is artificial intelligence, from automated manufacturing to Siri. But this creates a big problem for the modern workforce: the threat of being replaced by technology. Even for jobs that still have workers, workers may not be able to get higher wages since the company could consider it cheaper to just automate everything. Therefore, looking to prospects of the future is essential.

Your grandparents' jobs, and perhaps even those of your parents, is not the same as jobs today. Inflation and technology have made buying a house and paying

off student debt within a few decades nearly impossible. According to Zippia, the mean household income in America is around \$56,310. Take away about half of that in total taxes, and you're left with \$28,155, or around \$2,346 per month.

According to the US Census Bureau, the average mortgage is \$1,100 per month. Average student loan payments are about \$396 per month. Take away gas, phone bills, food, all that, and you are left with \$161 net gained per month if you budgeted perfectly. And as prices go up and wages stay the same, you have to look to the future.

If technology continues to grow at its current rate, then trade jobs, technological jobs, or STEM-based jobs are the future. While working on an assembly line can be replaced by robots, making the robots for

the assembly line, even coding them, could be lucrative. Computer science in particular is primed for job growth. According to Indeed, the average salary for a Data Scientist is around \$120,000 per year, more than double the overall national average. Network engineers make on average \$88,000, according to Indeed. The mean salary for Software Engineers is around \$101,000. Clearly, jobs for new technology are a good bet.

"It's the future, is it not?" Luka Salcedo '23 exclaimed.

Stem-based jobs are also in high demand. While people avoid STEM because it is the hardest field of study, involving lots of math, they are some of the best jobs available. Engineering averages across the different specializations are \$120,000. Economists make an average of \$110,000. These jobs pay so high because they are hard to do. That makes those who persevere during the difficult college classes much more inclined to succeed as they go through careers.

"STEM is really important no matter what field you go into" Jonathan Jackson '23 said.

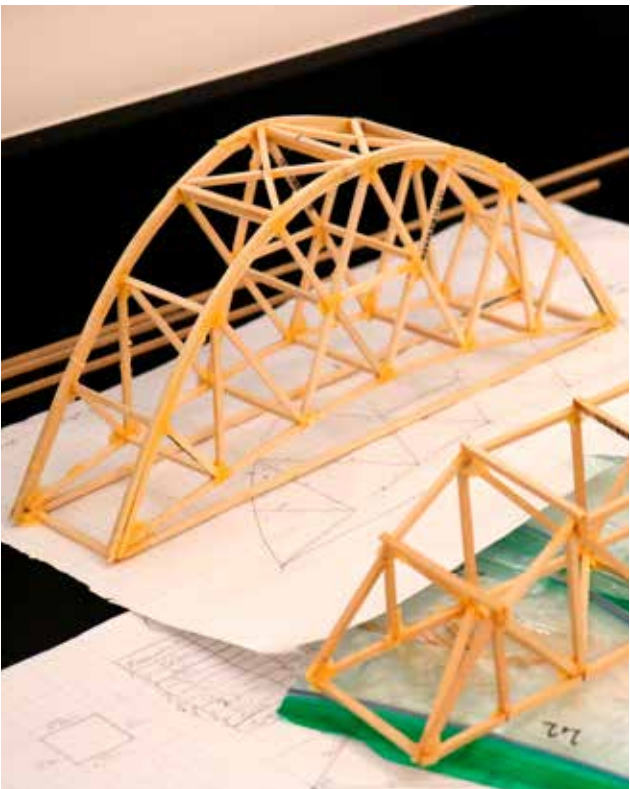
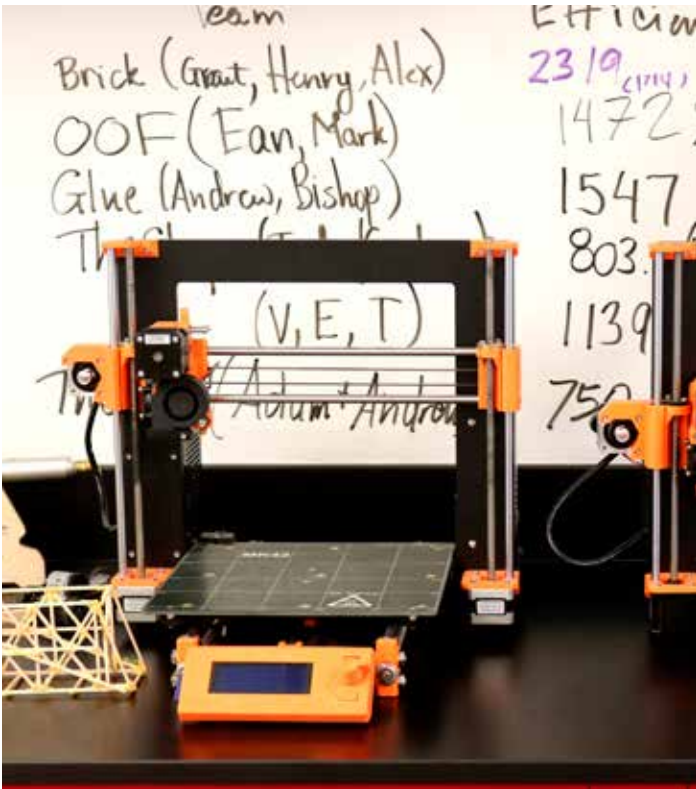
Everyone knows about engineers, doctors, and lawyers, but many people are unaware of jobs that pay handsomely without having to pay for years and years of expensive college. Electricians go through apprenticeships for the first few years instead of college and internships, but they are usually paid for

that training time. Their salary is on average around \$57,000. This seems low in comparison to the others, but they don't have to pay for skyrocketing college costs. If they go to trade school, their costs are much lower. Blue collar jobs are in high-demand, so it is a good potential career for those who don't necessarily want to go the college route. Students agree.

"There's an overabundance in tech jobs. Blue collars jobs are actually doing quite well" Jonathan Jackson '23 agreed.

In all, the staples occupations of the past are not the same today. As getting a college degree is almost mandatory for most jobs, many people seem to be forced to take student loans, only to get jobs that they can barely support themselves on. Therefore, picking the right field to go into is necessary to have a stable life.

Left: The 3D Printing Club showcases emerging technology: printing not just thin flat objects, but also things with real depth. This is becoming more important in many business sectors. Right: The Engineering Club creates models of bridges. Engineering, despite being one of the hardest majors, is tried and true when it comes to careers.





"Pep rallies really boost school spirit," Round Up

"It was an amazing group effort," Student Body President Wyatt Green said.

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# Spider Madness

## Spider Man: No Way Home Review

By: Ethan Vinson



Tom Holland, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Zendaya lead the way for a compelling cast of heroes and villains

In 2021 the world finally saw the return of the annual Marvel movie releases. Thanks to Covid, the comic book movie fandom had been deprived of all 2020 Marvel movie plans. Now in 2021 Marvel movies have returned stronger than ever. While most of the Marvel movies released in 2021 were strong titles, there was one to top them all.

Spider-Man: No Way Home was not only the most anticipated film this year by comic book fans but likely one of the most anticipated superhero movies ever. With a promise of an epic multiversal crossover of different villains from alternate universes, the implications and stakes of this movie rivaled the highly praised Avengers: Endgame.

Spider-Man: No Way Home would close out Marvel's 2021 with a bang as it grossed 1.18 Billion dollars worldwide in its first two weeks. This movie not only received financial success it also received critical acclaim as well. Critics and fans all came to the consensus that this was one of the greatest superhero movies ever! In terms of creating a cohesive story mixed with generational fan service, Marvel created a flawless movie. However, take away the fan service, and this movie is left with untied loose ends and tropes many movies in the superhero genre fall victim to.

Spider-man: No Way Home opens right where the previous movie left off. There is tension and action consistently throughout the movie that rarely lets up. This was a pleasant surprise as dealing with the concept of the multiverse can be highly confusing. I expected a very slow

intro, with extraneous exposition dumps riddled throughout the movie. Instead, the movie keeps throwing the viewer beautifully filmed action sequences mixed with heartfelt sentiment in what feels incredibly relatable.

Peter Parker's identity has been revealed as Spider-Man which causes the massive repercussions of ruining not only his normal life but also his friends' lives. Seeing Peter's world fall apart is told in a very riveting way. Seeing Tom Hollands Peter Parker be genuinely defeated and lost was something fans of the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) have desperately wanted for years.

The main characters Tom Holland and Willem Dafoe as Spider-Man and the Green Goblin give great performances that are able to hide much of the movie's neglect to the other characters. With such a large amalgamation of many different people, a couple of villains and side characters were practically forgotten and just used to make the scale and stakes of the movie grander.

One of the biggest issues with this movie is the magic used throughout. In an attempt to make the world forget that Spider-Man is Peter Parker, Peter asks his fellow Avenger Dr. Strange to cast a spell of forgetfulness. As expected the spell goes horribly wrong and sets up the character crossover. The explanations for why everything went wrong made enough sense to follow. However, the elucidation for how to reverse the spells is where plot holes spring from the ground left and right. Many confusing or absurd concepts

are simply looked past by the writers of this movie.

The writer of the movie Erik Sommers even admitted "We decided, let's try to do it in the most satisfying way and just focus on the emotion of it, and then if people have questions about some of those details that didn't get answered here, we'll answer them hopefully in another movie somewhere down the line" Sommers said.

Much of my confusion and frustration for the ending of this movie rode completely on confusing explanations for concepts that were already hard to comprehend. Adding in additional plot holes just to focus on emotion made it incredibly clear that a holiday release for this movie was more important to Marvel than making what had the potential to be their best movie ever.

Spider-Man No Way Home created a great

balance between a fun story and fan service for all to enjoy. Stellar visuals and superb acting performances made this a wild ride from beginning to end. Although there are some missing pieces that could have easily been found to complete the puzzle, this movie still excels at pleasing superhero fans of all types. This is without a doubt one of the top five best MCU movies and is a must-watch for any comic book fan.

Final score: 8.5/10







# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

## ***A retrospective on St. Thomas' Technology department***

*Over the past few decades, the rapid evolution of technology has shaped mankind as a whole. The growth of instantaneous, widespread information through the internet has alone changed how people meet each other, interact, and communicate. Although technology is used every day as a person-to-person communication method, many people often overlook how big of an impact technology has had on the world's most important communicator: schools. Despite scientific advances in almost every other domain, there has been very little progress over the past couple of centuries when it comes to increasing the bandwidth of the human brain. Unlike computers, human brains cannot read and write information at electronic speeds. For computers, transferring information happens at the speed of light, while neurons fire at only a mere two-hundred miles an hour, taking years to 'download' subjects from a school's curriculum. Although humans are a long-ways off from reaching computer-like intelligence speeds, the rise of technology has made it easier for teachers to communicate their lessons.*

*The school-assigned laptop is the most powerful tool that every St. Thomas student has in their*

*arsenal, allowing them to take notes, communicate with teachers, write papers, and break Tetris records on the fly. Although the laptop does serve its purpose pretty well, there are many critics of the St. Thomas laptop program. Many seniors believe that they should be able to bring their own laptops, as it was a senior privilege in years past. After consulting with STEM teacher Mrs. Warnes and technology professional Mr. Cortez, it turns out that St. Thomas' laptop program is actually much more complicated than it seems.*

*Although many students want to bring their own laptops to enhance their school experience, Mrs. Warnes believes that a diversity in school laptops can create inequality in the St. Thomas learning experience.*

*"One of the reasons that I really love our laptop system is because it's a big equalizer. I know some students want to bring their fancy laptops, but they don't realize how much inequity that creates in the classroom... some students, they're not used to having anything, so maybe having uniform laptops can allow the more experienced students to help out the less experienced student," said Mrs. Warnes.*

ARTICLE BY ROBERT LONGO



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE | PART 2

While there is certainly importance in maintaining equality in St. Thomas' technology policy, the uniform laptop system facilitates technological integration across the board. By keeping the hardware constant, the St. Thomas IT team is able to unite the St. Thomas community through its ability to constantly push out new software. Although many St. Thomas students do not realize it, the IT team utilizes 'digital images', constantly putting out new software to aid learning, dynamically adjusting to the school's needs. Through these 'software images', the IT team protects students against malware, backs up everyone's files, and installs all necessary learning software to everyone's computer without a second thought. Beyond creating ease-of-use among students, this also allows students to quickly change to a new laptop in case of a hardware failure while maintaining all previous user data.

According to Mr. Cortez, a member of St. Thomas' IT department, the school laptops were chosen to tailor to student and teachers' needs.

"Even though [the IT department] is in this for education, we're not doing the teaching. The teachers have a better understanding of what

kind of tools they want their students to use, which is why we listen to their feedback. We looked through a couple of different laptop models, and used a process of elimination to see which one works best and is the most flexible for us," said Mr. Cortez.

Although the school laptops are probably not built for high-intensity graphics or video-game processing, they check the boxes for every task they must take on. For the math and science department, the laptops are an effective tool that allows students to take notes and submit worksheets through use of the laptop's touchscreen. The laptops' uniform software allows students to type up and print english papers through the laptops' printing software. The laptops' SD card reader allows journalism students to quickly download photos. The list goes on and on.

Maybe, down the line, St. Thomas will discover a solution that will allow St. Thomas' technologically-unexperienced to adapt at the same rate as it is with its current, uniform laptop program. Until then, however, the school laptops are probably more useful than they are given credit for.



Tommy Erb '23 tactfully uses OneNote to solve an AP Physics 1 Problem



Above: Alessio Del Castillo '22 and Parker St. Raymond '22 moderate EBN  
Below: Brett Koehn '22 and Robert Longo '22 compete in HPE Code Wars



## THE GROWTH OF STEM

Since middle school, I have taken every science and math class that I could fit into my schedule, and participated in many clubs to develop my scientific understanding. As a future computer science major, I am partial towards the STEM subjects, and because I have already taken Computer Science A, I feel that there should be a 'next step' for future Computer Scientists at St. Thomas. However, before I open a can of worms pitching new courses St. Thomas should add to its already large list, it is only right to point out how

far STEM has pushed forward at St. Thomas over the past couple of years. In just a couple of years, St. Thomas has created new class options for students to take, including, but not limited to:

- Applications of Engineering
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Computer Science Principles
- Introduction to Cybersecurity
- Robotics <Class>
- Digital Graphics I and II
- Broadcast Journalism

According to Mrs. Warnes, the biggest bottleneck to adding new classes is St. Thomas' limited enrollment:

"If we add another STEM class, each of the other classes loses two students. The downside of St. Thomas students being multifaceted is that you have to take a lot of classes, and there's just not enough room in your schedule. If I knew that there would be 20 students that were going to take eight semesters of technology, then we could offer more classes, but the truth is everybody takes two or three, and then it's a rare student who takes four," said Mrs. Warnes.

The biggest change in schooling the present day is the evolution of technology and how it can assist the learning process.



