

THE EAGLE!

A group of students are gathered together, cheering and holding a large megaphone. The students are wearing various colored shirts, including red and grey. One student in the foreground is wearing a grey t-shirt and has a white headband. Another student in the background is wearing a blue t-shirt and glasses. The background is a bright blue sky with some green foliage visible.

**ST. THOMAS
HIGH SCHOOL**

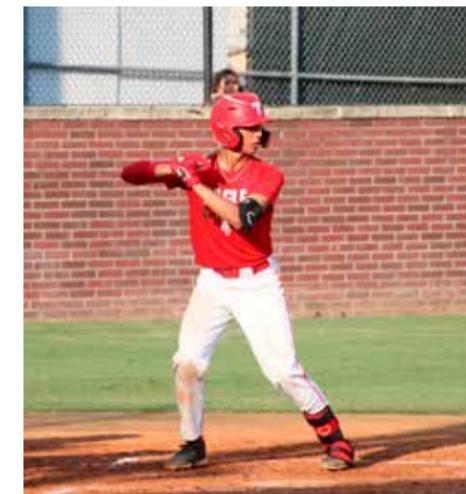
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COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN

by Robert Longo

A call for standardized communication at St. Thomas

Out of St. Thomas' three core values, discipline is, in my opinion, the value that I have struggled with the most over the course of my high school career. Like any other high school student, I often put myself in sticky situations due to poor decision making, a lack of organization, or a combination of both. For instance, when I transferred into St. Thomas my sophomore year, my first three homework grades were zeros because I did not even know what a LAP was until the second week of school. Although I have since adjusted to St. Thomas' methods of communication, over these past two years, I still occasionally find myself in similar situations of ignorance

when it comes to homework assignments and school events. Whenever I miss a homework assignment or date for an important event, I am quick to blame myself because after all, the odds of me missing something and not adding it to my calendar are much higher than the school miscommunicating. In fact, it is almost a sin for me to critique St. Thomas' communication methods as someone who sends typo-ridden emails and can barely read his own notes. So, before I put the blame on everyone else because of my disorganization, I decided to see what everyone else has to say.

This past month, I ran a survey through social media and word of mouth in order to scientifically discover if ignorance

is a common plague in the St. Thomas community, or if my case of ignorance just happens to be uniquely severe. While I initially believed that both of these were true, only cold, hard evidence would satisfy me in my quest. After reviewing data from many students, teachers, and alumni, here are my findings:

In general, the majority of those interviewed believe that St. Thomas communication is in a stable condition; however, almost every single person I interviewed had at least some feedback or suggestions for the sake of minimizing miscommunications. Before we delve straight into the remedies for St. Thomas' alleged communication's shortcomings, it is important to

Thoughts from the *STH Communication* survey...

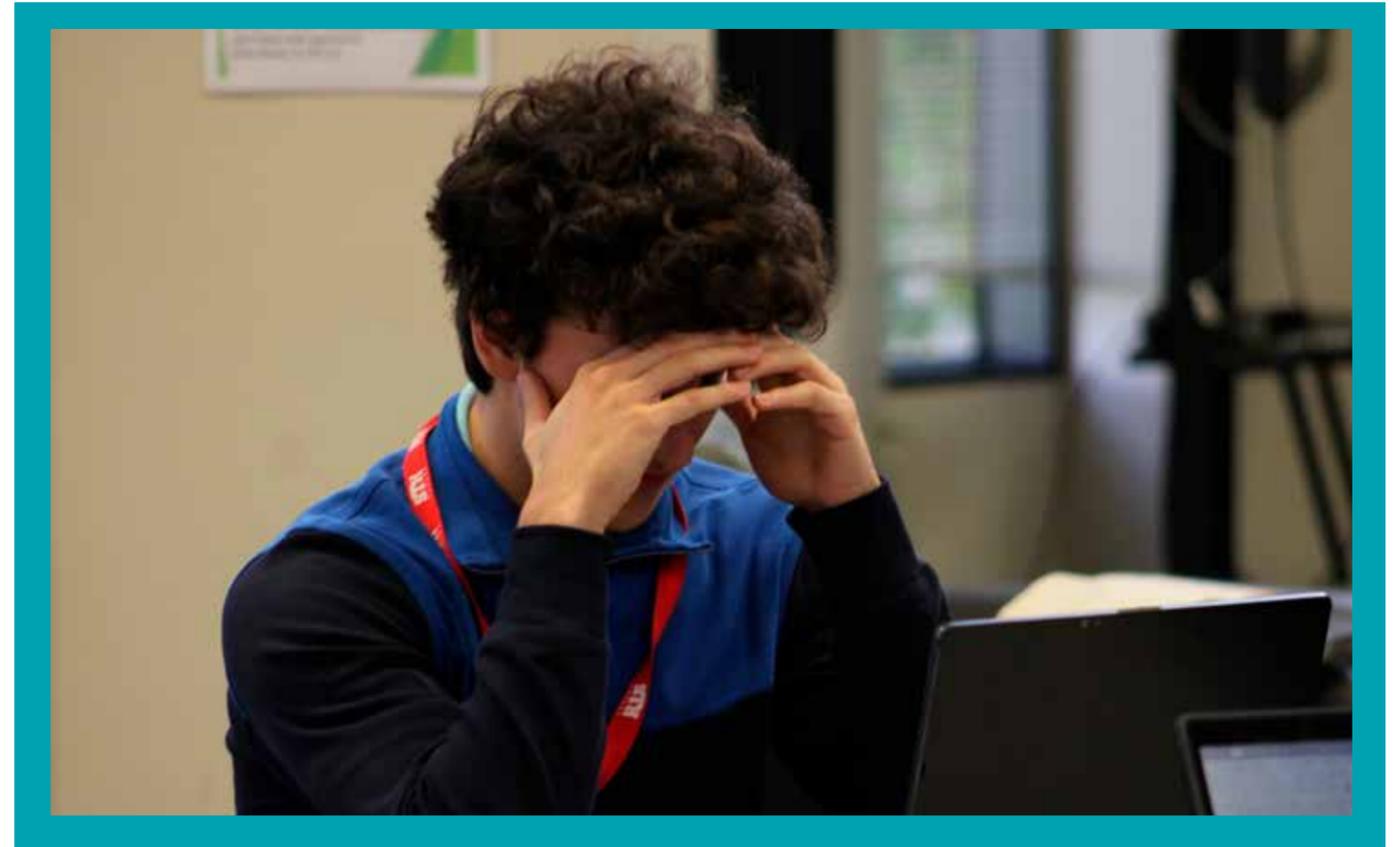
How would you rate St. Thomas communication?

"5/5 - I Love St. Thomas"

"2/5 - Make all teachers use Microsoft Teams or Google Classroom"

"3/5 - Alright for what it is"

"4/5 - No suggestions"



set the context. So, what does St. Thomas communication look like? For starters, the LAP is the centerpiece for everything that happens within the classroom. A LAP is a syllabus that each teacher posts on the St. Thomas portal at the beginning of every unit, containing vital information about the classwork, homework, quizzes, tests, and projects for each unit. When done right, LAPs work very well in keeping students and teachers organized, since they allow students to work ahead as well as catch up on missed work from previous days.

At its best, LAPs are fairly effective at their job, because similar to university syllabuses, students must learn to gather information from many sources and neatly organize dates and assignments into their own calendar. Beyond LAPs, teachers will also communicate with students through email, and communicate

assignment changes or important dates for their classes. This too prepares students for the real world,

sometimes, their teachers' LAPs have been unreliable, with the teachers recycling LAPs from previous

years without updating the dates or changes in classwork. This alone can put a great amount of stress on students, with the students being frequently surprised by assignments, quizzes, and tests that they did not know they had. One parent complained that it was hard for his son to quickly extract important dates from many LAPs, especially since many LAPs had completely different formats. For instance, some LAPs organize homework by its

List of St. Thomas High School Instagram Pages

- @STHCATHOLIC @STHEAGLES__STUDENTS
- @STH__FOOTBALL @STH__BASKETBALL @STHSOCCER
- @STH__RUGBY @STHFINARTS @STHLACROSSE
- @STH__EBN (DEFUNCT) @STH__COUNSELORS
- @STHEAGLEGUARD @STHEAGLES
- @STH__EAGLE__STORE @STH.CHEER

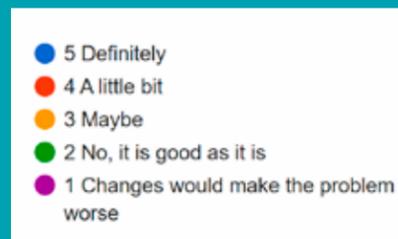
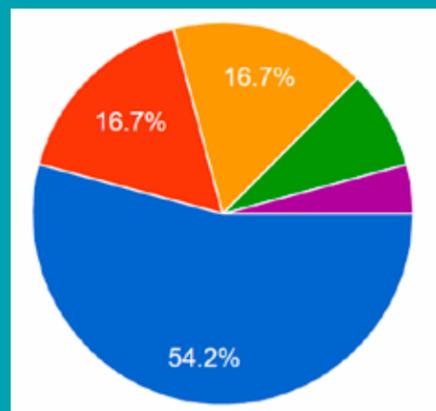
as we will all have to get in the habit of checking our email multiple times a day.

However, while these simple forms of communication can work brilliantly on paper, many of the people interviewed point out many flaws in St. Thomas' execution of their communication methods. Many students, for instance, indicated that

due date, while other LAPs organize homework by its assignment date, causing his son to spend about thirty-to-forty minutes every two weeks just searching for and copying down dates into his agenda.

Across the board, the biggest issue that people had with St. Thomas' communication was

Do you think St. Thomas would benefit from a more standardized communication structure?



the apparent dilution of important information. For those who are in touch with every form of St. Thomas communication, it is possible to go almost an entire year without missing out on an important event or piece of information. However, many people argue that it is far too difficult to stay 'in-the-loop' when it comes to St. Thomas, especially for those not deeply involved in the community.

Because information is not always conveyed through concise emails or LAPs, an involved St. Thomas family has to juggle receiving information through Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, Hudl, Remind, St. Thomas' Facebook page, word of mouth, one of St. Thomas' 13+ Instagram pages, the St. Thomas Events Calendar, and EBN. Beyond this, teachers also often provide grade feedback through

OneNote and Turnitin.com. While all of these are great resources, the biggest problem with St. Thomas communication is that there is not a central, reliable hub where anyone can always receive complete and reliable information. While any one of these sources are accurate to a good extent, families often have to search through many different sources to find complete information. For instance, the St. Thomas Events Calendar, possibly the best resource for students and families to find important information about St. Thomas events, contains almost no information about school clubs. Therefore, most students who are interested in clubs either have to search for club information through word of mouth, or bring out the pen and paper during EBN. Look, I could nitpick all day, but what good am I if I am not being constructive with my criticism?

My pitch for a more standardized communication structure is actually fairly simple, and easily executable under my estimation. The first and simplest thing that I am calling for is for every teacher to ensure that their LAPs are updated and accurate. If that is the case, then students should never have to worry about searching through Microsoft

Teams or Google Classroom for their assignments, as all of their classwork and homework assignments should already be transferred from their LAP and into the calendar or agenda of their choice. Beyond that, all direct student-to-teacher communication should be done through email, since it prepares students for the real world, and ensures that both parties receive the message, since most people already have the Outlook App installed on their phone, and not everyone has Microsoft Teams installed on their phone or home computers. When it comes to school events, sports, and club meetings, the St. Thomas Events Calendar should continue to be maintained at its current state while allowing clubs to more easily add meetings and important information to the calendar. If the calendar is properly maintained in this manner, then it can easily be the centerpiece for all of St. Thomas campus life. Once this reliable information source is streamlined, the problem of 'diluted information' may be solved automatically, because even though there will still be an excess of emails and social media posts, everyone can at least rely on a singular source to always have concise, correct information.

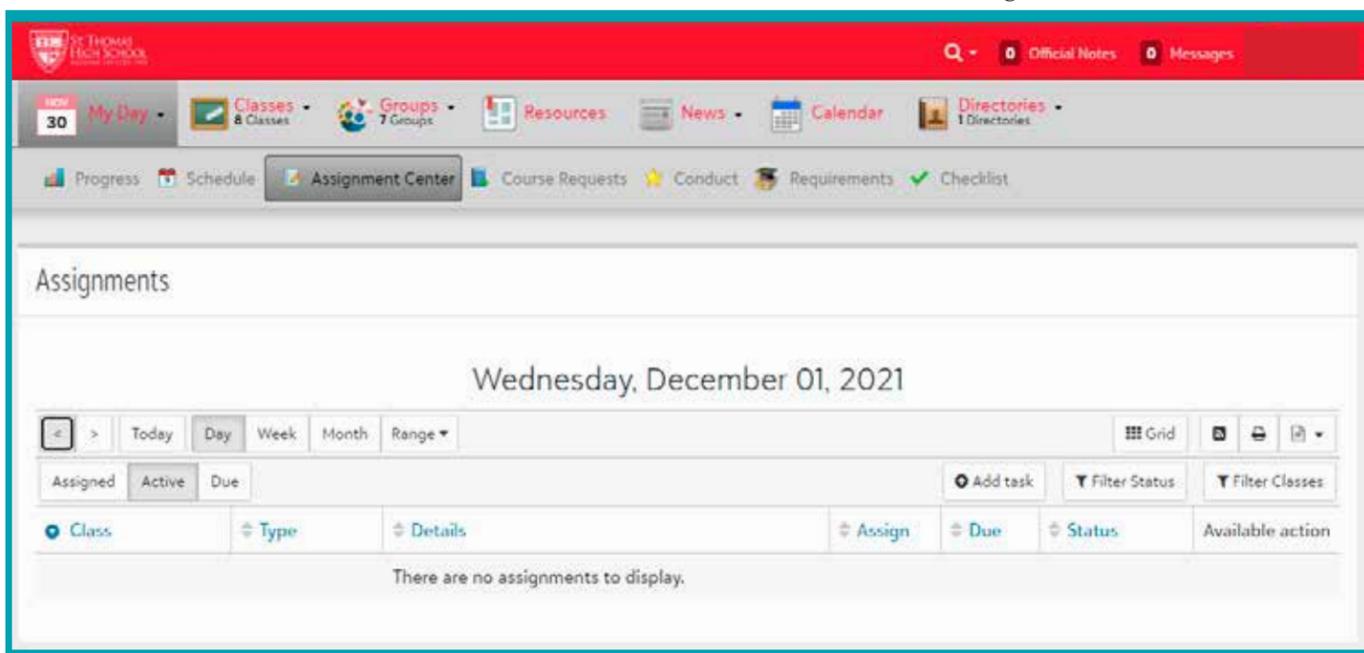
Because digital calendars are so reliable at quickly communicating dates and information, I think that they should be used for assigning homework as well. While this may seem very difficult to implement, what many people forget is that St. Thomas already has a homework calendar integrated into its portal. The "Assignment Center", is incomplete in its current state, with only some teachers adding their due dates and assignments some of the time. However, if teachers always posted a class' homework and important dates on the Assignment Center, then students would never have to worry about missing an important date even if their teacher has an incomplete LAP. Beyond eliminating the stress tied in with miscommunications, the Assignment Center can also eliminate students' stress with its "cross-off" feature. The act of crossing off assignments can make completing homework a much more rewarding process and allows students to rest easy after all of their work is complete. If this practice was implemented in a full and complete manner, then at some point, LAPs would not be necessary, as



students would be able to see all of their assignments and access all necessary information by looking forward in the portal's calendar. In this state, teachers would also be able to easily move test and assignment dates around with ease, which can actually save a lot of time in the grand scheme of things. I am not making the case to do away with LAPs completely, but it is still some interesting food for thought. After asking teachers for their view on St. Thomas communication, I was enlightened to see a different side of the same coin. While many students find it annoying to have switch between Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, and many more forms of communication, many teachers appreciate all of the different applications that they can use in order to more effectively teach their material. OneNote, for instance, provides the math department with a valuable resource that allows students to take quality notes, show their work, turn in their homework, and receive feedback from their teachers even if they are learning remotely. For AP Computer Science A students, Microsoft Teams is every student's bread and butter, as it contains class notes to look back on, extra resources, an outlet to submit classwork, tests, and a convenient way to ask for help. By giving teachers the freedom to work with more resources, they

can, to some extent, teach more effectively. While standardizing communication can be a great convenience, it can also restrict teachers to some extent. Regardless, beyond creating LAPs, teachers currently have the freedom to communicate with students through almost any outlet of their choosing, so the only way that teachers could reach a consensus when it comes to communication is if they all did so collectively.

I think the people that are most appreciative of St. Thomas communication as it currently stands are people that have experienced the public school system, and I cannot blame them. Compared to most public schools, St. Thomas communication is an institution like no other. Despite the can of worms that I have opened today, if nothing changed, St. Thomas communication would still be very good. The reason that I am so hard on the school that has shown me community, brotherhood, and love is because I want to see this school thrive long after I am gone. When people ask why I left my previous high school, all I say is: "This year, some schools may be ranked higher on NICHE.com. This year, some schools may have better or worse sports teams, but St. Thomas has a heart, and that is something you can never take away from it."



FALL OLYMPICS

BY: CALEB DAVIS

Belisch Junior Andrew Roy kicks a game-tying home run in the bottom of the fifth inning, evening the game at 2-2. Belisch would go on to win the game in the eleventh inning.



Students compete in various house competitions such as tug-of-war and dodge ball during this year's Fall Olympics.

Fall Olympics is an annual house competition St. Thomas celebrates at the end of every October. Students compete in games and contests such as dodge ball, kickball, and basketball to win points for their house. This year's Fall Olympics was extra special, as it was the first time the St. Thomas community could have fun spending time with one another without Covid-19 social distancing and masks since March of 2020.

The highlight of this year's Fall Olympics was the House Dodge ball Tournament. Beginning in the first week of October, each house competed in a school wide single-elimination tournament to find which one will reign supreme as the champion. Throughout October, heated games and house rivalries emerged, and by the fateful championship day, only House Magee and House Roche remained. Before the closing ceremonies of the Fall Olympics, the entire school packed into Reckling Gym to spectate the legendary match. It was best two out of three, and as the final bell rang to mark the end of school, House Roche was crowned the champions.

While dodge ball was certainly the main attraction, other competitions were very popular

as well. The house basketball tournament was highly competitive, as houses competed in a 5v5 March Madness-style tournament that featured House Cooper dominating House Belisch in the championship.

"It was a great feeling to play alongside my Eagle Brothers. These days are super important when it comes to building house spirit and enthusiasm," said House Cooper basketball Jack Keeler.

Out of all the competitions, the house kickball tournament had the most fireworks. Houses Wilson and Roche competed in the final. With Wilson being down 2-0 in the final inning, Andrew Roy kicked the game-tying two-run home run. Finally, after eleven innings, Wilson completed the epic comeback that began from Andrew's two-run blast.

"Right off the foot, I knew it was gone," House Wilson kickball hero Andrew Roy said, "There was no greater feeling than jogging the bases with my entire team cheering from behind the plate."

Especially after a year and a half ravaged by Covid-19, it was incredible to see the St. Thomas community enjoy the annual day of exciting house tournaments and delicious food. This year's Fall Olympics was certainly one for the ages.



Roche juniors Jackson Knowler (left) and Matthew Fote (right) wind up to pelt opponents from House O'Rourke.

Red Team in Five

By: Luke Evans

The Fall World Series has become an annual tradition for the St. Thomas baseball program. Taking place at the same time as the MLB World Series, senior baseball players act as captains and draft their teams from players participating in the off-season workouts. Team White and Team Red have been playing each other for the last three years in an intense seven game series in order to win bragging rights as well as a steak dinner during the program's Christmas dinner. The losers of the series serve the winning team their steaks, while the losing team eats beans.

The senior captains are in charge of lineups, pitching rotations, and are given freedom to build their team as they try and produce the best lineup to win them the series. There is a catch, however, as there is both a "A" team lineup and a "B" team lineup. This means that everyone on the team, regardless of seniority or experience in the program, will be able to contribute

to their team and have a chance to play. There are four games for the A teams to play each other and three games for the B teams to play each other.

This split truly allows for the freshmen to show what they can do on the field, and helps build a sense of real brotherhood on the team. It takes players from each grade level to win the Fall World Series, not just the oldest guys on the team.

This year's team captains have been a part of the series since their sophomore year, the year that the Fall World Series was implemented into the St. Thomas Baseball Program. Over the years the Fall World Series has been filled with walk offs, shut outs from pitchers, and home runs. The senior captains have experienced all of these moments and this year had the chance to face each other and build their lineups.

Some of the major highlights of the Fall World Series included Logan Duplantis' ('23) three



Jacob Cueva ('22) just before he hits a double for the White Team.

run home run for the Red Team in game one, which shifted the momentum in their favor and would help them take the first game of the series. The Red Team's Gavin Ernst ('24) also launched a one run home run in Game 7, as they continued to show the pop that their lineup has. The White team was also able to produce some offense as well with Chris Mendoza ('23) hitting a triple



Jack Clinton ('23) in his first of two starts taking the win over the White Team.

that landed just in front of the left field wall off of the White Team's dominant ace Jack Clinton ('23). Clinton was able to rally though, preventing that run from scoring in Game 5 and going on to throw a complete shutout in all seven innings of Game 5. These are just a few of the competitive moments that can be seen from players across all grade levels in the program, each trying to contribute to their team's success.

The White Team's Captains were Jacob Cueva ('22), Jacob Walker ('22), and Luke Evans ('22), while the Red Team's Captains were Jack Hanks ('22) and Jack Clinton ('23). Each of these Captains have been in the St. Thomas Baseball Program for multiple years and have their own favorite moment in the Fall World Series over the years. "As the coach of the Red Team in my senior year, leading my team and winning the Fall World Series has definitely been my favorite moment," Hanks said.

"Game five was definitely my favorite moment. Pitching with a chance to win the series for the Red Team and striking out 13 while throwing a complete shutout was an incredible feeling" Clinton said.

Hanks and Clinton led their team to victory, which has clearly been the highlight of their Fall World Series experience.

The Captains of the White Team were also able to reflect on their time playing in the Fall World Series. "I have appreciated the opportunity to lead the younger members of my team while also getting closer with my other teammates," Walker said.

"The thrill of playing against my teammates in a friendly competition for bragging rights against each other has been a great experience," Cueva said.

Despite the White Team's loss, Cueva, Evans, and Walker still enjoyed the experience of playing against their teammates and were able to lead the White Team's A team to a tied series of 2-2 against the Red Team's A team. The Red Team ended up winning the series 4-1 and the series ended with a seven game split of 5-2.

Although the Red Team won the series and the White Team is left disappointed, it is evident that The Fall World Series is an excellent way for the entire baseball program to come together in a competitive environment and become one team. The Fall World Series requires each player to contribute to their team, building a true sense of community throughout the program. After this impressive performance, the Red Team can look forward to eating their steaks, served by the White Team who will be eating beans.



Jack Hanks ('22) standing on second base, preparing to score for the Red Team.

Dying of Thirst: Dune Movie Review

By: Ethan Vinson

Dune is a movie filled with slow pacing, excellent cinematography, and lots and LOTS of sand. I saw this movie opening weekend at my local Edwards cinema. This was a 1 pm matinee showing and the crowd for the theater I went to was not very large. This was an afternoon showing after all and I assumed that the crowds would have shown up the previous night, opening night. While I was disappointed in not being able to experience any crowd reactions, it was easier to be able to focus on the film. In the end, this ended up playing in my favor because the movie took all my focus for me to keep up.

Dune is based on the sci-fi novel released in 1965. It was one of the greatest hits of the time and was the inspiration for many different popular franchises. From *Star Wars* to *Game of Thrones*, or even *2001: A Space Odyssey*. It seems each of those franchises took one, or many different aspects of *Dune* and expanded upon them to help build their own universes. After many years and failed attempts at making a successful on-screen adaptation of the beloved novel, fans of the book have finally gotten their wish! I am happy to report that despite its issues, *Dune* is a fantastic film.

Dune begins by following the main character Paul Atrides (played by Timothee Chala-

met). Paul is the son of the Lord Duke of the family house Atrides. This family has become a very powerful family throughout the galaxy due to their air and sea superiority. As Paul has grown older, he is starting to get tested more on his physical strength in case he has to take up the mantle of Lord Duke sooner than later. While Paul is growing stronger he starts to have strange visions. He starts having dreams about a girl on the desert planet Arrakis. Paul has also seen his best friend Dunkin Idaho (played by Jason Momoa) get killed in combat on the same planet. When Paul confides in his mother about these visions, she believes that he will eventually have the ability 'to see'. This means that with training, Paul will be able to see into the future and interpret his surroundings unlike anyone else in the universe. Throughout the rest of the film, Paul will experience many bizarre visions that either allude to later parts of the movie, or to part two of the story coming in 2023.

Dune focuses a lot on political intrigue and the power struggle over production of the most valuable substance in the universe: Spice. Spice is a substance that when inhaled, gives the person supernatural awareness. This has given humanity the ability to travel in space and advance in technology at an extremely advanced rate. Spice originates from the sand dunes on the

desert planet Arrakis. The rival to House Atrides, the Harkonnens, have been harvesting spice from Arrakis for years. However, there is a treacherous plan formed by the emperor of the galaxy and the Harkonnens. By royal decree the Harkonnens are asked to leave Arrakis and house Atrides is sent to take over production of spice. Soon thereafter the Harkonnens attack and kill all members of house Atrides except for a few survivors. Two of the survivors are Paul and his mother Lady Jessica (played by Rebecca Ferguson). For the rest of the movie, Paul travels throughout the desert sands of Arrakis trying to survive. Now as the new Lord Duke of Atrides, Paul's mission is to make peace with the locals of Arrakis and eventually defeat the Harkonnens. The movie ends on a cliffhanger as Paul has just made an alliance with one group of locals and they head off to keep expanding the alliances.

Acting for *Dune* was slightly above average. With an all-star cast ranging from Zendaya to Josh Brolin, there were moments where the acting was the star of this movie. Timothee Chalamet surprised me with his performance as Paul. Taking advantage of Paul's anger and confusion, Chalamet uses this to his advantage for a very well-done performance. The other actors throughout the movie did their jobs well enough.



There was never a truly memorable performance in this movie, unfortunately. Perhaps they are saving the best of these characters for part 2. While the acting was good, the true strength of this movie was the cinematography and score. This was without a doubt, the best cinematography for any science fiction film I have ever seen. The desert sands make for an astounding backdrop amongst the gorgeous shots. There are many vehicles used in this movie with the primary ship being one in the shape of a dragonfly. While in flight some of the most magnificent shots of the desert are captured. Another impressive feat was capturing the notorious monster of *Dune*, the sand worm. These worms can get up to 140 meters in length and are terrifying creatures. Each time a sand worm was coming to attack a vessel or person, the suspense the movie created was impeccable. The shots move from worm to human, while using the score of a very low thumping from the drums. Each time a sand worm entered the scene I instantly became

terrified as I genuinely believed at that moment, no one was safe. The score for this movie is also equally impressive. Hans Zimmer does a fantastic job capturing the feel and culture of the desert planet. With excellent moments of suspense as mentioned above, combined with comforting moments of calm, the music in this movie left me in awe. Because Arrakis is only a desert planet, one of the most valuable resources there is water itself. The shots in this movie were focused quite often on the technology used to savor every last drop of water. Because of how immersive this movie was, I constantly found myself thirsty and quite thankful that I had my own personal water at the ready. *Dune* truly makes the audience feel invested in the story and become greatly aware of the harsh conditions of Arrakis.

There are many fantastic aspects of *Dune*, unfortunately, though, not everything about this movie is perfect. One of the absolute worst parts of this movie is the pacing in the third act.

Most of the third act is walking in the desert followed by an anticlimactic cliffhanger ending. Parts of this movie truly had me on the edge of my seat, while other parts would make for a good lullaby if I'm fighting insomnia. The action in this movie is fairly lackluster. There are a few exciting scenes here and there but for the most part, it is very dialogue-heavy and paced very slowly. It is quite prevalent that this entire movie is meant to set up for the next two parts to complete the trilogy. The most likely scenario is that this series will only improve even further moving forward.

Dune is an exceptional movie with a massive scale. It establishes character arcs through both solid writing and acting. The set pieces and score were absolutely fantastic and blew me away. I cannot wait to see how the next two parts continue the beloved story and hopefully do it justice in the process!

Final score: 8.5/10



THE WAR ON INJURIES

BY MITCH ONUFROW

When most people think of the word injury a few things come to mind. Some people see injuries as something very common in sports, most people remember an injury or two from sports in their life, and everybody understands how real injuries are. But no matter how well you care for your health there is always risk of injury in sports, and unfortunately, injuries are a very hard thing to understand.

The main question that is raised by any injury is simply: how can I fix this problem and get back to the field better than ever? To do this we must first seek to understand an injury.

The simplest definition would be something that stops you from playing. Injuries can be sorted into the fol-

lowing categories: strains/sprains, contusions/bruises, fractures/broken bones, concussions, and others that don't fit into any of the previously mentioned categories.

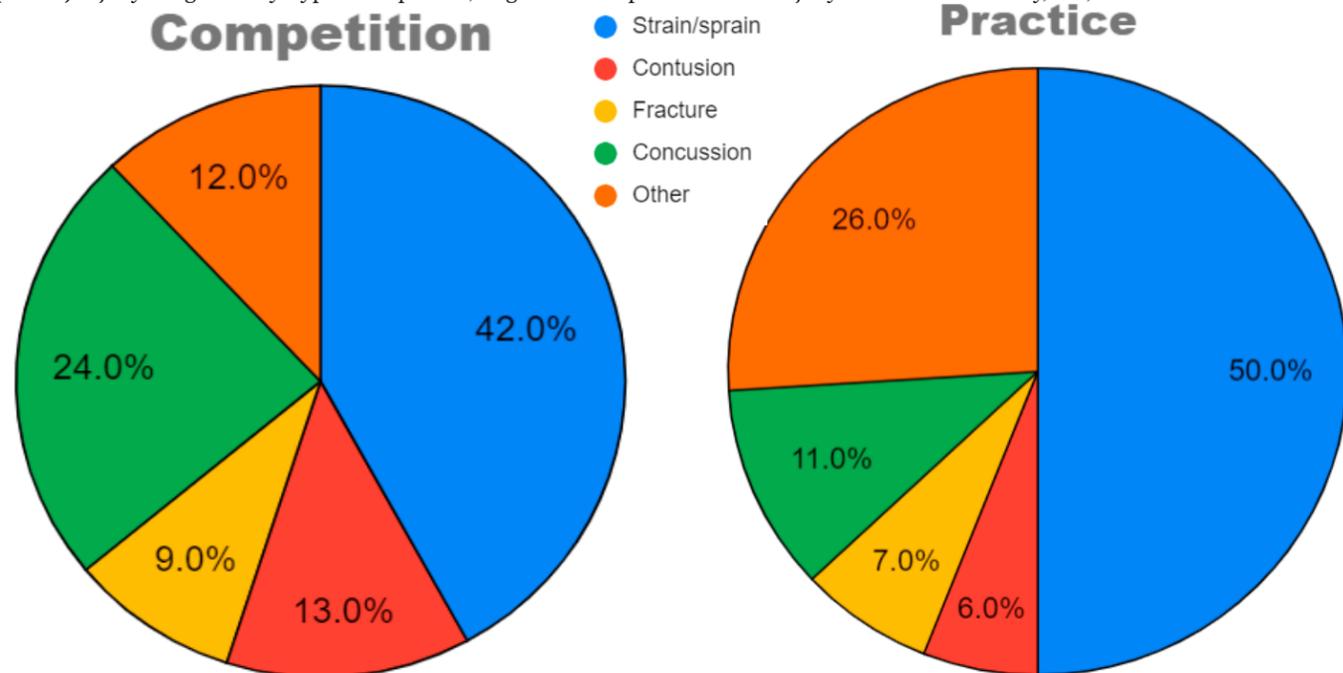
All of these kinds of injuries can take players out of the game for weeks on end. The kind of injury that leaves the least visible damage and has the shortest recovery time is the notorious concussion. An injury that is common, newer than any other kind of injury, and can affect players for their entire life, especially if a player gets many concussions.

Looking at statistics from the 2018-19 school year, head and ankle/knee injuries are by far the most common injuries. This leaves us with two main targets:

(Below) Body Site of Injury by Type of Exposure, High School Sports-Related Injury Surveillance Study, US, 2018-19 School Year

Body Site	Competition		Practice		Overall	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Head/face	199,993	26.8%	79,018	14.1%	279,011	21.4%
Ankle	146,466	19.6%	92,320	16.5%	238,786	18.3%
Knee	103,469	13.8%	77,404	13.8%	180,873	13.8%
Hip/thigh/upper leg	55,565	7.4%	73,627	13.2%	129,192	9.9%
Hand/wrist	58,669	7.8%	41,770	8.0%	103,439	7.9%
Shoulder	52,685	7.0%	47,859	8.6%	100,544	7.7%

(Below) Injury Diagnosis by Type of Exposure, High School Sports-Related Injury Surveillance Study, US, 2018-19 School Year



head injuries, meaning make the head stronger or lessen contact with the head especially in games; and leg strains/sprains, find some way to strengthen these joints and ligaments and lessen the strain placed on them, especially during practice.

Many discussions have been had over lessening contact with the head in order to minimize injuries for sports like football and rugby. Especially in rugby, due to the players having no padding at all. The discussion is geared toward how harsh punishments should be for contact to the head. And while those off the field discuss these problems, those on the field have to fix them as best they can.

One way to minimize the effect of head contact is to hit the gym. Athletes will often strengthen their necks in order to be able to absorb more force from high blows. Putting in that extra work can often save players from the miserable two-week vacation known as concussion protocol.

Weightlifting is also great for strengthening joints and ligaments in order to help stop common injuries in the legs. Stretching is also

an amazing way to keep everything from your muscles to your joints in the best shape it can be.

But nevertheless, players will get injured. And when they get injured the focus must be turned to recovery.

Recovery is a more complex thing than many people think it is. Lots of people might think that the hardest part of recovery is not being able to do anything. For example, if a player breaks an important bone such as an arm or leg, it is obvious that they will have more difficulty with everyday tasks.

But this will not affect them as much as they might be affected by the isolation of an injury. If a player is hospitalized or unable to come into school due to a serious injury they can end up feeling very isolated from their friends and teammates, which will probably hold them back more than anything else. And while this could make some players more pumped up to get back on the field, for the majority it will probably just make them lose drive.

So what's the remedy? Mental health is a new topic that is coming into sports. It's new, unex-

plored territory that we don't know too much about. But anybody who knows how to build a good culture around their team will know it's important to make an accepting, family-like vibe and culture within their team.

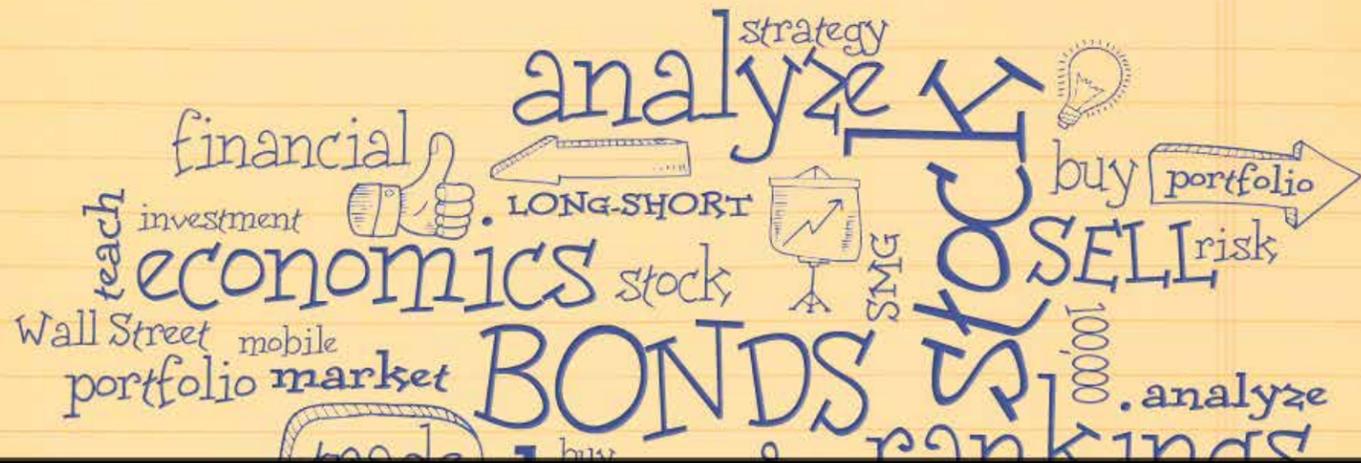
Looking out for your teammates helps to extend the sense of team off the field and helps build a championship culture. A team has to look out for itself to become a well-oiled machine.

Reach out to those injured players, give them a person to talk to and a shoulder to lean on. Teammates have to look out for each other. That is what makes sports so great. That is what makes teammates brothers. That is why we play.

The way you overcome an injury is by taking to the field once again better than ever, in any way you can. That is what every great athlete does. But no great athlete does it alone. Team sports need a team. So whenever a player gets injured, the entire team should set out to chase the ultimate goal of recovery: taking to the field better than they ever were before.



(Above) St. Thomas athletes taking to the field against John Paul II in the Catholic Bowl.



The L0\$ing Game

Mark Cheek

This year, like every year, seniors got to participate in The Stock Market game as part of their economics course. There are two strategies in this game. 1. Do as little investing as possible to minimize the work you must do for your project. 2. Day trade, which the game is not conducive to, and attempt to make more money. Turns out option 1 is a much better idea. For each stock, you must report a vast quantity of information, name, executives, company objective, multiple performance reports, and more. As you can see, if you make a large number of trades then the work adds up. I caught up with several students who took different strategies throughout the game, some made money, some lost money, and some attempted to minimize their workload. In the end, almost everyone lost the game.

In talking with Elijah Phillips I learned about what he believed to be a winning strategy. He was day trading with only a few stocks. He believed that

he would be able to make more money and be able to minimize his workload because he was only trading a handful of companies. In the end, he lost.

"In the beginning it was great, I had figured out a pattern, and was making easy money," Phillips said.

Phillips was well ahead of the market, he had increased his funds by nearly 20%. He was winning the game. That's when things fell apart, he started losing. Big. His day trading throughout the rest of the eight-week game lost him 30 thousand dollars. Now that the game is over and the report is due, Phillips has lost money from where he started and he still has an enormous amount of work to do, 70 pages worth.

If somebody with a fairly well-thought-out plan had hit such a wall, what could it be like for Carrick Brogan, a man without a plan? Brogan decided that he did not care about consequences in the game, despite Mr. Gensheimer's many warnings,

Team Rankings

S&P500 Last Close: 4660.57		My S&P500 Start Value (per 10/01/2021) Close: 4357.04	
Region :	295 out of 297	Coordinator :	435 out of 438
State :	1821 out of 1825		

Ranking for team 295: Luke, Andrew, Mark, and Thomas

and decided to go for broke. He did everything he could think of to make money, holding stocks for mere seconds before he sold them again. As it turns out, that was a very foolish idea.

"I just wanted to have fun trying to make money, it didn't matter if I won or lost," Brogan said.

He lost big time. He lost money, and he gained work, 124 pages of work to be precise. The rest of his group was not very pleased with his strategy.

Finally, I caught up with some more level heads, Thanh-Vinh McColloster and Joe Anton. They had a much better strategy for the game. They waited several



days before they made any move of investing, waiting and watching other teams make laughable errors. Eventually they moved in and bought conservatively, minimizing their work. They invested a low proportion of their funds and sat on it, letting the slow gradual rise in the market carry them to victory. When it came time for their report, they had very little work to do, reporting on a few stocks and moving on. They were the real winners of the game.

The Stock Market Game is a fun game for all seniors, but be careful. If you are going to make a bunch of work for yourself at least make some money in the process.

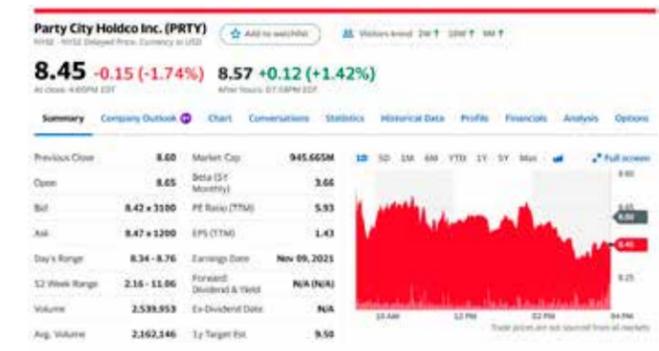


Carrick works to compile his 124 page report.



Brett Koehn would rather take a pie to the face than work on his stock portfolio.

SMG: Learning That's Off The Charts!





By Anthony Equale

Though nothing is set in stone, here is a possible look at what the future of the St. Thomas campus could become over the next couple of years.

Joplin in the Works

Ever since the purchase of the Joplin Campus in 2015, St. Thomas has been in a constant state of development and expansion. A number of renovations have been completed including a state-of-the-art weight room, a refurbished treatment center, and an additional basketball court. Currently, the largest project in progress is the all-turf Father Wilson baseball field (projected to be completed in the summer of 2022). This incredible upgrade provides many new opportunities for the future of St. Thomas as it opens up the middle of campus to be used for other athletic needs.

“Yes, we are building a new stadium that will allow us to move the existing baseball field. Once that is done, then we can expand the student center and determine new ways to utilize the land.” Mark deTranlates said, “With the baseball field where it is at now, we are never going to be able to unify the two campuses.”

St. Thomas is constantly expanding and improving not only its facilities but also its practices of teaching. A

high school education is meant to prepare students for the challenges that they will face in their later college years, and STH has put its students in the best possible position to have a high-quality academic and athletic experience.

“St. Thomas is always in constant improvement mode because we strive for excellence, and how can you ever stop striving for excellence?” deTranlates stated, “We are always looking at the best practices around the United States as far as our school academics goes, as far as our school management goes, and as far as our school finances go.”



A look at the fully turfed Father Wilson Field.

What effect do these renovations have on the students?

Though the renovations of the Joplin campus will not be finished for many years, the current students will still feel the effects of its expansion. Foremost, a number of athletic developments have already been completed and are currently in use by our athletic teams. Not only are these new facilities beneficial to current Eagles, but they also generate a greater interest in St. Thomas by young scholars looking to play varsity sports on a first-class field. St. Thomas is and will forever be a place of academic rigor, but with these developments, STH will not only be known for its academic difficulty but also for its development of great student-athletes.

Further, within the next year, new opportunities will open up with the clearing of the baseball field. With a view of the Joplin campus and its parking lot, students will be allowed to move amongst the two campuses for parking purposes, for new lunch spots, and for other study areas.

“We want to keep a clear view of what is happening on the Joplin campus at all times, and once the baseball field is gone, we will have that clear view,” deTranlates said.

Most importantly, the current students will get the chance to voice their opinion as to what they want to see in the modernized campus. When determining



The front of the Father Wilson Stadium

the strongest needs of the school, the opinions of students, teachers, and alumni will be brought into discussion. At the beginning of the next school year, interviews with students and faculty will be held to find common interests in the school community. There are endless possibilities of what the new property can be used for, and all members of St. Thomas can play a role in its future development.

The future of St. Thomas is looking bright as new buildings and updated facilities are constantly in the works. All clubs, sports teams, and individuals will be positively impacted by this expansion, and the way of life on campus will continue to expand and improve. The upcoming renovations will allow St. Thomas to continue its historical practice of excellence on a modernized, more spread-out campus.

The L.E.C.

By: Ruben Vara



(Students taking advantage of the hour long block lunch to get some work done)

The Learning Enrichment Center, otherwise known as the LEC, is a hot spot for successful students and arguably the most important place on campus. A place where students can go to keep up with the academic rigor of St Thomas High School.

Coming from many different backgrounds, not all students are prepared for the transition to a college preparatory environment. The LEC is the perfect place to develop and foster the habits that will lead to success in the new challenging environment.

Whether it be working with classmates in a study room, getting help from a specialist, or just finding a quiet place to focus, the LEC has something to offer for every single student at St Thomas. Many of the students who dedicate

their time in the LEC receive positive feedback in both their grades and in the classroom. I, myself, am an undeniable example of the effects the LEC rewards students with.

I still remember the days I would spend in the LEC as a freshman doing homework, studying during block lunch, and seeing the math specialist for help in my worst subject. The first time that I decided to go to the LEC resulted in my lowest grade being a single B+. I have continued my work in the LEC throughout my high school career and still find myself taking advantage of its usefulness as a senior. I strongly believe in the powers of the LEC.

As I find myself preaching to freshmen the importance of their first year in transition, I am always mentioning how the LEC will aid

them in the process.

One freshman who has already experienced the benefits of dedicating time in the LEC is Julian Landry.

Coming from a smaller school in the Kingwood suburbs, Julian was not used to such a competitive, challenging environment. His transition to St. Thomas came with a notable struggle to find his footing academically.

"I really struggled to get all my homework done on time because of soccer practice and because I also live so far away," Landry said.

Fortunately, Julian received advice from a number of seniors, all of which suggested he spend more time in the LEC and less time in the game room. Julian took this advice and saw improvements almost immediately.

"Whenever I had time, I would just go to the LEC and work on whatever I needed to get done," said Julian Landry '25.

Taking advantage of the LEC and spending more time in it granted Julian significant improvements in his grades. He is a perfect example of the rewards of the LEC.

**"It is the perfect place to get work done and to stay on top of your grades."
- Julian Landry '25**

Another extremely useful aspect of the LEC are the specialists. There are specialists in math, English, foreign languages, and even theology. The specialists in the LEC are always there to help students with any questions or concerns they may have. They are willing to help no matter the time or the student.

The LEC provides students with all the tools they need for success. It is a place where everyone should spend more time. Whether you are a freshman laying the foundation for your academic career or a junior at the climax of it, the LEC is the place for you.

"You'll see me in there almost every day," said Nico Lopez '22.



(Mambo' Tello '25' in his studies)



(Thomas Pham '23' helping out a friend)



(Ms. Speck assisting freshman in understanding Homer's The Odyssey)

THE BUSINESS CLUB

BY EDWARD SEYMOUR

The Business Club, originally created in the 2019 to 2020 school year, was handicapped and unable to gain popularity due to the Corona virus. With less than 10 dedicated members, Nicolas Lopez, class of '22 knew that he had to step up for his final year at St. Thomas. Lopez is now the president of the business club, which has 30 devoted members. He is in charge of organizing all the meetings, presentations, and activities the members do during their meetings every other Wednesday during the second half of block lunch.

"The end goal or purpose of the club is to introduce St. Thomas students into the world of business and give them experience. The earlier you start, the better off you will be when you start your own business," Lopez said.

The business club focuses on anything, from brainstorming business ideas to having presen-

tations done by fellow students and even some alumni speakers who have their own successful business. Recently there have been some student-led presentations, even one by Lopez himself about cryptocurrency.

"Crypto is the new fiat money in society, and it's gaining popularity fast!" Lopez said.

In this presentation, Nico was able to teach the basics of crypto and why you would want to spend time learning about it. Following the presentation, he was even able to answer questions from students who already have money invested in crypto. These are great opportunities to learn about anything business-related.

"It doesn't matter if you're brand new this club and have no idea what you're doing, or already have your own



Nico Lopez '22 gives a presentation about cryptocurrency and the basics of investing in it. According to Nico Lopez, many of the members of the club are aspiring entrepreneurs wanting to own their own business in the future.



Luke Anibogu (23) runs for vice president of the business club. The club is very organized and holds elections each year for board members.

alumni speakers and finding others with their own successful businesses.

There is a place for everyone in the business world, which is one of the main points that Lopez is trying to teach through this club. You don't have to be a salesman or a cookie-cutter businessman wearing a suit to be successful. The Business Club is showing that there are so many options and opportunities that can be taken that can lead



business, all you need to join is a desire to learn," Lopez said.

The club is always ready to accept new members, whether that be to join the business portion of the club or the Chick-fil-A leadership side of it. The Chick-fil-A leadership program is a separate part of the club, focusing more on leadership skills and making a positive impact on the community.

One of the most popular presentations was by senior Patrick Quindt about his own business, Hydraservers. This was a great opportunity for the members because they were able to have a one on one question and answer with someone who has a lot of experience in the field of business. Lopez plans to continue this trend by getting some



Members listen attentively to Patrick Quindt's (22) Hydraservers presentation.



VENOM: LET THERE BE CARNAGE

BY: ARJUN CHAHAL

I was looking forward to this sequel since *Venom* was released in 2018. I walked into the theater with excitement and anticipation, hoping this movie would live up to its expectations from Marvel fans worldwide. I am proud to say it did not disappoint in the slightest. The CGI and graphics were the highest quality, the humor always hit home, and the action scenes were intense. The plot of this blockbuster movie is not only one of violence and humor, but also one of love between the protagonist Eddie and the beast inside him, *Venom*.

"A lot of people say the first movie was better but I think the sequel had a more complex plot," Diego Sanchez ('23) said.

Throughout the movie, *Venom* becomes more nuanced and not only complains about "not eating enough," but also encourages Eddie and forms a real relationship with him. In this sequel, *Venom* begins to represent the voice within us all, encouraging us, sometimes dangerously. This complexity allows a superhero movie to relate to the

common viewer, a difficult task.

"I feel like *Venom* became more relatable in this movie," Cole Kelly ('23) said.

While the first *Venom* was famous because of its knee-slapping humor, the sequel focuses on the predicament that Eddie faces with a beast living inside him. While at first Eddie hides *Venom* away and pretends he doesn't exist, he now embraces this odd dynamic and forms a real emotional relationship with him. Despite the fast-paced action in this sequel, it is also lighthearted and conveys a real message to the audience. We must accept who we are and the problems that we face, just as Eddie accepts that *Venom* is now a part of him.

"I could actually relate to this movie, unlike most Marvel movies," Will Pilibosian ('23) said.

The visual effects in *Venom: Let There Be Carnage* were complex, as it had to make a symbiotic beast seem as realistic as possible. The effects are so good because they were inspired by real-life actions. The movement of the symbiote was taken from that of

a scorpion, and the transforming and breaking out of its host was inspired by the process of birth, hence the fluid when *Venom* broke free.

The CGI was really good throughout the movie," Dimitrios Platsas ('23) said.

Despite only scoring a meager 67% on the rotten tomatoes scale, *Venom: Let There Be Carnage* is a good watch; funny, action-packed, and relatable.

"I will be back for the next *Venom* movie even if it is bad," Logan Duplantis ('23) said.

STATS

- 84% AUDIENCE SCORE
- 67% ROTTEN TOMATOES
- \$190.4M BOX OFFICE GROSS (USA)
- SECOND HIGHEST OCTOBER LAUNCH WEEKEND OF ALL-TIME (BEHIND *JOKER*)
- BEST BOX OFFICE PERFORMANCE SINCE THE START OF COVID-19



These underclassmen take advantage of the opportunity to get stronger, with clear results. Anyone can join the club.



THE STRENGTH AND FITNESS CLUB

BY: BRIAN LMELY

In the summer of 2020, St. Thomas officially announced the purchase of the Joplin Campus: a former Houston Law Enforcement school with dozens of acres of property. Highlighting this expansion was the new weight room, which is over 20,000 square feet. This is a great improvement to the former room, which was located in the science wing.

There was only one problem: oftentimes, there was no one to watch the students who wanted to lift after school. With a whole new weight room, this space seemed to be underutilized outside of sports teams before the Strength and Fitness Club. However, the Strength and Fitness Club came to the rescue, with Mr. Patiño as the sponsor for the club, allowing students to lift after school.

"I wanted to get stronger this year, specifically for the rugby season," Robert Longo

(22) said.

While most sports currently have lifting for the sport only right before and during their season, when the sport completely ends, these opportunities end. Still, depending on the sport, many coaches don't even allow non-athletes to lift while they lift. This is reasonable because some sports have so many people that they need all the space in the weight room they can get.

This matches Mr. Patiño's reason for starting the club: "I was looking for more opportunities for kids who don't play sports, knowing that exercising is very important in life."

Expecting kids to spend hundreds of dollars on a private gym or gym equipment to be fit, especially with available equipment for those lifts, creates barriers to a healthy lifestyle.

"Many kids at St. Thomas just don't think they could be



Johnathan Saracho '23 (top) and Anthony Equale '23 (bottom) lifting weights in preparation for football next year.



Left: The club participates in a wide variety of lifts designed to train all the muscles in the body.

Time to Get Buff!

super strong or have a good physique" Longo continued.

"However, the Strength and Fitness Club changes the minds of these students."

"You 100% see gains. Most people don't know how to do a proper bench press...We've gotta teach them how to do proper lifts. There were kids who were just starting on the bar, but now they are able to do 25 lbs on each side" Longo said.

To be good at something, you need to start doing it first. You oftentimes need a guide to help on that road to improvement. With weightlifting especially, it is hard to know how to get stronger without any direction. It is hard to get good form on your squat without someone else telling you how to improve.

"They keep going and learning the proper techniques," Mr. Patiño said of the students in the club. Clearly, the Strength and Fitness Club has done much to help more people become stronger and healthier.

"You know the motivation as a group is better. When you have someone else to keep you

accountable, when you challenge yourself with them in groups, it is very different" Mr. Patiño responded.

Although it is possible to motivate yourself individually, groups have a motivation factor that truly prompts you to do your best. The club helps to use this group mentality to motivate their members of all skill levels to truly push their limits. "Lifting as a group can be really helpful. One, you always have a spot. Sometimes, it's just that motivation of the people around you" Longo described.

The Strength and Fitness Club provides opportunities for students from all skill levels and all backgrounds to truly push their personal limits. Whether it is a football player trying to get stronger for the next season, or a freshman who has no lift experience, everyone has the chance to learn health and fitness with their friends in a comfortable, educational setting. All exercise helps with fitness. However, the skills learned in the Strength and Fitness Club help maximize the exercise so that anyone can reach their peak physical shape.



Cameron Price '22 making big gains in the gym. Athletes have to train in the offseason, and the Strength and Fitness club provides this opportunity.

2021 United States Grand Prix

Mark Cheek



Fans rush the track after the race

On October 24 Formula 1 held its 17th race of the season at Circuit of The Americas in Austin Texas. Several St. Thomas students took the opportunity to attend this Formula 1 event.

After the race, I caught up with Arjun Chahal who sat in the grandstands at turn one for the race. He had a fantastic seat to watch the cars roar up the hill from the line.

“My favorite part of the race was the beginning when Max got pushed off and Lewis took the lead because I was right at turn one where it was happening,” Chahal said.

We then proceeded to talk about the future of F1 racing in America. After all, F1 is trying to break into the American market, taking some of NASCAR and Indycar’s viewership. This push started when Liberty Media bought the F1 franchise from Bernie Ecclestone.

With that being said, F1 needs to make some changes, specifically an increase in the number of American races. Currently, the race is held in Austin, but they have signed a deal with Miami to hold a race there. At first, it seemed that there would be a street race, but that was just a rumor. They are



Henry Hobbs ('22) enjoyed his view of the race from the grand stands.

actually going to build a full track and hold the race in Miami. If they wanted Americans to start watching, they needed to have a real race, on the street. Race tracks are over-hyped, we want scenic views and exciting races.

There is a rumor that F1 will no longer hold races in Austin; the teams and drivers have complained that the track is too bumpy.

“That’s messed up,” Chahal claims, “The drivers just need to learn to handle a little bump in the road. The track is unique because it has a lot of sharp turns and opportunities for overtaking.”

F1 is currently working to make the races more exciting. As of now, the cars are too difficult to pass and the tracks too narrow. In Monaco, there were only a few passes this year, leading to a generally boring race. If F1 wants an exciting experience for Americans, they need passing and thrills, which races in Austin provide. They just need to look towards NASCAR, who raced on a dirt track this year, filling the stadium with dust and making it impossible for the drivers to see for half of the lap, the viewers loved it. It appears that the reason F1 is not extremely popular throughout America is because we have better racing options such as NASCAR.

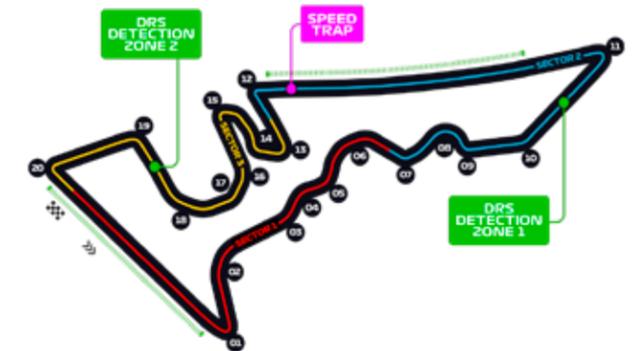
When asked about who their favorite team was, the resounding answer was McLaren. St. Thomas has taken a liking to the combination of Lando Norris and Daniel Ricciardo. Norris is a young and upcoming driver who is very talented. He seems to be loyal to McLaren and able to push them towards their goal of getting back on top. Daniel has a very outgoing per-



Landon Croker ('22) had a great view of turn 16.

sonality and is always trying to make the sport more interesting.

Overall, F1 is an exciting sport, however, there are many improvements that can be made that will eventually allow them to be successful in the United States.





Nate Babineaux and Preston Underbrink are engaged in an intense mental combat. The mental aspect in chess forces people to take their time.

The Chess Club

By: Brian Lively

A brilliant move! The queen is sacrificed to checkmate in the back-rank. Chess can be exciting, especially when you play with friends. The strategy and finesse required separates the great from the terrible. The chess club, led by Mr. Cuneo, helps students learn the skills necessary to dominate through the sharpness of mind. A common misconception is that you can simply be smart and dominate in the contest. As students learn in the club, there is so much more to this showcase of mental superiority. The Chess Club prepares members of all skill levels for the obstacles that get in the way of success.

Beginners do not know the true theory behind chess. There are “lines”, which are move orders that have been developed to give each

player an advantage.

“You kind of have to be prepared to face more than you know, and a lot of times it is all mental” Mitch Onufrow (’23) said.

This is the beauty in chess. There is no one strategy that guarantees victory like in Tic-Tac-Toe because both sides have great lines to cancel out the other side’s moves. Therefore, success is determined by the moves that happen after those lines, such as at the end of the game. It is hard to beat experienced players without knowing the different lines, yet these lines in and of themselves do not necessarily secure a win. The player needs a balance between knowledge and foresight to beat the other player.

One of the most challenging parts of Chess is learning how each piece operates to its full potential. Time limitations especially can be a challenge.

Right: Carson Ondo thinks about his next move in the beginning of the game. Below: Chris Guthrie is thinking heavily in response to his opponents play. Players should consider not just current moves but also potential future moves.



Below: Mr. Gardner gives a presentation on piece-strategy. The chess club meets every Wednesday and Thursday. In one of those meetings Mr. Gardner educates the students on essential strategy.



“In tournaments where you don’t have a lot of time, you have to be sure you don’t use too much time on moves” Mitch Onufrow said.

The different levels of experience categorize players through common behavior.

“There’s a certain level of awareness, as you go on it gets more specific. I see it as how quickly someone blunders a piece” Mitch replied.

Newer players might have more trouble seeing patterns or the whole board, so they are regularly at risk of messing up with a piece, especially the queen. To help players avoid these common issues, the Chess Club gives lessons to players on individual aspects of the game. They start with the simple pawn movements, but eventually teach advanced endgames. Over time, with more knowledge of the game, the blunders start to fade.

Whether a player wins or loses, the Chess Club provides players with the support to truly develop their level of play. Chess can be intimidating because of the lack of understanding surrounding the skills necessary to win. There are theories on what moves to play, and it is hard to learn those by yourself. The Chess Club provides an opportunity for people of all skill levels to test out new strategies, get used to the game, and have a mental blast by playing what might be

the most intellectually stimulating board game that is not explicitly about knowledge. Anyone can play chess with practice and guidance, which the Chess Club offers to each of its members.



Above: Carson Ondo '22 is thinking about how to respond to white’s first move. White played an opening known as the “Réti Opening”.

THE NEW ANNOUNCER NOW

BY: ROBERT LONGO

When it comes to school spirit, St. Thomas is second to none. For years, St. Thomas has been Houston's standard when it comes to attendance at football games, chants, brotherhood, and school events. However, a common trend for alumni is the feeling that "things are not as fun as when I was there." While times do change and the student population circulates, is there any weight to this claim? While St. Thomas certainly had spirit in the past, how well has St. Thomas' heart stood the test of time? According to J.P. Bosco III ('11), school spirit is not something that appears innately, instead, it must be nurtured and maintained.

"Having experienced St. Thomas' spirit first-hand as a student, and having seen it before and after my time at the school, I have watched the intensity of school spirit vary over time. As a freshman, I witnessed St. Thomas spirit at its finest, with the senior class leading the school in attendance, chants, and almost everything else when it comes to St. Thomas life. As a freshman, it is exciting to see a community that is already set in place, and you feel so

gravitated by the spirit, you can't help but want to be a part of it. On the other side, once the senior class leaves, there is a lot of pressure for the rising seniors to fill the shoes of the previous class. It is every class' duty to make their mark on the spirit of the school in its own unique way: whether it is elaborating on old tradition or establishing its new traditions. The spirit has to be known," Bosco said.

Since J.P. Bosco III witnessed, and to some extent, was the center of



St. Thomas' peak school spirit, he has been one of my personal mentors when it comes to returning school spirit after the COVID-19 hiatus. According to Bosco: "Spirit really is like fire, and if you are

not constantly adding wood to the fire, it will eventually burn out. However, just like a fire, it can be easily restarted with just a little bit of kindling. If school spirit is low, you have to start small and work your way up. Although times change, there are three ways that you can always get any guy to participate in school activities:

1. Extra Credit
2. Free Food
3. Most Valuable: Girls

If people are not showing up to basketball games for instance, then find some way to get as many of these three things as possible, and I guarantee that people will show up. By the time people start showing up at games and realize how much fun they are having, you won't even have to incentivize anything anymore."

As much as people like to say, "things just aren't like the good old days" was school spirit really that much better when you went to St. Thomas?

"Honestly, having gone to a couple of football games this year, I think your current level of spirit is about as good as it has been since I went to school. After

our class left, I think there was a drop off of spirit for a while, especially once COVID hit. However, after seeing your stands completely filled, seeing the Eagle Guard leading and feeding off the crowd's energy, and with the football team doing as well as it has ever done, I feel like school spirit has definitely been revived.

What are some of your favorite memories when it comes to St. Thomas spirit?

"Some of my most memorable times in high school were easily the varsity basketball games. Throughout high school, I went to every single home basketball game, and most of the away games as well. My senior year, going to basketball games was not so much an option as it was a requirement. We had the rowdiest student section around and even won an award for having the best student section in the whole city. We were so loud and obnoxious. We did stupid stuff, like bringing newspapers, so when the other student section started chanting, our entire student section would hold our newspapers up and pretend like we were reading.



Daniel Sudduth '23 and Robert Longo '22 (BOTTOM) show that spirit can be found in the grossest of places

Back then we had many more priests, and they would always get onto us for our rowdy chants. Beyond the chants that poked fun at the other schools, we would chant the dumbest things just to get in the heads of the other team's players. At one basketball game, there was a kid who was wearing a purple undershirt under his uniform, and whenever he got the ball we would chant, 'Purple shirt! *clap clap - clap clap clap*'. The most obnoxious thing we did was collectively scream out onomatopoeias. If we were up four or five points, whenever the other team had the ball, we would all chant 'BOUNCE, BOUNCE, BOUNCE' in sync with the ball, and 'PASS, SHOOT!' whenever the other team did it. Whenever one of the other team's players picked up the ball, we would all yell, 'UHHHHHHHHH...'. It's just those small things that, when done in sync, can make away games feel like home games. Back then, our student section can take credit for a lot of our basketball teams' success because our student section's presence completely dominated every gym that we played at. Beyond the other students secretly wishing they were in our student section, the other team would frequently shoot air balls and make more mistakes under all the pressure we created.

Your class is much better at planning themes than we were; instead of the Hawaiian and neon themes, we always just did red-out, white-out, or black-out, but EVERYONE was always dressed to the uniform. Your class already has all of the ingredients for a fun basketball season, you just have to execute."

What are some of the things our class could incorporate to bring back the "Reckling Rowdies"?

What advice would you give future classes when it comes to maintaining school spirit for years to come?

Photos courtesy of Mike Nebel and Alessio Del Castillo '22

Antonio Gutierrez '22, Nico Lopez '22, and Brett Koehn '22 (BOTTOM) bring the energy to Friday night lights



"Beyond what you already do, such as the "War Eagles" chant and "Where Ya From" chant which were popular when I was a student; we ALWAYS sang the Alma Mater after every school event. Every girl, guy, and non-STH student in our student section sang every word, which really was the cherry on top of every event!"

What advice would you give future classes when it comes to maintaining school spirit for years to come?

"One of the best things about St. Thomas' spirit is that anyone can push the envelope and make a difference, and I mean ANYBODY. It is unfortunate that many people do not realize just how much of a difference they can make if they just put their mind to what they are doing. It takes a lot of people their whole high school to realize that they do not have to be in Eagle Guard, football, or Student Council to create a real difference in the culture of the school. If anyone wants to get started, all they have to do is rally their friends, talk to Mr. O'Brien, or just show their fellow Eagles that they are passionate about the future of the school, and people will follow suit."

Astroworld Tragedy

By: Ethan Vinson

The events that took place at Astroworld were nothing short of heartbreaking. As of the day I am writing this, there have been 10 reported deaths as a result of poor planning for this festival. The aftermath of this tragedy has left many people across Houston and the nation in shock. Some of those very people happen to be rooted in the St. Thomas community. A large number of students at St. Thomas either attended this festival or had friends that attended. I have many friends both in and outside the STH community who attended Astroworld. After hearing many stories from different perspectives about this concert, the common theme is that the excitement in the beginning slowly became fear for personal safety. I personally was completely unaware of what was happening. I did not attend the concert and all the information I was able

to go off of was Instagram and Snapchat posts. From my perspective it seemed like an enjoyable event, however it is not the event for me due to the extreme claustrophobic circumstances. As the night progressed and I saw more serious videos I realized that the tightly packed crowd was much larger than what is safe and normal for a music festival. I started to become anxious because a lot of my friends were there and some of them tend to get very immersed and hyped up at concerts.

Eventually I went to bed and when I woke up the next morning, I saw the true severity of the situation. My friends spamming group chats and seeing on the news that there were 8 deaths and counting. I was terrified because I realized in that moment that while all my friends were okay, it could have been one



Travis Scott enters the stage to begin his performance.

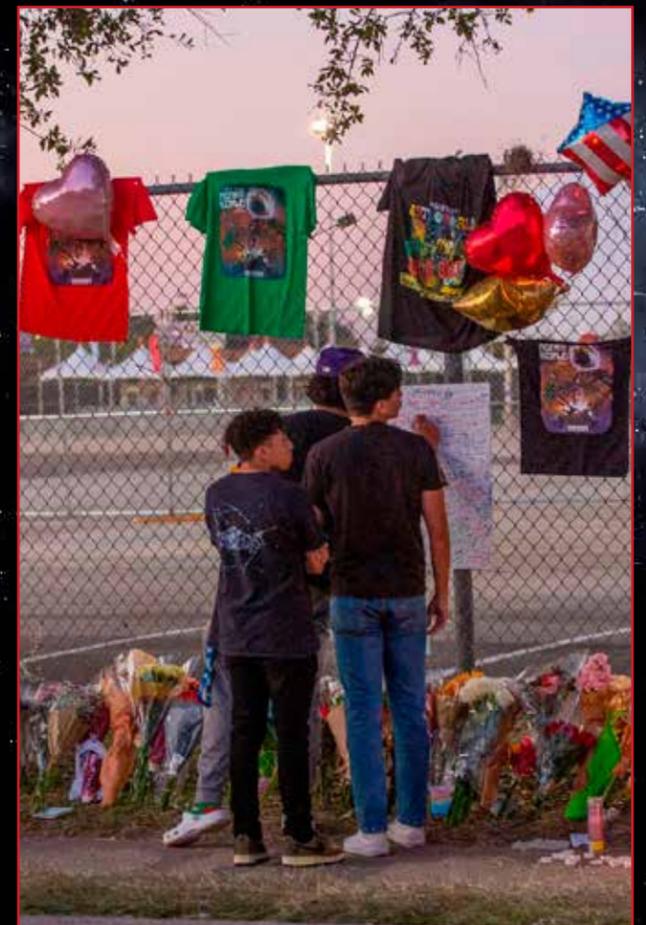
of them that was crushed in the crowd. I was not the only person who thought this and was scared because of it. STH junior Arjun Chahal attended the concert and was completely unaware and in shock at the events that transpired.

“At the time I had fun, I didn’t realize that bad things were happening, or that what was happening was not normal for a concert of that scale. I just focused on my breathing and not falling down when the crowds got huge” Chahal said.

Chahal was not the only student who attended and experienced shock. Another junior at STH, J.B. Brown had an even scarier and horrific perspective.

“Hell, it was Hell. Extremely painful and scary. I feared I would pass out for most of the concert and unfortunately I eventually did. I saw three dead bodies and a dead horse, countless others passed out. Never again will I go to a concert of that scale. I thought I was going to die for a period of time” Brown said.

This concert caused a lot of horrible memories for people who were just looking to enjoy themselves and have a good time. There is nothing that any of the event organizers can say or do to change the events. Ten people have died, thousands more have bad memories that will stick with them for the rest of their lives. The events that transpired were completely preventable and that’s the bigger issue. The concert could have still been enjoyable and fun for everyone. Instead some people were having the times of their lives while others were witnessing chaos and in a few cases death. The lives lost in the Astroworld concert will never be forgotten. In order to honor their memory we must never forget what happened. We must also take strides to make sure that a tragedy like this never happens again. As a community we must now look forward and stand strongly together in the hopes for a better and safer future.



Top right: Houstonians writing cards and putting up balloons as a memorial to those who lost their lives

Middle: Houstonians honoring the ten victims who lost their lives.

Left: Roses left in memorial the night after the tragedy took place



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