

accolade

December 2024 | Volume LXV | Issue 2

Final Exam Shuffle | pg. 4

Administration pilots new schedule to include zero period

Hitting the Rhode(s) | pg. 30

Senior soccer player reflects on his journey toward commitment

'tis the season:

Students and staff reflect on the holiday traditions of the campus and how the economy has affected their shopping and job opportunities.

SEE THE FEATURE SECTION
(PAGE 9) FOR A CLOSER LOOK

illustration by JOANNA JOO



EDITOR’S NOTE

The holiday season is bittersweet for us seniors. While it gives us the opportunity to celebrate alongside our family and friends with winter traditions during the break, it also signifies the halfway point of our final year in high school.

For me, that feeling is intensified with the release of this December issue. While seeing the story ideas and layouts that took months to prepare come into fruition brings a gratifying feeling, the knowledge that I only have three more issues to produce as editor-in-chief is hard to grasp.

Setting the melancholy aside, I hope to emulate the better side of the holiday cheer through this issue. With that in mind, here are some of the highlights this edition has to offer:

Heading into the end of the semester, administration has made the decision to pilot a new finals bell schedule to include zero period (page 4) and our staff editorial questions its impact on students (page 20).

The testing week signals the possible return of the “elf” on the roof; many have noticed him in past final exam weeks in December, but have you ever wondered which staff member he is and why he’s up on buildings? *The Accolade* sends a reporter to look into the history behind this notoriously silly figure in red (page 14).

On the topic of comedy, we’ve put together a full page of holiday comics (page 25) in which our illustrators demonstrate their skills and will hopefully make you laugh with their seasonal themed pieces.

The commencement of school following the break also means the start of league action for our winter sports. Check out our preview of the girls water polo season (page 27) and scan the QR code to view the remaining previews of this athletic season on our online website, shhsaccolade.com.

Lastly, I want to thank our wonderful donors for contributing what they have to keep our magazine in production. Without you, our award-winning program would not be nearly as successful this year. Happy holidays — ‘tis the season!



ABOUT THE COVER:

Illustrator Joanna Joo portrays a holiday tree decorated with ornaments that capture key figures and moments covered in this issue.

Best,

Alexxa Berumen
Editor-in-Chief

THANK YOU DONORS:

Anonymous
Anonymous
Ray and Lisa Bukaty,
in memory of Robin Bukaty
Sam and Amber Chang
Sang Jun and Jung Suk Cho
Susan Choe and Sean Park
Martha Gershun
The Han Family
Daniel Jeong and Emily Choi
David and Jung Kang
Soo and Jin Kang
Tommy Li
The Park Family

Unless specifically stated, advertisements in *The Accolade* are inserted by commercial ventures solely for informational purposes and not by Sunny Hills High School. *The Accolade* will not print advertisements that violate school regulations or U.S. laws.

The Accolade is produced by the Advanced Journalism class of Sunny Hills High School and distributed during Period 4.

Copyright 2024 and printed by Print Now 365 (805) 285-2353

accolade

Editor-in-Chief
Alexxa Berumen

Web Editor-in-Chief
Seowon Han

Managing Editor
Christine Yoo

Web Managing Editor
Justin Pak

News Editor
Irene Park

Assistant News Editor
Kevin Lee

Feature Editor
Nicole Park

Opinion Editors
Aashna Dialani

Kayden Kim

Sports Editors
Lauren Kang

Yena Oh

A&E Editors
Jenna Kim

Claire Lee

Copy Editors
Soojin Cho

Serenity Li

Layout Editor
Nathan Lee

Staff Reporters
Alice Chae

Emily Kim

Elise Pak

Graphics Editors
Elisa Arias

Lindsey Um

Illustrators

Joanna Joo

Evina Lee

Ryan Shin

Photo Editor
Noah Lee

Photographers
Katie Leem

Rachel Yoon

Adviser
Tommy Li



photo by NOAH LEE



photo by KATIE LEEM



photo by SEOWON HAN



photo by NOAH LEE



photo by KATIE LEEM

Go to shhsaccolade.com to check out our Photos of the week feature.

table of CONTENTS

news

- 04 | **PILOTING FINALS SCHEDULE**
Zero period added into the official finals week
- 06 | **LAW&ORDER**
What is AB 1780 and its future affect on applications?
- 08 | **SETTING THE PACE**
The Accolade wins 2nd consecutive Pacemaker

feature

- 10 | **HOLLY JOLLY JOBS**
A look into seasonal work offered to students
- 12 | **FUN AT WHAT COST?**
Economy impacts the community’s holiday shopping
- 14 | **ELF ON THE ROOF**
Did you know the origins of this campus tradition?
- 15 | **Q&A WITH A LANCER**
Freshman chats about life challenges and goals

opinion

- 16 | **HEAD-TO-HEAD: MOVING FINALS?**
Should semester exams be before or after winter break?
- 18 | **COLUMN: WE’RE MORE THAN SEASIDE**
Wrongful social media buzz over SoCal Asians
- 20 | **STAFF EDITORIAL**
Bell schedule for finals brings unnecessary change

a&e

- 22 | **LOOKIE! LOOKIE!**
Though costly, Crumbl becoming treat favorite
- 24 | **SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**
Drawbacks of Spotify’s latest video-related updates
- 25 | **HA-HA-HALIDAY COMICS**
December festive-themed laughs

sports

- 26 | **ALL IN FOR ALLGEIER**
Girls soccer program’s leader shares team vision
- 28 | **PURSUEING LEAGUE PERFECTION**
A winter sports preview on girls water polo
- 30 | **RHODE TO SUCCESS**
Boy soccer player’s journey to Division 3 college

FINALS SCHEDULE CHANGES



Sunny Hills High School

2024-25 Bell Schedule

Finals

Tuesday, December 17

Period	Start Time	End Time	Minutes
Period 0	7:28 AM	9:28 AM	120
Break	9:28 AM	9:38 AM	10
Period 1	9:43 AM	11:43 AM	120
BREAK	11:43 AM	11:53 AM	10
Period 6	11:58 AM	1:58 PM	120

Wednesday, December 18

Period	Start Time	End Time	Minutes
Period 2	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	120
BREAK	10:30 AM	10:45 AM	15
Period 3	10:50 AM	12:50 PM	120

Thursday, December 19

Period	Start Time	End Time	Minutes
Period 4	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	120
BREAK	10:30 AM	10:45 AM	15
Period 5	10:50 AM	12:50 PM	120

source: Sunny Hills website

Last week of fall semester to include zero period on first day of exams

story by NICOLE PARK

With a bit over a month before final exam week, school officials released a new piloted final exam schedule — the first major change since the COVID-19 pandemic prompted distance learning — drawing mixed reactions.

While all final exam periods remain at two hours, zero period has been added on the first day of finals, Dec. 17, followed by a 10-minute break, then Period 1 and another break.

The final exam for sixth period, previously on the last day of finals, has also been moved to the first day, which will end nearly an hour later than before at 1:58 p.m.

“Establishing a designated zero period final on the first day of finals promotes consistency for all teachers, parents and students while improving test security by reducing the need for multiple test versions,” assistant principal Sarah Murrietta wrote in her Nov. 14 email to all Sunny Hills staff.

Students and parents received the new finals schedule in principal Craig Weinreich’s Nov. 22 weekly digital newsletter, while the Parent Teacher Student Association was informed in an email sent the same day.

Other changes follow the first day with second and third periods on Wednesday and fourth and fifth-period finals on Thursday. Previously, exams followed chronological order over three days, starting with Period 1.

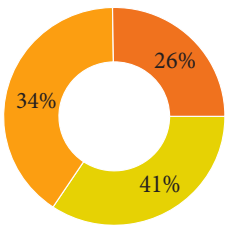
“If we did [Periods] 0, 1 [and] 2, that means most students would have three finals that day,” Murrietta said. “So by doing 0, 1, 6, [about 16%] of our students would have three finals because many have no sixth period or play a sport, as opposed to the other way.”

The assistant principal said discussions for schoolwide changes typically occur during monthly leadership meetings with administrators, department coordinators and instructors. Coordinators then gather feedback from their departments.

Because this change is not set in stone, Murrietta said at the next leadership meeting in January, those in attendance will evaluate how the pilot final exam schedule went and whether more adjustments are needed for the spring semester or whether to return to the past format.

While discussions over the final exam schedule were addressed during leadership meetings in previous years,

ACCOLADE POLL: How do you feel about the sudden change with our finals schedule next month? (first day will test Periods 0, 1 and 6; the second day will be Periods 2 and 3 and the last day will be Periods 4 and 5)



- 26% I love it; glad that school officials are recognizing the importance of zero period.
- 34% Not a big fan; if it ain't broke, why fix it?
- 41% I don't care; just counting the days that I'm on winter break.

Based on 136 responses collected from Nov. 15-Dec. 3

compiled by IRENE PARK

Murrietta said more serious conversations began in September.

Math teacher and department chairwoman Mariam Tan said she first suggested the change in the fall of 2021 because of inconsistencies in her classes. She revisited the idea this year, inspired by the inclusion of zero period in the 2020-2021 finals schedules during the pandemic.

“Because of that change when we were doing distance learning, it got me thinking, ‘Can’t we just change it to this permanently?’” said Tan, who teaches periods 0-4.

Both finals schedules for the 2020-2021 school year included a zero period because designated Zoom meetings were necessary for finals, Murrietta said.

Tan said she hopes the piloted schedule will become permanent but remains open to changes that benefit students.

“Of course, if it doesn’t work for more people than it works for, and people want to change it back, I think that’s totally valid because what works for more students is what is best,” she said.

Social science department chairman Greg Abbott said the new format will benefit students but expressed concern about Dec. 17.

“It’s a lot of finals for one day if you have a zero period — that means you have six hours of finals — so [no] sixth-period [core class] for mostly athletes, really, is good,” Abbott said.

Despite this, he said the change will prepare students for education beyond high school.

“Certain kids might get burned out by their third final [on the first day], but, in many ways, they’re getting prepared for college,” said the teacher, who teaches periods 0-5.

Results of *The Accolade’s* online poll posted Nov. 15 showed mixed student opinions: 26% of respondents in favor of the change, 34% against and 41% neutral.

Sophomore Madelyn Sooter expressed her

worries about adjusting to the new format.

“I feel like some people might not be accustomed to the change, and they might not be ready for it if they had a zero last year or they’ve been used to it for many years,” Sooter said.

She also agreed with Abbott’s concern about the longer first day, adding that three 10-minute breaks aren’t sufficient.

“The schedule might also be a little conflicting with lunchtime because lunch during a regular school day would normally be in that time of sixth period finals,” she said.

Junior Jeremiah Ayala acknowledged that the additional hour for students with zero and sixth periods may result in more fatigue.

“I feel the extra hour on the first day for those who have a zero period and a sixth will be much more mentally exhausting compared to the rest of the days as three tests will be taken instead of two,” Ayala said.

Murrietta said the schedule ultimately allows for less confusion and questions from students and parents.

“I think that the change really does provide the consistency for parents and students of when their student needs to be here and in school” she said. “What I had sent [in the email] to all the staff is we’re going to try it in the fall semester finals and let’s then get feedback, and then we can make a decision based on that feedback for the spring.”

RELATED STORIES

PRO/CON: Staff debates whether finals should be in December or January

See Opinion, page 16.

STAFF ED: Pilot finals schedule will backfire on students

See Opinion, page 20.

CANDID:

Q. What do you think of the finals schedule change?

The Accolade asked returning students for their opinion on the finals schedule change.



Jayden Choi
Sophomore

“It’s beneficial for me because I don’t have to split my zero period finals like last year.”



Oriana Stocco-Guia
Junior

“I don’t like the schedule because I have a sport and no zero period, so I would be coming on the first day for one class.”



Anthony Mitri
Senior

“I think the schedule is going to be really helpful for the academic courses in zero period.”

compiled by NICOLE PARK



LAW & ORDER



California targets legacy admissions at private colleges with new law that bans it starting September 2025



story by SOOJIN CHO

As a continuing segment in the News section, "Law & Order" explores recently passed legislation relevant to teachers and students. What impact will these decisions have on Sunny Hills? For previous "Law & Order" stories, be sure to go to shhsaccolade.com.

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently signed into law Assembly Bill [AB] 1780, which will prohibit legacy admissions and donor preferences across California private universities starting September 2025.

According to an Oct. 1 *Inside Higher Ed* article, the legislation will largely affect the following private colleges that have in the past given special consideration to applicants who are related to alumni:

- Claremont McKenna College
- Harvey Mudd College
- Pepperdine University
- Pitzer College
- Scripps College
- Stanford University
- University of Santa Clara
- USC
- Vanguard University

AB 1780 was originally proposed by assembly member Phil Ting. Since the Supreme Court in the summer of 2023 struck down affirmative action for college admissions, politicians and other lobbyists considered pushing for the elimination of legacy admissions to make education more accessible at elite institutions.

At this time, the legacy admissions ban only applies to California; no nationwide policy exists.

"In California, everyone should be able to get ahead through merit, skill and hard work," Newsom said in a Sept. 30 Governor of California news release. "The California Dream shouldn't be accessible to just a lucky few, which is why we're opening the door to higher education wide enough for everyone, fairly."

Sunny Hills college guidance counselor Genesis Perez agrees with the governor's decision to get rid of such an advantage.

"This means students who would've been waitlisted or could've gotten in will have a higher chance of acceptance," Perez said.

Some students have mixed reactions

about the legislation.

Senior Hannah Won, who has a legacy to Pepperdine University through her older sister and early actioned to the school this October, said she believes biased admissions do not affect her or her peers.

THE CALIFORNIA DREAM SHOULDN'T BE ACCESSIBLE TO JUST A LUCKY FEW

- Gov. Gavin Newsom

"I think the process will just be more fair, but I'm not really sure since I've witnessed a couple of students being rejected from universities even though they had [a] double legacy," Won said. "But, definitely though, I am happy it's being removed next year and not this year."

However, senior Kastuv Aryal, who does not have a legacy to a private college in California, said he is disappointed the

bill will take effect for the next senior class.

"Honestly, I do think I would've preferred the law to take effect during our [class] admission cycle because it would probably benefit some students even in the slightest," Aryal said.

Junior Diya Desai has a legacy to Stanford from her dad and USC from her mom. Although the sudden ban shocked her, she remained positive about the new law.

"It's unfair that legacy admissions are being removed now after so many students have had this benefit in the past," Desai said. "Still, I am glad my college acceptances will be based solely on my achievements and efforts rather than those of my parents."

Following the passage of AB 1780, California became the fifth state in the country to impose a ban on giving applicants an advantage because of being related to an alumni.

It's also the second state to do so for private institutions following Colorado, which spearheaded the process in 2021 by prohibiting legacy admissions in public colleges; Virginia enforced the law in March this year for public institutions; Illinois also in August for public colleges; Maryland enacted the law in April for public and private universities, according to an Oct. 1 *Forbes* article.



For the full story, go to News section of shhsaccolade.com

SCHOOLS IMPACTED: Gov. Gavin Newsom passed AB 1780 to ban legacy admissions for California private universities on Sept. 30; this law will affect colleges that do consider the factor, such as Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pepperdine, Scripps, Pitzer, Stanford, University of Santa Clara, USC and Vanguard.



compiled by NATHAN LEE

SETTING THE PACE

For 1st time, Advanced Journalism program wins back-to-back national award

story by YENA OH

Back to back and cementing a team into the record books. The Kansas City Chiefs know what it takes to win a Super Bowl for two straight years (2023 and 2024). So do the Los Angeles Lakers (2009 and 2010) and the Tampa Bay Lightning (2020 and 2021).



TOAST TO SUCCESS: Accolade staff members senior say “cheers” with individual sparkling cider bottles from adviser Tommy Li’s to celebrate his announcement of the award on Nov. 12 in Room 138 during fourth period.

While journalism is not a sport, it does have competitions at a national as well as global level. And last month, *The Accolade*, which publishes a news magazine and posts stories and multimedia content online, joined the back-to-back champions club for the first time in the program’s nearly 65-year history.

The National Scholastic Press Association [NSPA] has awarded a Pacemaker plaque for the four specialty news magazines the Advanced Journalism and Journalism 1 classes produced during the 2023-2024 school year. The honor, which came to only 18 other high school newspapers/news magazines worldwide with *The Accolade* being the only one from Southern California, comes on the heels of last year’s Pacemaker for the six newspaper issues the journalism students produced in the previous school year.

Accolade adviser Tommy Li didn’t find out about the recognition until Veterans Day weekend when the NSPA posted the results of its Nov. 9 Pacemaker awards ceremony on its Facebook page. The event, which neither Li nor his staff had the financial resources to attend, was held during the NSPA’s national journalism convention in Philadelphia from Nov. 7-10.

In addition to demonstrating excellence, Li said the biggest risk his 2023-2024 staff took was switching from delivering the news in a newspaper format to a newsmagazine one. He also spent the previous school year researching the NSPA’s specialty newsmagazine cate-

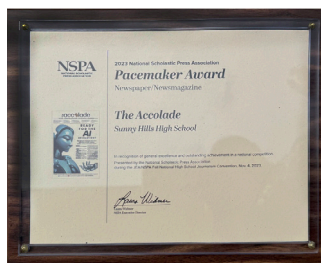
gory, even contacting Lundgren at the start of the 2023-2024 school year to better understand it and to receive initial feedback on whether the first issue last year was on the right track.

“I’m grateful for not only Lundgren’s feedback, but also that of so many other resources I used as well as the top editors from last year, especially editor-in-chief Jaimie Chun, who was willing to do something historic and produce a completely new product for our readers,” Li said. “Chun was willing to take the risk with me that we may not get recognized for what we do, but at least we could start a precedent for future top editors to follow in switching to a magazine format.”

Li surprised the staff upon students’ return from the three-day Veterans day holiday weekend on Nov. 12 with a fourth-period celebration during the Advanced Journalism class. Students were treated to Costco mega cupcakes and Martinelli’s sparkling cider in mini-glass bottles.

For next year’s Pacemaker contest, because of more changes to what the Advanced Journalism class plans to produce this school year, *The Accolade* aims to compete in the regular newspaper/newsmagazine and the specialty magazine categories.

“That will put us against some of the elite programs like those in Texas,” Li said. “In the meantime, I keep pointing to one of the framed pieces in front of the classroom that reads, ‘STAY humble.’”



| feature

Winter, Work & Wallets

Swipe card insert



Seasonal Jobs | pg. 10

November and December holiday season brings part-time seasonal job opportunities for students



Deck the Prices | pg. 12

This year’s economy has affected SH students’ shopping habits

illustration by EVINA LEE

HOLLY JOLLY SEASONAL JOBS

story by IRENE PARK

For those considering earning some money while getting cool discounts on goods like clothes or cosmetics during winter break, The Accolade has sent News editor Irene Park to scour the Brea Mall and Target at nearby Amerige Town Center in hopes of finding which stores have seasonal job opportunities. Here's what she found.

"Excuse me, where can I find this product?"

"Can I speak to the manager?"

"Do you guys have this dress in another color?"

Those were some of the common questions shoppers asked during a Nov. 3 visit to the Brea Mall, where customers tend to increase significantly during the November-December holiday season.

To accommodate for the higher than normal pedestrian traffic, shops from Levis to Forever 21 tend to hire more staff – commonly known as seasonal helpers.

Guidance registrar Echo Wein, who's in charge of processing students' work permit applications, said Sunny Hills students have yet to catch on to the benefits of getting hired only for the holiday period.

Most students get a [part-time] job at a restaurant or fast food type of place," Wein said. "Retail is very limited."

So for those with "limited" interest, here's a list in alphabetical order of shops that's still hiring these last two weeks of the fall semester and into the two weeks of winter break:

• FOREVER 21

To apply: Go to forever21.com/us/careers/careers.html or in person to the clothes and accessories store that's across from Victoria's Secret in the Brea Mall.

The store supervisor, who went by Elena E., said the store still needs sales associates. The hours usually range from 5-9 p.m. with a pay of \$16 an hour; the position can last up to early January. Anyone 16 and older can apply.

"We look more on the availability. ... But if their availability doesn't align with ours, then it's most likely they won't get the job," Elena E. said. "We also look for character ... we're trying to get as many sales as possible, so we always look for those who are able to go out of their way to speak with the customers to actually get those sales in."

The training process for seasonal and regular employees isn't too different,



illustration by EVINA LEE



photo by IRENE PARK

although managerial positions aren't available as a seasonal job, she said.

"We first train them on the floor so they can get a gist of how everything works, how everything is processed, placed and so on," she said. "The cashier part comes a few weeks in because working on the floor is very easy and kind of logical to understand, but the register takes a bit more time because it's a lot of little steps."

"And when it comes to retail, you don't know what to expect and you don't know what kind of customers you're going to get."

The fringe benefits? Workers get 50% off on select clothes, online discounts and stackable promotions, Elena E. said.

Here's one final bonus: "Some associates tend to do a very good job so they also can get offered a part-time position, but it just really depends on how they work [during] big [sales] events," she said.

• LUSH

To apply: Go to lush.pinpointhq.com/#js-careers-jobs-block or go in person to the cosmetics store that's nearby Hollister in Brea.

Sorry, juniors and underclassmen. This cosmetics shop offers jobs only to those 18 and older, so most of the hired help are in college, though seniors who meet the age requirement are eligible to apply.

Manager in training who goes by Becky F. said the company has been offering seasonal jobs since its founding in 1995.

The hours can vary based on the store's needs and employees availability, with most usually working between 4-16 hours per week with a pay of \$18.50 an hour; the position can last up to

STEPS TO RECEIVING A WORK PERMIT:

1. Obtain the work permit application, either from the school website or the counselor's office
2. Fill out the application (get signatures from parents and employer)
3. Bring completed application back to office
4. Counselor's office will enter information into the system and issue the actual work permit
5. Work permit is valid for a designated period of time, usually for a semester (needs to be renewed at the start of each new semester or school year)
6. With a new job is a new permit (the permit is tied to the specific employer)
7. Work permit has hour restrictions based on student's age

compiled by Irene Park

the end of January.

"We look for personality with our seasonal positions, and we're really big on the vibe of our store and focus a lot on customer experiences and interactions," Becky F. said. "So, we want people that are able to give other people a really lovely experience and are able to hold a conversation."

The manager in training said the age limit exists because of California's labor laws and restrictions on overworking minors. Also, high school schedules often aren't flexible enough to accommodate the store's needed hours.

So what's the good news? So far, most of the hires are from the Fullerton and Pomona areas, Becky F. said.

SEASONAL HELPER: College student and Target seasonal worker Alyssa Vasquez identifies items that need to be restocked in the produce section of Fullerton Town Center's location.

The fringe benefits: 50% off on select products as well as flexible scheduling to work around school schedules along with a program that allows employees to try out two free products every month, she said.

"Depending on what the season ends up like, we are usually able to keep on certain amounts of employees," the manager in training said. "So it's always an opportunity to get a potential long-term job."

• TARGET

To apply: Go to <https://jobs.target.com/> or go in person to the cosmetics store that's next to Bath and Body Works in the Amerige Town Center.

Unfortunately, the store has closed its seasonal applications as of Dec. 5, but students can use this information to apply next year.

Target is also a store that accepts applicants that only are 18 years or older, with a starting rate of \$18.25 per hour for seasonal work.

The jobs include specialty sales, service and engagement and general merchandise and food sales.

Seasonal employee Alyssa Vasquez works in Fulfillment, which focuses on helping with organizing orders and preparing items for shipment.

Her hours tend to vary depending on how busy the store is, with certain days being more hectic than others.

"For Black Friday week, I did 33 hours, but for other weeks and what I'm scheduled for in the future, it's like 26 hours," Vasquez said.

Target also offers seasonal employees a chance to stay with Target after the holiday season ends, according to the store's corporate website.



FUN AT WHAT COST?

Students plan to spend less this holiday season because of higher prices

story by JUSTIN PAK

Two years ago during the holiday shopping season in December, then-sophomore David Tapia recalls walking into the Tokyo Japanese Lifestyle gift shop at the MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana.

"I wanted to buy a Pompompurin plush and a Tanjiro figure for my sister for Christmas," Tapia says. "I was so excited to buy the gift because it was for my sister; we were doing Secret Santa for family."

He had bought similar items the previous year for his other sister and thought he knew what the gifts would cost: the plush around \$25 and the figure \$30.

With only a \$50 budget, Tapia remembers seeing the price tag for each item at the MainPlace store: \$45 for the plush and \$35 for the figure.

Since the combined cost along with sales tax would lead to around \$35 over his budget, Tapia says he decided to purchase only the plush.

"I've always looked for one gift that means a lot that I would get for sure, and then smaller extra gifts to go with it, so I was kind of sad when I couldn't get both," the current senior says. "With the rising prices, I've been having to buy only the main gift."

Though this experience happened in 2022, Tapia — including many other shoppers nationwide — has continued to feel high item costs the past two years. And although inflation has dramatically dipped from a high of 6.5% in December 2022 to 2.6% this October according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, this economy has still deterred customers from spending more during this holiday season.

According to an October PricewaterhouseCoopers [PwC]

article, 40% of consumers say they intend to spend the same amount this holiday season as the last and 29% plan to spend less. This is despite the rate of inflation decreasing steadily from 3.1% to 2.6% over this year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Additionally, according to the PwC article, although a combined 69% plan to spend the same or less as the previous year, holiday spending is projected to increase by 7%. This is because the 26% who plan to spend more are allocating \$3,076 on average — more than four times the average budget of those cutting back.

Students like sophomore Ysabel Giana Eneria find themselves in the 40% of consumers who plan on maintaining the same budget this holiday period. However, when considering inflation, she can't buy as much as in previous years.

"I always get excited to holiday shop because I love to shop for other people, but I don't think I'll be buying as much as I usually do," Eneria says. "I have noticed the changes in cost for certain things I usually buy, especially with makeup and stuff."

Inflation and how it affects the economy has been a common topic in social science instructor Robert Bradburn's International Baccalaureate Economics HL2 class, which is comprised of seniors.

"The rate of growth is usually very close to the inflation rate, but it takes a while to catch up, and that's why people get so nervous and unhappy [about prices]," Bradburn says.

As a result, many people feel they do not make enough money to match the high prices, still feeling the high rates of 2022 when inflation reached a peak of 9.1% in June, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



illustration by JOANNA JOO

Because of the harsh economic situation, Bradburn has concluded that people may also feel unhelpful for the future, resulting in many people choosing to spend less or the same amount.

"Holiday spending is a lot about people's belief about the future; if they think their job will be stable next year — that they might even get a promotion and that times are good — then they'll spend more on the holidays," the teacher says.

And that's what might have happened last month for Black Friday sales. According to a Nov. 30 Reuters online article, Black Friday spending rose 3.4% year-over-year. When adjusted for inflation, spending rose by 0.8%.

"Because many Americans believed that Mr. Trump would help the economy more than Ms. Harris, I think it's possible that [this] increased their confidence and spending for the moment," Bradburn says.

Although spending has gone up during Black Friday sales, Bradburn stresses the importance of correcting mistaken assumptions about the economy that may cause some to spend less.

"There are some people who think that prices will go back down; they don't realize that that almost never happens," he says. "People remember what prices were a few years ago; they may not remember much from high school history, but they do remember the price of gasoline and eggs a few years back, and it will take them a long time to get used to the new prices."

ARE LOCAL BUSINESSES STILL SUFFERING?

Despite higher prices, Bath & Body Works key holder Amanda, who works at the store in Amerige Heights Town Center but declined to give a last name, says she hasn't noticed a decrease in sales.

Instead, she says higher prices have prompted buyers to be more savvy with their purchases.

"Mainly people just come on sale days instead of buying full price

because of how expensive they are," Amanda says. "We have been having more weekend sales now though compared to before [high inflation rates]."

Kenia, the Target service and engagement team lead for the store in Amerige Heights Town Center, says sales haven't changed much since the drop caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Although inflation rates were low in 2020, averaging 1.2% according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Kenia says Target still saw a drop in sales because of the lockdown. In the following years, sales did not increase much because although foot traffic increased, inflation began to rise.

"Now, more people decide not to purchase things at checkout once they see the pricing," she said.

WHAT ABOUT THIS CHRISTMAS FOR TAPIA?

Tapia, who plans to start purchasing items for his annual family Secret Santa in mid-December, says while he's maintaining his budget of \$50, he anticipates more careful spending.

"Everything is really expensive right now, and that \$50 is just for my family — I still need to buy things for friends, so I really need to watch my budget," he says.

CANDID: How has inflation affected your holiday season



Natalie Hong
Freshman
"I'm planning to buy fewer gifts."



Kate Licciardo
Sophomore
"I haven't been able to go on my usual ski trips."



Jasper Hanharan
Junior
"I'm going to try to limit my presents."

photos by NOAH LEE and ALEXA BERUMEN

compiled by JUSTIN PAK

DID YOU KNOW?

ELF ON THE ROOF

Santa's helper makes an appearance atop campus buildings during finals week. Who is he and why is he up there?

story by LAUREN KANG

As a continuing feature, The Accolade delves into the origins of Sunny Hills culture or landmarks. This time, we take a look at the person who's dressed as an elf and usually sitting on one of the campus buildings' rooftops during one or more of the days of final exam week in the fall semester. We send co-Sports editor Lauren Kang to investigate how the tradition started and its purpose.

You better watch out.
You better not cry.
You better not pout.
I'm telling you why.
Santa's ELF is coming to [SH] town.

While Santa does come to campus to pass out candy to students in the quad on Dec. 21, 2023, it's the appearance of an "elf" during break that has caused some students to wonder what the holiday lore is all about.

"Twas NOT the night before Christmas, but it was more like 2016 when the administrators decided to further this tradition by bringing their own version of *Elf on the Shelf* to Sunny Hills to ease students' worries during finals week.

Stemming from a children's book from 2005 by Carol Aebersold and her daughter Chandra Bell, it tells the story of an elf who watches over children to report back to Santa Claus whether they're naughty or nice.

This story follows an elf who hides in a new spot every night after it returns from the North Pole. It leads the children in the story to discover the elf's new hiding place every morning.

Assistant principal Sarah Murrietta said she was the one to come up with this idea for here after reading this story.

"We wanted to bring some holiday joy to the students," Murrietta said. "All we heard were just lots of talk of not sleeping and how they did on their finals, so we wanted to create a little light-hearted joy for them to look up and smile."



For the full story,
go to shhsacolade.com.

SANTA'S HELPER: Science teacher Mason Morris sits on top of the 180s building dressed in the signature elf costume during finals week on Dec. 18, 2018.

image used with permission by MASON MORRIS



Q&A Lancer Life

As a continuing segment from the first issue of the school year, The Accolade finds out more about students on campus. For the second "Lancer Life," staff reporter and social media team member Alice Chae interviews freshman Jeremy English to find out about his story.

Q What do you like to do during your free time?

A "I spend a lot of time with my little brother by playing his favorite games like Roblox or survival craft games. I play guitar, or I try to get work done by cleaning sometimes."

Q Can you tell us more about your last name, "English"? What's the story behind it, especially since it's spelled similarly to the "English" language?

A "I haven't learned about my last name before, partially because I thought until I was 6 years old that the word 'English' was spelled with an 'I'. From what I've gathered, the name comes from Ireland, though I don't know if it was based on the English language. The furthest back relative my family traced was John English, who came from Northern Ireland in the early 1800s. Oddly, one of his children changed the spelling to start with an 'E'."

Q What do you see yourself doing 10 years from now? Where are you living, what college have you gone to and what job do you think you have?

A "I want to be a computer programmer; that's where I hope to be in 10 years. I want to have gone to UCI [because] I went to the campus last year for Science Olympiad and really enjoyed it. My dad also went there, so I might be able to get some advice from him."

Q What has been the most challenging thing you've overcome? When did it happen and how did you overcome the challenge?

A "The most challenging thing I've overcome, at least as far as my memory goes back, was my third-to-last cross country race. This was when I first started having stress-related issues. The course included many inclines, one of which is called the dam hill, as it goes over a dam. My time was mediocre compared to previous courses, even ones with comparable hills. I overcame my sense of defeat after this race by improving at my next one. I also found out that the course was over the usual length, so my time wasn't so bad."

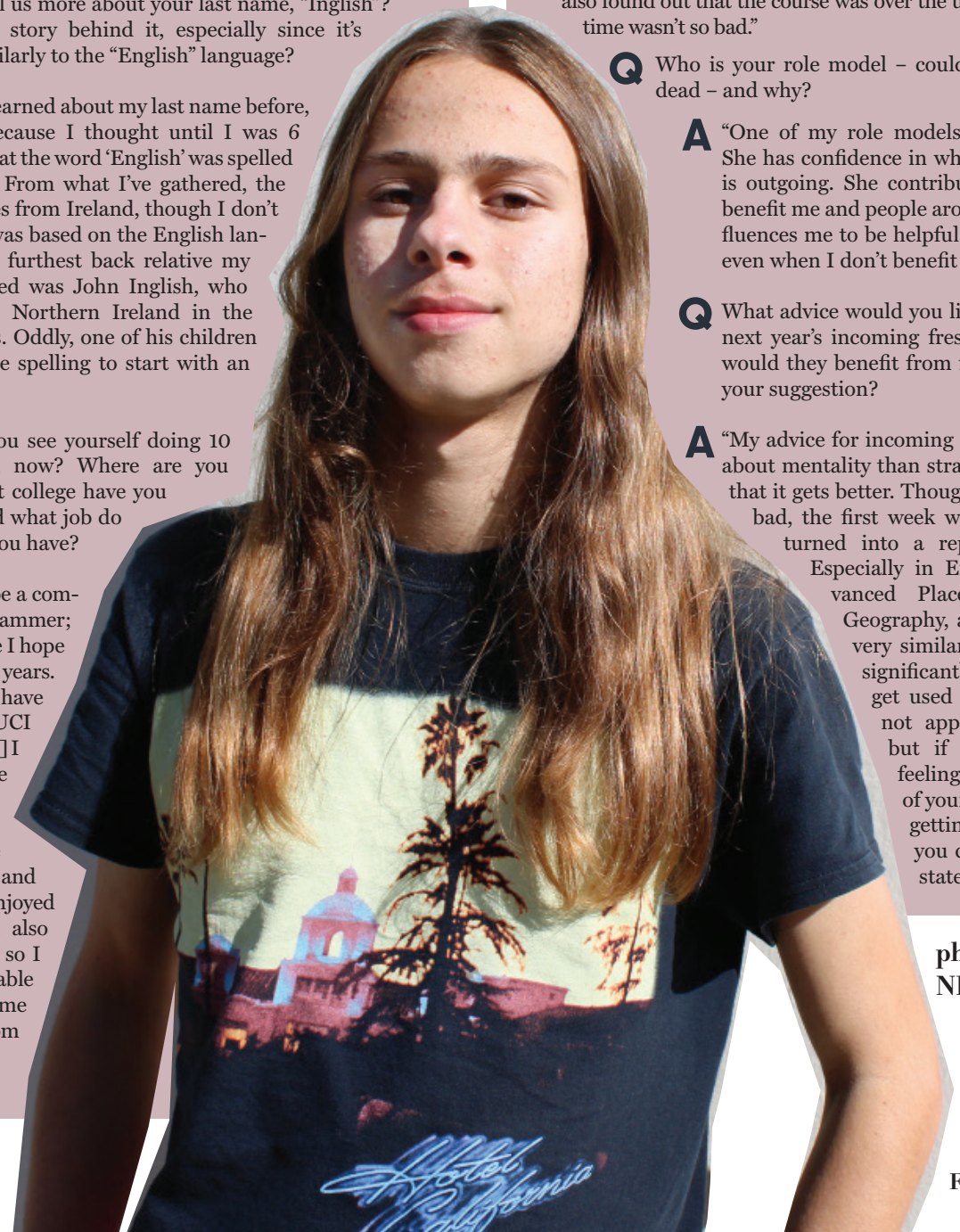
Q Who is your role model – could be living or dead – and why?

A "One of my role models is my mother. She has confidence in what she does and is outgoing. She contributes things that benefit me and people around me. She influences me to be helpful to other people even when I don't benefit [from it]."

Q What advice would you like to impart on next year's incoming freshmen and how would they benefit from following up on your suggestion?

A "My advice for incoming freshmen, more about mentality than strategy, is to know that it gets better. Though it might seem bad, the first week was my worst; it turned into a repeated process. Especially in English and Advanced Placement Human Geography, assignments are very similar, so it becomes significantly easier as you get used to it. This may not apply to everyone, but if you're used to feeling in full control of your time while still getting work done, you can get to that state."

photo by
NICOLE PARK



MOVING FINALS?

WINTER BREAK COULD GIVE STUDENTS MORE TIME TO STUDY FOR FINALS

story by SERENITY LI

As the year ends, so does our regular bell schedule. Finals week awaits us in a few days.

I walk into the room and talk with peers while anxiously waiting for the bell to ring.

"I stayed up so late studying!" my friend says.

"They tell us to get a good night's sleep, but I can't if I have to review all the material," I sigh.

The bell rings, and we spend two hours focusing on finishing our exams. I repeat this cycle twice a day, two hours for each class for three days. After, I worry about the results: If I fail, the whole semester will amount to nothing!

To avoid conversations like these, the school needs to move final exams to after winter break as students have limited time to prepare for it or enjoy the holiday spirit at school; this also forces teachers to fight against the ticking time bomb of grade report

deadlines. Yes, it's nice that we don't have any tests when we return in January, but at what cost?

Moving our exams to after winter break will let me enjoy campus

THE CURRENT SCHEDULE DISREGARDS A STUDENT'S WELL BEING

festivities without worry. Some friends and teachers dislike the spirit week and assembly because it distracts them from finals, but with this change, they can enjoy it knowing they still have time to prepare.

Although some argue they'll forget course material during

break, the current schedule disregards a student's well-being and healthy work life. Unlike most schools, the Huntington Beach Unified High School District holds their exams after winter break. My friends in that district dislike that as it's hard to study after a long break from school—and I don't blame them.

Staff members who've taught for over 20 years at Sunny Hills said the 2012-2013 school year was the last one before the fall semester ended before January. Students participated in spirit week, and teachers could give gifts to colleagues and do last-minute holiday shopping; school even started later.

Nowadays, students return from Thanksgiving break for a frantic two weeks of last-minute cramming before final exams and a burnout-filled break.

Rescheduling would also allow teachers to finish grading their work without rushing. During the exam period, they grade what took their students two hours to finish before the deadline comes at 12 p.m.

Actually, in a conversation with my Chinese 3 teacher, she said that on that day, staff crowd the office to turn in grades and check attendance sheets before time is up. Starting school two weeks after usual ends the fall semester later, but lets teachers grade their papers with less risk of mistakes.

If I had it my way, instead of a daunting exam, I would see an easy test all thanks to those two weeks off.

FINALS AFTER WINTER BREAK WOULD STAIN THE JOY OF THE HOLIDAY RECESS

story by ELISE PAK

"I wish finals were after winter break," my friend said. "Imagine two more weeks to study!"

"Yeah," another chimed in. "If we could prepare for finals over break, we wouldn't have homework to eat up our study time."

"What? Guys, if finals were after break, we would go into the holidays stressing about school," I argued. "We wouldn't get to recharge for the new semester, we would forget material and the school year might end later. Our schedule now is fine."

For the sake of those who've thought the way my friends did, I decided to look into schools finishing the fall semester after the holiday season.

Through my research, I learned that the Huntington Beach Union High School District's finals week is unfortunately after the break. I feel bad they're missing out on all the great aspects of pre-holiday finals.

First, working to pass final exams before enjoying the break teaches students delayed gratification. Learning to prioritize responsibilities over immediate happiness is a life skill high schoolers can apply in their futures.

By finishing their work first, students can appreciate the holidays without feeling the pressure of finals.

Winter break should be a joyful time that gives students two weeks to reflect. *What went right this semester? What can I do better?* With finals beforehand, students can engage in this reflective process without the weight of impending exams

EXTENDING THE FALL... [MAKES] IT HARDER FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO REST

on their shoulders. Last year, I let myself unwind during vacation and consider what study habits worked for me. I returned to school refreshed and ready to tackle a new semester.

Some may argue high schoolers burn out during finals week, and winter break lets them rejuvenate.

However, students will realistically do worse on their exams if they're held after winter break. Over the two weeks of holiday festivities, they'll likely forget material taught over the semester. According to InnerDrive, people usually forget most information if they haven't revisited it in 24 hours, and winter break has ample time for students to lose knowledge. Oftentimes after a break from school, I take a few days to recall things from the previous semester.

Also, finals after winter break would cause the school year to end later or add two weeks to the fall semester. Some may say the extra two weeks give students and teachers more time to prepare for exams and lessens the Thanksgiving-to-winter break rush.

If the school year ended later, students would get less time to work on critical summer opportunities like preparing for college applications or summer internships. Extending the fall semester means reducing the length of winter break or pushing it closer to mid-January, making it harder for students and teachers to rest and enjoy the holidays with loved ones with unfinished academics.

As the last bell of finals week rang last year, my stress melted away and the joy of a winter break free of looming exams replaced it.

WE'RE MORE THAN

story by CHRISTINE YOO

Seaside
DONUTS
Bakery

Recent SoCal Asian stereotypes popularized by social media can be misleading

illustration by JOANNA JOO



A line wrapped around the block with people waiting for hours to taste the store that took the internet by storm: Seaside Bakery in Newport. My friends and I were part of this group of future customers who had stopped by after our day at Newport Beach this past summer. Although various chatter flowed through the long line, I could make out a particularly prominent conversation between a couple of teenagers around our age in the back.

“Is this ABG heaven?”

Coined sometime from the 1990s to the early 2000s, the term ABG stands for Asian Baby Girl and ABB stands for Asian Baby Boy, according to a September 2021 article posted by The Michigan Daily. Stereotypically, ABGs and ABBs refer to a group of Southeast Asians living in the West

Coast who all enjoy doing the same activities such as drinking boba, listening to similar artists like Keshi and 88rising and partying.

Recently, through the explosion of Asian influencers like Eric Ou (@ericouu) on TikTok, Southern California [SoCal] was marked as the hotspot for ABGs and ABBs with endless influencers posting skits mocking the SoCal Asian trope.

Although the usage of this term is mostly used in a humorous context, continuing to generally stereotype SoCal Asians into this single criterion can carry more harm than good.

Especially in recent trends, the concept of ABGs and ABBs have become a symbol of SoCal Asian monolithicity.

In the eyes of many on social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram Reels, SoCal

“ ABGS AND ABBS HAVE BECOME A SYMBOL OF SOCAL ASIAN MONOLITHICITY ”

Asians hold a superiority complex over other Asian Americans living in different states as seen through various parodies and videos.

In a TikTok posted by The 949 Podcast on April 2, the all-Asian speakers discuss how SoCal Asians think they are “that Asian” and feel superior to those who live in other states simply because they live in California and have this digitally popularized culture.

The comments on the video strengthen stereotypes with remarks such as “[SoCal Asians] try to gatekeep the Asian American experience,” and “Why do SoCal Asians have egos like they got no connection to their ancestors? They [are] practically white.”

Still, what’s even worse is that such attacks on SoCal Asians and their identity happen mainly among the Asian community itself. From what I’ve seen, most TikTok videos poking fun at the ABG and ABB stereotypes are created by fellow Asians, whether they live in SoCal or not, and videos titled “pov: abb and abg go on a date,” to “How to summon ABGs” fill my For You Page.

Even though making self-deprecating jokes about one’s own culture can lack ill intent, if it goes too far, it can end up strengthening a negative stereotype already set in one’s community.

During the summer, I attended a retreat with a couple of other small churches. There, I remember meeting a fellow Korean girl from a visiting church on the east coast. When I told her I was from Orange County, she proceeded to ask if I liked to drink boba, take pictures of the sunset and if Keshi was my top artist on Spotify.

To make it worse, she told me a lot of

people from the East Coast saw Asians from the West as these slightly empty-headed people who all essentially loved the same things.

Yes, some Asians living in SoCal do fit the definition of an ABG or an ABB. In fact, many may argue that it’s their own fault the stereotype was popularized since mostly Asians themselves created a plethora of the viral TikToks making fun of the term. Nonetheless, just because some people in a community fit a description doesn’t mean it should be applied to everyone else in that group.

Of course, nothing is wrong with wearing Stussy or making late-night stops at Seaside Bakery, but the negative stigma created among the terms ABG and ABB and the appliance to all SoCal Asians makes it a problem.

Instead of acknowledging the unique identities of Asians in California and their culture, this stereotype has made popular interests among the group a weapon to harm them.

To combat this negative stereotype, it’s important to listen to TikToks making fun of the SoCal Asian identity

with a grain of salt and for creators to stop making these videos at all.

In fact, the joke has gotten old. So, when I heard that group of teenagers laughing about where the ABGs were at Seaside Bakery, I couldn’t help but look around as well, only to find barely any.

The truth is that not every SoCal Asian has the same monolithic interests, and it’s time to recognize that.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SOCAL ASIAN STEREOTYPE ON SOCIAL MEDIA LATELY?



Based on 177 responses collected from Dec. 2-9
compiled by CHRISTINE YOO

FINALS WEEK

Administrators should have notified students, parents about piloted format sooner than a month before the start of testing

Eleven out of 21 Accolade Editorial Board members disagree with the administration's decision to alter the schedule starting the 2024-2025 school year for the upcoming semester finals, citing that this change was introduced too late into the year, making it harder for students to adjust on such short notice.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

In an October site leadership meeting of academic department chairs and administrators, it was decided to change the finals schedule to having zero period on the first day instead of the week prior, as in the past, along with sixth period, which before was scheduled for the last day of student attendance. The first day of final exam week, Dec. 17, would also end an hour later than in the past. With only one hour on Tuesday to take finals, zero period teachers often opted to spread the typically two-hour-long period and have the final be on the week before finals — which worked well and made the best out of time.

Although assistant principal Sarah Murrietta considers this schedule a piloted one and may revert to the original depending on schoolwide feedback, the sudden alteration — just a bit over a month before the start of final exam week — proves inconvenient and unnecessary; the premise of this change was to provide a more consistent schedule for students with zero periods, and more clarity for parents about what time their student needs to reach school, but this new format may be a point of greater confusion instead of assistance. Since most teachers already announce the arrival time to their students, the confusion about reporting time on the first day of finals may come from a lack of student-to-parent communication.

If this is a genuine concern for a majority of teachers and administrators, then instead of notifying us about the change so late into the year, they should have addressed it before the school year started. The first step to providing consistency comes through efficient commu-

nication— not a last minute email. A better solution would have been for the administration to ask each zero period teacher to conduct a Google Form poll to find out how zero period students feel about the change on the first day of finals. Murrietta said around 200 students have these three starting periods as academic classes, meaning they will have to take three final exams on the first day of this routine. Since this group of students accounts

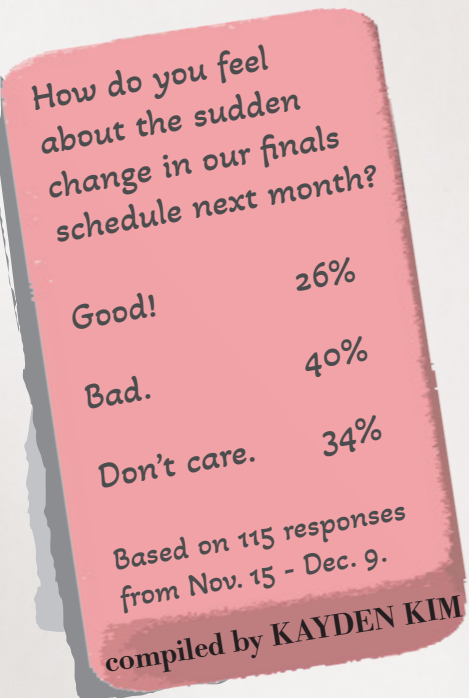
TUE	start	end	min
0	7:28	9:28	120
break	9:28	9:38	10
1	9:43	11:43	120
break	11:43	11:53	10
6	11:58	1:58	120
WED	start	end	min
2	8:30	10:30	120
break	10:30	10:45	10
3	10:50	12:50	120
THU	start	end	min
4	8:30	10:30	120
break	10:30	10:45	10
5	10:50	12:50	120

for 16.9% of the student population, we must consider their stance on this situation and how it may negatively affect their mental well-being.

Instead of having the decisions made by only the teaching department and administration, they may consult student representatives to share their opinions regarding the potential changes. Although we are grateful for

our principal coming to speak to us and keep us updated about campus-related events, notifying us about the change would be easier for administration to gain insight into students' minds. If this continues, it'll be interesting to find out how many students would want to take a zero period in the future.

The Accolade Editorial Board is made up of the top editors and section editors on the 2024-2025 staff with the guidance of adviser Tommy Li. If you have a question about the board's decision or an issue for the board to discuss and write about, please send an email to theacoladeshhs@gmail.com.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader responses to the Sept. 24 "Canceled" news article:

I loved the whole magazine but mainly the one about Advanced Placement [AP] test score cancellations, as it brought up things that I never knew could affect me.

I learned about test scores and how cheating has been affecting everyone.

The pictures used in the article also highlighted why I should not cheat and what it might do to me in the future if I do decide to.

— Bradyn Chiang, freshman

As a student who had taken the AP Human Geography test last year, I was surprised to hear some people had their AP scores canceled, which, to my knowledge, occurs rarely. Also, a senior who was accused of cheating based on the College Board decision without being able to know specific reasons with precise evidence both concerned and terrified me.

I appreciated being notified about AP scores that are significant to me as I spend my time, money and effort toward them and because I will be taking AP tests in the future.

— Amy Lim, sophomore

Reader responses to the Sept. 24 "Did You Know? The Golden Ticket" feature article:

As someone who has purchased the Gold Card, I find this article very useful. I got into the football game for free a couple of times, and I could also get discounts on the school dances.

I think that the Gold Card is a great idea because even though it's pricey, it saves a ton of money in the end.

— Alyssa Halley, sophomore

I found this story to be useful because of the in-depth explanation of the history of gold cards and their purpose. Since some people did not purchase this item, they can be informed about the convenience of the Gold Card through this story. As someone who goes to a lot of school events, the card helps me save a lot of

money while also showing school spirit.

— Rose Park, sophomore

Reader responses to the Sept. 24 "Q&A LANCER LIFE" feature article:

Having read many of the "Humans of New York" stories, I like how *The Accolade* incorporated a new segment inspired by them.

I agree with the message it's sending — everyone does have a story to tell, even if they're not in prominent positions.

Next issue, I hope that *The Accolade* interviews more than just one person so we can hear a variety of people's stories but also their advice.

— Jatziry Acevedo, sophomore

Reader response to the Sept. 24 staff editorial:

As a freshman experiencing my first year of high school at Sunny Hills, it was uplifting to read about the different streaks of color that came together to offer something beautiful at this campus.

The staff editorial, "Streaks of Improvement," gave me a glimpse of what our student body has been doing to advance forward and prepare for an exhilarating year of new memories.

It instilled hope in me that those leading us headfirst into the year truly do care about keeping our school spirit alive.

— Kaylynn Park, freshman

Reader responses to the Sept. 24 "One state under God" column:

As a Christian myself, Serenity Li's "One State Under God" encouraged me to educate myself more on my own beliefs. Creating a law based on the Ten Commandments will very likely negatively influence others to have a distorted perception of Christianity. I would feel uncomfortable if I were placed in an environment where a certain religion was imposed on us.

— Esther Ahn, sophomore

The Accolade welcomes signed letters to the editor with full name and grade level emailed to theacoladeshhs@gmail.com.



KICKOFF 2024

Readers react to the September issue — The Accolade's first non-specialty magazine of the school year covering topics spanning from the history of the ASB Gold Card to an exploration of why AP students might cheat on their tests.





Lookie! Lookie!

illustration by RYAN SHIM

Innovative cookies and social media fame pits SH into Crumbl craze



photo by KATIE LEEM

story by JENNA KIM

An unmistakable pink box. No, donuts aren't inside. Each week, the container features new flavors with sweetness in every bite.

TikTok posts have usually touted this latest food sensation with the words, "Lookie! Lookie!" Like the slogan suggests, it's quite hard to miss.

With its rotating flavors and eye-catching packaging, 7-year-old cookie company Crumbl has taken over the desert world.

As more customers line up for a taste of its latest creations, many cite the company's innovative approach as how it's redefining the cookie experience as reasons for their loyal following.

Even at Sunny Hills, many students have shared their enthusiasm for the brand's oversized, soft cookies spanning 4.25 inches in diameter and a flavor profile ranging from the classic Chocolate Chip to creations like Lemon Glaze or Churro cookies, each costing \$4.99.

Students can purchase Crumbl cookies either at the La Habra location or online through the company's website for convenient delivery or pickup.

While some may be shocked about the cost at first, once they've taken a bite, they are willing to go back for more.

"I hear my students talk about it all the time," biology teacher Kelly Kim said. "I know some kids have to have it every week, and if they're talking about Crumbl, they mention how good it is or how they have to get the new flavors."

The company's popularity grew through social media platform TikTok, in which users like @shhh-himeating began showcasing each new rotation of flavors in Auditory Sensory Meridian Response [ASMR] videos.

Science Olympiad vice captain junior Rhea Ji said that's how she and many of her club members got hooked.

"I'd constantly see Crumbl videos online, and they looked so appealing, so I suggested we eat it at our weekly Science Olympiad practices — now, it's a go-

to snack," said Ji, who estimates that she has spent \$210 on the company since October. "The appeal lies in its variety; with a menu that changes weekly, we never know what we're going to get, so the experience remains exciting."

While the iconic chocolate chip cookie always appears, whether in the form of a \$4.99 semi-sweet, milk chocolate or double chocolate cookie, Crumbl's menu is everchanging. Each week brings a fresh rotation of flavors to try, with selections including even cake and pie-inspired creations like the Caramel Toffee Butter Cake or the French Silk Pie, each \$6.49.

"I love how Crumbl has so many flavors for us each week," said sophomore Jefferson Mendez, who goes once a week and has spent \$235 on the company's treats since this May after visiting the store with his friend. "And because it has more than just cookies, I'm never bored."

BACK TO THE PRICING

Despite the hype, Crumbl's pricing — roughly \$5 per cookie — raises questions about whether the indulgence is truly worth the cost. When the Associated Student Body [ASB] considered catering Crumbl for the 2024-2025 school year homecoming dance, this price tag became a major sticking point, said ASB junior Rielynn Brimmer, who was in charge of organizing this year's homecoming dance.

"It was a hard decision to choose Crumbl because of the pricing issue, but then we decided it was the best choice," Brimmer said. "We hoped our sales would outweigh the pricing — we knew it was very popular and would ideally bring more people to the dance."

ASB spent approximately \$5,000 catering 2000 cookies from Crumbl's Sept. 30-Oct. 5 lineup, featuring the flavors Cookies & Cream Milkshake, Oatmeal Chocolate Chip, Pumpkin Cake and Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chunk. Ticket sales amounted to just short under \$50,000, with each attendee allowed one cookie per food ticket at the dance.

Senior Matthew Ma, who attended the dance, said the cookies were a great addition to the event.

"[They] had a soft, chewy texture that I love and a ton of sweet energy — just the boost I needed to keep me moshing"

As Crumbl continues to grow its fanbase, the company's commitment to both flavor innovation and marketing will keep its pink boxes in high demand — no matter the price tag.

CANDID: What's your favorite Dec. 2 - Dec. 7 Crumbl cookie flavor?



Jefferson Mendez
Sophomore

Holiday Birthday Cake

"I thought the cookie was very flavorful."

Rielynn Brimmer
Junior

Cookies & Cream Milkshake

"The oreo cookie is a classic — I really enjoyed it."



compiled by JENNA KIM

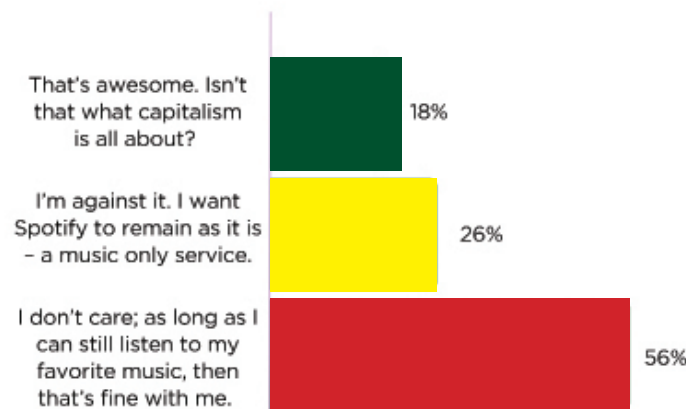
Compiled by CLAIRE LEE



Spotify takes on YouTube in pointless video war

story by KAYDEN KIM

What do you think about Spotify taking on YouTube with new video features for users to earn money?



Based on 150 responses collected from Nov. 15 - Dec. 3

compiled by CLAIRE LEE



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com

Dear Spotify, Your nearly hundred billion dollar firm started trying to hook us teens onto your platform in 2019 and 2023 when it copied TikTok by adding Canvas and Clips, respectively — both features allowing artists to create several-second-long video clips associated with a song.

By adding videos into preexisting features, you kept copying other apps — you're even drawing inspiration from an established social media giant: YouTube.

Nov. 13, you posted an article on your “For the Record” page introducing Spotify for Creators — a new website platform where podcasters can upload video and audio files (as before), with the added benefit of tracking more detailed analytics and making more money from said posts.

The financial part, officially called the Spotify Partner Program, lets creators “earn a revenue share on ads played on or off Spotify, or they can earn based on how much Premium subscribers stream their video content,” according to the update’s information page.

The Spotify Partner Program, in theory, was a good choice.

YouTube started its own Partner Program in 2007 — giving creators a fraction of ad revenue and more money depending on views, according to the YouTube Help Center. This gave the site 160 million users within a year, compared to 20 million in 2006. Given its success, I understand how you might assume you’ll get a taste of YouTube’s massive profits.

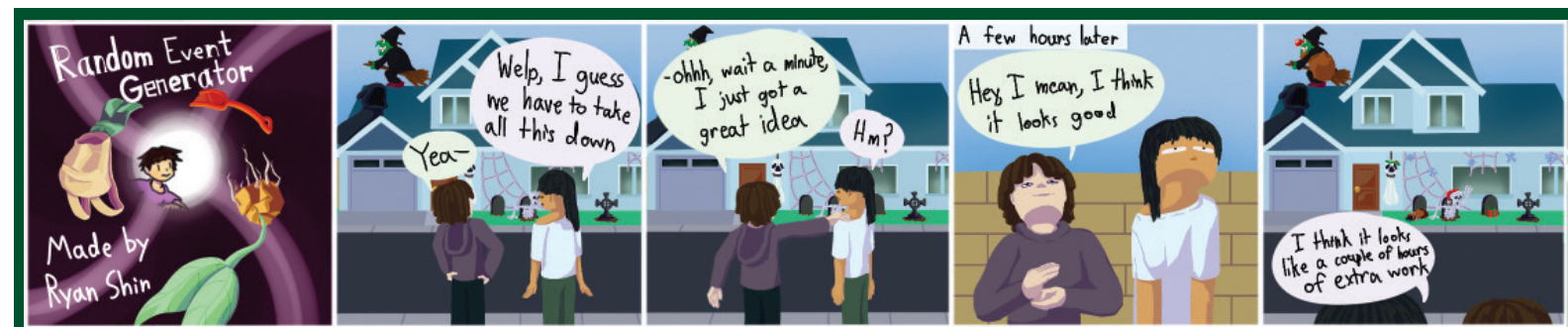
But I’ve yet to see a Spotify video podcast that hasn’t been uploaded to YouTube beforehand.

While YouTube is a platform built around uploading and monetizing videos, you aren’t — and you won’t stand a chance. The new update clearly revolves around creators, but your success is hard to support when it doesn’t improve your entire company or consumers.

Please don’t forget your original mission statement: helping users easily access quality music.

Stick with what’s been working. Reversify, rectify — it’s not too late to keep your brand on top, Spotify.

Ha!Ha!Haliday COMICS



Want more laughs? Check out *The Accolade*’s online news website’s weekly comics feature at shhsaccolade.com.

ALL IN FOR ALLGEIER

First-time girls soccer head coach becomes fourth in program history

photo by RACHEL YOON

story by EMILY KIM

TAKING OVER: Head girls soccer coach William Allgeier guides the Lady Lancers against Esperanza High School during a scrimmage on Nov. 21.



For the full story, and story on new girls water polo head coach, go to shhsaccolade.com

William Allgeier's success as a coach or assistant coach have spanned 10 years in boys soccer and girls club soccer.

In 2023 as an assistant at El Dorado High School in Placentia, the boys soccer team reached the CIF Division 3 regional final, ending the season with an overall 21-4-3 record.

As head coach of the Strikers FC North club team, he guided the boys squad to a 7-1 record in the 2023-2024 season.

Though Allgeier's only experience coaching girls soccer was when he did a two-month stint as a coach's sub for 17- to 18-year-olds in Placentia for Strikers North FC – now known as SC Blues – his overall success was what impressed athletic director Paul Jones when he was reviewing applications for the job, left vacant when AJ Arenas announced his decision to step down.

"Allgeier coached [as an assistant] at El Dorado High School, which is a very good program," Jones said. "Our boys team has had many great battles against [El Dorado] in the past as coach Allgeier was a part of their staff."

ALLGEIER AND HIS ALL-FOR-ONE FAMILY APPROACH

Another key factor to the coach's philosophy concerns his focus on the culture he has built in the programs he's overseen or worked as an assistant.

"I prioritize creating a culture that is not just a winning culture, but it's essentially a caring and a fun culture to where everyone feels included," Allgeier said. "We don't have guidelines where [players] have to be best friends, but they need to be respectful to one another because we are one big family."

That perspective is something that co-captain senior Gwen Hennessy, a center back, has seen develop from summer practices to now.

"It's definitely getting to a point where I can say we are [family]," said Hennessy, who joined the Lady Lancers as a freshman. "Everyone simply gets along so well with each other; we all care about one another and have each other's backs."

That unity came to the forefront in a Dec. 3 road game against Woodbridge High School in Irvine. Down 2-0 in the first 15 minutes of the first half, the Lady Lancers stormed back and ended the non-league matchup in a 3-3 tie.

"We tell each other to keep our head up [even when losing]. ... We use the saying, 'Let it go,' if a goal was given up," said junior Madison Balkus, another of the captains who plays center mid/back.

FROM COACHING BOYS TO GIRLS

In more than half a year's time that Allgeier has worked here, he said he has learned to adapt to developing an all-female squad.

"There's pros and cons between coaching both boys and girls, but I genuinely think there's more pros to coaching girls than there are boys," the new coach said. "[Girls] are far better listeners as to where I'm finding myself not having to win an argument with a male player; whereas, I'm explaining different things in various ways to females."

Nevertheless, he doesn't discount the similarities of both genders on the field.

"Both genders' emotions get involved for sure when the competitiveness takes over," Allgeier said. "People naturally want to win and succeed."

Another way to adjust to coaching an all-girls squad has been through his reaching out to the second person to coach the Lady Lancers, social science teacher and last year's CIF Hall of Fame inductee Jeff Gordon.

"I probably talk to him daily in person; if not, I text him once or twice a week. ... I don't know if it helps that we're both Brea

Olinda [graduates], but he has definitely looked out for me even prior to my hiring," Allgeier said. "Mr. Gordon is a fountain of knowledge, and he's always willing to offer his help."

"I aspire to be a coach that has his success and work ethic."

As the Lady Lancers will enter a new conference this season because of CIF's relegating, Allgeier said he hopes to establish a new legacy with this change.

"I want to win a certain amount of league titles and CIF championships," he said. "My goal is to win at least three to four CIFs and hopefully double-digit league titles by the time I'm done here at Sunny Hills."

So far in his rookie season as head coach, Allgeier's first squad is on its way toward the kind of success he's shooting for. As of Dec. 6, the Lady Lancers remain undefeated with two wins and a tie in non-league play with their first league game on the road on Jan. 2 against Foothill High School in Tustin.

Hennessy said she's been impressed with her teammates' performance on the field.

"I think it's an amazing start so far since this is a brand new team with more newcomers than returners, and we have a whole new coaching staff," she said. "Coach [Allgeier] is doing an amazing job in my opinion, especially since we haven't lost yet."

A third co-captain, senior Lauren Won, agrees.

"I think our record is a good start to [leading us] to the league and CIF [titles]," said Won, a winger and attacking midfielder. "What caused us these results is our chemistry and grit to work together and come back when we are down."




BOARD & BREW
LA HABRA
1901 W. Imperial Hwy
La Habra, CA 90631
562-690-6909

OUR MENU



www.boardandbrew.com

FREE
CHIPS & DRINK
WITH PURCHASE OF ANY SANDO



Board & Brew
Keepin' it Real since 1979
SANDWICHES - SALADS - WRAPS

Valid through 6/31/2025 at Board & Brew La Habra in store only. Must present coupon to redeem offer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Offer valid with purchase of sando, wrap or salad. No cash value.

Girls water polo coach gets induction to alma mater’s athletic hall of fame

story by CLAIRE LEE

He has yet to join former coaching colleagues Jeff Gordon (girls soccer head coach from 1990-2022), Mike Schade (boys soccer head coach from 1988 to 2023) and Tim Devaney (football head coach from 1980-1999) as an inductee in the CIF Hall of Fame.

Keith Nighswonger has earned a similar milestone – yet from a different source.

Nighswonger’s alma mater.

Over the summer in July, Montebello High School inducted the longtime girls water polo head coach into its own Oiler Athletic Hall of Fame.

“It is an honor to be recognized by my high school for things I have done in my professional life,” Nighswonger said.

The coach said he first learned about this recognition when he received a phone call from a Hall of Fame committee member earlier this year.

“It’s meaningful that some people feel my work has been worthy of praise,” he said. “But I do what I do regardless of recognition.”

According to an August edition of the “Athletics Newsletter”

from Sunny Hills athletic director Paul Jones, Nighswonger graduated from Montebello in 1979; then, he began as an assistant coach there for the boys water polo team until the 1983-84 season when he got the job as boys water polo head coach in the City of Industry’s Workman High School.

By 1999, he started guiding the girls junior varsity softball squad here before taking over as the Lady Lancers water polo head coach in 2000. He remained the program leader until this season, transitioning into an assistant role.

Girls water polo player senior Cayenne Bagnol said she and her teammates only learned about their leader’s Hall of Fame induction through social media.

“We discovered his accomplishment through the SH Instagram account since he didn’t share them with us directly,” Bagnol said. “This highlights his humility and modest character.”



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com



A GUIDING HAND: Girls water polo assistant coach Keith Nighswonger gives feedback during a home game against Dana Hills on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

photo by KATIE LEEM

SPLASHING TO VICTORY

WINTER SPORTS
PREVIEW: Girls water polo aims to keep undefeated record in new league with new head coach

story by SOOJIN CHO

Coaches: Riley Godfrey (head coach), Natalie McIlveen (assistant coach), Keith Nighswonger (assistant coach).

Top Returners: Cayenne Bagnol (12), Audrey Bogard (12), Mia Hernandez (11), Lauren Jacobsen (11), Jessica Luna (12), Willow Morrell (11), Abby Reekstin (11), Hailey Yoo (11)

Top Newcomers: Kiane Hatori (10), Kieran Kirkwood (12), Kate Liccardo (10), Madeline Ramirez (10)

Last Season: For a seventh consecutive year, the Lady Lancers (25-8 overall) remained undefeated in Freeway League play at 8-0. They also became the last team to win a Freeway League title as the conference has since been disbanded because of relegating this season. The team, however, fell short in the CIF finals, losing 11-8 against Alta Loma High School.

Outlook: After 24 years of guiding the Lady Lancers, Nighswonger has stepped aside but remain on the staff as an assistant. He promoted one of his former players from the Class of 2020 to lead the team.

“I am way beyond needing to be in the spotlight,” he said. “We have had many talented former players come back to coach with us, and in my mind, you promote talent and provide them with the support they need



photo by KATIE LEEM



For the full story and the rest of the winter sports previews, go to shhsaccolade.com

to be successful.”

Godfrey, who has worked as the assistant coach for the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 seasons, said she has been working with the team to install a dynamic defense that causes more movement.

“We’re going to play a full and strong defense everywhere while focusing on helping our set defenders so that we’re able to get a front-on set,” she said. “We’re working around to ensure that we’re protecting a lot of our defenders.”

Attacker Luna said her teammates are taking the changes in stride. “This season will definitely be a challenge due to the many adjustments we have to make from personal to strategic changes,” she said. “I believe we will adjust and improve our team chemistry as the season goes by, and we will still be able to maintain a good record compared to the previous [years].”

Meanwhile, Godfrey said she appreciates the support she gets from her players and her coaching staff.

“I’m very excited and grateful to have the opportunity to work with this team of extremely talented athletes alongside coach Nighswonger,” she said. “I don’t feel scared; I feel prepared and confident working with this team.”

Goalie Bogard said she has a positive mindset as well.

“I’m excited to see what she does for our team considering she has a very different teaching style compared to coach Nighswonger,” she said. “I’m curious to see how [much more] she can help us improve on both defense and offense.”

Instead of the disbanded Freeway League comprising schools in the same district as Sunny Hills, the girls water polo team will for the first time face competition from other campuses in the Crestview League, which is part of the Century Conference.

While La Habra (16-31 last season) will be a familiar foe since the Highlanders are also in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District, the Lady Lancers will face new programs ranging from Anaheim’s Canyon (20-6 last season) to Tustin’s Foothill (24-6 last season) and to Orange’s Villa Park (11-12 last season).

Nevertheless, Godfrey said she is not worried about keeping the Lady Lancers’ undefeated league winning streak alive.

“It’s definitely going to be challenging because the schools we are going against are very strong opponents,” the head coach said.

GOING FOR THE NET: Sophomore Maddie Ramirez aims to score a goal during a Nov. 20 home match against Dana Hills.

A RUN TO THE GOAL: Senior Zachary Cardona sprints to the ball, passing Santiago High School defenders, to look for a shot at a goal at Buena Park High School on, Nov. 21.

photo by NOAH LEE

⚽ GAME BALL ⚽

SOCCER PLAYER REACHES GOALS WITH COMMITMENT TO RHODES COLLEGE

story by ALEXXA BERUMEN

Although he started later than his peers, a future in soccer was never out of the question for center and right back senior Zachary [Zach] Cardona.

Spending the first eight years of his life pursuing different athletic endeavors such as football and basketball, the senior said he eventually set his heart on his current sport before it was too late for him to continue it to the next level.

“I didn’t have the body type for other sports...so I think my size probably guided me toward soccer more than someone in my life did,” Cardona said. “I started a bit later than most kids my age, but nonetheless I enjoyed it.”

“I think what helped me the most was my mindset to always want to improve myself and never stay complacent. That level of development allowed me to catch up with kids who were playing much longer than I was. [That same mindset] is what allowed me to become the athlete I am today.”

After nearly a decade of hard work and maintaining that mentality, Cardona was offered an avenue to further his soccer passion through his commitment to Rhodes College, located in Memphis.

The center back garnered a total of three other offers — California Lutheran University, North Central College and Seattle Pacific University — all through processes similar to what he experienced with Rhodes.

Despite the temptation of the others, Cardona said that Rhodes offered an unbeatable coaching staff and educational prowess that pushed him to accept their offer.

“I felt like I got really good treatment from them,” said Cardona, who visited the campus in November 2023 following the first few interactions with the school’s soccer program. “The academics over there was also what pushed it above all of the other schools.”

Rhodes was among the colleges that sent staff to the Slammers Phoenix Showcase in Arizona in November 2023, where Cardona’s club

team, Slammers Elite Clubs National League [ECNL] 2007, was set to attend, he said.

The senior said he was able to impress the college’s assistant coach during the team’s game against the Albion Hurricanes, where the recruiter spoke on the athlete’s ability to dominate his side of the field, stay composed and make good passes to his teammates despite the unfortunate weather circumstances.

“There’s a lot of stress that comes with these [events] too because you want to play at the next level and hope to play well in front of the coaches,” the senior said.

However, Cardona said his interest piqued prior to this event when his club sent a list specifying schools that intended to view the showcase. Reaching out to Rhodes via email to relay his interest was the first step to secure his spot at the school.

The correspondence, sent November 3, 2023, provided dates of upcoming showcases and statistics of his high school career before adding: “I would like to invite you to watch me and my Slammers ECNL 07 team play in the ECNL Phoenix Showcase.”

Following the email and the school’s first viewing of Cardona’s skills, the university’s assistant coach set up a phone call with the player on Nov. 17, 2023 to get a better understanding of the then-prospect.

After nearly a year of mutual contact, Cardona’s dreams soon became a reality on Oct. 29 with his verbal commitment.

“[The offer] was the start to my understanding that I can actually play in college and that [it] is something achievable,” he said. “It was really exciting.”

For his final season in high school, the senior said he aspires to have as much fun as possible to make the experience memorable before moving on to the collegiate level.

“It’s my last season, so I’m kind of taking it all in and just enjoying it more than anything,” he said.



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.



illustration by JOANNA JOO