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VHS Musicians Meet The Magic Of The Movies

by Stephen Stetz

Orlando, Florida is widely considered to be the entertainment and theme park capital of the world, featuring many parks that attract millions of visitors every year. Right in the middle of November, the Vermilion High School Marching Band made the pilgrimage to the Universal Orlando Resort. The VHS Choir also embarked on the trip as well where the band and choir performed at the parks, got to visit them too, and got to check out other Orlando attractions such as SeaWorld Orlando, Disney Springs, Volcano Bay, and a Hard Rock Café. “We do like having this. It’s something that everyone looks forward to and this what we’re doing unless something else arises. We are looking at something where our next Universal trip would be,” said Mrs. Judd, the director of the VHS Marching Band.

For the students on the trip, this would be one of the biggest experiences of their lives, according to Judd, who explained, “You get to perform for the world as there are people from all over the world there.” Furthermore, students also used this as a bonding experience with their friends. “Hang-

ing out with my friends for 5 days straight” is what 8th grader Harper Stetz was looking most forward to.

The two parks that make up the Universal Orlando Resort are most known for their immersive rides and attractions. Universal Studios Florida is more oriented towards their indoor attractions, such as Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts, Men in Black: Alien Attack, and Revenge of the Mummy, whereas the neighboring Island of Adventure is home to critically acclaimed thrill rides like VelociCoaster, Hagrid’s Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure, Incredible Hulk, and Jurassic Park River Adventure, creating a blend of the two concepts between the two parks. Some knew what rides they were most excited for such as VelociCoaster, which is acclaimed as one of the world’s best roller coasters; others wanted to get to experience all the ones they could possibly do. “I’m excited for all the rides since I’ve never been,” said junior Parker Dodge.

Outside of Universal, the group also went down Interstate 4 to

SeaWorld Orlando, home of some of Florida’s largest roller coasters such as Mako and Kraken, as well as many marine life animals. They also would be making a splash at Universal’s Volcano Bay water park if they wanted to, and paying a visit to Disney Springs, getting a little taste of the magic of Walt Disney World’s parks. The next time that they will make the trip down to Orlando will be in 2026 when they go to Walt Disney World, the year after Universal opens their third Florida park, Epic Universe, in May 2025.

Although one of the benefits of joining Marching Band or Choir is being able to go on trips like this one, there are many other great reasons to get involved as well. “It would depend on how much time you want to spend after school to work towards this, especially if you are in band and choir, but you get to meet friends through performing and games,” commented Harper Stetz.

'Tis The Season For Gift Giving At VHS

by Delilah Poole

One of the most popular aspects of Christmas is gift-giving—at least, it's the part that most students are excited about. Some people want more practical gifts, "I know I'm getting a desk this year and I'm really excited about it because I'll finally have a place to put all my junk" Gabriella Whitaker remarked. Most folks don't know what they are getting, "Honestly, I don't know what I'm getting, but hopefully I get Hello Kitty stuff and Robux," stated Adrianna Finley.

Gifts are exciting, but it would be a lie if someone said they never received something they didn't like. Karissa Shovary proclaimed that the worst gift she's ever gotten was "probably a self-help book," and Adrianna Finley remarked that the worst gift she has ever received was "when I asked for a science kit and instead of a normal one, my parents got me a pink Barbie science kit that only had one water color experiment."

Gift giving can be a difficult task for many people, and sometimes you might not get what you want, but the true meaning of the holidays is spending time with family and friends.

VHS Academic Challenge Team Is Ready To Win!

by Mariah Mills

The Academic Challenge team is excited this year as they prepare for another year of competitions against other schools in the area. Team Coach Mrs. Dubberand team member Stephen Stetz explained what makes the team great and what new members should know. "It's like a league with different schools," Mrs. Dubber said teamwork is important, "You need to work together and talk to each other. It's a chance to learn and play against different kids."

Stephen, reflecting on his experience also talked about the importance of collaboration. "I feel like our team effort is really good. Everyone is putting in their input, which helps create an amazing format and teamwork." The drive to compete is a key motivator for Stephen. "I really just live for competing and the thrill of it," he shared. "It's like you have to be as excellent as you can. You have got to be focused and locked in." This is good to have when going against opponents. "One strategy I like is to stay focused throughout the whole day, especially if we are going against a big competitor," he explained.

The team practices every

weekday and has a big match every Thursday. While the team excels, there are some challenges. "I would say the subjects we struggle with the most are American History and World History," Stephen admitted. "The one we have the toughest time in is Fine Arts." The matches are very intense, and sometimes they are even televised. The team is looking forward to this unique opportunity.

Mrs. Dubber explained the team's consistent success. "We've won every year for the past twenty years and have gone to regionals seven times! We do three practice rounds and work on models," Mrs. Dubber said. "There are many different contests to win." Being on the team helps you learn other things too. "You learn skills, how to be a leader, and how to be confident," She said. "We want everyone to join, and lots of kids stay on the team for years. Colleges like to see that! She encourages interested students to attend the first meeting in August, followed by the qualifying test. "It's a chance to visit, learn about competing, and listen to better players. We want to win as a team."

*The VHS Compass Staff Wishes You
A Safe And Happy Holiday Season!*

Artist Highlight: Ema Mullins

by Jenny Gray

Ema Mullins, a senior at VHS, enjoys making silly and whimsical art. She specializes in working with clay; whether it's making little figures or mugs, she's great at it.

According to Ema, she's been doing art "since forever." She has taken at least one art class every year ever since she started high school. "It's fun, and it allows me to be creative. I like being able to use my weird imagination," she says.

Ema has not won any awards for her art, simply because she doesn't like entering her art into art shows. "it's annoying," she said. To her, art is meant to be a way to let herself relax, not to give her any extra stress.

While she may not have won any awards, that doesn't mean her art isn't appreciated by the people around her. All of her friends have great things to say about her clay projects. "Her work is unique and she really knows how to sculpt things," said Adrianna Finley, a fellow high schooler and close friend of Ema's. Adrianna's favorite piece of Ema's is a



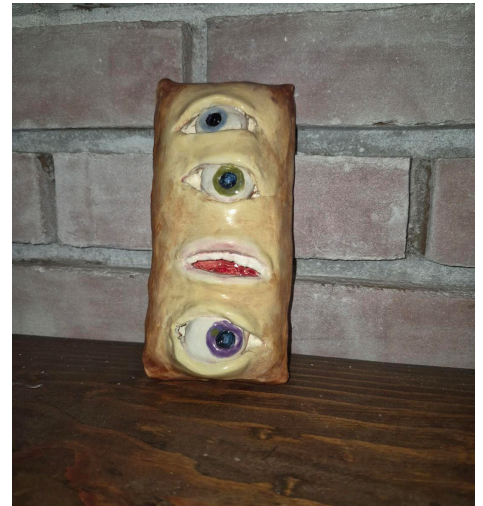
clay figurine that Ema made based on the show Gravity Falls.

Most people like how light-hearted her art is. "Her art inspires me to not take things so seriously and just make what's fun," said Olivia Augustine, another student at VHS. Olivia's favorite art piece is Ema's 'All Seeing Hot Pocket.'

Miss. Kidd, Ema's art teacher, enjoys how "Ema is very detail-oriented, she spends a lot of time on her pieces and she's not afraid to try something new." Her favorite art of Ema's is her social issue print.

Ema's art is appreciated by many. And while she wants to continue her art after high school, she isn't entirely sure what she wants to do yet. "I think of becoming an art teacher sometimes, but I don't know," Ema said.

There is one thing Ema does know though, that she'd like to share it with all artists out there. "Don't stress about your art, work at your own pace, and just don't worry too much about it."



Ema's All Seeing Hot Pocket

VHS French Four Students Enjoyed "Les Miserables" In Detroit



From Doodles To Masterpieces: Inside Mrs. Schneid's Art Club

by Alivia Berrios

The Art Club offers students a chance to explore their creativity and express themselves through paper. The Art Club is led by the passionate art teacher Mrs. Schneid and has members who are a tight knit community. Art club meets on Tuesdays at 2:30 in room 808. Students who participate in this group are encouraged to try different styles of art they haven't before.

Senior Jaylee Miller shared thoughts on why she joined the club "I just wanted to be in a group with my friends, and art club was a great way to do that." Miller also gave information on what things

they work on there. "Usually some doodles and ceramic pieces. The majority of the time we can do our own thing, but sometimes we are given a prompt to work off of." The club is a perfect way to perfect your skills or to just relax and work on your creative outlet.

Kylie Kruse who is known to be a great artist around Vermilion, an avid member of Art Club and the proud president of NAHS explained what inspired her to join art club, "I always wanted to go after school when I was in middle school, because Mrs. Askins really wanted me to go and I fell in love with projects and crafts. Then after covid, I could finally go again and

Mrs. Schneid did challenges and fun things, I also have a lot of friends to go with."

Mrs. Schneid, who has been teaching art for over 20 years, started the Art Club to provide a creative outlet for "kids who wanted to do more or couldn't fit art in their schedule." For her, the best part of the art club is seeing the students discover their potential and "seeing kids understand and get excited about their art. Seeing them excel." Under her guidance, the students have grown into a group of friends who support and push each other.

Getting Ready For College

by Sevie Kretchmar

The idea of college is scary to many high school seniors and is a big step for people graduating from high school.

Gabe Hearn is currently a senior that is looking forward to pursuing his secondary education at a public university in northern Ohio. He is looking to pursue a career in film but is not dead set on his decision. He is most daunted by the fact that he will be alone in college. Gabe said "I feel like college will be really fun, but it's very scary knowing I'm going to be alone for the first time in my life."

One of the most common fears that potential college students have is the fact that they

will no longer be living with their family, a big step that many students have never experienced for more than a couple of days.

Another daunting next step that many students face is the social changes that come along with college. It is a brand new environment for everyone and is something that students will have to adapt to in order to learn to thrive.

Math teacher Mr. Snook provided some wise advice that should be taken into consideration by all students. Mr. Snook said one of the most important things students should consider when choosing a college is "the fit of the college and how it suits you." He says that students should consider

if the college they are looking at fits their personality, their likes and dislikes, as well as their interests. His second point is the cost of the college. He claims that "prestige is overrated when it comes to college, so students shouldn't sacrifice by going into large amounts of debt simply for the name of the college."

Mr. Snook also suggests that students that are unsure what they want to study in college should go to a bigger school so they can see a lot of different options, or go to a local community college where they can get some prerequisite classes done at a reduced cost.