



Goodbye, Freeman!

A farewell from the editors of The Commentator



The Commentator Editors

Top (L to R): Matthew Heinicke-Peart, Alex Gilliam, Connor Glowacki, Shannon McCarthy, Teddy Scherer

Middle: Leah Dillard, Sebastian Hughes, Annie Spivey, Caroline Forrest, Luke Twente, Trent McCaffery

Front: Madinah Stallworth, Alison Eddins, Frances Leake, Eric Asplund, Sarah Ashman, Mary Rockwell, Carissa Campbell, Logan Harvey

Venerating the Virtues of High School



Eric Asplund
Editor-in-Chief

The end of high school is more about beginnings. You will go on to a job, college, the military, or even nothing at all. Where you

end up doesn't matter so much, but the values you take with you do.

The intent of school is to teach, but rarely does it teach the things that it sets out to. The Virginia Department of Education wanted us to learn about algebra, history, English, and an assortment of sciences. I will leave Freeman remembering only a select few points from these topics, and I imagine you are in the same position. "X" is a number sometimes, Nixon was a crook, English has no rules, and science is hard. Those little things are all that most people remember from high school after

ten years. I know, however, that the most important things I have gleaned from high school are not facts but, rather, abilities.

In high school, I have learned how to manage time, communicate effectively, navigate complex social castes, share my toys, and play well with others. I know how to ask the right questions and how to get the right answers. I have a concept of orderliness and organization. I know which people can help me and which are more likely to hurt me. The specifics of the topic rarely matter as much as the concepts. High school has helped me hone these skills and

these are the things that will translate to any environment after senior year – work, college, or the military.

So, in a sense, the tidbits of information we have accumulated throughout the past four years are what end after high school. Graduation will be the end of learning in a controlled environment and experience will be the new textbook. We will learn and adapt to our tidal, changing environments. There will be no reading checks, cumulative tests, or credits awarded to anyone. We will navigate uncharted waters, which are different for every

solitary person. The seventy or so years we have left will be full of experiences no man can predict. But this tool set -- our discipline, respect for others, communication, work ethic, or time management -- will be our sextant and compass to explore the world around us.

Graduation is a beginning. It is the beginning of discovering our own explanations, uncovering our own truths, and learning more about the world and ourselves.

Forgiving the Imperfect in Freeman



Sarah Ashman
Editor-in-Chief

Intensity and pride. It's written in our locker rooms, mentioned at pep rallies over the booming microphone Mr. Steele booming into, and used as the heading for the power point Mr. Ahrens narrates each year at the annual code of conduct meeting. As a writer, I love simplicity. However simple these two words to capture the essence of the blue and gray Rebels may appear, I think it can be simplified further: perfection.

I learned quickly as a freshman that Freeman was not a school; Freeman was a gym. It was a place to build up one's reputation and exercise social authority. It was a place to train to be the best at everything: school work, sports, social life, and relationships. Rebels are supposed to have it all together (and all the time). I love Freeman, but our most malignant problem is not having any problems at all. We are aggressively infallible.

I was not above this way of thinking at all: I worked relentlessly over schoolwork, spent hours getting dressed in the morning, did everything I could to build the relationships with friends and teachers I was supposed to have, and forsook most sleep. I was miserable running on a treadmill I had built for myself, measuring myself constantly against imaginary requirements I could never meet. What I needed desperately was the license to say I'm not enough. We all try to measure ourselves with something: grades, achievement, popularity... We

are devastated when we do not reach our goals and even more devastated when we reach our goals and it does not feel the way we imagined it would. On the rare occasion where it's everything you could have wanted, it's equally surprising to find it never lasts.

This is not a story about finding the strength to grit your teeth and hold on a little longer; I can't do that to you because it will never end. This is not a story about finding that one thing you can be perfect at, because I didn't find it. What I found over the course of high school was a gift, and it was the room to realize how imperfect I am and free myself from striving for a goal I could never reach.

Sometimes it hurts to realize your own imperfection and the sheer imperfection of the world. It is without a doubt the most humbling experience I have undergone. However, seeing my own flaws and acknowledging that I am only human has brought a sense of freedom I never knew existed. Freeman, it's not until

we see how broken we are in the midst of trying to convince the world that we are perfect that we can ever receive grace for all the ways we fall short. It's not until we stop trying to earn love that we can see where it's been freely given to us.

Seeing my own imperfection changed the way I relate to anyone and anything. Growing up is hard. Your parents are not always the super heroes you remember from elementary school (and I have wonderful parents). Your friends are not the perfect companions you seek. But when you realize you are only human, you can acknowledge the humanity of those around you, and all that humanity holds. When you see how undeserving you are of the love you've been given despite your short comings, you may begin to forgive the short comings in others. I began to give the people the grace I had been given.

If you want to leave an impact on Freeman, forgive it. The friends who I hold the dearest are the ones who have cared for me in the face of my messing

up catastrophically. They have chased after me with open arms when I've pushed them away. The teachers I will remember for the rest of my life are those who extended a deadline because they could see that I was doing the best I could, and it wasn't enough.

There is immense hope in what I'm writing. The hope isn't that you will find something you can do perfectly, and it isn't that you find the world perfect the way it is. The hope is found in having a chance to be changed by the way others care for you in the midst of your imperfections, and changing your friends by loving them when they don't deserve it. If you want to love people in a way that might just change their lives, forgive them when they do not deserve it. It will always cost you something, but love is costly. Love is also worth it. As Martin Luther King Jr. once wrote, "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality."

See people in the light of your own imperfection, and it will soften your heart, Freeman.

Leah-Bop: High School Edition



Leah Dillard
Sports Editor

There are infinite ways to document a high school experience. “Selfie” collages and Instagram posts reflect your social life. Twitter and Facebook posts, whether informative or embarrassing, capture memories through photos and statuses. We can even write down events in a daily journal, or compile printed pictures into an album.

As a lover of music, I’d like instead to document my four-year journey using a list of songs. I don’t have a favorite genre, kind of like how I don’t have a set niche in the Freeman family. In light of this, I’ll pull many different songs to explain my high school memories.

1. **“Circle of Life”** from the *The Lion King* soundtrack – One of the only things I remember from freshman year is feeling excited about the four years ahead of me, like a little Simba held by Rafiki at the top of Pride Rock, overlooking a magnificent sunrise on a promising horizon...yeah just roll with it.

2. **“Crazy in Love”** by Beyoncé is my ode to Netflix.

3. **“We are the Champions”** by Queen – As a former member of the volleyball

team, I know that it feels good to win. It also feels good to yell this anthem at the top of your lungs with your teammates, especially on the bus ride back from an away game. Victory tastes sweet, but sounds even better.

4. **“Fancy”** by Iggy Azalea – Anyone who has attended Homecoming or Prom probably knows that feeling that comes with glitz and glamour. It’s the feeling you get when you finally take the chance to “clean up nice” and radiate swag. For those of us who dress casually for school, it feels pretty darn special to don a killer dress – or suit or tuxedo, accordingly – and go out for a nice dinner and a dance. Strut, stunna, strut.

5. **“Help”** by the Beatles – You have a five-page paper due tomorrow and you haven’t written the first sentence. Ignore sadness. Queue caffeine and Josh Groban’s “Believe.”

6. **“Toes”** by Zac Brown Band – Breaks feel good, don’t they? My personal favorite is summer break. Beach trips, swim meets, lemonade, warm weather...oh and I don’t need to feel guilty about procrastination. That’s prime.

7. **“Bad Day”** by Daniel Powter – This song is the first Monday back after a break, and all other Mondays ever.

8. **“Shut up and Dance”** by Walk the Moon – When the weekend hits, this is my song. It reminds me of birthday parties, casual hangouts, and homework breaks. I don’t care who you are...this song will make you want to get off the couch and jump with the music.

9. **“Bridge Over Troubled Water”** by Simon and Garfunkel – Besides your dog, your counselor is your best friend during the whole

college application process. Your counselor is your patient “bridge” over your SATs, ACTs, APs, GPA-finding, rank-analyzing, essay-writing jumble of mayhem. Mrs. Bradley was one of my main email contact for two straight months. Please bake your counselor cookies. No, they didn’t pay me to write that.

10. **“Breakaway”** by Kelly Clarkson and “Send Me on My Way” by Rusted Roots – These songs are pertinent when you realize that senior year’s almost over. You have to start thinking about leaving the people and places that you may or may not hold dear, including Freeman, Richmond, your parents, your siblings, your room, your bed, and your dog. I’ll personally miss an endless supply of Nutella and popcorn the most...don’t tell my family I said that.

I could have included thousands of songs in this list. My high school career has incorporated countless moments that have made me laugh, cry, scowl, and everything in between.

The overall message that I wanted to get across with this “listicle” is that high school students shouldn’t take their lives too seriously; this isn’t the real world. Though we try to act otherwise, we’re all just kids. Even the overachievers with packed schedules should take a moment to sleep, breathe, and just goof off.

High school provides four years for harmless fun, personal growth, and social development. View high school through the lens of a musical or a playlist, and you may just have a greater experience than you ever imagined.



Trent McCaffrey



Madinah Stallworth

He Said, She Said

Best thing to happen in the last 4 years:

My first kiss

Becoming best friends with Trent McCaffrey

Favorite Freeman Teacher:

Coach Derby

Ms. Burgess- Thanks for the microwave!

Three Words to Describe High School:

slight, slight, slight

In a pickle

Weirdest High School Memory:

Changing into my gym clothes next to Charles Argenzio in the locker room my freshman year

Seeing a chicken at school

What I won’t miss:

Changing into my gym clothes next to Charles Argenzio in the locker room my freshman year

Eating lunch for only 22 minutes

Logan’s Declassified High School Survival Guide



Logan Harvey
Online Editor

Four years, 48 months, 208 weeks, 1456 days that I was a Freeman Rebel and yet here I am today as a senior with countless regrets.

It didn’t really hit me how fast high school goes by until I had about three months left. My college decision was out of the way, it was baseball season, and the weather was starting to turn and yet something felt off. A gnawing feeling that I could never escape, like an itch you

can’t scratch, kept hitting me. Sometimes at 8 a.m. when all I wanted to do was sleep and sometimes at 3 a.m. when I could do everything but sleep. It was the feeling that I had missed something, that I didn’t do something important. This isn’t a sob story or one asking for pity, but rather one meant to show you to not be like me; be better.

From the moment you set foot in Rebel Camp, be the person you want to be and things will fall into place. If you embrace who you are, you’ll be happier. It is as true as it is cliché. Whether it be taking a chance on talking to that girl or guy that caught your eye, or taking that class that you feel is really interesting even though your friends aren’t in it, take a chance. I could have gone to my home school of Godwin, but instead I took a chance on the Leadership Center and four years later it was still one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. There are always other classes to switch into, and there are always other people you can become

friends with. Believe you me, you’ll be kicking yourself harder when you have 3 months left of high school rather than when you took a chance and missed your mark because that opportunity

“From the moment you set foot in Rebel Camp, be the person you want to be, and things will fall into place.”

has already come and gone. The girl I Facebook messaged before my freshman year has grown to be one of my best friends throughout high school, yet had I not taken that chance I know for a fact we would not be in the

same position. (She even asked me to Homecoming one year).

Never regret making a mistake because the mistakes and what you learned from them are what stick with you. I can still remember the time I was incredibly awkward at a Halloween party my freshman year, and yet I am still learning some 3 years later. Of course you’ll remember the good stuff, yet the good stuff just isn’t as good without the bad stuff.

Every single decision you make in this point of your life is life-changing, whether you know it or not. That class you decide to take could end up being your career, that person you helped with their books could be your future spouse. Every little thing makes a change in some way and you develop as a person because of it. Do not undervalue decisions, but do not overthink them.

Countless chances are presented to you each and every day, and yet I regret not taking more than a few. I was scared

to fail, scared of what my friends might think, scared of the reputation I might get and yet I look back on it and think, “What was honestly the worst that could have happened?” Now I am in no way condoning making an ill-advised decision on a serious matter, but if you’re stressing out about what others may think, you are doing yourself a disservice. High school is scary enough; you will have your doubters; DO NOT let yourself become one more. The minute you become doubtful of your own decisions, you’re done for.

Make your goal of every day to leave a lasting positive impact on someone or something before you bolt to the parking lot at 3:55. Make it your goal to leave a legacy. When those (roughly) 720 school days are up and you throw your cap into the air, make sure you never utter the words “I wish I had...” because I already know I will and the gnawing feeling returns. Don’t be like me; be better.

Shannon’s “Personal” Teacher of the Year: The Lark Shark



Shannonn McCarthy
A & E Editor

We all have that teacher who changes our outlook on life. We all have that adult that makes us view the world differently and shapes us into the people we become. Every student has that person whose influence is felt throughout their entire lives. If you walk down the halls at Freeman, you’d get a variety of answers—varying from coaches to club sponsors to counselors—but everyone is influenced for the better by them.

I knew immediately who my teacher would be; I knew from

the moment that I stepped into his classroom on Rebel Day that I wanted to take his class. From the posters of the “McWorld” to the finger puppets of historical figures, I automatically began to learn even before he walked into the room. Mr. Larkins then walked into his classroom with his signature gusto and started talking to the tour group, attempting to liven up the twenty-or-so rising freshmen on that August day.

“Does anyone have any idea why school calendars are set up the way they are?” He asked while scanning the room. My hand instinctively shot up.

“Was it because of farming?” I answered while feeling a rush of blood come to my cheeks. I did not intend to give a reason to have anyone even glance my way, but there I was, answering questions.

“Exactly right! What’s your name?” He asked while studying me. I mumbled a response and with that he kept talking about how the idea of summer break was used to have students help their families during the summer with the harvest season. I now

suppose “harvest season” is “amusement parks want more workers and money” season, but I digress.

I sat in that classroom for about 20 minutes absorbing all the information I could. I wanted to learn on a 90 degree day in August—that’s pretty astonishing considering what I do most days is lie on my couch watching bad reruns of “True Life.” I went home that night hoping that I would be enrolled in his class that year—that I would be able to learn history in such a different way than I was used to.

On Fee Night when I got my schedule, I knew that I was in for a treat when I saw Mr. Larkins name at the bottom. I was not disappointed.

I walked into class the first day eager to learn; I remember with absolute clarity how he described the “role” of each grade in high school. I already started laughing and feeling like maybe high school would be okay within the first 10 minutes of that seventh period World History II Honors class.

Over the course of the year, I

began to understand why certain events transpired the way they did—from personalities to weather events to propaganda. I began to see that the world was more unique than I originally thought. I understood, vaguely, why certain areas of the world behaved in certain ways. I wanted more.

I signed up for Regional Studies the minute I got my course selection sheet for sophomore year. I could not wait to be enrolled in the class that would expand my horizons even more—I wanted to be a more informed global citizen, not just another ignorant one.

Every single day in Regional Studies we were able to talk about the issues going on in the world. We talked about how the world was no longer isolated, but how we were all interconnected through trade, culture, and more. We talked about the ramifications of the Boston Marathon Bombing. We talked about maggot cheese. We talked about why the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars were transpiring the way they were. We talked global population—

and what it meant for us.

I came out of second period always with a lingering thought or question on my mind. I went home talking about what I learned in class that day with my family during dinner. I loved every minute of Regional Studies and I never wanted it to end.

But, alas, sophomore year had to end and thus my time with Mr. Larkins as a teacher came to a close. I still think about those classes from time to time; I still think about what each of those minutes in class gave me. I even still talk about some of the information with my friends, and I always bring up how Room 138 gave me so much perspective.

It sounds cheesy, but I walked into Freeman a slightly uncomfortable and ignorant, mess. I walked out feeling as if I was able to understand this crazy world we live in just a little bit better. All of my teachers helped me gain that knowledge, but Mr. Larkins was able to leave the most concrete impact. Freeman would not be the same without him.

Thanks Mr. Larkins, for everything.

Lessons to the Young on Social Media



Mary Rockwell
Opinions Editor

Sometimes Timehop can be my worst enemy. In my short four years as a Freeman Rebel, I witnessed the popularity of social media explode. Although I obsessed over the numerous and fleeting social media trends, whether it was the excessive hashtag or “creative” yet cliché photo caption, I can confidently say I matured throughout the years. I do not consider myself a “victim” of the social media fixation, but I have definitely learned from plenty of my mistakes, as well as from the mistakes of others. With that being said, here are some of my thoughts on various aspects of social media that may prove beneficial to you youngings (and

some of my own peers as well):

Facebook: Facebook isn't just made up of awkward updates and odd reposts. I recommend to look beyond the “negative” quirks of Facebook and, instead, to take advantage of the social media site. Facebook is not quite a dying art (yet). I know there are moments when I am tempted to log out of my account indefinitely, such as when I see a middle school acquaintance post an outrageous status or my mom's friends comments on my embarrassing photos from three years ago, but I've learned to maturely look past it. Facebook helped me when I was looking for a college roommate, and it still helps people efficiently organize events and successfully reconnect with old friends. I also know Facebook remains helpful to businesses and professionals in their respective fields to network with people. Don't write it off just yet. Most entertainingly, though, in a way, Facebook is its own Timehop. I would prefer people to look only at my most recent pictures or posts from the last two years, anything behind that is just plain embarrassing.

Snapchat: I remember when I was a freshman, Snapchat suddenly got really popular. It

was pretty simple then, though; all you were able to do was take a picture and put a little message on it. Since then, Snapchat has given you the chance to put cool filters on your photos, press a special button to add them to your “Story,” and film for ten seconds. Snapchat's generous givings, however, have also created an opportunity for humans to be quite obnoxious. I beg you, please do not post everything you do to your Story. It is unnecessary for you and people who are clicking through all of them (who are also wasting their time). Trust me, I'm telling you this for your own good: You can have fun without showing everyone who you are with or what you are doing. And you look fine, WITHOUT a filter.

Instagram: I have a little bit of beef with Instagram, so if you are a lover of Instagram, don't take it personally. I love the artsy pictures and venue for exploration and creativity, do not get me wrong, but there is a line to be drawn with this inventive app. Many people use the app to flaunt their social life and post an extensively edited picture of them, much like Snapchat. It's pretty simple. Be careful with what you post and do not let the number of “likes” control you. It

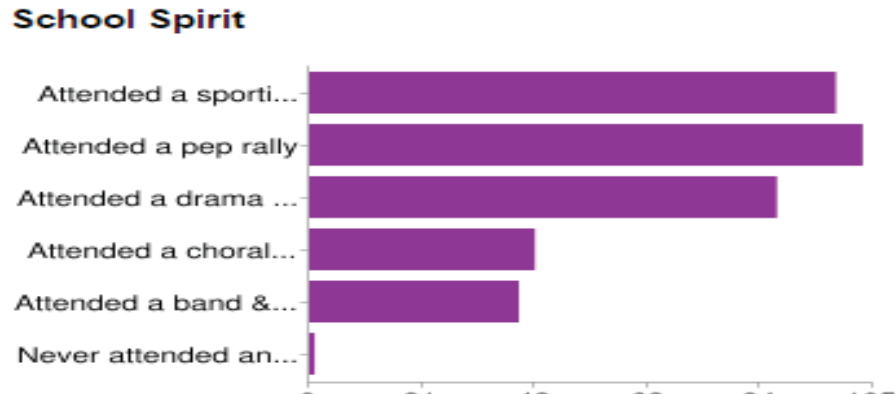
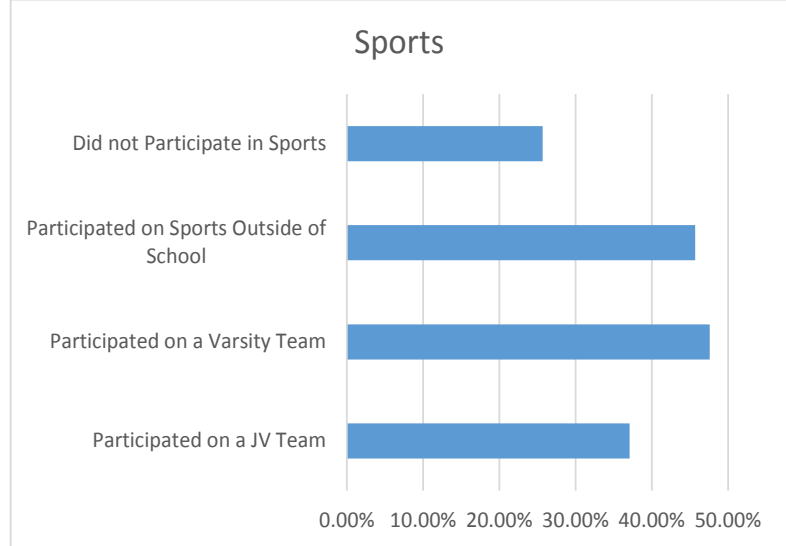
is possible to go somewhere and not post a picture; in fact, sometimes it is more fun to be a bit mysterious. Also, this is mostly a piece of advice for girls, do not edit a picture and post it while you are still at that event – have fun doing whatever you're doing and just enjoy it; Instagram can and will wait.

Twitter: Okay, I have to be honest. I love Twitter, and my friends can back me up on this one. However, my Twitter from middle school (when “no one” had one) is hilariously awkward and embarrassing. I'm sure one of my friends will gladly leak you my old Twitter name and give you the chance to laugh at my sappy tweets about middle school love and random remarks about Justin Bieber or the MTV show Jersey Shore. That said, there is one thing about Twitter I love: its randomness. It is so entertaining that it can distract me for hours (much like Vine!) which brings me to my first point. Don't let this app or any social media stop you from getting your work done. I know that refreshing the feeds and “stalking” people's pages is endlessly amusing, but if that is one thing I could have stopped myself from doing, I would have in a heartbeat. Social media as a whole is

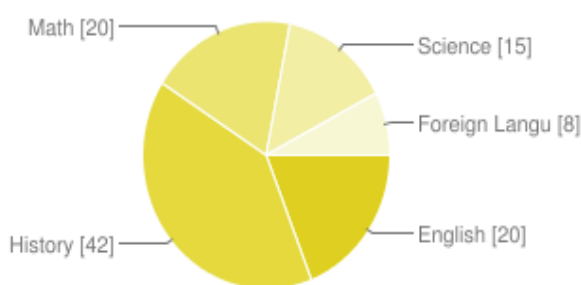
so distracting. The Twitter fights (can be funny, but just stop) and subtweets (please get a journal or something) are unique to Twitter, but as a whole, do not tweet anything you wouldn't say to your parents or want your future boss to see. I have some parents following me now, and let me tell you, I think twice before I press that “Tweet” button.

Overall: I pooled many of my friends for input about this column and it all boils down to one simple piece of advice. It does not involve favorites or likes, reposts or following ratios and it is very concise: Enjoy the moment. Don't spend all your time in high school or the rest of your life looking through the lens of a phone camera or staring at a screen. Reflecting on my high school experience at Freeman, I wish I would have stopped and enjoyed the moments more. So often I wanted to hurry through or look forward to the next “big thing.” I wish I could have put my phone away more often and experienced high school in more different ways, but I would never wish my time at Freeman away for anything. I learned a lot in four years and I hope you youngings learned something from me, as well. #RebelBornRebelBred #RebelTilTheDayImDead

Statistics About the Class of 2015: Statistics were collected from 105 responses from the class of 2015 to an online survey about participation at Freeman High School in all areas.

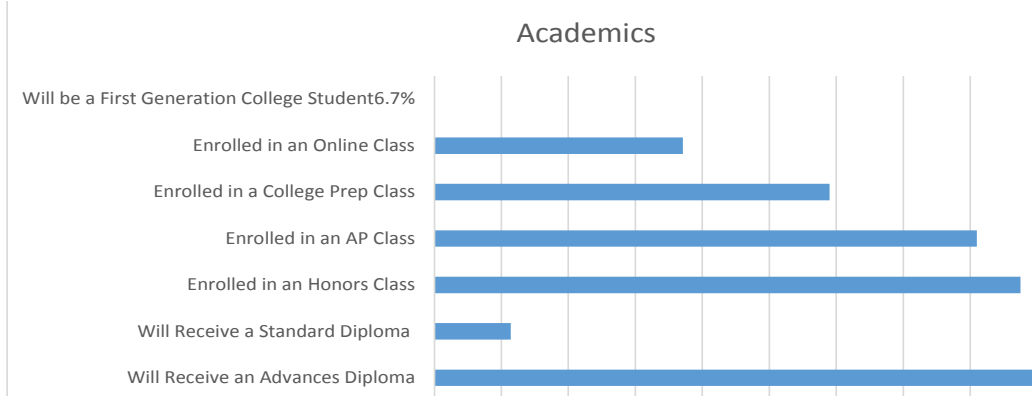


Favorite Class



English	20	19%
History	42	40%
Math	20	19%
Science	15	14.3%
Foreign Language	8	7.6%

Attended a sporting event	98	93.3%
Attended a pep rally	103	98.1%
Attended a drama production	87	82.9%
Attended a choral concert	42	40%
Attended a band & strings concert	39	37.1%
Never attended an event at Freeman	1	1%



A Reflection on Previous Tomfoolery



Frances Leake
Features Editor

Dear Freshman me,
While you hear frequently that your time at DSF will “fly past”—whether it be in the form of Mr. Ahrens’ animated shouting in the auditorium or an alum—I seldom believed it until now. Sitting here, writing this letter, I realize just how fast the years get away from you. Therefore, in light of my appreciation for my hours spent here, I am going to take some time to reflect on the most crucial moments of your high school career—the wonderful,

the ugly, and the ridiculous. Let's start with freshman year. For starters, ignore Tyler Hutchison's incessant teasing. It's not going to help to retaliate, and he's never ever going to stop calling you “Frank.” Ever. Also, I promise not all of high school is like Mrs. Edwards' third period gym class—endure the pickle ball for just a little longer and try to enjoy all of her colorful colloquialisms while you can. Next, don't ask your Sadie Hawkins date to homecoming via text, (sorry Luke) because that's just disappointing for everyone. Take care not to scare too many of your peers; maybe don't lick random people at basketball games (sorry Logan) because they might just end up being in all of your classes junior year. Enjoy the blissful awkwardness of ninth grade: riding the bus, constantly getting lost, and staring at John Palmer every day during study hall—it all goes by way too quickly.

On to sophomore year. Stop trying to hang out with upperclassmen. Seriously, stop. Don't study for three hours for that Chemistry exam with Sarah Ashman. You both are

still going to get a good healthy C...or maybe it was a D. Instead, enjoy the laughs of roasting marshmallows with a Bunsen burner, the hilarity of watching Ms. Williams handle some pretty hefty corrosive chemicals, and all of the other little joys that come with Honors Chem. You should start track this year, but you won't, because you still think that you are going to play lacrosse in college. Fun fact: Just because you are a team captain does NOT mean you will get to play at all! So enjoy your fantastic team and coach, and all of the rainy day noodle-fights that replaced the stick drills. Cherish your time in Regional Studies and Ms. Brown's English class. Delight in every one of the Julius Caesar reenactments, poetry recitations, and mock trials because you're going to miss it when you are writing all of that Rhetorical Analysis and those columnist projects. Side note: During the current events game in Mr. Larkins' class, try and stop Jackson Ellis' tyrannical rule while you still can.

Junior year is your best year. It was a good choice to take Journalism. Actually, it is




probably the best choice you have made thus far. Don't give Mrs. Dean such a hard time, don't be quite so loud with Madinah and Leah, and don't freak out over the InDesign software—I promise inserting pictures will not always be that harrowing. Have fun in Mrs. Manning's physics class, because she ditches you halfway through the year for NASA, and then Doc Sue comes and redefines the meaning of total chaos. Go ahead and go on that date with the awkward boy in Mrs. Braun's class—he only gets more persistent and it turns out he's pretty amazing. But be warned his car smells like stale socks...it actually STILL smells like stale socks. Have fun driving your own car for the three months it actually goes in reverse, because there are six long months of pull through spots and bail-outs coming your way after the transmission breaks. Chill out, stop fighting with Tyler, have fun with that ten page English thesis, and don't always wait until Sunday night to do an entire week's worth of Shakespeare homework.

Probably the most important thing I can tell you is that you

need to let go of the idea that your grades are the only indicator of what you have gleaned from your high school experience. I can tell you with complete certainty that that perception is false. The best learning experiences will be found when you get a fourteen (yes, I'm talking a 14%) on your first AP 12 English paper, or when you spend an entire period in Mr. Larkins' class debating with your classmates about immigration laws, or engaging in risky behaviors in Ms. Dean's fourth period, or when you turn your Physics classroom into a broom ball arena. Appreciate your teachers, delight in all of your wonderful classmates, and at least try to enjoy that 45 minute drive to school—you are going to blow through a whole lot of audiobooks. Good luck, and remember: it's okay to be outrageous, it's okay to love school, it's okay to talk about English all the time; it might just not be okay to throw your yogurt at Tyler's face during lunch—that doesn't work out the way you think it will.

Yours Truly,
Fran.

ONCE A REBEL ...

 <p>American University Rachel Bracken Morgan Hecht</p>	 <p>East Coast Polytechnic Institute Brenda Bravo-Castro Jenaya Moore</p>	<p>J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (continued)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Santa Kadel Rachel Kastelberg Anastasiya Komarova Alyssa Leftwich Dustin Matheny Dario Maric Michael Miller Zach Morgan Jeremiah Moore Yarabi Nava-Ovalle Olutayo Ola Nedim Sabanovic Bishnu Sapkota Theo Scardueli Sean Nicholson Mary-Rachel Rice</td> <td>Alexander Sheff Logan Shimp Matthew Spahr Chardonnay Terrell Chris Tignor William Tiller Lante Tucker Tessy Rosete Bradley Vassar Adam Wagner Amira Waitman-Kazzaz Tommy Wampler Sarah Whetstone Anna Zanetti</td> </tr> </table>	Santa Kadel Rachel Kastelberg Anastasiya Komarova Alyssa Leftwich Dustin Matheny Dario Maric Michael Miller Zach Morgan Jeremiah Moore Yarabi Nava-Ovalle Olutayo Ola Nedim Sabanovic Bishnu Sapkota Theo Scardueli Sean Nicholson Mary-Rachel Rice	Alexander Sheff Logan Shimp Matthew Spahr Chardonnay Terrell Chris Tignor William Tiller Lante Tucker Tessy Rosete Bradley Vassar Adam Wagner Amira Waitman-Kazzaz Tommy Wampler Sarah Whetstone Anna Zanetti	 <p>Old Dominion University Rasheeda Anderson Richard George Isaiah Harris Alex Kossan Nathaniel Moody Autumn Moss</p>	 <p>University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music, Dance Hayley Fogleman</p>	 <p>United States Coast Guard Academy Colin Fenster</p>
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 <p>Averett University Shannon Longworth</p>	 <p>Emmanuel College Evelyn McMullen</p>	 <p>Jacksonville University Evan Tyler</p>	 <p>Pennsylvania State University Tyler Hutchison</p>	 <p>University of Colorado, Boulder Bergen Hillegas</p>	 <p>United States Marine Corps Hoang Nguyen Edwin Salpor</p>		
 <p>Betel of Britain Joseph Burek</p>	 <p>Empire Beauty School Hailey Koening</p>	 <p>James Madison University Hunter Brickhouse Catherine Carson Daniel Cole Shannon McCarthy Jack Redford Jack Ulmer Ted Scherer</p>	 <p>Princeton University Jack Lohmann</p>	 <p>University of Florida Jack McCall</p>	 <p>Virginia Commonwealth University Amina Alic Grace Bowles Alecsys Brown Madeline Cadaret Martin Chege Brandon Chi Kevin Creager Dimitri Duroseau Meredith Eudailey Mia Harris Devin Hatcher Hannah Hayes Tanbirul Islam John Klipp</p> <p>Anna Laughter Whit Lombardo Sandy Luu Vy Ly Christian Meade Joshua Moss Maida Muminovic Armin Okanovic Andrew Oostdyk Paola Orellana Christina Ponce-Morales Kelly Root Jack Shade Ereny Shawki Will Singleton Madinah Stallworth Allen Strohmman Arya Sultani Collin Sykes Duncan Thurston David Yuan</p>		
 <p>Bluefield College Alexis Barker</p>	 <p>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Arindam Gupta</p>	 <p>Jami'a Ahmadiyya Canada Gulfram Ashraf</p>	 <p>Project SEARCH, Saint Mary's Hospital Hilton Gbolie</p>	 <p>University of Georgia Luke Twente Heidi Ulrichs</p>	 <p>Virginia Military Institute Jake Hendricks Daniel Gilman Rives Worsham</p>		
 <p>Brigham Young University Blake McLean</p>	 <p>Fordham University Grant Satterwhite</p>	 <p>John Tyler Community College Sarah Barnes Alejandro Brown Jamir Pettis Jimmy Thomas Brandon Wallace</p>	 <p>Radford University Tazhane Clark Yani Orpiano</p>	 <p>University of Kentucky Norrin Nicholas</p>	 <p>Virginia State University Tarell Cisneros-Harrison</p>		
 <p>Clemson University John Woolley</p>	 <p>Full Sail University Jameson Staton</p>	 <p>Liberty University Rachel Robb</p>	 <p>Randolph-Macon College Tiya Booker Selena Gonzalez Andrew Mullen</p>	 <p>University of Mary Washington Ethan Blouch Wyatt Priddy</p>	 <p>Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Connor Allin Shane Allin James Blevins Carissa Campbell Jesse Densley Nick Friend Ford Hendrix C.C. Hollis Katie Horton</p>		
<p>Christopher Newport University Peyton Artz JT Bellotti Peyton Brady Lauren Brittingham Nellie Calkins Jacqueline Lee John Lubawski Laura Martin</p>  <p>Jemma Mograbi Milan Rachal Chip Shover Annie Spivey Tanner Toy Catalina Vallejo Danielle Weeks Hannah Yazdgerdi</p>	 <p>George Mason University Ashley Adams Arthur Fragoso Khaya Fraites Danni Gonyo Kristen Kontinopoulos Nate Mazzini Will Sadler Meeghan Schrecongost Michael Spainhour</p>	 <p>Longwood University Sarah Austin Sam Bennett Shea Emmerson Breana Figueroa</p> <p>Julia McGuire Kirsten Ridge Sarine Thomas</p>	 <p>Richard Bland College of William & Mary Chanel Holt</p>	 <p>University of Mississippi Mason Daly Jordi Lee Helena Maloney Ethan Payne</p>	<p>Olivia Humrich Jackson Johnson Perna Kandasamy Walker Lawson Jeremy Macpherson Trent McCaffrey Keith McKelvey George Richardson Emily Shull Lilian Ryan Virginia Tilley Abigail Thompson Robert Thornton Emily Turner Allison VanInwegen Brian Yuhas</p>		
 <p>Coastal Carolina University Blake Harrison Renzi Smith</p>	 <p>Hamden-Sydney College Turner Martin Eric O'Brien James Robertson Travis Stackow Jay Thomas Phillip Whitten</p>	 <p>Lynchburg College Sarah Fortune Elizabeth McClung</p>	 <p>Rochester Institute of Technology Ceasura McPhatter</p>	 <p>University of Notre Dame Nicholas Grandpre Anne Goodman</p>	 <p>Virginia Wesleyan College Ariel Stevens</p>		
 <p>College of Charleston Mariah Chillemi Andrew Cummings</p>	 <p>Hampton University Blaize Fortune Nia Williams</p>	 <p>Mary Baldwin College Charlotte Davis</p>	 <p>Saint Joseph's University Caroline Forrest</p>	 <p>University of Richmond Aidan Cooney Laura Dickie</p>	 <p>Wake Forest University Logan Harvey Genevieve Pacious</p>		
<p>College of William and Mary Gregory Akerman Eric Asplund Campbell Baskin Jenna Brown Leah Dillard Jack Fleming Alex Gilliam</p>  <p>Matthew H. P. Sebastian Hughes James Irby Catalina Layton William Perrine Carson Whitehurst</p>	 <p>J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Fany Almendarez Elijah Atkinson Katlyn Baltazar Yulissa Berrios Thomas Carr Ryan Cash Gavin Cabrera Jonathan Chadwick Katelyn Cheatham Benjamin Darden Almedina Delic Almina Delic Tynisha Evans Rebecca Fergusson Jelani Ferrell Nancy Gonzalez Christian Guerrero Amanda Harris David Harris</p>	 <p>Messiah College Toby Doyle</p>	 <p>The University of the South Ben Ellis Henry Wingfield</p>	 <p>University of Virginia Henry Akers Sarah Ashman Mary Peyton Baskin Peter Brodzik Joseph Bruce Caroline Cook Alison Eddins McKenna Epperson</p>	 <p>Washington and Lee University Jackson Ellis</p>		
 <p>Duke University MacKenzie Kerr Jamie Lockwood</p>	 <p>Ohio State University Aidan Crenshaw</p>	 <p>New York University Julia Martin Michelle Saiyed</p>	 <p>University of Alabama Essie Prudhoe</p>	 <p>University of South Carolina Maureen Dalton</p>	 <p>Wichita State University DJ Doustiel</p>		
 <p>Eastern Carolina University Elizabeth Merriam AJ Sawyer</p>	 <p>University of Central Florida Cody Banks</p>	 <p>Ohio State University Aidan Crenshaw</p>	 <p>University of Arizona Emma Shawcross</p>	 <p>United States Army Will Campbell Connor Christian Morgan Ford</p>	 <p>Woodrow Wilson Automotive Internship Roberto Diaz</p>		

... ALWAYS A REBEL



Richard George



Chadwick Boseman



DSF Senior Celebrity Look -Alikes



Anna Laughter



Alexis Bledel



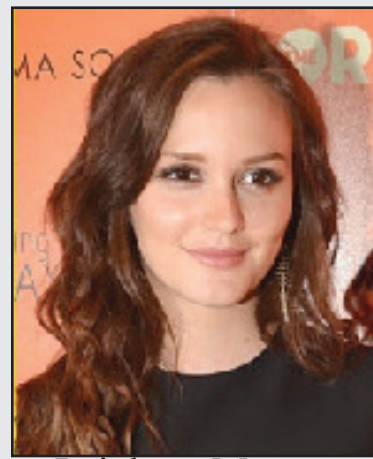
Morgan Hecht



Craig Haydn Roberts



Jordi Lee



Leighton Meester



Rives Worsham



Miles Teller



Autumn Moss



Angela Basset

Let's Take a Lunch Break Everyone



Connor Glowacki
Opinions Editor

I am just going to come clean and say what is on everybody's mind: Thank goodness, high school is over.

Seriously, four years of trudging through crowded hallways to receive yet another set of quizzes, tests, and homework assignments which ultimately result in grades that dictate our emotional stability?

Four years we spent, walking back and forth, as the grades went up and down and our collective consciousness faded in and out of information-induced comas and bored stupors.

And now it is over.

The ranks of our senior class marched forward without relent—without sleep—and finally the war is ending. Some of our comrades fell into escapist habits, fleeing into the cozy world of Netflix to forget their worries within the countless episodes of "Parks and Recreation." Others formed an impenetrable shell of

cynicism, abiding the daily grind while spouting sarcastic remarks.

Still others (and these are the true heroes) managed, by some profound luck or skill, to dodge and weave between the onslaught of examinations, earning the ranks of officers in our rag-tag army and establishing themselves as a teacher's confidante, a position from where they influenced the grade-curves and due-dates.

We fought tooth and nail for more time to procrastinate and we prayed feverishly for the skies let loose their snow and give us snow days; we complained as loudly as we could to let our teachers know that though our fingers submit to the punishment of pen and paper, our minds will remain focused on true goals: the likes per minute of our Instagram posts.

Brave and noble individuals we are, the seniors, for despite all attempts to educate us, our nation of teenagers—positively oozing angst and hormones from our pores—responded with the age-old adage, "When will I ever need to know this?," promptly erasing the lessons from our heads faster than we might erase our combined internet histories.

But now comrades, we must also bid each other fare well.

It is only natural for soldiers to exist in a state of transition, moving from one battleground to the next, so value the individuals who knew you in your youthful

dispositions; dispositions which, despite what change the years may bring, remain ultimately the same. Cherish the bonds forged here, tempered to a lustrous mettle at Freeman High School.

Is it fair that we should have to part with our companions just as soon as we begin truly to know them, all in pursuit of a better future? I do not pretend to know. I do not know whether my memories of love and laughter will fade as photographs do kept in a box in an attic. The future is a great unknown that most walk blindly through with outstretched arms and tentative steps. I argue rather that we should walk with high held chins as the masters of our fate.

My brothers and sisters in arms, companions in misery, we share a toast to victory which is altogether so fleeting. Remember me as I will remember you: soldiers, warriors — friends. There are good times still yet to come and victories we have yet to share. And though we may be sharing these experiences with new faces, I am happy for you all the same, since you are just like me, and I just like you.

Fare thee well, and continue to march ahead championing whichever cause you deem worthy. Glean what you may from the fields of victory and defeat.

And remember, ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for lunch.

Some Sporty Tips



Matthew H.P.
Sports Editor

I've tried a lot of sports. Football, cross country, soccer, wrestling, baseball, track and even hockey are all sports that my far-too-generous parents thought I had some sort of business playing at one point in time. I came to Freeman as the three sport athlete jock, the kid who thought sports were easy; I'm leaving as the humble runner, the guy who realizes being good at one is perpetually challenging.

Around the time I first started running seriously, I watched a video of 2014 Boston marathon winner and Olympic marathon silver medalist Meb Keflezighi (it's still the first result on YouTube when you search him). In the video, Keflezighi wakes up and eats with his kids, stretches and does drills, runs a three mile warm-up, then a 12 mile run, then a 4.5 mile cool-down before some post-run stretching and an ice bath. He then proceeds to take an hour nap before going out for his second aerobic workout

of the day—an hour long bike ride—which is then succeeded by a 45 minute core workout. After all that, Keflezighi has only enough time for some dinner and icing on the couch with his family before he heads to bed so he can wake up early for his first run of the next day.

Recently when I revisited this video, I saw a comment that I thought was fitting:

"Wow... incredible determination and training. More rigorous than I've ever imagined it would be to train for a marathon, but I guess that's what makes you one of the best in the world. Bless you and all the athletes out there that put so much into the art of their sport."

That's what sports are about, not chilling with "bros" at practice, not pre-game Chick-fil-a, but attempting to perfect the art of your sport.

This is why I ultimately failed at other sports like football and wrestling. I went to practice, but never really had that weekend passion I have for track that helps me tackle 10 miles on a Sunday morning.

Don't forget to be thankful. Yes, you need to thank your coaches, teammates, and especially parents. But also, take time to thank the arrangement of the universe. Thank the billions and trillions of tiny events that led to other tiny events that eventually led to the creation of you with your athletic talent.

From Awkward to More Awkward; The Story of a Boy



Sebastian
A & E Editor

I know you are excited at the possibilities of high school, as you should, but I want to let you know that if you do not get involved in a lot of clubs and activities, you will have trouble getting to know people.

Do not get excited about freshman year homecoming, either. It's Sadie Hawkins, meaning it is girl's choice and, newsflash, you just transferred so you don't know anyone. You may get along with a girl in first period, but she has way more options than you do right now.

Don't worry; homecoming usually is not that great.

What you need to do freshman year is join Model UN. I know you are afraid of public speaking, but you actually aren't too bad at it.

Socially, you need to stop worrying about if you say something awkward because you end up not speaking when you do. You are awkward, and fighting it is a war you cannot win. Besides, some of the best people at Freeman have an awkward side.

With the bros, you need to throw in a "Let's go!" once in a while. You never figure out where you are going, but you just need to start saying it because all the guys do. Also good to know is "Sup man?" and various inappropriate remarks.

Putting yourself in social situations does not permit you to be annoying; you tend to do this quite a bit. Take a deep breath, let people have their personal space, and stay calm.

In addition, sometimes, you can be too judgmental and hate yourself after it. Remember all of your flaws, the thousands upon thousands of them, and keep yourself grounded.

You also need to go to the gym more because you get pretty lazy. Running may be a chore right now, but with some good music and some practice, you can rock a treadmill. You'll end up looking at a bunch of colleges and worrying about what you will get in.

RELAX!
Take a breather and enjoy high school while it lasts. Freshman year may seem far away from graduation, but trust me in saying that walking through the door sophomore year is an incredibly weird feeling.

Senior year goes by really fast. You are going to wish you had done more and feel as if you are just starting to make great friendships, but it will not last. First semester will be crazy hard, but second semester is AMAZING. You will be accepted to William and Mary and love the accepted students day. You end up with what you want: a home for the next four years. Though you still don't know what you are going to do (you are leaning towards writing for television now), there is plenty of time to find yourself. Learn from your mistakes and live everyday happy that you have the opportunities that you do.

Sincerely,
Sebastian Hughes



James Irby

Most high school kids love music. However, most high school kids listen to their favorite bands through a set of headphones, not from the second row of a concert. James Irby has been defying expectations for years.

James Irby loves live music. "I go to lots of concerts with my friend Aidan Crenshaw," James said. Though he does not know exactly how many concerts he has attended, he estimates the number is above 50. "I go to a lot," James said with a laugh.

"This year I've seen Fleetwood Mac and Eddy Money on New Year's Eve," said James. "I'm a classic rock guy... but I mostly listen to hair metal," he said. James believes concerts provide an experience that can not be gained through an iPod or computer screen. "I like the vibes and the pyro, which are the antics that go on on stage, like lighting stuff on fire," James said.

James has even been lucky enough to meet a few of the bands he has watched perform. "I met the band Fire House at Innsbrook... their guitar player went to Freeman," he said.

Though sometimes James purchases keep-

sakes from the shows he attends, he doesn't buy something at every concert because the expense is so large. "I would love to buy shirts, but when they cost more than the tickets they just aren't worth it," he said.

James does purchase t-shirts another way: yard sales. "Yard sales are amazing because they're like Goodwill to a whole new level," said James. Though he has bought a variety of items, James said that mainly, "I buy concert t-shirts and VHS tapes." Most high school kids don't shop at yard sales, but James enjoys being different.

James also breaks "teenage norms" by having long hair. "My mom used to make me cut it, and she nags me about it every day," he said. He wants to grow it out to see how long it can grow.

James didn't purchase a cell phone until his senior year in high school as an attempt to break social norms. "I didn't get a phone until senior year because we're becoming too dependent on technology and I wanted to live my life as a free bird, and this bird you cannot change," he said.

James is also a lover of Freeman traditions. His favorite Freeman tradition is the Mr.DSF competition. After watching his brother perform a skit as "Buddy the Elf," James couldn't wait to participate in Mr.DSF himself, and finally fulfilled his dreams during his senior year. "A boy does not become a man until he does Mr.DSF," he said.

Next year, James will be continuing his love of music, trendsetting, and tradition at William and Mary.



Selena Gonzalez

Family is about much more than blood ties. Selena Gonzalez knows this better than most.

After she was placed in the foster system at age eleven, Selena was introduced to the foster parents that would go on to officially adopt her during her sophomore year.

"Being adopted was a very emotional day and probably one of the best days of my life. I even wrote down the day as my 'new birthday,'" said Selena.

She says she loves her adoptive parents for their "imperfect and crazy" natures and how they treated her like family "from the moment [she] walked into their home."

"My parents were just trying to help children that needed love and a home, they never expected for me to one day ask 'could you adopt me and be my parents?' said Selena.

Though placement into foster care isn't the ideal situation for a child, Selena doesn't consider it a negative experience.

"I still have contact with my two younger siblings, I finally have two parents that take care of me and love me, and I think that without going into foster care I would not be the person I am today," said Selena.

Selena will be attending Randolph Macon College in the fall and is planning to study education and one day become a teacher.

"I am also interested in studying social work and psychology because the things I've been through have been a huge influence," said Selena.

"I think that without going into foster care I would not be the person I am today," said Selena.

Selena's experiences, though tough for any child to go through, have changed her life for the better. She has a loving family and a bright future ahead.

Selena offers some of her own advice for anyone going through a difficult situation, "Life has taught me that no matter what happens in my life I can overcome it if I really want to. So I would advise people to never give up no matter how hard life is."



MC Houser

On September 1st, 2015, MC Houser will take a path less travelled by high school graduates: a gap year spent travelling in Europe for about four months.

Her older sister, a Freeman alum, will be going with her in between her college and beginning nursing school. "This is the perfect year to go together and travel," MC said.

Her graduation present from her parents is the plane ticket to Europe and until mid-January 2016, she will stay travelling around Europe. MC stopped playing sports sophomore and junior year so she could save up for this trip.

MC and her sister are going to start in the United Kingdom and continue through other European countries such as France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Switzerland and other countries.

After her gap year, she will be attending the University of Wyoming, which she chose because she has "never really been West and I've always wanted to go out there and live there," she said. MC has always had a passion for American history and that is why she is excited to finally live on the Western frontier.

University of Wyoming was an easy choice for MC. Having 9,000-10,000 undergraduates, it is the only public university in Wyoming; therefore, it offers many majors and

"This is the perfect year to go together and travel," MC said.

opportunities to study what she wants.

MC is not completely sure of what she wants to study but is considering majoring in Social Work or Architecture and minoring in Art, one of her favorite pastimes.

Taking a gap year and travelling is something that most people dream of. After years of saving up and planning, MC gets to accomplish that very thing. She is excited to go to the beautiful University of Wyoming and travel out West while there, while meeting many new people on the way. Good luck on your travels next year MC and remember: Once a rebel, always a rebel.



Nathan Moody

The saying goes that the high school experience is as good as the student makes it. Nathan Moody's involvement in the football and theater programs here at Freeman are a perfect example of a student making the most of his four years.

His freshman year he started playing on the football team and enrolled in his first theater class, both of which he would participate in throughout his entire high school period.

Both theater and football are large time commitments making it difficult to balance everything at times.

"Finding time to juggle academics and football was my biggest obstacle in high school. I'm the only athlete in theater everyone else is similar and they hang out together but with football I can't do that as much. It was really hard to put 90% of my time into football and still have to focus on academics and theater," said Nathan.

While the balancing act was tough, he learned how to combine the two. "I intertwined theater with the competition of football because like football we are competitive in theater. When we perform against other school's one acts and audition for parts, the atmosphere is the same," said Nathan.

Being a part of these programs has also produced some Nathan's best friendships and most cherished memories.

"This year I will be a director at the one acts and I've gotten to know Ashley Adams, Alexis Barker, Milan Rachel, Kirstin Ridge, Alejandro Brown very well from acting with them for 4 years.

"It was my first varsity touchdown and it was the first time it felt like senior year," said Nathan.

"Playing varsity football this past season was probably my favorite part of high school. I still watch the film of the James River game. It was my first varsity touchdown and it was the first time it felt like senior year," said Nathan.

Nathan made the most of his four years at Douglas Freeman and he hopes he can continue the trend. He plans to attend Old Dominion University and major in broadcast journalism "but that is completely subject to change," said Nathan. He also plans to continue playing football.



Angel de la Rosa

Mr. and Mrs. De La Rosa left Zacatecas, Mexico for America 14 years ago searching for better opportunities. With them, they took their then 4-1/2 year-old son named Angel.

"I came to America not knowing what to expect, but I've grown to love it," Angel said.

Upon arrival in the States, Angel hardly knew any English. He immediately enrolled in Carver Elementary School before transferring to Tuckahoe Elementary in fourth grade.

"At first it was really hard adjusting to the English language, but through TV and school I learned a ton really fast, especially with Arthur and all the other PBS shows" he said.

However, it still takes time to learn an entirely new language.

"I remember I couldn't hold a conversation coming into kindergarten, but by first grade I could speak almost fluently... I've adjusted to the change pretty well," he said.

Although, Angel still has a little trouble with certain vocabulary.

"The classic Angel moment that none of us will ever let him live down was when he forgot the word for grass in Mrs. Campfield's class freshman year, it was hilarious," senior George Richardson said.

Angel takes a lot of pride in school; however, when he's not studying he's often taking care of his three sisters, Emily (12), Natalia (9), and Alexandra (2).

"They really teach me how to be responsible," Angel said.

Eventually he hopes to go to college to earn either a business or engineering degree.

"Sometimes when I'm bored I study computer programming language to get a better grasp on the programming lingo and hopefully get a jump on my classmates in college and who knows? Maybe I can make a career out of it," Angel said.

His love for business and computer science was sparked in ninth grade during Mr. Gradwell's intro to computers and CAD class.

"Mr. Gradwell just had a way of making even the most boring stuff fun, I can't explain it," he said.

"From computer science you're able to figure out solutions for all sorts of practical and difficult problems that we face every day ranging from simple algorithms to even a cure for cancer," he said.

"From the first time we saw him in elementary school Angel has always been a good addition to our friend group with his diversity and jokes," senior Duncan Thurston said.

math teacher one day," she said.

Breana recently interviewed for a Henrico County teaching scholarship, taking a unique approach to her interview and subsequent lesson plan. She found out on April 30 that she won the scholarship, and the news was received with much excitement and celebration.

"I get a \$5,000 bonus when I start and a guaranteed job in Henrico County as a teacher. They're looking for more dedicated teachers I guess, and I saw a poster on the wall and thought I should try it. For my interview, they wanted us to make a five-minute lesson plan, so I incorporated geometry using origami. Finding out that I won was the happiest and most surprising moment I've ever had happen to me," Breana said.

Next year, Breana is attending Longwood University, where she plans to study Mathematics and Secondary Education. She has enjoyed the experiences she had at Freeman and is excited for new ones in college.

"I've been to eight different schools, so Freeman is the first one I've been to for all four years. I've liked being in the same place and getting to know people really well. But I'm not really nervous for college. I'll have to make all new friends, but you know, I'm ready for it—I'm used to moving and meeting new people. I'm kind of ready for college, for that next step, and to be independent," Breana said.

With an exciting four years ahead of her, Breana leaves Freeman with fond memories of friendships she made as part of the Freeman family.



Ceasura McPhatter

Everyone has a quirky fact that is shocking to other people. When in doubt, that fun fact (or facts) are what distinguishes you from others and keeps you true to yourself. Senior Ceasura McPhatter most definitely has a fact that leaves others surprised: Ceasura is a veteran of 10 years of competitive cheerleading.

From the time she was 4 to 14 years old, Ceasura was a cheerleader.

"I cheered at UCC and that turned into Cheer Factory and then I merged at Twisters. My last years were at USA Cheerleading," Ceasura said.

"Cheerleading taught me teamwork and how to work together cooperatively. I am also stronger than I would be. But in a way, it taught me individuality because I found out my differences," said Ceasura.

Ceasura has one of the most unique backpacks at Freeman: a panda backpack that she named Echo.

"I went to get batteries with my grandma and saw it and it was \$10. There was no reason why I wouldn't get it. I've had it since

freshman year," Ceasura said.

Three things that she always has in her backpack are her sewing kit, her Nintendo DS and games, and another panda.

As the most recent student to take both Stage Craft and Drama for all 4 years, Ceasura is a crucial part of the drama community at Freeman.

"The class is about learning all types of technical and backstage work. We do lighting, set design, set building, and sound. We couldn't do the show without the class," Ceasura said.

The memories of Freeman's musicals and plays throughout the years have stood out as her favorite memory from high school.

"My favorite show at Freeman was "Little Shop of Horrors". It was a lot of fun and a cool set, plus the plant was really cool. I was the arm that actually put Audrey [Helena Maloney] in the plant," Ceasura said.

Ceasura is attending the University of Rochester in the fall, studying Programming Animation and Game Design. She plans to work on and create video games.

Ceasura has her own advice for those interested in following in her footsteps.

"For Drama kids, never assume that you are not going to get a part and not audition because of it. Always audition. For Stagecraft, learn to rip spike tape," Ceasura said.

In all, from panda backpacks to cheerleading, "plant arms" to spike tape, Ceasura has fulfilled her 4 years at Freeman.

His favorite memories come from his plays and musicals, most notably, closing night.

"I don't think I have just one favorite moment at Freeman. Really, my favorite moments here come from the plays and musicals. The curtain call on closing night in particular is a fantastic moment. I love the feeling of accomplishment and the relief of completing another show. It's similar to opening night, where the product of everyone's hard work and passion is show off for the first time. I just love moments like that, and they have to be my best memories of Freeman."

Alejandro admits that while there were plenty of learning experiences, he regrets nothing.

"Looking back, there are plenty of things I could have done differently, at least academically speaking. I'm sure that holds true for just about everyone here. However, I'm pretty satisfied with the majority of my actions at Freeman. I've made great friends, and I've always tried to be open and upbeat to everyone. I do feel like I've made the most out of my high school experience, at least from a more human perspective. Honestly I don't really regret much of anything, as far as things that matter to me go."

After high school, Alejandro plans on spending a year or two at John Tyler Community College before transferring to a four year university.

"I plan on continuing to study theatre while at Tyler and become active in Richmond's local theatre scene. I will also try to find voice work, as I want to pursue a career in voice acting as well as stage acting."



Alejandro Brown

Alejandro Brown has had a productive four years with the Freeman theatre and music departments.

"My experience with the arts department at Freeman has been overall very positive, most notably in the theatre department. I have participated in Freeman theatre since the beginning of my freshman year, acting in almost every play and musical during my time at Freeman. I suppose it should be noted that I also participated in strings during freshman year and Chorus during sophomore year, but ultimately gave both up to solely pursue theatre."

"I feel like I have grown so much as an actor as well as a person through Freeman theatre. I've made so many good friends and shared so many wonderful experiences while working on the plays. The cast really does become like a family, and it's so great to share the experience of bringing the production together. Mary Spears has been a phenomenal director and teacher, and I am so grateful to her for everything she does for us."



Mr. and Mrs. DSF:
Jamie Lockwood and Luke Twente



Most Musically Talented:
Virginia Tilley and Devin Hatcher



Future Soccer Mom and Dad:
Elizabeth McClung and Logan Harvey



High School Sweethearts:
Elizabeth Pollard and Jack McCall



Everybody's Friend:
George Richardson and Alison Eddins



Class Clowns:
Madinah Stallworth and Jermaine Dwyer



Most Likely to Take a Snapchat Story:
Dimitri Duroseau and Peyton Brady



Best Best Friends (Guys):
Ben and Jackson Ellis



Southern Belle and Gentleman:
Mason Daly and Andrew Robertson



Most Likely to Be on Broadway:
Jack Fleming and Helena Maloney



Most Athletic:
Mackenzie Kerr and Evan Tyler



Best Best Friends (Girls):
Elizabeth Merriam and Sarah Whetstone



Biggest Rebels:
Phil Whitten and Bergen Hillegas



Most Unforgettable:
C.C. Hollis and Ford Hendrix



Most Likely to Be the Change:
Eric Asplund and Catherine Carson



Biggest Flirts:
Daniel Lynch and Olivia Humrich



Most Likely to Break the Curve:
Nathan Lin and Jenna Brown



Most Adventurous:
MC Houser and Connor Glowacki



Most Artistic:
Annie Ward Love and Ryan Bryson



Jack and Jill of All Trades:
Emmy Hodges and James Blevins



Fashion Icons:
Whit Lombardo and Abigail Thompson