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DECISION DAY: SENIORS CHOOSE THEIR OWN PATH

By CJ Blanden

Many seniors stick to in-state colleges, but others are choosing schools that better match their goals and dreams, even if it means going farther from home.

Senior Sam Clancy-Harley chose fit over familiarity.

"I chose Northeastern University in Boston for architecture because its location, classes, and programs fit me better than other great options like UCD and UIUC. Even though those schools had strong benefits, Northeastern gives me the best overall opportunity, and it leaves the door open if I ever decide to transfer later," he said.

For senior Kaleigh Bell, athletics made the difference in her decision to move to Iowa for college.

"The biggest reason I chose Davenport was my track and field coach, who made me feel supported and showed he truly cares about his athletes. He helped me see that I'd have someone advocating for me both on and off the track," she said.

Campus visits and parental influence also played a big role, especially for Tobias Schmitz, who will be heading to Marist University in New York.

"Overall, they really let me choose at the end what school I wanted to go to, and when we visited campus, they really liked it a lot and could tell I liked it a lot," he said.

Heading off to Stanford was a relatively simple process for Kavinder Patel, who knew exactly where he was going.

"I didn't realize it, but college applications are very time-consuming, and I'm glad I didn't really spend my time applying to other schools other than just Stanford," said Patel.



SENIORS DECORATE SIGNS AND GRADUATION CAPS TO REP THEIR FUTURE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE COMMONS ON MAY 1 FOR DECISION DAY

Seniors also shared some advice for juniors who might be looking toward the future.

"I'd say find a place that will make you happy and find something that interests you to major in. Any degree is better than no degree, and it's still useful no matter what kind it is," Clancy-Harley said.

Patel agreed, highlighting that it's all about the personal aspect.

"Don't worry about how good a college looks; the only thing that matters is if you can see yourself there and if you fit in there. Choose a college that gives you something you can build off of," he said.

It is never too early to start the process, according to students already preparing for life after high school.

"My advice to our juniors is to start looking at colleges now and apply for loads of scholarships. To the athletes, go on those college visits and ask your coaches a lot of questions because you want to know if your college feels like a second home," Bell added.

Schmitz focused on academic advice.

"First, take your ACT and SAT seriously and retake it if you need to; it will give you better options down the road. Lastly, be prepared for rejection. College decisions are really tough, and sometimes you won't always get into the school you deserve," he Schmitz.

These seniors show there's no single path after high school, just the one that fits you best. Follow their advice!

MOORE THAN READY: COACH PANCHO TAKES OVER

By Lillian DiSanto

There is big news for both the girls flag football and basketball teams, who have a new coach on board: Pancho Moore!

Many already know Moore as an assistant coach and sports photographer and are excited to see him lead next year. Moore is excited as well.

"I missed helping girls get better and reaching their potential. I'd found my reason. I started telling everyone at any games I was going to take the first job that I saw that opened. Other schools announced they needed coaches, but never made it official. Urbana did and I immediately knew it was a perfect fit and where I wanted to be," he said.

Moore has big plans for offseason workouts and summer practices to prepare for next year now.

"I feel like this will be a great change. Pancho is such a cool coach and even a photographer. I think he will make our program fun and help us toward a very winnable season," said freshman Nylah McReynolds.

Though athletes will miss Coach Boykin, seniors are eager to see younger players build something special under new leadership.

"I'm excited to see what a new coach can bring to our program. I'm sad that I won't be here to experience it for myself, but I'm excited for the underclassmen," said senior Sarai Smith, who played both flag football and basketball.

Welcome to the team, Pancho, and we can't wait to see what's in store!

THE TEAM THAT REBUILT SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

By Ananyah Tangmunarunkit

You may have heard about Science Olympiad team through Instagram posts, morning announcements, the News-Gazette, or simply by word of mouth. Maybe you've seen photos filled with medals and trophies celebrating their successes. No matter where you've heard about them (or if you haven't yet heard about them!), one thing is clear: UHS Science Olympiad has built an impressive reputation in only a few years.

"I did Science Olympiad in middle school and it was a really great experience," now-senior Annika Drasgow said. "...when I got to high school and there was no Science Olympiad team, I decided that I should start one. ... I begged Mr. Birdsley before and after class to be the sponsor, and with Mia [Schroeder] and Cecelia [Birdsley] asking after school, he said yes."

The team had only around 10 members the first year and it was a whirlwind experience for those involved.

"...We formed the team like 2 months before regionals and had no clue what we were doing, but somehow almost qualified for state which was super cool," remembers senior Cecelia Birdsley.

Since then, the founding members have brought together a new community of people wanting to learn more about science while learning the competition from scratch themselves. Science Olympiad is essentially made up of three different types of competitions. "Builds" involve making a contraption outside of competition day, while "tests" focus on studying for events and taking a timed test at competition. Some events also include both a test and build portion. Each event, competed in by teams of at least two students, covers a different category of science, from astronomy and entomology to electric vehicles and wind energy.

"There are a bunch of different events with varying focuses. For example, I competed in circuit lab, machines, codebusters, and experimental design this year. You go in with a partner and do either builds or tests and are scored based on accuracy," senior Neha Bhargava said.

"My favorite part of competing is definitely awards. It's really exciting to see the success of the team and how everyone's hard work has paid off!" Bhargava added with a smile.

After qualifying for State in its first year, the team placed 2nd at the State level in 2025. In 2026, the team placed 8th in their division, which might seem like a worse result, but is actually better than previous years!

As sponsor Jeff Birdsley explains, "I thought this was our best year ever... We got moved up to the upper division, but if we had been in the lower division where we always were before, we would have won first place by a mile. It turns out we didn't belong there! I was hoping we would stay there and win as state champion, but we did so well in the upper division that, clearly, we didn't belong in the lower division anymore. ... There was a Science Olympiad back in the 1990s and 2000s, but it went away for a while, so we had to rebuild it. In four years, to [go to doing] really well with all the big schools, it was fantastic. So the program is doing really well, and I'm really proud of all the kids."

"Overall, Science Olympiad has provided me with a way to learn about topics I'm passionate about but can't learn in school. Also going from literally nothing to being placed in division AA at state has been super cool," Cecilia Birdsley said.

This year, the seniors who have stuck with the club since the beginning will be graduating, and while one era may be ending, it also opens up a chance for new participants and underclassmen to step up. Always welcoming new members and having so many different science topics in each event, the team is sure to have something for anyone interested in science!



ONCE ONLY 11 MEMBERS, SCIENCE OLYMPIAD HAS GROWN INTO ONE OF UHS'S MOST SUCCESSFUL AND COMPETITIVE TEAMS.

FINALS CAN BE STRESSFUL: 5 WAYS TO DECOMPRESS



By Ally Beller

"I think people should be stressed because they do good work when they are," laughed teacher Mark Foley when asked what advice he would give to de-stress during finals and exam season.

That might be true, but if you're finding yourself overwhelmed with all the things to study, you're in the right place! Here are five ways you can relax during this year's final exam season:

1: Take a Break

It may sound basic, but simply taking a 5-, 10-, or even 30-minute break while studying can enhance productivity, focus, and memory retention while also preventing burnout and mental fatigue. During your break, get a snack, meditate, or honestly, even stare at the wall. Whatever you do, though, don't pick up your phone! Going on your phone during a study break usually ends in doomscrolling for hours instead of the 10-minute break you planned, leaving less done and eventually feeling worse than before.

2: Go Outside

Whether a hike or a simple walk around your neighborhood, nature has been proven to lower cortisol, your stress hormone, as well as slow your heart rate and reduce blood pressure. Nature can also improve your attention, offering what scientists call a "soft" fascination, meaning gentle, effortless stimulation that holds your attention without overwhelming it, which allows the brain to recover from the intense focus demanded by finals season.

3: Take a Nap

Instead of diving straight into studying when you get home from school, taking a short 30-60 minute nap can

improve memory consolidation as well as boost focus and learning. More importantly, though, napping gives your brain and body a break from what seems like a never-ending cycle of homework, studying, and test-taking.

4: Yoga

Yoga is not only a great low-impact exercise, it also reduces stress and anxiety while improving emotional resilience and memory, which can help you to perform better on your finals. Adding in some moments to reflect on the year and all the hard work you've put in so far can also be a great motivator to get you through the final weeks of the year.

5: Write it Down

This one may also seem simple, but it is extremely effective: make a to-do list of specific chapters or units you need to study. When you don't plan your study sessions, your brain becomes scrambled, and you'll end up getting nothing done. Whereas when you make a detailed, in-depth plan for your studying, you utilize your time and eliminate the worry of not having enough time to study it all!

While stress to an extent is important to achieve great things, too much of it can be extremely detrimental and prevent you from getting anything done. Following these tips will ensure a low-cortisol finals season while still passing your exams with flying colors.

Good luck, Tigers!

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES CLUB BAKES UP OPPORTUNITY

By Ananyah
Tangmunarunkit

Despite being founded only this school year, the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Club (FCCLA) has already formed a community of passion and connection, based in Family and Consumer Science activities.

Led by club senior co-presidents Cora Baker and Lailah Davis and sponsored by Ms. Cheyenne Warman-Neal, the club engages in all sorts of different activities, from baking and culinary arts to fashion design and human development education, helping students develop skills like leadership and service and putting them into real-world context.

“FCCLA is a community based organization that allows students the opportunity to explore how family and consumer sciences can help others around us through various service projects,” Baker explained. “When this club first started I wasn’t entirely sure what I was getting into, but through FCCLA, I’ve not only been able to improve my leadership skills, but I also have gotten the chance to meet so many new people!”

Although the different projects each member works on are individual, they all come together into a team participating in FCCLA competitions to represent the school.

“I did a cake decorating event,” said junior and vice president Allie Quang.

Reflecting on competing in conferences on behalf of the team, she added, “but there were a ton of events to choose from, all kinds of categories, and it was something really new for me. I had never been to a club conference before and it was actually surprisingly really fun and this was also my first time competing. When I went there were so many different people from different schools, and I didn’t realize how big the FCCLA community was.”

The club is still looking to expand, always open for new students and underclassmen hoping to expand their horizons and learn more about family and consumer sciences. They meet every week Thursday before and after school in Room 2150, where anyone is welcome. For any questions, contact Ms. Warman-Neal or stop by for a visit!

“Even though the club is still relatively new, I am extremely proud of the progress that we’ve made this year,” Baker said on a final note, “and I hope that it continues to grow and gain more members.”

Any new members will join an already strong team.

At the FCCLA State Competition, Baker was joined by juniors Maggie Sibande and Tim Friedman in a series of cooking competitions. All three received recognition for their efforts: Baker won a silver medal and placed top 5 in her event, while Friedman and Sibande both received bronze medals.

Though participating in FCCLA state is a fun way to gain experience in these fields, there is also a deeper meaning in why it matters to them. “You can just put your own flavor, your personal aspect into it. I just want to see people smile when they eat my food,” said Sibande.



FCCLA MEMBERS TIM FRIEDMAN AND MAGGIE SIBANDE COMPETE AT THE COLLEGE OF DUPAGE CULINARY ARTS STAR COMPETITION

SEVEN SENSATIONAL TRENDS FOR SUMMER 2026

By Olivia Hayes

Every summer, new trends emerge and captivate the internet. From movies to fashion, we will see new trends take consumers by storm and old trends recapture the hearts of the audience. Here are some predictions for Summer 2026 (spoiler: there is a lot of Zara Larsson in here)!

1. Fashion

This summer, Zara Larsson will be the blueprint. Think blues, sequins, beachy combinations, chunky sandals, and an overall Lush Life vibe. Asymmetrical skirts and statement tops will be all the rage during the summer months.

2. Viral Trends

On TikTok and Instagram, fyp’s will be taken over by various tutorials and GRWMs. This summer, I expect to see a rise in fun and colorful makeup tutorials, hibiscus flowers on EVERYTHING, perms to make your hair big and curly, chai lattes to sip on a hot summer day, and fun car decorations for the summer road-trips with friends.

3. New Music

In the next few months, new music will be shaping the culture of the summer.

Pop girls Olivia Rodrigo and Ariana Grande are both dropping albums this summer, as are rapper Drake and an up-and-coming artist, Malcolm Todd. Whatever your genre, there is going to be a summer album for you.

4. It Girl of the Summer

In 2024, it was Charli XCX during brat summer; 2025’s darling was Hailey Bieber. This year, I predict it will be Zara Larsson. After she came back and defined her brand in the pop world, her fun summer brand has been taking over all forms of media and will only grow from here.

5. TV Shows

The hit show *Euphoria* is back for season 3, setting trends for the summer through its broad fashion and makeup. DC superhero show *Peacemaker* is coming back for Season 2, getting superhero fans excited for

the next generation of DC. Also returning for a second season is *Sitcom Adults*, bringing its fun, refreshing view of the Gen Z experience back into the sitcom world.

6. Movies

The big movie headliners this summer will be the perfect way to beat the heat. Highly-anticipated movies like *The Odyssey*, *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*, and *Backrooms* will all give unique and fun experiences to enjoy by yourself or with others.

7. Song of the Summer

Usually, the song of the summer is a new song, but this year will be different. I’m predicting “Midnight Sun” by (you guessed it!) Zara Larsson will be the song of the summer. Since its release last fall, it has been popular beyond expectations and will continue to define the vibe of 2026.

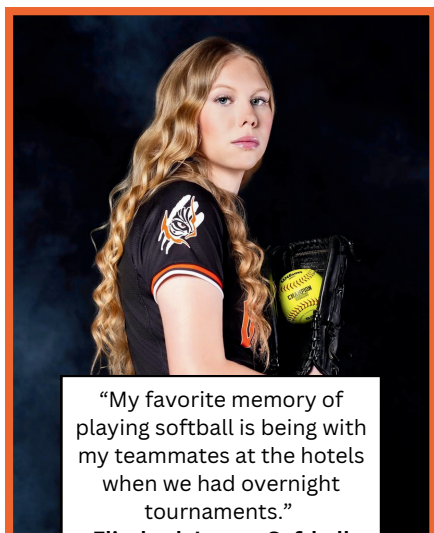
SENIOR SPRING SPORTS SIGN-OFF

By Valentina Gonzalez Ahuerma

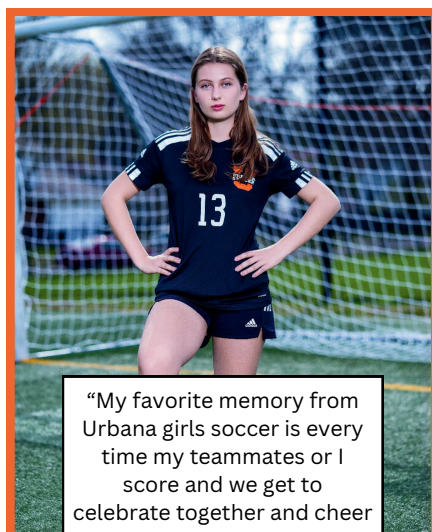
With the year coming to an end and our seniors getting ready to go do amazing things, we would like to do one last senior sport sign out with our spring sports! We asked athletes from each spring sport what their favorite sports memory was, and here are their responses:



"My favorite memory is from sophomore year when we beat St. Joe and the whole team went out to dinner to celebrate!"
Jaiden Anindo, Baseball



"My favorite memory of playing softball is being with my teammates at the hotels when we had overnight tournaments."
Elizabeth Lange, Softball



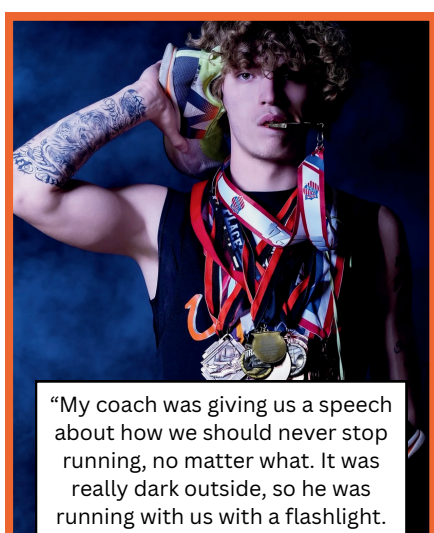
"My favorite memory from Urbana girls soccer is every time my teammates or I score and we get to celebrate together and cheer each other on."
Lily Schroeder, Soccer



"My favorite memory was my sophomore year running the 4x2 at indoor state. You are who you hang around, so surround yourself with greatness so you can become great."
Kaleigh Bell, Track



"My favorite memory from playing tennis my four years in high school was when we had away games on the drive home. We would all stop and get food together and hang out and have fun on the bus."
Zachary Olson, Tennis



"My coach was giving us a speech about how we should never stop running, no matter what. It was really dark outside, so he was running with us with a flashlight. There was a gate on the track and fell and the flashlight just disappeared, but we had to keep running in the dark 'cause he said to never stop!"
A.J. Coffin, Track

SONGS OF SUMMER PLAYLIST

By Madisyn Evans, Olivia Hayes, and Sanaa Parker

For this playlist, students shared the songs that instantly put them in summer mode. From classic hits to newer favorites, these picks capture what summer *sounds* like at UHS.

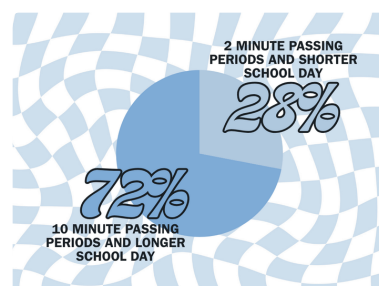
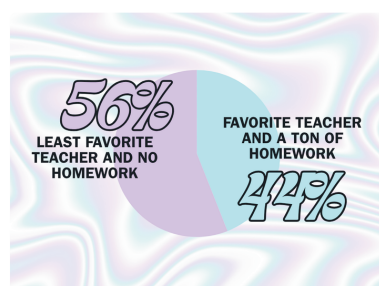
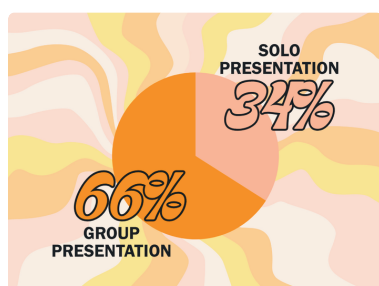
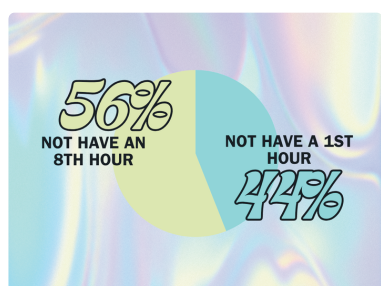


- Track 1: "Distraction" by Kehlani**
 "This song always makes me think of summer; it feels like wind in your hair on a summer's day." ---Hannah Bouchama
- Track 2: "Island in the Sun" by Weezer**
 "This song just feels like summer when I listen to it. I will be listening to it all summer." ---Kaitlyn Schroeder
- Track 3: "Hey Jude" by The Beatles**
 "It makes me happy and reminds me of positivity during the summer!" ---Abby Scully
- Track 4: "Pink + White" by Frank Ocean**
 "It has a summer vibe and reminds me of the beach, I can't explain it." ---Madison Perone
- Track 5: "Good Days" by SZA**
 "The beginning is like wind chimes so its calm and summery." ---Kaliyah Stamper
- Track 6: "Hello, Hello" by Panorama**
 "It kind of gives summer in the 2000s." ---Izabella Perry
- Track 7: "Top of Cars" by Lil M.U**
 "It's obviously the song of the summer, everyone thinks of this song when they think about summer." ---Mya Hill
- Track 8: "Waves" by Frank Ocean**
 "It's just beachy sounding and has that kind of rhythm that makes you think of summer." ---Jackie Miles
- Track 9: "Dreams" (remastered, 2004) by Fleetwood Mac**
 "It's a classic. The beat and jazz that it has feels great to listen to, especially with the windows down while driving and the breeze flowing!" ---Melina Diego Juan
- Track 10: "Latch" by Disclosure and Sam Smith**
 "100% this song will instantly put you in a good mood and has such a summer vibe. Everything about it is perfect and genuinely could be considered as the greatest of all time." ---Janasia Dillon
- Track 11: "Baby" by Summer Walker**
 "I love the instrumental of the song and the lyrics. It makes me feel warm and comfortable, just like the summer weather. It connects to me in a way of nostalgia and love." ---Mya Sessi
- Track 12: "Big Mike's" by Dijon**
 "Whenever I listen to it, I think of the time I played this song into the ground during the summer. A lot of Dijon's music is very summery and can be enjoyed even more then!" ---Xavier Podroykin
- Track 13: "Naive" by Solange**
 "It talks about being young, but still knowing how to live, and the music just represents the feeling of summer for me because it's so free and about independence." ---Genisis Walker

WOULD YOU RATHER: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

By Jalayah Irons

We wanted to hear your opinion to wrap up the year, so asked the student body to make some tough choices. Here were the results:



LIFE IN HIGH SCHOOL: WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

By Elena Ortiz

High school is one of the biggest challenges students face during their teenage years. Having classes, tests, homework, friendships, and future plans, students have to learn how to manage pressures while also discovering who they are.

Some students have learned how overwhelming it can be and how to cope, especially with the amount of homework.

“Some days, I feel like high school feels like a race I can never fully catch up with,” said freshman Hanifa Sumbal.

Balancing all of the assignments and personal responsibilities can be stressful; however, high school is not only about stress. It is also a place where students grow and begin to understand themselves better.

Sophomore Valeria Salcedo says that “High school has taught me that growing up means making a lot of mistakes, learning from them, and trying it all to still move forward.”

That means that school is not just about academics, but also personal growth. As students keep going in high school, they learn how to be more responsible and organized. We have to manage homework, tests, and our personal time with friends and others at the same time.

“High school has helped me understand that I need to be responsible for my own future,” said junior Estrella Mendez. “We learn to become independent.”

High school may not always be easy, but it helps students become stronger and more confident. Even though students face many challenges, each experience teaches them something important about themselves.

STATE POLICY CHANGE OPENS DOOR FOR DECORATED GRADUATION CAPS

By Micaela Jose Gomez

Graduation is around the corner, and this year for the first time ever, the seniors have approval to design their own graduation caps!

We have all seen posts of other schools allowing this, but never in Urbana’s history has it been allowed. The shift marks a new opportunity for seniors to express themselves in a personal way on one of the most memorable days of high school.

So why the change?

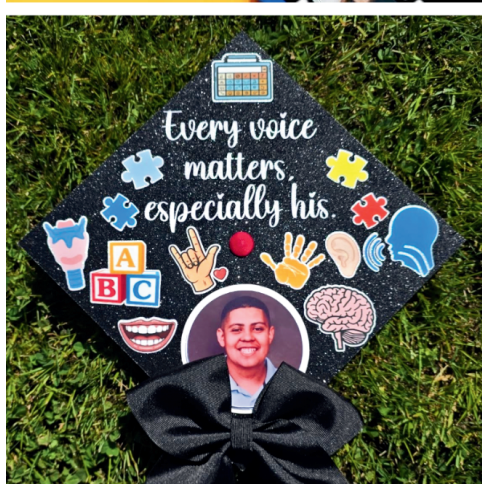
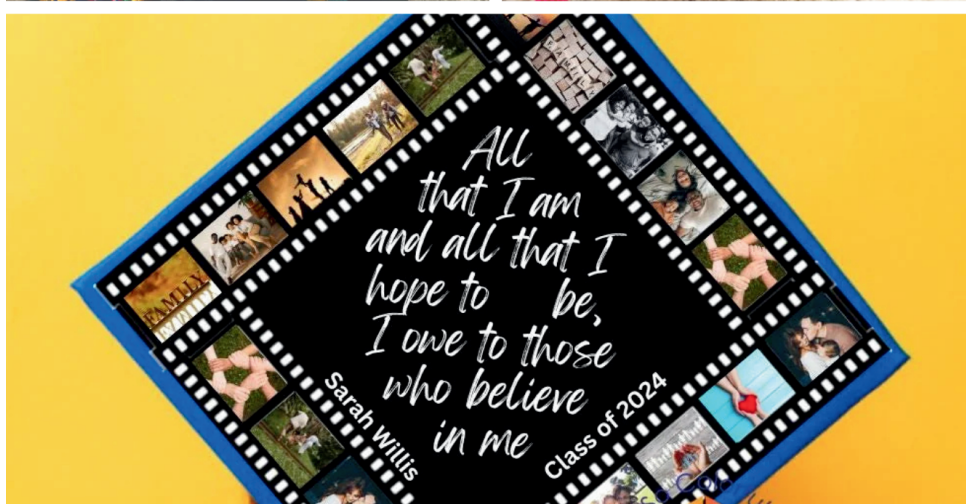
“We changed our policy to reflect the new IL state code for graduation ceremonies. It will now be a thing to design caps, unless we have to change it for other reasons,” said Principal Jessie Guzman with a smirk.

“I was really surprised when I found out that we can design our caps and am really excited that they made this change. I’m not sure what I want to do with my cap yet, but I will look at Pinterest for inspiration,” explained Marianna Thadison.

Not sure what you want to do? Here are some ideas!

1. Use photos of your family and friends to mark those who have helped you along the way! These are the people who have been there through every milestone and challenge.

2. Use a song quote to represent your journey: where you came from and where you’re going! The right lyric can capture a feeling words alone sometimes cannot.



3. Senior year is stressful. Make an homage to your favorite comfort show to remind you that it’s okay to relax. It can also bring a little humor to an emotional day.

4. Look toward the future by representing your future career or

college/university. This can help show what you are working toward beyond high school.

5. Give credit to the things that helped you survive 4 years of high school, like coffee, energy drinks, or food! Sometimes the smallest routines are what keep you going day to day.

QUIZ: WHICH GENERATION DO YOU REALLY BELONG TO?

By Sanaa Parker and Lillian DiSanto

If you’re reading this, you’re probably Gen Z (unless you’re staff, in which case, thanks for reading!), but your personality could be living in a completely different era. Answer the questions below based on your instincts to find out which generation you really belong to!

1. WHICH FORMAT OF MUSIC DO YOU WANT TO LISTEN TO?

- Vinyl
- Boombox
- CD
- Spotify
- YouTube

2. WHAT’S YOUR GO-TO CHILDHOOD NETWORK?

- No TV!
- Nickelodeon
- Cartoon Network
- Disney Channel
- PBS KIDS

3. PICK A SHOW TO HELP TO PASS THE TIME!

- Golden Girls
- Full House
- Friends
- The Office
- Bluey

4. LOCK IN ON A GAME!

- Pac-Man
- Mortal Kombat
- The Sims
- Fortnite
- Roblox

5. PICK A SNACK!

- Twinkies
- Hot Pockets
- Toaster Strudel
- Goldfish
- Nerds Gummy Clusters

6. TIME FOR RECESS. WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING?

- Jacks
- Hide & Seek
- Four Square
- Sharks & Minnows
- What’s recess?

7. WHAT ARE YOU COLLECTING?

- Marbles
- Pins
- Pokémon cards
- Shopkins
- Needohs

8. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

- Conservative
- Grunge
- Casual
- Fast Fashion
- Preppy

9. WHAT CATCHPHRASE BEST CAPTURES YOUR VIBE?

- Get off my lawn
- Eat my shorts
- The struggle is real
- Do it for the plot
- Skibidi

RESULTS ON PAGE 8!

SENIOR GOODBYE: VALENTINA GONZALEZ AHUERMA

When I first heard of journalism, I honestly thought it was for nerds and I did not want any part of that until my brother dragged me to his journalism class and I fell in love with it!

Although I have only been doing it for three years, it feels like I've been doing it forever and I will be always grateful for this class.

Being in this class has helped me not only become a better writer/student but also a better person. I used to be shy and not talk to anyone but then I became Editor-in-Chief of The Echo and I was able to meet so many new amazing people.

So to the upcoming journalism classes, you have just made the best decision of your high school career joining this class!



---'24-'26 Editor-in-Chief Valentina Gonzalez Ahuerma signing out

SENIOR GOODBYE: RUBY PITTENGER

I have been a part of The Echo for all of my four years at UHS. I can still remember the day freshman me was picking out classes and I felt a draw to Journalism. Little did I know, I actually love Journalism and am a great writer!

Four competition seasons, countless news prints, loads of online articles, and my iconic Staff Superlatives tradition; Journalism has been a key part of my high school career.

Journalism has given me a voice in school and in my community. This year as the High School Confidential reporter for Urbana, I had the opportunity to report on our school's events every week.

Even though I am not pursuing a career in journalism, it will always be a huge part of my life forever.



Next year I will be starting classes to get my BSN in nursing. I am hopeful for the future and will always look back at high school and remember my 1,460 days in Room 2217.

SENIOR GOODBYE: CJ BLANDEN

I have really enjoyed my time from Junior year yearbook class to Senior year Journalism class. Ms. Tufano and her student teachers have really been great in my life and have opened a whole new world to me that I had no idea existed.

I would like to say a big Thank You to my family and friends at Urbana High School. I will never forget these past four years.

Signing out, CJ Blenden

Taking me on field trips dedicated solely to yearbook and journalism really inspired me to take my writing to the next level. As I am wrapping up my final days of high school, I will be attending Lincoln University of Missouri, not to major in journalism, but I will definitely be joining the school newspaper club.

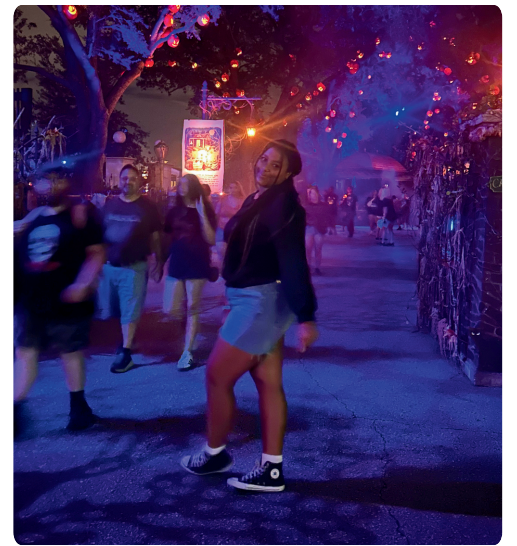
I really appreciate how Ms. Tufano showed me a new light outside of just being an athlete, and I will take what I've learned and remember it for the rest of my life.



SENIOR GOODBYE: LILLIAN DISANTO

Joining the UHS Echo was not my first choice; however, it's a choice that I've come to love! Especially interviewing different people and taking pictures of all the events. Over the years, I didn't realize how many students are involved in extra curricular activities. Journalism has gotten me out of my comfort zone, making it easier for me to publicly speak, which is great for my future career.

I plan on attending Elmhurst University in Northern Illinois. I'm very excited to start my new chapter near the city. I'm going to be studying Public Health as part of the Pre-PA track.



SENIOR GOODBYE: JALAYAH IRONS

Throughout these past two years, I have spoken to people I was once unfamiliar with and attended events, clubs, and classes to gain the opportunity to learn and discover something new. That is one of the many reasons I love being a part of Echo.

My most memorable moment with Echo was walking to local small businesses to sell ads. It was a fun experience where we created inside jokes and lasting memories while also developing our social skills, public speaking, and professionalism.

I plan to further my education by attending college, where I hope to pursue a career in medicine.



SENIOR GOODBYE: MICAELA JOSE GOMEZ

I love being in UHS Echo this year. I've learned many things from Ms. Tufano, and I enjoyed the fun activities we did. Taking pictures and interviewing other students made me grow into a different person since I was quiet before. I've taken pictures and even bought myself a camera.

Being in The Echo makes me happy, and I've decided I want to pursue being a reporter and doing photography as a career.

I will miss Ms. Tufano and her classroom, but am looking forward to the future!



SENIOR GOODBYE: KHALEEL PELMORE

I've loved these semesters in journalism and have learned many things that I will take with me to college. I will miss all the good memories we had, like the ISU trip. Exploring on our own felt good to do things as young adults.

I have a lot of memories in my time in Urbana High School, such as doing track all four years of my high school life. I will take this with me as I go to Iowa Central Community College to pursue my academic and athletic career there. I can't wait to get down there and get to work for the sport I love.



WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT?

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SUMMER BOREDOM CURES, ACCORDING TO YOUR ZODIAC



By Ally Beller

Without school to keep you busy, this summer you may be struggling to find something to keep yourself entertained. Well, you're in luck because here is a list of summer activities to do based on your zodiac sign!

Unlock your best summer ever with these activities that can enhance your free time and reflect your deeper identity.

Aries (March 21st - April 19th)

Your naturally courageous and energetic nature makes an adventurous activity perfect for you as an Aries. The best summer activity for you is cliff diving. Cliff diving demands confidence, quick decisions, and bursts of bravery that you're already a pro at!

Taurus (April 20th - May 20th)

A Luxury picnic, complete with a charcuterie board and sparkling water, fulfills a Taurus's need for comfort, good food, and sensory pleasures. Being both practical and reliable makes you a great candidate for relaxation in a park with friends.

Gemini (May 21st - June 30th)

With your curious and communicative nature, a music festival is the perfect place for you. Luckily for you, Lollapalooza is a short three-hour drive from Champaign. Complete with good music, good company, and a fun time. Lollapalooza is the natural environment for a highly adaptable person such as yourself.

Cancer (June 21st - July 22nd)

Cancer is nurturing and deeply connected to home and loved ones, which makes hosting a family get-together the perfect activity for you. This not only lets you bond emotionally with loved ones but also creates warm memories for you to look back on.

Leo (July 23rd - August 22nd)

A natural host, Leos are the perfect people to hold a pool party over the summer. Invite your friends and loved ones over to cool off and show off your charismatic, leadership-driven personality. Don't have a pool? Head over to Crystal Lake Park in Urbana or Sholet Aquatic Center in Champaign!

Virgo (August 23rd - September 22nd)

Virgos need a highly planned, down to the exact detail activity that includes a set, achievable goal. What fits this criteria better than a scenic hike? Going outside and experiencing nature is exactly what you need after what I can assume was nine months of working hard, achieving goals, and planning your every move.

Libra (September 23rd - October 22nd)

As a charming, artistic, and sociable person, a farmer's market is perfect for a Libra. Whether you want to showcase your artistic personality by being a vendor or just shopping around looking for unique finds, Urbana's Market on the Square is the perfect place to socialize and maybe pick up a few locally grown groceries

Scorpio (October 23rd - November 21st)

For a passionate, magnetic person such as a Scorpio, stargazing is the best activity for you. Getting together with friends and discussing the future in a random field at 10 pm is right up your alley. Your loyal personality makes you the perfect friend to discuss anything from brainrot to the meaning of life with.

Sagittarius (November 22nd - December 21st)

A solo backpacking trip is the adventure a Sagittarius may be looking for. A solo trip is the perfect time to embrace your independent nature and to look for the truth you seek. Gorgeous views can also boost your already strong, optimistic personality.

Capricorn (December 22nd - January 19th)

Mountain climbing is just what you need to fuel your disciplined and ambitious nature. The challenge of mountain climbing brings a realistic goal you can fulfill. Whether alone or with friends, mountain climbing may be the activity that gets you out of your house this summer.

Aquarius (January 20th - February 18th)

Your eccentric, humanitarian, and independent qualities would make you an amazing camp counselor this summer. Whether looking to get volunteering hours in or just to feel helpful, volunteering at a nearby summer camp, such as ones through the Champaign Park District or 4H camp, is just what you need to get into nature.

Pisces (February 19th - March 20th)

Your desire for escapism may be what leads you to the lake this summer to camp, kayak, or picnic with friends. Your creativity may spark an interest in decorating a tent or boat, or thinking of creative problem-solving ways that come with the spontaneity of camping.

P	P	I	D	Y	D	A	I	P	M	Y	L	O	A
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E	Z	S	A	Y	S	O	L	T	S	S	C	D	F
G	A	Y	A	C	L	N	H	N	T	K	S	C	I
E	R	O	I	O	A	I	B	O	R	E	O	O	N
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C	R	M	P	A	T	I	C	U	E	L	D	I	X
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E	S	U	E	C	O	I	S	A	O	S	L	A	M
P	O	S	O	H	G	O	U	R	L	O	E	I	S
N	N	O	S	O	A	N	M	G	B	E	Y	D	A

- BASKETBALL
- COLLEGE
- FINAL EXAMS
- PANCHO
- MUSIC
- BIRDSLEY
- TRENDS
- PLAYLIST
- COUNCIL
- STRESSED
- ZARA LARSSON
- DECISION
- OLYMPIAD
- EUPHORIA
- YOGA
- SUMMER
- GRADUATION
- GOODBYE

WORDSEARCH


THE ECHO STAFF

Editor-in-Chief:
Valentina Gonzalez
Ahuerma

Echo Staff:
Ally Beller
CJ Blanden
Lillian DiSanto
Madisyn Evans
Olivia Hayes
Jalayah Irons
Micaela Jose Gomez
Elena Ortiz
Sanaa Parker
Khaleel Pelmore
Ruby Pittenger
Ananyah Tangmunarunkit
Tristan Tanta
Adviser: Felicia Tufano

Art:
Sanaa Parker

Photo Credits and Special Thanks:
Jeff Birdsley
Pancho Moore
Izabella Nañez
Kim Summers
Janelle Walker
Cheyenne Warman-Neal



Final Exam SCHEDULE

Wednesday 5/27: Dismissal at 2:26
 Period 1 Exam: 8:00-9:20
 Period 2 Exam: 9:25-10:45
 Regular Classes Periods 3-8

Thursday 5/28: Dismissal at 12:20
 Period 4 Exam: 8:00 - 9:20 (1hr 20 min)
 Period 3 Exam 9:30 - 10:50 (1hr 20 min)
 Period 5 Exam 11:00 - 12:20 (1hr 20 min)

Friday 5/29: Dismissal at 12:20
 Period 6 Exam: 8:00 - 9:20 (1hr 20 min)
 Period 7 Exam 9:30 - 10:50 (1hr 20 min)
 Period 8 Exam 11:00 - 12:20 (1hr 20 min)

QUIZ RESULTS: WHICH GENERATION DO YOU REALLY BELONG TO?

By Sanaa Parker and Lillian DiSanto

MOSTLY A'S? YOU'RE A BOOMER!
 You value hard work, face-to-face conversations, and doing things the tried-and-true way. You'd happily spin vinyl, snack on Twinkies, and wonder why no one just picks up the phone anymore. You're all about stability, loyalty, and keeping things classic. You might not actually be a Boomer, but your mindset says otherwise.

MOSTLY B'S? YOU'RE GEN X!
 You're independent, lowkey skeptical, and not easily impressed. You've got that boombox, figure-it-out-yourself attitude and don't need constant attention to stay entertained. You're observant, *maybe* a little sarcastic, and very good at doing your own thing.

MOSTLY C'S? YOU'RE A MILLENNIAL!
 You balance old-school and modern like a pro. You're nostalgic, self-aware, and probably use humor to get through everything. You value connection, experiences, and a good comfort routine to deal with adulthood. You understand the chaos of life, but you're learning to laugh through it.

MOSTLY D'S? YOU'RE GEN Z!
 You are exactly where you belong. You move fast, think fast, and keep up with everything happening at once. You care about authenticity, trends, and expressing yourself, and you're not afraid to embrace a little chaos along the way.

MOSTLY E'S? YOU'RE GEN ALPHA!
 You're ahead of the curve, even compared to your peers. You think visually, move quickly, and expect everything to be engaging and interactive. Your humor, interests, and style are already pushing into the next wave. You're not just keeping up with trends, you're shaping what comes next.




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