

# POLARIS

NORTH BETHESDA  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
8935

FALL/WINTER EDITION  
2023-2024



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLARIS STAFF.....	1
WRITERS CLUB STAFF PHOTOS.....	2-3
A GOODBYE TO MS. LEE.....	4
INTERVIEW WITH MR. BAUCOM.....	5
DR. DALEY INTERVIEW.....	6
TAYLOR SWIFT POLL RESULTS.....	7
STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS.....	8-13
WHAT ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH MOST AT NBMS?.....	14-15
YOU NEVER SAW ME COMING.....	16
MUSIC ARTIST RECCOMENDATIONS.....	17-19
INTERVIEW WITH MR. HILL.....	20
INTERVIEW WITH MS. BLANDAMER.....	21
FISH-KEEPING AND AQUASCAPING FOR BEGINNERS.....	22-23
MONSTER FROM DOWN UNDER.....	24-25
THE BROKEN SHADOWS.....	26
TRUE SHOOTINGS: COLUMBINE.....	27
THE MAGICAL BEAR.....	28
PICTURES AROUND THE SCHOOL.....	28-30

# Polaris Staff

## Eighth Grade

Meera S  
8th

Livia K  
8th

Iris T  
8th

Lara M.A  
8th

Arpita V  
8th

## Seventh Grade

Natalie L  
7th

Hannah P  
7th

Elly M  
7th

Sophie L  
7th

Dani P  
7th

Natalie D  
7th

Mimi L.  
7th

Kalsita K  
7th

## Sixth Grade

Elaina S  
6th

Claire K  
6th

Aubrey R  
6th



*Writers' Club Staff Picture  
With Ms. Lee*



*Writer's Club Staff Picture  
With Mr. Perlson*



# A Goodbye To Mrs. Lee



Mrs. Lee was the leader of the Writer's Club, and a sixth-grade English teacher last year and first semester. She was offered a job at UMD, and in the end decided to take it. As a result, she stepped down from her position as our leader as of January 2024.

Mrs. Lee was a great Writers' Club leader and provided great snacks for us! We're sad to see her go, but we know that she will be happy with her new job.



If you would like to know more about her, please visit Mrs. Lee's interview from last year's [POLARIS](#) Magazine

Thank you to Mr. Perlson for taking over the club after Mrs. Lee left!

We'll miss you!



# Interview with Mr. Baucom

Interviewed by Elizabeth Hailemariam & Natalie Lodra

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About Mr. Baucom: Mr. Baucom was born in North Carolina and grew up in New York. Growing up, he played basketball and soccer and had all half-siblings with two sisters and three brothers. This past July Mr. Baucom graduated from East Carolina University and moved to Maryland in August.

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## Interview:

1. Why did you decide to teach?

My mom is a teacher, and I love sports, and I like to volunteer and help her teach during the summer.

2. How Would you describe yourself?

Very outgoing and adventurous.

3. What's your favorite thing about teaching?

Being able to play a role in impacting the next generation.

4. What is your favorite book?

The One Thing by Garry W. Keller and Jay Papasan

5. What is your least favorite subject in school?

My least favorite subject was art. As someone who did not possess any artistic skills, having to put in so much effort into a project for it to not look good was infuriating.

6. You were telling us about how hard it was for you to move. Why did you

make that decision? Benefits and non-benefits?

Because the county offered to pay for my master's degree, and I love exploring new places and meeting new people. Non-benefits would be being further from my family.

7. What sport is your favorite/have the best skill in?

Basketball, as I played all the time growing up and in college.

8. What are the best tips for good sportsmanship when playing in teams? (Ex. volleyball, soccer, basketball, etc.)

Remember at the end of the day it is just a game and the people on the other team are human just like me.

9. What do you think of NBMS? Staff, students?

Everyone at NBMS has been such a pleasure. The environment is so positive and all the students are filled with so much joy

10. What is your #1 favorite good morning quote?

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but rising every time we fall."

11. Who do you look up to?

I look up to myself in the future. If I am constantly chasing my future self then I can never get complacent.



# Dr. Daley Interview

**WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME A TEACHER?**  
I LIKE CREATING DYNAMIC LESSONS TO HELP KIDS LIKE LEARNING.



**WERE YOU CONSIDERING ANY OTHER JOBS?**  
YES, A COLLEGE PROFESSOR.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU DO AS A TEACHER?**  
PREPARE MY STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN LATER GRADES AND TRY TO MAKE ENGLISH A LITTLE MORE ENTERTAINING THAN NORMAL.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD AND WHY?**  
SPICY CHICKEN SANDWICH FROM HANGRY JOES BECAUSE I REALLY LIKE SPICY FOODS.

**ON A SCALE OF 1-10 HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR BEARD?**  
I WOULD GIVE IT A SEVEN BECAUSE IT IS NOT TOO BUSHY TO BE AN 8.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS/CHILDREN?**  
I HAVE LOTS OF EACH. I HAVE 4 DAUGHTERS, AND 4 PETS (2 DOGS, 1 CAT, 1 TURTLE)

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?**  
GREEN, BECAUSE SOMEONE TOLD HIM IT WAS A SMART COLOR.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE EVER BEEN TO?**  
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS IN FLORIDA BECAUSE THE RIDES IN UNIVERSAL STUDIOS ARE AWESOME.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?**  
“DANTE’S INFERNO” IT'S A COOL ADVENTURE AND THERE ARE TONS OF MONSTERS IN IT.

**WHY DO YOU LIKE TEACHING AT NBMS?**  
BECAUSE THE KIDS ARE VERY SMART.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CANDY?**  
ANSWER- IT IS A PAYDAY “I JUST LIKE THAT CANDY BAR” IT HAS A LOT OF PEANUTS AND PEANUT BUTTER WITH NO CHOCOLATE.



BY: AUBREY, CLAIRE AND ELAINA

# TAYLOR SWIFT POLL RESULTS

*By Elaina Sandick*



**Yes!!**

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**Taylor Swift is a superstar who is the winner of countless awards and you have chosen to be a loyal Swiftie! Her music is rich and powerful. Good choice!**

**No Way!!**

---

**Alright, so you probably have other music that you like better than Taylor. It's OK if some music isn't for you. However, let's be respectful to everyone's individual preferences! Don't be a downer if some people are Swifties!**

**I like Taylor Swift and like her music, but I'm not a Swiftie**

---

**It's great to have some diversity in your music even if your #1 musical artist isn't Taylor Swift, it doesn't mean that you can't like her and her music. It's always nice to have lots of different tastes.**

**I don't have any opinions on Taylor Swift**

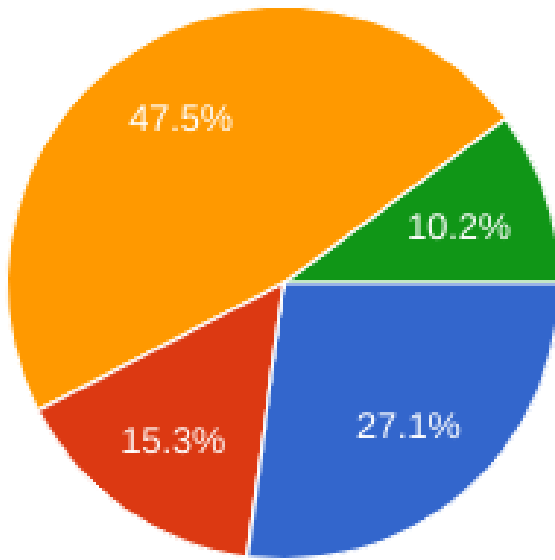
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**It seems like you might not really care for Taylor Swift or think that her music is your kind of music. But that's OK! You don't need to be a Swiftie to be a cool kid!**



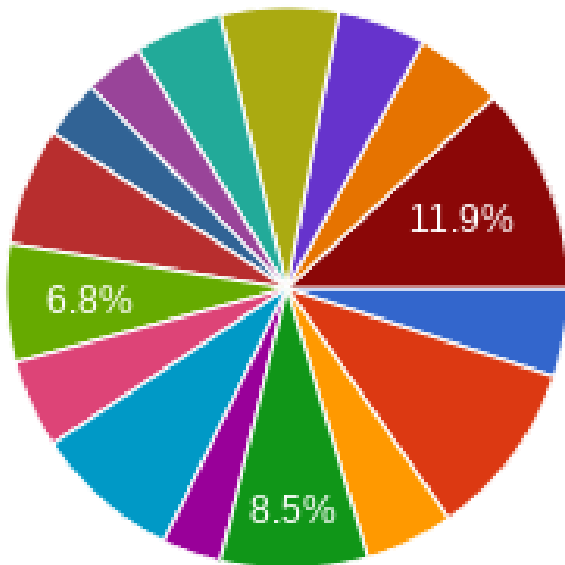
# Student Survey Results

## Are you a Swiftie?



- Yes!
- No way!
- I like Taylor Swift and like some of her music, but I'm not a Swiftie.
- I don't have any opinions about Taylor Swift

## What is your MBTI personality type?

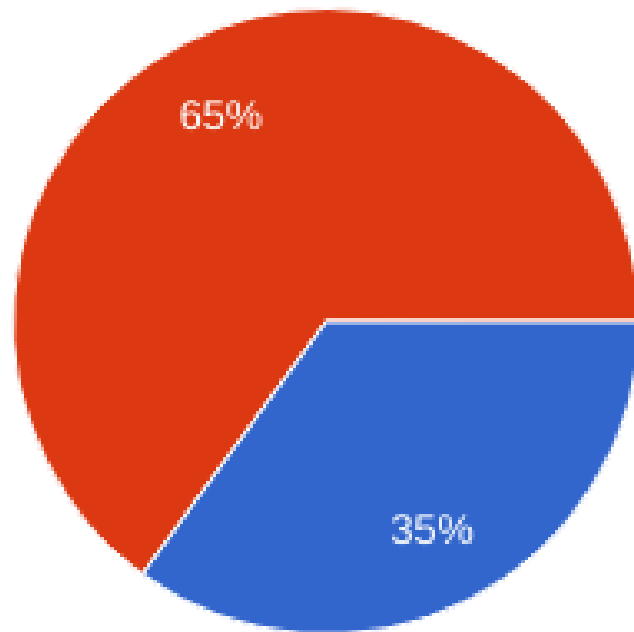


- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> INTJ-A/INTJ-T      | <span style="color: red;">●</span> ISTJ-A/ISTJ-T     |
| <span style="color: orange;">●</span> INTP-A/INTP-T    | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> ISFJ-A/ISFJ-T    |
| <span style="color: green;">●</span> ENTJ-A/ENTJ-T     | <span style="color: purple;">●</span> ESTJ-A/ESTJ-T  |
| <span style="color: purple;">●</span> ENTP-A/ENTP-T    | <span style="color: teal;">●</span> ESFJ-A/ESFJ-T    |
| <span style="color: pink;">●</span> INFJ-A/INFJ-T      | <span style="color: olive;">●</span> ISTP-A/ISTP-T   |
| <span style="color: cyan;">●</span> INFP-A/INFP-T      | <span style="color: purple;">●</span> ISFP-A/ISFP-T  |
| <span style="color: magenta;">●</span> ENFJ-A/ENFJ-T   | <span style="color: orange;">●</span> ESTP-A/ESTP-T  |
| <span style="color: limegreen;">●</span> ENFP-A/ENFP-T | <span style="color: darkred;">●</span> ESFP-A/ESFP-T |

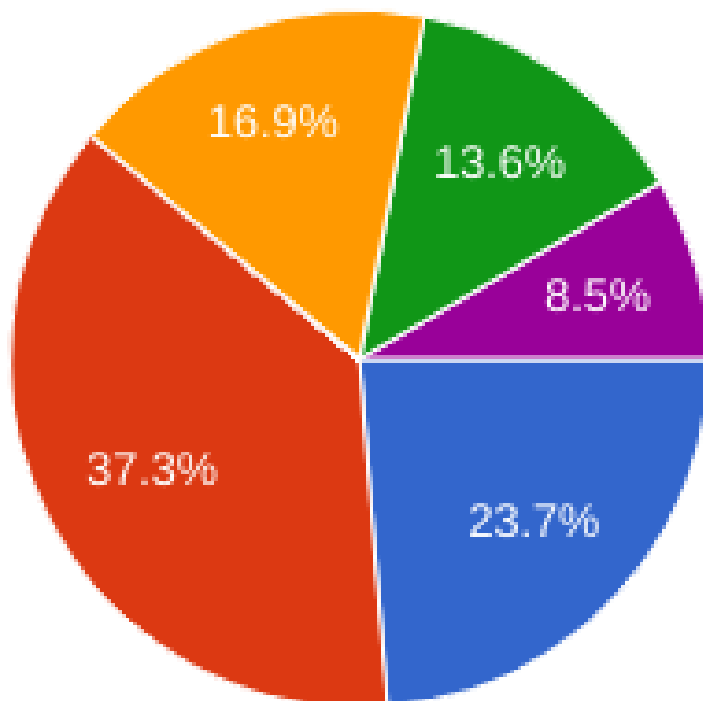
The most popular MBTI personality type in our school is ESFP. I happen to also be an ESFP! According to research, the least common personality type is INFJ, but according to the survey we did, INFJ, ISTJ, and ISFJ are all tied for least common with two people out of sixty getting that type!

Would you rather fight 10 duck-sized horses, or 1 horse-sized duck?

- The duck!
- The horses!



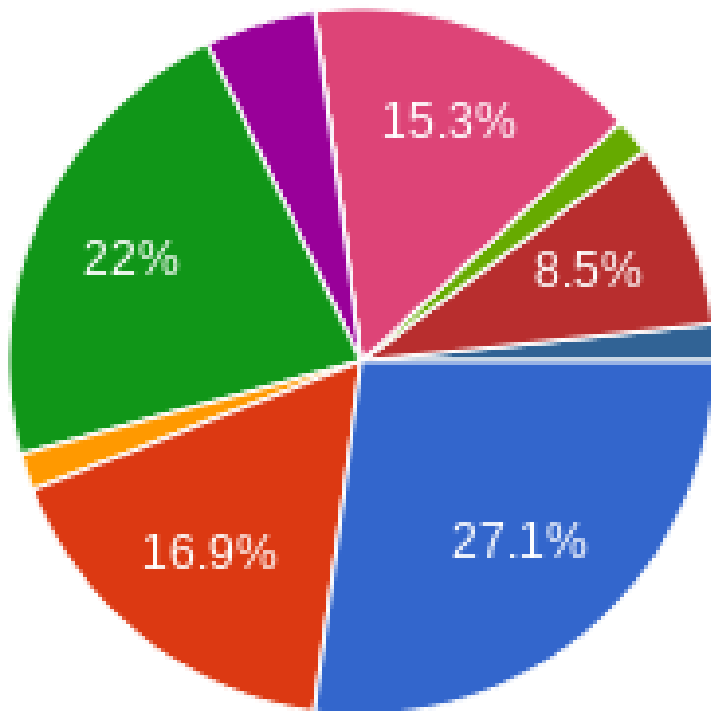
How often do you play video games?



- Never!
- 15-30 minutes a day
- 1 hour a day
- 1-2 hours a day
- 2+ hours per day

# Favorite Book

## Genres?

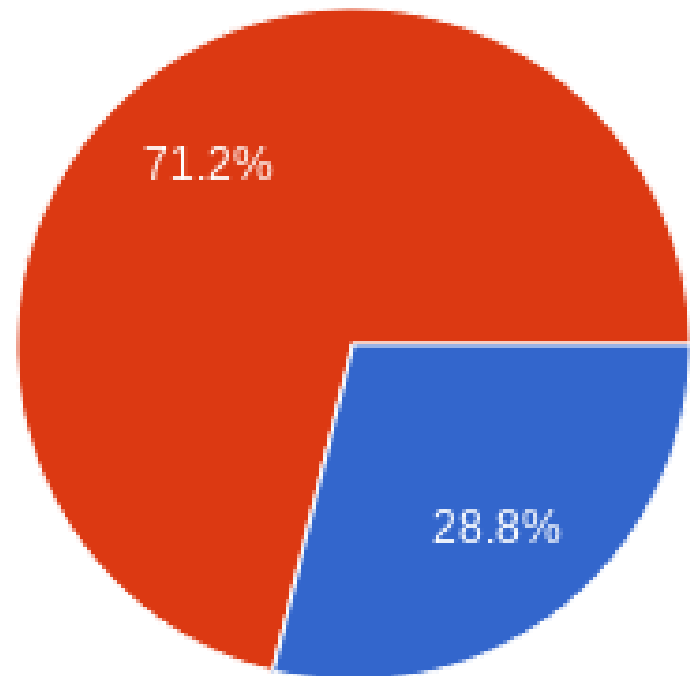


- Fantasy
- Mystery
- Non Fiction
- Comics/ Graphic Novel
- YA
- Biography
- Realistic Fiction
- Folk Literature
- Historical Fiction
- Informational Text

Fantasy books are pretty great!

## Night Owl or Early Bird?

- Early Bird
- Night Owl

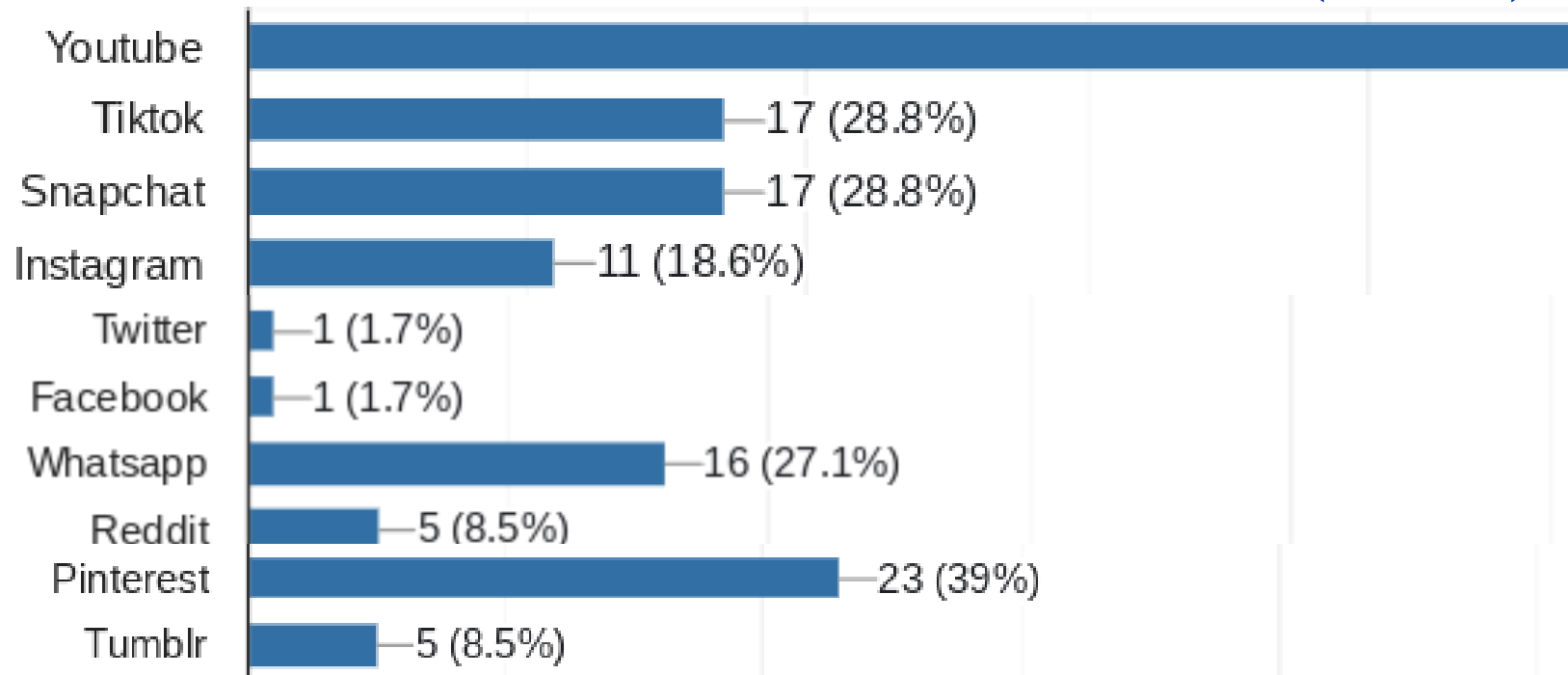


It seems our school is mostly  
made of Night Owls!

# Which Social Medias Do You Use?

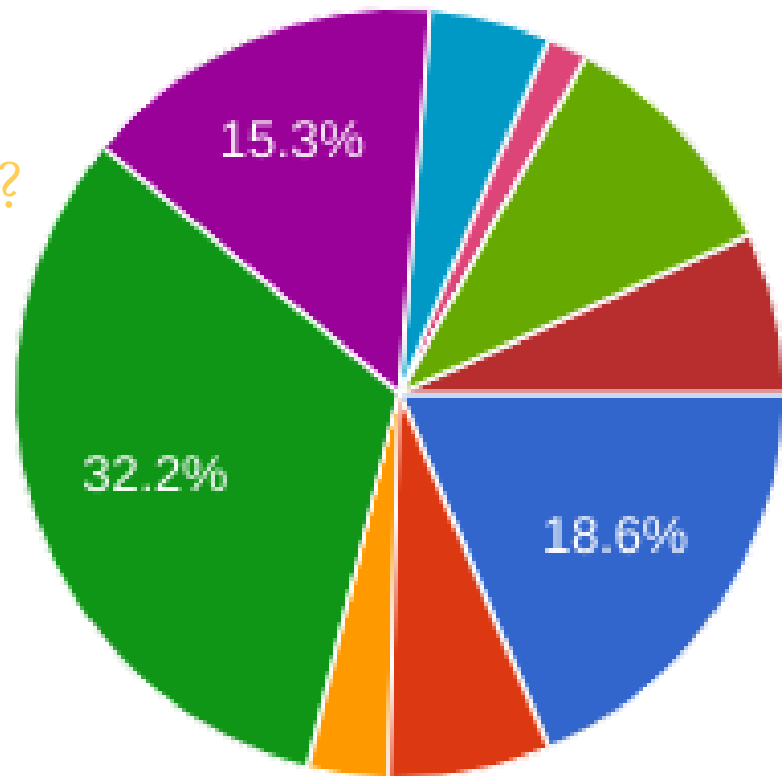
Out of 60 people, only three people don't have YouTube!

57 (96.6%)



## Favorite School Subject?

- Math
- English
- Science
- Social Studies
- Art
- Tech
- French/Spanish
- Chorus
- Band/Orchestra

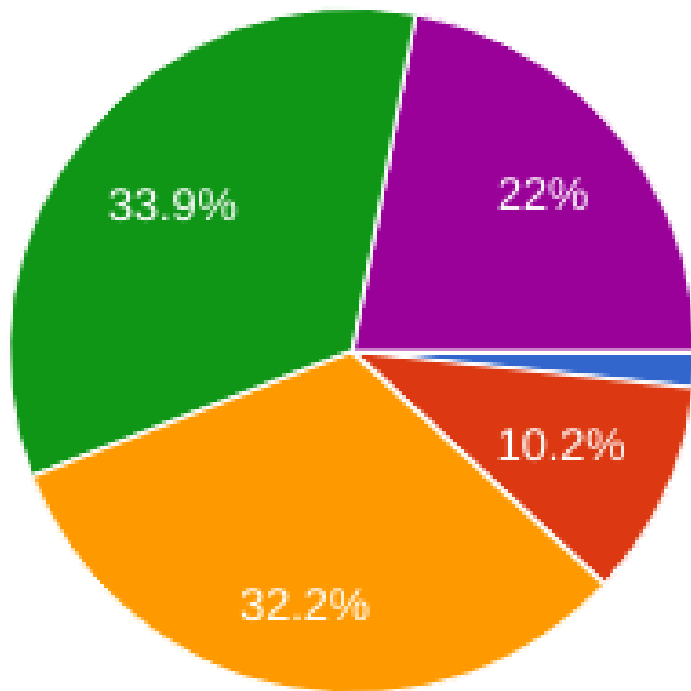


Social Studies is the winner!

Only one person chose languages!

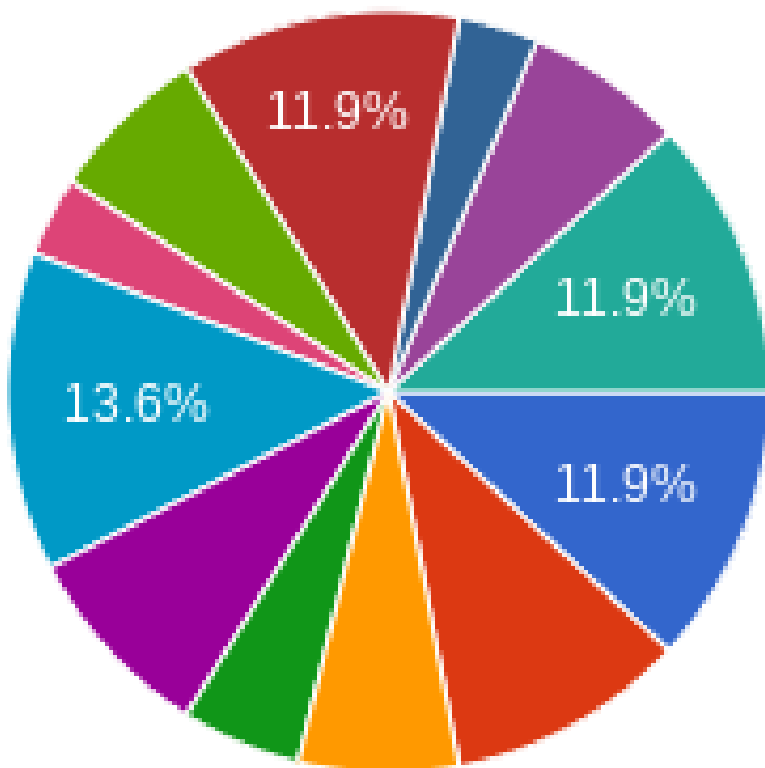
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## What is your Chinese Zodiac sign?



- Rat (1984, 1996, 2008, 2020)
- Ox (1985, 1997, 2009, 2021)
- Tiger (1986, 1998, 2010, 2022)
- Rabbit (1987, 1999, 2011, 2023)
- Dragon (1988, 2000, 2012, 2024)
- Snake (1989, 2001, 2013, 2025)
- Horse (1990, 2002, 2014, 2026)
- Goat (1991, 2003, 2015, 2027)
- Monkey (1992, 2004, 2016, 2028)
- Rooster (1993, 2005, 2017, 2029)
- Dog (1994, 2006, 2018, 2030)
- Pig (1995, 2007, 2019, 2031)

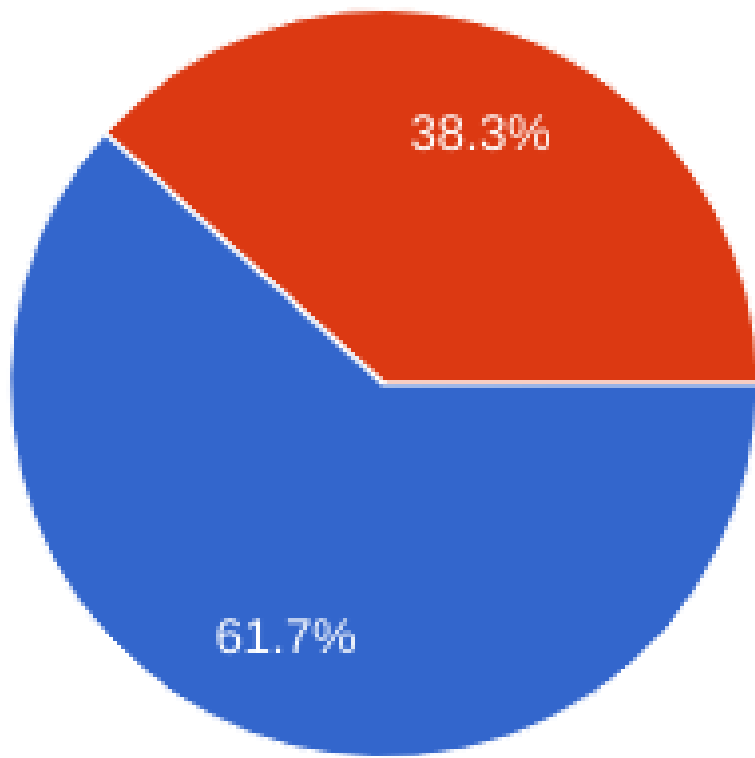
## What is your zodiac sign?



- Gemini
- Cancer
- Capricorn
- Scorpio
- Sagittarius
- Libra
- Taurus
- Virgo
- Aquarius
- Aries
- Leo
- Pisces

Organized and written by  
Meera S, Lara M.A, and Livia K.

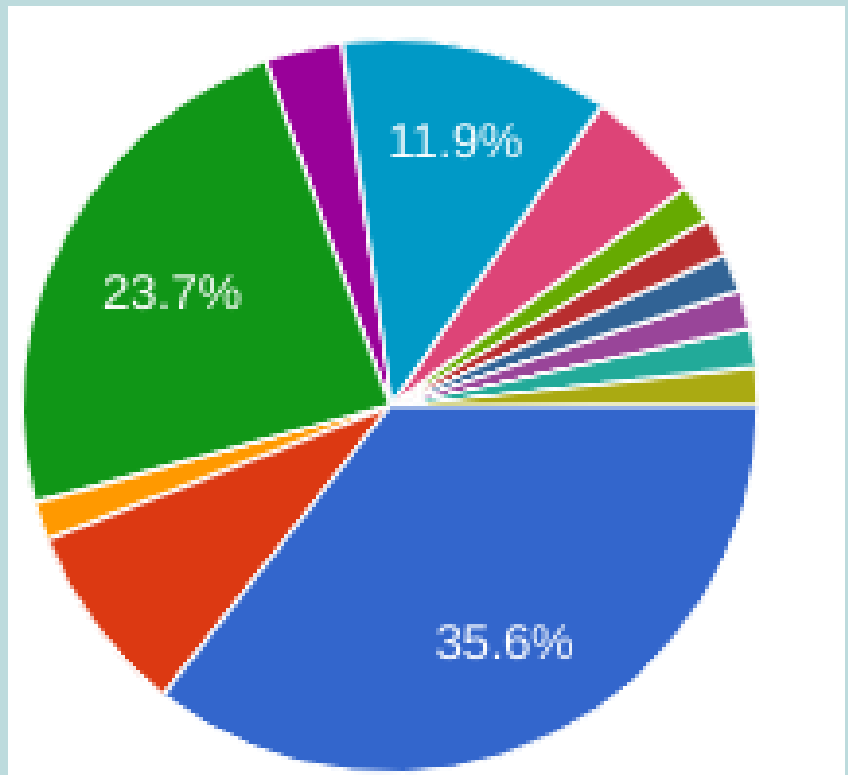
# Would you rather speak all languages or speak to animals?



- I would rather speak all languages.
- I would love to speak to all animals instead.



# What are you struggling with most at NBMS?



- Homework
- Relationships
- Teachers
- Grades
- Bullying
- Stress
- Focusing
- grades AND homework

- Studying
- Socializing
- Everything
- Random people who you don't know being rude to you for no reason
- all of the above

# If you're struggling with:



**Teachers:** Talk to a counselor or a teacher about the problems that you are having!

**Homework:** Give yourself 1 hour to just focus on your homework!

**Relationships:** Try to make friends with similar interests. If you are having trouble with current friends, try to listen to what your friends are saying and get to the bottom of the conflict!

**Grades:** Study more!

**Stress:** Take time to be mindful of yourself, or talk to trusted adults, friends, etc!

**Focusing:** Talk to your teacher about why you're having trouble focusing and see if they can help!

**Studying:** Take breaks, set goals, talk with your teacher!



BY:AUBREY



# YOU NEVER SAW ME COMING

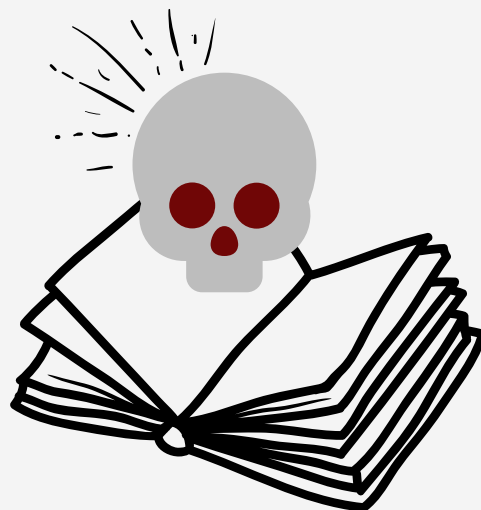
BY DANI P, ELLY M, NATALIE D, SOPHIE L, AND HANNAH P

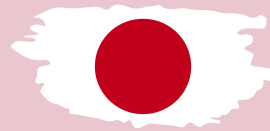
Are you a fan of murder, suspense, and dark stories - and just a little bit of fun? Then our story is PERFECT for you. In the interesting community of Riverside Private Academy, where kiwis are their culture (don't ask), new kid Charlotte Marette witnesses a traumatizing murder on her first day at her new school. She and her new friends, Amy and Miki, band together to try to find out who the murderer is... and on the way, they learn a very important message - nobody is who they seem.

READ THE STORY HERE →

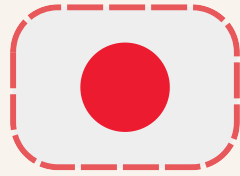
[YOU NEVER SAW ME COMING 🗡️🩸 \(Public Version\)](#)

[If you are on the printed Polaris, please go to the online version!](#)





## JAPANESE ARTISTS RECOMMENDATIONS



### Ado

Ado is a Japanese songwriter, who captures the angst and cautious optimism of Japan's younger generations and more. In 2022, Ado was featured in the anime film, "ONE PIECE FILM RED," and sang seven songs in total, including the theme song "New Genesis," the song peaking at #1 on the Billboard Japan Hot 100 Chart.

Top songs:

- Ussewa
- Odo
- Show
- New genesis

### Yoasobi

Yoasobi is a music duo was formed in 2019 by Sony music entertainment and vocaloid producer Ayase and song singer Ikura. After blowing up with their debut song "Yoru ni kakeru" they secured a spot on the billboard top 100, becoming Japan's mainstream artist.

Top songs;

- Yoru ni kakeru
- Tabun
- Idol

### LAMP

Lamp is a Japanese band consisting of 3 members. The band formed in the 2000's and is still currently producing music. Drawing influence from Brazilian, and 60 - 70's style music making the band go viral due to its "nostalgic" elements. In addition to touring in Japan, Lamp has performed all across the world, from Taiwan, Korea, Indonesia etc.

Top songs:

- Hatachi no koi
- Rainy tapestry
- yume utsutsu

### KANARIA

Kanaria is a VOCALOID producer who started her work at the age of 17, using Hatsune Miku and GUMI English (albeit with Japanese vocals.) Their most popular song gained around 70 million views gaining attraction to this young artist.

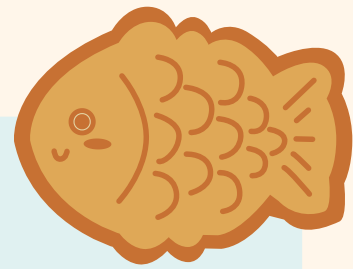
Top songs recs:

- KING
- Identity
- Queen
- MIRA



# Korean artists

## recommendations



### (G)I-dle



(G)I-DLE is a 5 member group that consists of Soyeon, Miyeon, Shuhua, Yuqi, and Minnie, and was formed by Cube Entertainment in 2018. (G)I-DLE made their debut with 'Latata' and has been one of the most successful Korean girl groups. Unlike other kpop groups (G)I-DLE produces their own song, raps, and lyrics with the help of their members Soyeon, Minnie, and Yuqi.

- Top songs;
- Queencard
  - I do
  - Allergy

### SEVENTEEN

Ranking up to 2 billion streams and selling 10 million albums, seventeen is a boy group consisting of 13 members. 4 members in hip hop unit, 5 members in vocal unit, and 4 members in the performance unit. The group reached massive success on their release in 2017 with "Dont wanna cry" and have been receiving award after award and wins after wins. They produce their own songs and raps and experiment with different songs and genres.

- Top songs:
- God of music
  - Hot
  - Super

### LE SSERAFIM

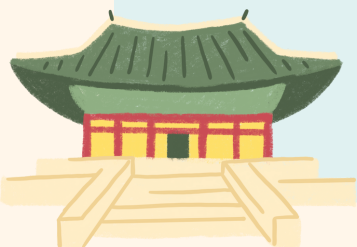
LE SSERAFIM is a girl group with 5 members that are Sakura, Kim Chaewon, Huh Yunjin, Kazuha, and Hong Eunhae. The group was formed by Sorce Music and made their debut with Fearless which soon became a hit in South Korea. The group's name, LE SSERAFIM, is an anagram of the words "IM FEARLESS."

- Top songs;
- Unforgiven
  - Perfect night
  - Antifragile

### ZEROBASEONE

Zerobaseone is a nine member group formed through the survival show, Boys planet 999 and made their debut on July 10 2023. They released the song In bloom and quickly hit 1.2 million pre orders in less than 24 hours. The rookie group continues to gain success by winning 3 rookie of the year awards in different music award shows. These nine boys continue to break record after record in their new song Crush.

- Top songs:
- In bloom
  - Crush
  - Melting point



# Filipino artists

## zack tabudlo



Zack Tabudlo was born on December 6, in 2001. He is a Filipino singer, song writer and musician. Zack Tabudlo started his career in 2018 with his song Nangangamba, and got his fame in 2020. His music genres are pop and Original Pilipino Pop. Blowing up with his song Give me your forever and pano he has gained a lot of attraction on tiktok rising to become the Philippines top artist

top songs:

- Pano
- Habang Buhay
- binibini
- Give me your forever



## Shoti

Shoti is a Filipino Chinese singer and song writer, he even creates his own lyrics within his home. His real name is Jared Almendras and is 16 years old. Shoti lives in Cebu, the Queen City of the South Philippines. Shoti became extremely popular by his song LDR, Shoti bases his music from R&B and pop. Shoti's music contains a mix of English and Cebuano.

top songs:

- LDR
- waiting 4 u(delulu)
- feel this way

## IV of spades

Filipino rock band from Metro Manila, Philippines, consisting of vocalist, bassist and keyboardist Zild Benitez, vocalist and lead guitarist Blaster Silgona, and drummer Badjao de Castro. Unique served as the band's lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist until he left the band in 2018. The band first gained exposure with the release of their 4th single "Mundo".

top songs:

- Mundo
- Come inside of my heart
- My Juliana

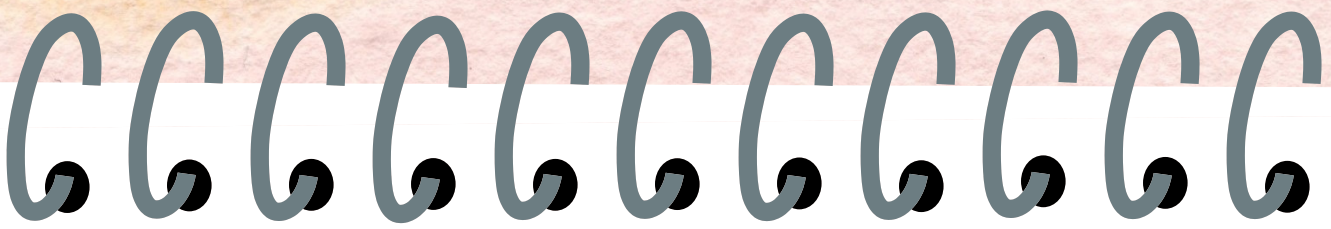
*Mabuhay!*

## rhodessa

Rhodessa is an Indie-Pop Filipino artist and ever since she made her debut she has been a popular artist. The way Rhodessa delivers her music is better than most songs with similar meanings. Her talents with songwriting and singing are a some bit of proof of that. Rhodessa's song 'Kisame' reached #1 in Spotify's top songs in the Philippines.

Top songs:

- Kisame
- Mina(mahal ko)
- ideya



# Interview with Mr. Hill!



1. Why did you become an academy literacy teacher?

A: That is a good question. The work that i do with students in academic literacy is about supporting them in all their classes at middle school.



2. Were you always interested in Greek Mythology?



A: Always. Before there was the Marvel cinematic universe the only super heroes were about Greek gods and when I was in middle school I always remembered those stories so, I like to revisit those stories with middle schoolers.



3. Which one do you like more Academic literacy or Greek mythology?



A: I like them both. I pick neither. I like both classes for different reasons.

4. What made you want to work at NBMS

A: Before I was at NBMS, I worked as a kindergarten teacher and an elementary school teacher, and I heard how good of a school NB was and I wanted to be part of it. I felt fortunate to work with the teachers and students. It is a privilege I am grateful.

5. Did you have a different job before working at NBMS?

A: Yes. I used to be a farmer and worked on a sheep and cattle farm in Australia I worked as a Christmas tree farmer and I would trim and sell Christmas trees to shape them with Christmas trees with chainsaws, I miss, working outside, which is why I love outdoor ed.



# Ms. Blandamer

TEACHER INTERVIEW

INTERVIEWED BY PEYTON,  
GILIAN, AND MERCAN

## 1. Why did you switch schools?

A: "I started teaching high school and I subbed one day at Julius West in a seventh-grade classroom, and I realized that I had so much fun so I decided that I liked middle school, so I started to teach middle school. So I knew I always wanted to be here because I'm friends with Ms. Grandin outside of school."

## 2. Did you have a different job before becoming an English teacher? If so, what was it?

A: "Never, I had always wanted to be a teacher, I was a coach for field hockey for 20 years."

## 3. What made you decide to work at NBMS?

A: "My friend Ms. Grandin said that this was a really good school."

## 4. What is your favorite book genre?

A: "I like contemporary realistic fiction. That is real-time fiction."

## 5. What is your favorite book you've read?

A: "The boys in the boat. It's a true story about the guys who won the gold medal in the 1936 Olympics in rowing, it was the most inspirational and hard life, and they worked hard to achieve this goal."

## 6. When did you start liking writing?

A: "When I was five I would sit in my room and write and illustrate my books."

## 7. Did you always want to become an English teacher? If not, what was your dream job as a kid?

A: "I always wanted to be a teacher. I used to pretend to be a teacher to my stuffed animals."

## 8. Do you prefer reading books or watching a movie of a book?

A: "I hate the movie version of the books, Harry Potter is probably the best movie version of a book."

## 9. What is your favorite movie?

A: "My favorite movie currently is kids movie is Sing, I like this because I like stories with happy endings and singing."

## 10. What do you dislike most as a teacher?

A: "My least favorite part of teaching is grading, because since I have so many students I can spend up to 7 minutes per essay, so I spend up to 280 minutes so about 16 hours"

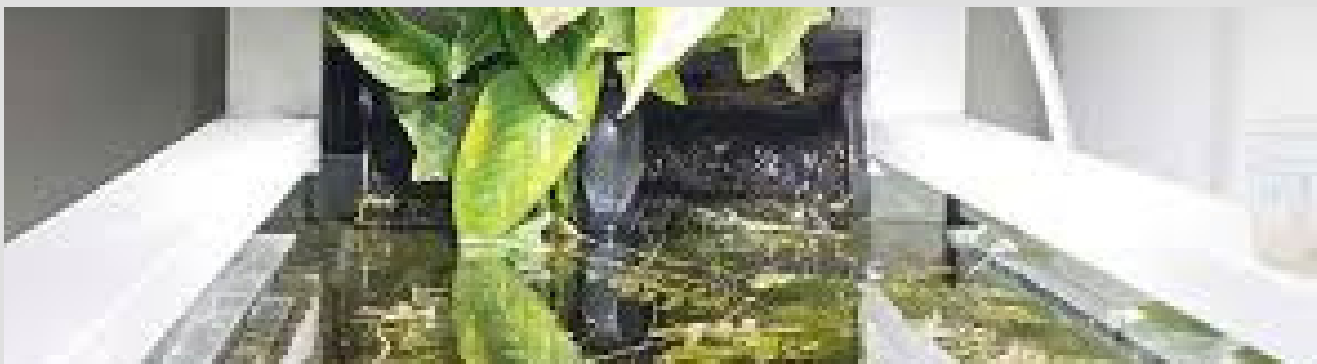


# Fish-Keeping And Aquascaping For Beginners



Have you ever wondered about getting pets? You probably have. Even though dogs and cats are pretty popular, most kids who walk into a pet store like Petco or PetSmart head to the fish section. According to statistics, about seventy percent of the world owns cats or dogs. After the kid walks to the fish aisle they then look at the array of fish on display until their eyes fall upon Betta fish or goldfish. (I'm not talking about everyone)

Many people take these fish home and toss it in a bowl. In fact, in the whole world, as of November 2023, only about 0.2 percent of the population are fish-keepers. This rounds up to about 14.7 million people who have fish for pets. And from that, about 40% have no aquarium knowledge and set up a fish tank that does not suit the needs of the fish. Due to lack of proper care, about 3 million fish die yearly because of the lack of a good fish tank. So, "How do I start a fish tank?". First, you will need to identify a species for your tank and to do that you need to determine your fish-buying budget. The average budget for a beginner fish tank is about \$200-400 (big tank). If you don't have a fitting budget, I would recommend getting a shrimp tank (I know very little about shrimps except their life span so no article about it, sorry). After you find your budget you should start going to local pet stores.





I would suggest a PetSmart or Petco since they are very spread out and there are a lot of them. However, the issue with this is that not most employees are good at taking care of fish. Instead, I would go to "Congressional Aquarium" or a place that is a bit further and is called, "Capital Exotic Fish". This is just to get a feeling of what kind of fish you like and the plants. After that, you will need to do a bit of research. Depending on what kind of fish you seem interested in depends on the kind of tank that you will need. Usually, Guppies or Betta are good starter fish. These two species will need a 10 to 15-gallon tank which you can buy for an excellent price at Petco. Then you will need a filter. For the best system and the best one, I would get a sponge filter. Get a filter that is rated for about 5 gallons larger than your tank to provide extra filtration. Then come in the plants. I would recommend getting some normal medium-sized plants and some moss for decoration. Speaking of decoration, you do not need to have in-water plants. Instead, you could get out of water plants which are also called pothos. (Pictured below).



**Written By**

**Jacob K**

Monster from Down Under  
By: Natalie Dickinson

It happened again. My cupboards were wide open and things were sprawled all over the floor. I can't believe I fell asleep. Tonight that wouldn't happen. Tonight I would stay awake and find this thing, whatever it was, that was destroying my house. I would find it and I would kill it.

My day went on as normal; I went to the store to buy groceries because whatever wrecked my house last night for the fifth time this week had eaten all my food. I decided to get a new lock for my front door just in case that's how the thing was getting into my house. I went into my living room and opened the entrance to my basement which was a small door on the floor that had a ladder I had to climb down to get to the basement. Once I was in my basement, which had a lot of clutter, I walked over to my workbench so that I could get a screwdriver to fix the lock. My workbench was sprawled with tools and weapons like handguns, rifles, bombs, arrows, and more. As I was looking for my screwdriver, I heard a noise coming from behind. I turned around and nothing was there. I continued looking for the screwdriver when I heard it again. This time I grabbed my 44 and held it ready to shoot whatever was down here with me. Just then something jumped out and I pulled the trigger shooting the creature. I heard a scream and then walked over to it. There I found my cat Sally lying with three bullet holes in his chest.



That night after I replaced the lock, ate dinner, and buried Sally in my backyard, I went into the living room and sat in my chair, gun in hand. I sat in my chair for hours waiting for the thing to come. I tried to keep myself awake but I failed. I woke up the next morning still in my chair. Darn it I had fallen asleep again. I got out of my chair and headed to the kitchen. Just like I had expected the whole room was a mess. As I looked around the house more I found that the door in the floor that led to the basement was open. On the door, I saw huge claw markers bigger than any claw marks an animal could have made. That's when I knew I was dealing with a monster.

I knew I had to catch the monster in some way but I did not want to go down to the basement. I decided to buy a carpet and cover the whole room with it including the place on the floor where the door was that way if I fell asleep I would hear it struggling and I could shoot it. That night the carpet was ready and I was sitting in my chair holding the gun like last night. At around midnight, I woke up to a noise. I looked around and saw a moving lump where the door was. The monster was here. I realized that the gun wasn't in my hand so I started to look around for it. Then I saw that the monster was starting to tear through the carpet. I grabbed my chair and threw it at the monster. But that didn't stop the monster, it only angered it. The monster tore through the carpet and charged at me.

It was a beast with huge claws and big scary eyes. It growled at me revealing a row of sharp teeth. Then it used its claw and tore through my stomach. It kept attacking me until there was a pool of blood and I was lying in the middle of it, dead.

The end



## THE BROKEN SHADOWS

By: Mimi Ly

Life can be full of uncertainties and at times, it could be scary. I have personally experienced some peculiar things , and Life can be full of uncertainties and at times, scary. I have personally experienced some peculiar and crazy events in my life that left me feeling anxious and fearful. I recall one incident where I saw a little boy walking down the street, but what made it bizarre was that his shadows were flickering! It was as if something was not right.

Most days, the sun never seemed to rise, and everything was dark. I always felt like the clouds were hovering above me as if they wanted something from me. I couldn't help but wonder if I was destined to achieve something great or if there was a specific reason why I was chosen. What does the world want from me? These questions were always in my head, like an echo that never faded away.

I wanted help, but I needed to figure out who to turn to or where to go. Eventually, I decided to push aside all the sadness and continue with my life. However, there was another incident that left me feeling unsettled. I was at the park one day, and I saw an old lady sitting on a bench. That same little boy with the strange shadows started walking towards her, and I sensed danger coming. I couldn't help but wonder what he was up to and why he would want to hurt an innocent older lady.

Life can be mysterious, and it's full of questions that may never be answered. But, we must keep moving forward and hope that one day, we'll find the answers we seek. events in my life that left me feeling anxious and fearful. I recall one incident where I saw a little boy walking down the street, but what made it bizarre was that his shadows were flickering! It was as if something was not right.

I wanted help, but I needed to figure out who to turn to or where to go. Eventually, I decided to push aside all the sadness and continue with my life. However, there was another incident that left me feeling unsettled. I was at the park one day, and I saw an old lady sitting on a bench. That same little boy with the strange shadows started walking towards her, and I sensed danger coming. I couldn't help but wonder what he was up to and why he would want to hurt an innocent old lady.

Life can be mysterious, and it's full of questions that may never be answered. But, we must keep moving forward and hope that one day, we'll find the answers we seek.

**TRUE SHOOTINGS: COLUMBINE**  
**BY NATALIE DICKINSON**



On April 20, 1999, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold arrived at Columbine High School wearing black trench coats. Under their coats, they were carrying a variety of weapons such as assault rifles, sawed-off shotguns, handguns, and homemade grenades. At 11:15 they opened fire in the school's parking lot shooting multiple students.

Next, the shooters headed to the school's cafeteria where one of them tossed a pipe bomb into the room. After going around the school attacking multiple parts of the building they went to the library and one of them shouted,

“All jocks stand up! We're going to kill every one of you.” 20 minutes after the shooting started the police arrived and at around noon ambulances began transporting wounded students to hospitals as the parking lot filled with bomb teams, SWAT teams, fire trucks, and paramedic units. Then finally at 12:30, the shooting stopped because the shooters ended up taking their own lives in the school's library. In the end, the shooters killed 14 students, including themselves, and 1 teacher.



# The magical bear

## By Kalista K.

Once upon a time, in a deep forest, there lived a magical bear. This bear was different from any other bear in the forest because it possessed extraordinary powers.

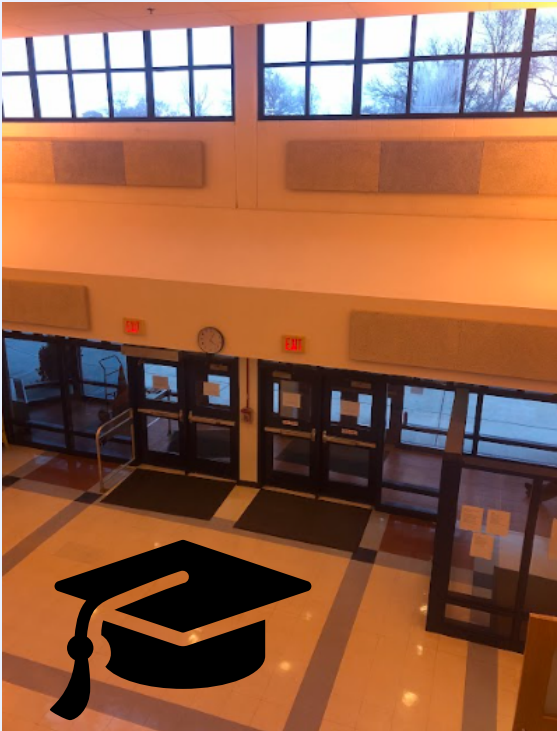
It had the ability to speak, to control the elements, and to cast spells. The magical bear was kind and gentle, using its powers to protect the other animals in the forest and keep them safe from harm. The other animals admired and respected the bear, knowing that it was their protector.

One day, a wicked sorcerer came to the forest, seeking to capture the magical bear and use its powers for his own selfish purposes. The sorcerer knew that the bear's powers were great and sought to harness them for his own gain. The bear, sensing the danger, called upon its magical abilities to defend itself and the other animals in the forest. It created a powerful barrier around the forest, protecting it from the sorcerer's dark magic. The sorcerer, frustrated by his inability to capture the bear, called upon his dark forces to try and break through the bear's barrier.

But the magical bear was strong and resilient, and it fought valiantly to protect the forest and its inhabitants. In the end, the magical bear's powers proved too much for the sorcerer, and he was forced to retreat from the forest, defeated. The other animals cheered and celebrated the bear's victory, grateful for its protection and bravery. From that day on, the magical bear was hailed as a hero in the forest, revered for its selfless acts of courage and kindness. It continued to use its magical powers to safeguard the forest and its inhabitants, ensuring that they lived in peace and harmony for many years to come. And the legend of the magical bear was passed down from generation to generation, inspiring others to be kind and use their powers for good.

# Pictures Around The School

A picture of our entrance!



A picture in our Orchestra & Band Room!



A picture of "Art" encased in a shelf in NBMS.



A picture of our triceratops!



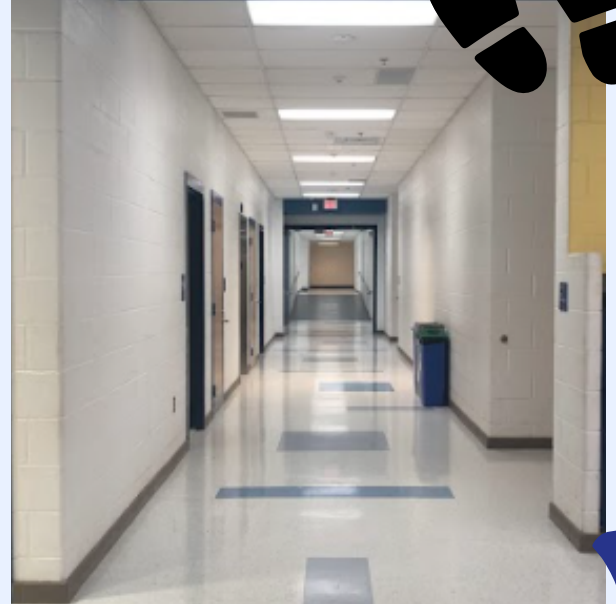
A picture of our basses!



A picture of an ongoing basketball game!

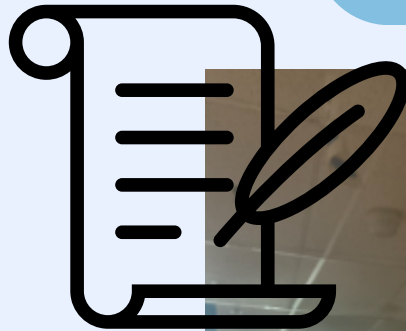


A cool picture of our hallway!





A picture of our lower gym after school!



A photo of Mrs. Steimer's amazing classroom!

Pictures of our wonderful courtyards!

