

The Spartan Spearhead

Vol. 2 No. 1

Thursday, October 2, 2025

The Middle School Era

By Logan Masingale

Godspeed to all you middle school students! This edition of the Spearhead includes a middle school column for, you guessed it, middle schoolers! I've interviewed young scholars from every grade in middle school.

Starting from the bottom, we have the young hobbits and children of the sixth grade. I asked how Upper School is different from Lower School. One responded with "The food is better."

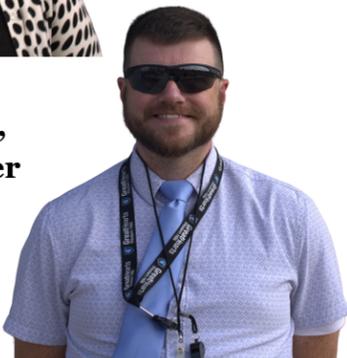
The 7th graders said their year is "Better." and that they "have found more freedom in this grade."

I finished the series of interviews with the mighty eighth graders. I asked them how it felt to be in the final grade of middle school. They all said "It's hard but, hey, it only gets harder."

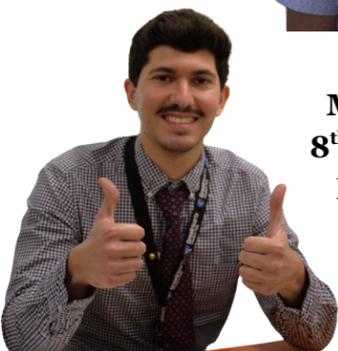
At the end of each interview, I asked who their favorite teacher was. The 6th graders I interviewed said, it's Ms. Kob of Ancient History. The favorite teacher of seventh grade goes to Mr. Chisholm of Latin 2. Finishing off with eighth grade, it goes to our beloved house governor Mr. DLG of American history.



**Ms. Kob, 6th Grade
Ancient History
Teacher**



**Mr. Chisholm,
Latin 2 Teacher**



**Mr. De La Garza,
8th Grade American
History Teacher**

A Fresh Start

Kaison Segars

A new year is here. New teachers, students, and friendships can be found campus-round. This year Western Hills will enroll more students than ever, including the first ever senior class. Drama teacher, Ms. Hardin said, "It is a magical moment every year to see how far we have come, since our upper school's founding. It's like a community within a community."

Newly elected house governor, Mr. De La Garza, (aka DLG) reports on his new position: "This year, I'm trying not to crash and burn.", followed by, "It's important to learn from your mistakes." You may hear this a lot, but it can not be more important. In the end, we are all just trying not to crash and burn. We just need to keep growing.



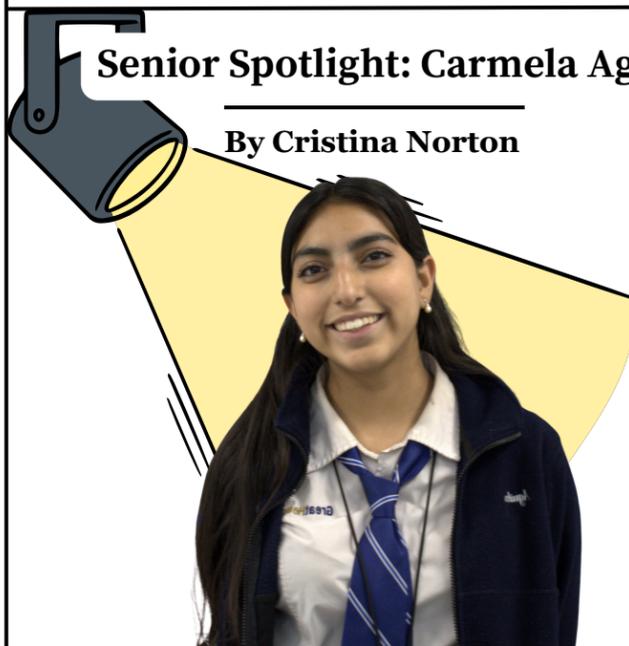
Class of 2026 at the first Senior Breakfast



Speaking of our Spartan community, our beloved rat Pandora passed away. If you didn't know, around three years ago, the aforementioned Ms. Hardin saved Pandora from a gruesome fate as snake food. Since then she has brought joy and laughter to our halls. She died on June 2nd, 2025. Pandora is gone, but not forgotten. Fortunately, two new rats have found their way into our school. Tempest and her still unnamed sister are helping heal the holes in our hearts left by Pandora. We WILL take name suggestions in the Spartan Spearhead. Turn these names into the "Signed Sparty" bin at the front. Make it a great and prosperous year Spartans!

Senior Spotlight: Carmela Aguilar

By Cristina Norton



As the first batch of seniors roll into Great Hearts Western Hills, it's only right to give them their own special spotlight in the newspaper. Our first Senior profile is Carmela Aguilar.

I'm sure you've heard her name on the announcements for her academic achievements. Yet even with all her accolades, she feels like her biggest accomplishment is helping make the school a better place. She found success in the people around her as well as her volunteer work. Her reasoning?

She strives to build a better and more welcoming community.

Her advice to those who want to maintain their grades during high school is to pay attention, ask questions, and lean on your family for help. Also, the easiest way to make up for bad grades is to keep them from happening in the first place. Make sure to balance your sleep and don't let the bad grades get the best of you.

Not everything in her life is about school. The hobbies that keep her going are ballet, bookclub, baking, and anything that makes her creativity shine.

After high school, she wants to continue her education and become an architect. For her, it's not just the job, she is also looking for a good environment to grow in to become a productive adult. As for Carmela Aguilar, she wants her legacy to be about the hard work she did and the kindness she spread.

Student Spotlight: Madeleine Demayo

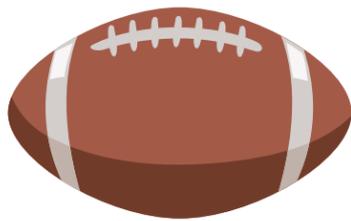
By Anara Freeman



Madeleine is a linebacker on the varsity football team. Being the only girl on the team has shown her dedication as a student athlete. Her effort has led to a great amount of accomplishments.

Madeleine has earned a coaches award for football, and was MVP of the middle school soccer team last year.

Her past experience with football inspires her to always aim for greater accomplishments. Her dedication encourages her to never give up. Madeleine's advice as an athlete is you have to make good communication to excel at team sportsmanship. As Coach Ginithan puts it "Madeleine is very dedicated and accountable for her actions." Madeleine is an inspiration to students.



Signed Sparty

Dear Sparty,

Who can I go to if I need advice?
Sincerely,
Looking for an Answer

Dear Looking,

What a great question! If you ever need advice you can go to any teacher, trusted adult or even the house mentors. While the mentors may be young and can be silly sometimes, they can actually be very kind and wise when it comes to giving good advice. Really anyone you sincerely trust can be a good person to vent to.

One person you can go to if you ever need advice is Coach Ginithan, the 6th grade PE coach. He's been at the school for 4 years and can be great to talk to and give great advice when you need help!

Just know you'll always have Sparty in your corner, don't be afraid to submit a letter for publication!

STAY SPARTAN STRONG!

-- Sparty



Advice for Middle School Students

By Nataly Ramos

We asked 3 successful Spartans for their tips
on surviving middle school



"Keep things organized, like your locker
and your life."

-- Dalton Absher, 7th grade

"Take good notes and understand what
you're writing."

--Amelia Roberson, 8th grade



"Make sure to study and do your homework"

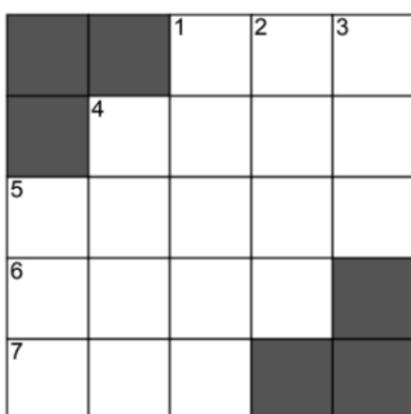
-- Lawrence (Conner) Mimun, 9th grade



"Pardon My Puzzle"

By Mr. Grover

Ed. By Logan Masingale



ACROSS

- 1 A science classroom or dog breed
- 4 "By the Lion's _____!"
- 5 "Inferno" author
- 6 Parts of the circumference of a circle. Featured in Euclid
- 7 Artificial color, used in the house banners for instance

DOWN

- 1 Knight's jousting weapon
- 2 Lunch pests
- 3 Spelling contest
- 4 Name on the cover of "Frankenstein"
- 5 What Atticus is to Scout in To Kill A Mockingbird

The first 10 students who show a completed crossword to Mr. Grover will earn candy.

Get Noticed

Want Your Jokes, Stories, and Many more? Now's your chance! Turn your items in the bottom basket or the mailbox



Have Questions Contact Mr Grover