



Sophomore Year in Review

Talia Schwartz, Sophomore
REPORTER

While COVID has destroyed so many essential events and memories that define the high school experience, the sophomore class has lucked out this year. The freshman class missed out on a typical first year of high school: getting used to the school, meeting new teachers and students, and learning the footprint of a new building that can be hard to navigate. At the same time, juniors missed their junior prom, college tours, in-person AP classes and tests, and most likely the hardest year in high school. Arguably, the current senior class has missed the most milestones: both junior and senior proms, college tours, fully-attended football games, spirit weeks, senior privileges, and so much more. The sophomore year is usually considered the most uneventful year, therefore we didn't miss out on too many experiences. So, what have been the standout moments and events that have shaped this school year for our class?

Class of 2023 Fundraisers

Our class officers have held two fundraisers so far this year—Chipotle and Panera. Even though both fundraisers were significantly more successful than last year's fundraisers (Halloween flower leis and Valentine's Day roses lost money), they still had some ups and downs. The Chipotle fundraiser was absolutely packed, which sounds great, right? However, so many people tried to go on the night from 5-9 PM that the online app crashed and stopped taking orders. At the same time, the actual store was backed up and understaffed, which caused chaos for not only the workers but also the customers. Overall, the fundraiser was very profitable for our class! Similarly, from what I heard, the Panera fundraiser was also slightly chaotic as they were understaffed and busy on the night of the fundraiser. Despite these issues, once again, the Panera fundraiser was successful as our class made a lot of money for future events! Our next fundraiser is coming up shortly, and should be a bonding event for our class. Everyone in our grade is buying t-shirts, and during the event on Saturday, May 23, from 12-3 PM, everyone will tie-dye the shirts together. Thanks to President Lucy Sabin and the other three officers for facilitating and organizing these events!

Missing Sophomore Semi

While it's evident that sophomores are not the highest priority for the high school, we usually have one important mid-year event in March: Sophomore Semi Formal. Unfortunately, the dance was cancelled this year due to COVID, but there has been some mention of rescheduling the dance for the fall of next year.

First AP Class Experiences

Although it's not impossible (there are some AP electives), the majority of freshman students don't take any AP classes. Therefore, sophomore year

marks the first year to have an opportunity to take an AP class as a core class. For about 60 students in AP European History, this entails hard work, homework, and the daunting AP test, which is scheduled for June 2. The 3.5 hour long AP test consists of multiple choice questions (55 in 55 minutes; how is this possible?!), short answer questions, and one DBQ. Many students are beginning to feel the pressure of the scary exam which is arguably more frightening this year than previous years, considering the amount of in-person classes we've had this year. Especially since AP Euro is most students' first AP test, some students will be studying an exorbitant amount, while others have opted to "wing it," considering that AP test scores really don't amount to much (unless you do well and decide to send the score to certain colleges in your college applications). Either way, the reality of the upcoming test is quite daunting for all involved, and fear of future tests is increasing as many students plan on taking as many as five AP classes next year.

AOI Project

Then there's the infamous AOI project, facilitated by equally famous teachers, Mr. Moloney and Mr. Ryan. Both Honors 10 English teachers have continued their legacy of this lengthy, complicated, and somewhat overwhelming year-long project. In November, students chose a topic that interested them and that they wanted to research, learn about, or improve upon. Some of these topics include yoga, painting, cooking, baking, running, photography, etc. Throughout the entire school year, students have researched and worked on this project in preparation for the end of the year final assignments regarding the project. These final projects include a long paper (probably the longest paper written in our scholastic careers) and a ten minute presentation to the class. Students are now beginning to write these papers, which usually consist of 12 to 80 pages of research, reflections, graphs, charts, images, and other graphics. Unfortunately, the reality for a concerning number of students is trying to cram six months of work into the next two weeks. This project is typically not a favorite for some students, however, many appreciate the project as it's more of an "experience" (Moloney), versus an assignment.

Missing the PSAT

Although the PSAT is not required for sophomores, many sophomores opt to take the test as a practice for the SATs or to see where they stand. However, taking the test was not an option this year due to COVID, while only Juniors had the opportunity to take the test.

Feeling cool

Yay, we're not freshmen anymore! It's not surprising that freshmen are the most hated class at the high school, therefore many sophomores appreciate moving up in the ranks at the school. Although

Book Review: *Vinyl*

Katie Jenkins, Sophomore
REPORTER

I, like many other people, constantly have music playing in my head whether or not it is by choice. What if that music was painful, and meant to control you? What if the music could kill you and was controlled by a tyrant leader? In her dystopian trilogy *Vinyl*, Sophia Elaine Hanson presents such a world.

In the city of Ravinia, a man known as the Conductor has been in control for many years. By using metal "singers" implanted on citizen's brains at birth, he is able to control the citizens and drain them of their emotions, making them easily manipulated and loyal to him. When Ronja, a subway train driver caring for her disabled mother and two cousins, is mistaken for someone she is not, she discovers an underground revolution known as "The Anthem" that works to free the citizens of Ravinia from their emotionless world. The first book in the trilogy takes us on Ronja's journey

through unexpected twists as she learns what the world is like without the Conductor's mind-control and attempts to rescue her family from the notorious lab/prison known as Red Bay.

Vinyl is the first book in a trilogy written by Sophia Elaine Hanson and was originally published in November of 2015 when she was only 21. Her story telling skills have won her 35 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, two of which are National Gold Medals, throughout her high school career. It is a dystopian novel with an in-depth and interesting world.

I highly enjoyed *Vinyl* very much and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys reading dystopian fiction, or just enjoys reading fiction in general. I have read this book twice already in the past year and have found it just as exciting the second time as I did the first time I read it.



My Experience as an MHS Student

Sean McLean, Senior
REPORTER

It feels so strange to think that this chapter of my life is coming to an end already; these four years went by so fast. I feel like I just started at MHS, and yet now I am about to graduate! I have genuinely and truly enjoyed my time here, and I feel I have grown so much over the four years I have been here. I have experienced so much at MHS, yet it all went by so fast.

I remember my freshman year, when I was just meeting everyone and the building, which is now so familiar to me, felt like a labyrinth. I remember how excited I was about all of the clubs MHS has, and how everything felt so new. I remember my sophomore year where navigating the halls which once confused me became second nature. I remember how I finally felt like a part of this school and how the people who were once strangers

became people I knew. I remember my junior year where I found myself playing the same role as the people who had helped me when I first started my time here, helping new students become familiar with MHS.

As my final year at MHS comes to a close, I remember the time I had as a senior. This year has certainly been strange, having to do remote learning using Zoom and Google Meet, and I feel that despite how unusual this year has been, I had a lot of fun. Of course, doing a video call was no substitute for being in person, but the time I spent in person has been some of the most memorable, and I feel that as things started to go back to the way they were before the pandemic, I have been happier than I have been in a long time. I have loved my time here, and I will never forget my journey at MHS.



sophomores are still underclassmen, they are liked significantly more than the newcomers to the school. Also, the year is almost over, which means that we will be upperclassmen next year!

While this has been such an unusual year for everyone, the sophomores have still enjoyed many typical experiences such as fundraisers, projects, and AP tests.

Due to COVID, time has gone by extremely quickly, and it is shocking to say that we'll be juniors in about a month.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 for managing and making it through such a weird year! I can't wait to see what the second half of high school brings.

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Last Week's Meeting!

