

JAMES F. RHODES  
HIGH SCHOOL

5100 BIDDULPH AVE  
CLEVELAND, OH 44144



# The Rhodes Review

## Did You Know?

### ACT Prep Schedule

Juniors Only

#### Tuesdays:

- Math (room 200)

#### Wednesdays:

- Science (room 303)

#### Thursdays:

- English (room 316)

## Save the Date

February 8th

Early Release

Parent Conferences

February 16th

Professional Day

(No School)

January 19th

Presidents Day

(No School)

ACT Test

(district-wide)

February 27th

Volume 9, Issue 3

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## Rhodes Robotics

By: Kaila Adams



and Anthony Andino. The team finished as Tournament Finalists (2nd place) and will play in March's State Tournament!

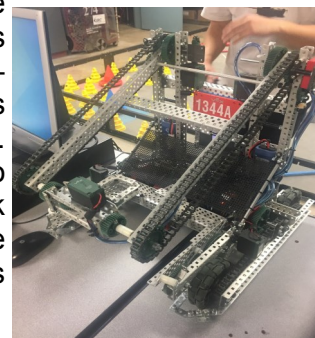
Crafting a robot and programming it takes a lot of time, planning, and effort. The team plans months in advance on their robots. They have won several competitions from their hard work. The club spends a lot of time in Mr. Svec's engineering classroom. Mr. Svec also manages

the club, though he joked, "I just give them equipment and they do whatever."

In December, The James F. Rhodes Robotics Team competed in The Zone VEX Qualifier in Sheffield, Ohio. This was their second tournament this season. Seniors Randy Phalgoo, Tom Vo, Anthony Andino, David Leskiv, Hector Lopez, and Steven Loomis finished the qualification matches undefeated. Their score is currently the 2nd highest in the state of Ohio and 15th in the world. In the robot skills challenge, the team finished with a score of 74, placing them 5th in the competition.

Senior members competed in the Kalahari Classic Regional Championship. Team 1344A was one of only three teams to have a perfect score. The team's robot was driven by Randy Phalgoo, programmed by Tom Vo, coached by Sebastian Sorma, and supported by Hector Lopez, David Leskiv,

According to Mr. Svec and Tom Vo, tournaments start off with robot inspections to make sure that the robot meets all of the criteria. In total, you have 5+ matches, the first match involves a preprogrammed robot that competes against others for points by collecting cones around the ring. Then, the load of cones is transferred to a corner in the ring. The one with the most points by the end of the round wins. This is also done manually with controllers driving the robot. We look forward to more great work and wins from the Rhodes Maniacs Robotics team.



A Rams-made robot!

## Rhodes Rams Boys Basketball

By: Kevin Tucker

**D**espite their sacrifices and best efforts, the Rhodes Rams Basketball team has fallen short of making it out of the first round of the playoffs for the past 4 years, however the Rams have made it to the playoffs for 4 years straight!

Tragedy struck our Basketball team at the end of the 2015/16 season when Head Coach Moore quit. Donovan Forte, Brison Waller, Nijon Kirkman, and Isaiah Washington, transferred to three different schools, leaving only one starter to remain — Kevin Tucker. The year before, the Rams almost lost their basketball team; their record was 14-9 and they went 8-3 in the Senate, as well as making it to the second round of the state playoffs! When they heard about the split-up they were shocked!

During the first few months of 2016-17 school year, it looked as if the Rhodes Rams basketball team was done for sure. However, in early November, with the season set to start in December, the Rams finally got a Head Coach! Head Coach, Shawn Spencer was Rhodes Rams assistant Varsity Coach last year and he was looking for a fresh start while he still had Kevin Tucker, Chance Davis, and Jamaun Dye, who were all looking to get Rhodes to the playoffs. The Rams failed to make the playoffs last season due to eligibility, yet finished the season 8-12 and 6-

5 in the Senate.

Last summer, the Rams basketball team was preparing for the upcoming season with high hopes of making it to the playoffs. Seniors, Kevin Tucker and Jamaun Dye are determined to be the best backcourt in the senate. The team is looking to make a statement this upcoming season.

The Rhodes Rams first game December 2nd at Cleveland Heights in the great lakes classic did not go as planned. The Rams came up short after losing to Kinston by 9 points. The Rams did not let that mess up their confidence as they had at their home opener against their rivals, Lincoln West, that following Tuesday.

In the game against John Hay, the Rams knew it would not be an easy win, but gave them a good fight. They fell short in the end, losing by 3 points at the buzzer. As the Rams are in the middle of their season their record is 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the Senate. We look forward to taking more wins!



*Boys Basketball 2017-2018 Season*

## Public Awareness of Mental Illness

By: Lorenzo Cangiano

**M**ental illness, something the world and people hate talking about. However, acting as if it isn't real just might be a death sentence.

According to [wviz.ideastream.org](http://wviz.ideastream.org), "More than 20% of Cleveland Metropolitan School District students surveyed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported having attempted suicide in 2015...Cleveland had the highest rate of attempted suicide".

Most people, including teens, are not willing to talk about depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and other mental illness because not only do they not feel comfortable, but they are also often not taken seriously, instead they are told to "get over it", "it's just a bad day", or, "it's just a phase; it'll pass". Thus, no one truly takes notice of the person suffering and that individual does not get help.

Truthfully, most teenagers deal with various mental health issues. Depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts are only a few of the stresses many of us encounter. Mental illness also devel-

ops over time due to trauma, bullying, cyber bullying, or other events in a young person's life. Unfortunately, those who suffer from depression and suicidal thoughts are often told to get over it.

We here at Rhodes High School need to start talking about mental illness, depression, and suicidal thoughts because according to the CDC study that came out in February of 2017, "more than 19% of Cleveland students ... seriously considered attempting suicide, about 1.5% higher than the national average" and we can't keep

let something like that stay quiet. Reach out and let the people around you know you need help and let those who need help know you are there for them! Let's start being aware!



## Facial Recognition Software: An Invasion of Privacy?

By: Angela Spraggins

**T**he new face ID biometrics can unlock your smartphone and provide access to pay for apps and other supplies on your phone. For example, the iPhone X traded the home button and touch ID fingerprint scanner for a new camera system that unlocks the device using facial recognition. Also, some Samsung devices have facial recognition and iris scanners to let you unlock certain Galaxy smartphones. Unlocking your phone with your face might be more convenient, but is it secure?



One-hundred and forty million Americans have had their social security number, birth dates

and addresses stolen, according to the *Washington Post*. However, Apple states facial ID on our electronic devices is more secure than the touch ID. "The probability of someone tricking the system is about 1 out of 1 million people compared to the 1 out of 50,000 for the touch ID" said *The Washington Post*.

iPhone X has a lot of new features that are concerning, such as unlocking your phone in the dark using facial recognition. Are the photos that are stored in our phones safe? Would the police be able to get our pictures from Apple to store in their database? According to The Georgetown Law Center on Privacy and Technology, the FBI now has access to photographs of half the U.S adult population. However, 80% of those people don't have criminal records. Should we be worried about this incriminating news?

## YouTubers Rising

By: Brittany Caminero

**Y**ouTube has changed over the years and risen to great heights in millennials' viewpoint. We always thought of YouTube as a place to go for music, but for millennials YouTube offers much more.

Beyond music videos, YouTube has many things you can watch. Information, comedy, conspiracy theories, tutorials, and cute cat and puppy videos are just a taste of what YouTube has become.

Many people have become famous just making random videos and getting subscribers. Shane Dawson, Liza Koshy, and David Dobrik are just a few of many. Shane Dawson is a 29 year old YouTuber who has 11 million subscribers for making comedy skits, conspiracy theories, and experimental videos that are entertaining to young teens. Liza Koshy is a 21 year old YouTuber who has 12 million subscribers from making comedy skits and puns. Finally, David Dobrick is as a 21 year old YouTuber who has 5 million subscribers from making a podcast with his friends and making videos with his girlfriend, Liza Koshy.



**Famous YouTuber Liza Koshy**

The whole concept to remember is that the world changes over time and these YouTubers also impact teenagers' lives. Some teens feel way better by watching these videos, especially if they are going through difficult times. Watching these YouTubers is a way to get away from things and be happy. YouTubers will always have a big impact on our generation.

## iPhone Slowdowns

By: Rachel Quinonez

**A** 17 year old named Tyler Barney exposed Apple on their iPhone slow down and it might cost Apple billions of dollars in a lawsuit. He did research to find out why the phones were randomly slowing down and found out that Apple was slowing down older phones on purpose to, "offset batter problems" according to Cnet.com. Many theorize that this slow down of the phones



was an attempt to force iPhone users to upgrade to a better and more expensive version of an iPhone. Tyler proved this by updating his brother's phone and saw that the phone was slower than it was previously. Once he changed his own phone's battery, the phone automatically sped up. This slow down in the phone was also incorporated into the new updates.

Apple admitted to messing with the phones and is making changes to rectify the situation. Their new update will have a feature where you can see your battery's life and health. This whole occurrence caused multiple lawsuits from angry customers. Since the apology isn't enough, Apple is also reducing the price of a new battery for those with an iPhone 6 and above. models. The price drop for batteries will be effective late January through December 2018 worldwide.

## News in “The Land”

By: Timothy Depasquale

**T**he Cleveland Cavs have been through a lot in the past 6 months, first with losing to the Warriors in the finals, then to losing Kyrie Irving to Boston in a trade. However, look at the bright side. We got Isaiah Thomas, Jae Crowder, Jeff Green, Drose, Dwade, and the Nets first overall pick. How do you think the Cavs will do this year? Will they perform terribly without Kyrie on the roster, or will they be a better team with Isaiah Thomas?

LeBron James is in his 15th season and he's better now than when he first started his career. He's showing us he's not slowing down anytime soon. His stats this year are insane: he's scoring 28.2 points, 9.2 assists, and 8.3 rebounds per game, which are MVP-worthy numbers. Do Cavs fans think that LeBron should be MVP this year? My opinion is that he should. He's almost averaging a triple-double!



The Cleveland Cavs are 23-9, and despite the loss to the Bucks last game, they are clicking on all cylinders. As of the end of 2017, the Cavs were second in the standings, trailing 3 games behind the Boston Celtics. Can LeBron, Dwade, and Isaiah Thomas bring another championship to “The Land”? Let's watch and see, Cavs fans!

## Girls' Empowerment Luncheon

By: Ariyelle Cole

**O**n Friday, November 17, 2017 James Ford Rhodes had their first Girls' Empowerment meeting organized by Ms. Eckstein and Mrs. Kight Neal.

This group is teaching girls to be themselves and that it's okay to ask questions. Maybe people think you're weird, but in this group weird is okay!

At the luncheon we had two guest speakers, Mrs. Stacey Johnson, Director of Learning & Performance at MetroHealth Hospital and Alexia Harris, Manager of External Education also at MetroHealth Hospital. We all sat and listened to what Mrs. Johnson had to say about her life. I believe her story had a big impact on us that day. She told us she went through some tough times and she bumped into walls but that didn't stop her from succeeding and following her dreams. She taught us that we're going to have barriers in life; that things will get in the way to stop us from succeeding. Even

though things will try to stop us, we need to keep calm and try our best to do whatever is necessary to complete our tasks.

The group of 32 girls came in the media center alone and left out as sisters forever, who can help each other through whatever stands in our way.



Guest Speakers with a Student

## California's Six Blazes

By: Yernilee Figueroa

Last December, California was in a crisis. There were 6 blazes that varied in sizes and together were larger than NYC and Boston combined. The Thomas Fire, Creek Fire, Rye Fire, Lilac Fire, Skirball Fire, and Liberty Fire destroyed over 1,000 structures. The Thomas Fire was the 5th largest blaze in Modern California History, covering up to 230,000 acres. A red flag warning was extended for Los Angeles and Ventura counties because of the gusty winds and low humidity which elevated fire conditions. The forecast stated there wasn't going to be any rain for a minimum of 10 days. Monday afternoon about 92,243 people were under mandatory evacuation orders in Ventura and Santa Barbara. About 70 people died in a crash while fleeing the horrifying fire. The Thomas Fire caused electricity outages in Santa Barbara County; those outages affected up to 85,000 people.

The Thomas Fire started December 4th in Ventura County and spread into Santa Barbara County. The Creek and Rye Fire both broke out on Tuesday in the Los Angeles County and all together they burned 21,668 acres. The Skirball Fire started Wednesday in Los Angeles County in the North part of Brentwood; it destroyed 422



acres. The Lilac Fire was a fast-moving blaze that consumed 4,100 acres since Thursday in San Diego County. Lastly, the Liberty Fire also started on Thursday but in Riverside County and it burned 300 acres. There have been many deaths and school closings due to these blazes. These dangerous fires have caused a lot of damages, deaths and have left many families without a home. Thankfully, as of this writing, these fires are 20-100% contained and firefighters have kept working to stop this tragedy.

*Editor's Note: The fires are gone, but have been replaced by rain and mudslides.*

## Passive Consumption

By: Alexis Sylvester

The definition of passive consumption is when the audience doesn't engage in the message; they just accept it. This is what happens when people go on Facebook, Twitter, and other various social medias. No one is asking any type of questions. We currently live in the age of, "it was on the Internet, so it must be true". There aren't very many attempts to make sure that the information we're being presented with is correct, because it's just being accepted.

Incorrect information is being received and it goes unnoticed because it's not being checked. In order to correct these habits, the things that

you see on your social medias should be questioned. Ask yourself "Is this true?", "What sources are being used?", "Are these sources credible?". These are all important questions to think of when you take in messages. If the answer to any of those is no, don't accept the information as true.

"Mistakes  
were  
made." ] by whom?  
by You?  
by US?!

## Staff Spotlight: Mr. Rudolph

By: Yernilee Figueroa

This year's new JFR Comprehensive Principal, Mr. Rudolph, was born on the East side of Cleveland, Ohio. In the 7th grade, his mother got cancer and this tragedy impacted him by pushing him to do better for himself and for his mother. He attended Maple Heights during his 4 years of high school. There he had a teacher who doubted him and said he would never go to college. When he

graduated from high school and went off to college, that same teacher told him he would never graduate from college.

He had many obstacles, but he is a very spiritual person who is strong in faith, so he prayed, read the Bible, and talked to his mother for support. He attended 3 different colleges, Ohio State University, Tri-C, and Miami University. He chose these because of the sports and financial aid. He chose Miami University, specifically because he knew they were very well-known and finding a good job wouldn't be an issue.

Our principal is hoping our school will become a student-led learning environment. This means that students will question everything and do research to prove or disprove what they learn with the teacher facilitating. His vision is that James Ford Rhodes High School will prepare students to be responsible once they graduate with a high quality education, whether they choose post-secondary education, the military field, or employment after graduation. Mr. Rudolph also wants our school to inspire students to think critically, and to communicate and collaborate well with others in order to enrich our lives. He offers opportunities to our staff for leadership roles. He allows teachers to choose and works with them directly to reach their goal.



## Junior Ambassadors

By: Sarah Barrett

The Junior Ambassador's Club is open to all students. All you have to do is complete an application, get a teacher recommendation, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, outstanding behavior, and write a paragraph explaining why you want to join. The students meet two Wednesdays out of every month. They went to Broadview Multi-Care Center on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 to sing Christmas carols to people at the nursing home. They played cards and board games with the residents as well. On Valentine's Day, they plan to take flower baskets to the bed-ridden patients. Ms. Watson and Ms. Concepcion provide excellent leadership, guidance, and mentorship to the Junior Ambassador's Club, and anyone interested in joining this group can simply ask them for information.



## Slave Market in Libya

By: Alexis Sylvester

**Y**ou thought that slavery was abolished, right? You thought that it didn't happen anymore? Well, you're wrong. Right now, there are immigrants being sold into slavery in Libya. Libyan officials have denounced these actions and have declared that help from other nations around the globe would be necessary. You might have heard of these slave markets from Facebook. There are many news reports on this topic. Just be sure to keep in mind that not all of these sources have correct information. There is a picture going around, a part of the Facebook post saying that, "When France got bombed, I see the entire FB [Facebook] saying pray for France. When Manchester got bombed, I see the same. When texted got flooded everyone was saying pray for Texas, but this slave trade is currently going on in Libya, and we don't see it all over social media..smh" with the snapchat caption "#EndSlavery".

According to Snopes.com, it has no relation to the topic. The same picture appeared to be in circulation in February and May of 2017 in the Italian blog Social Popular News. There are seven pictures that were thought to be related to the slave trade and auction that went on. Only two of these seven pictures were actually from this event. The other five have unknown origins. Overall, the important thing to remember is that people are emigrating from their home country and are actually being sold into slavery. We live in dangerous and uncertain times for both people and information.

According to *TIME* magazine, men are being sold for 400 each, that's \$295 in US dollars. As of Wednesday, November 29th, 2017, the leaders of Libya and many other countries have come up with a plan to evacuate the migrants stuck in detention camps in Libya. These people are some of the many who are attempting to travel from their home country to Europe. Every year for the last four years, at least 3,000 refugees have died during the trip. All of the remaining people had to stop in Libya because it's a main transit point. It's estimated that somewhere between 400,000 and

one million people are being held in Libyan detention centers. "They are becoming commodities to be bought, sold and discarded when they have no more value," said Lenard Doyle in a statement to *TIME* magazine in April.



**Boys allegedly lined up for auction in Libya.**

"The Security Council condemns such actions as heinous abuses of human rights which may also amount to crimes against humanity. The Security Council calls upon all relevant authorities to investigate such activities without delay to bring perpetrators to justice and hold those responsible to account", a statement read by Japanese Ambassador Koro Bessho weeks after CNN reporters saw first-hand at least 12 men being sold at an auction. This discovery has led to protests outside of the Libyan Embassy in Paris and London. A panel of United Nations experts want Libyan leaders and officials to take urgent action on this matter.

In conclusion, there are migrants from many African countries that are being sold into slavery. There's been protests in many countries. Libya is currently reaching out to many other countries for assistance. If you'd like to find more on the subject, be careful to make sure that the sources are credible and that you aren't consuming false information.



# December Sprit Week 2017

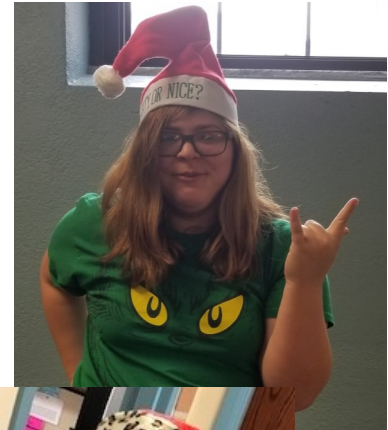
## Ugly Christmas Sweaters



Grinch-wear



Holiday Hats & Antlers



## The Graduation Crisis—We've Known for a While Now...

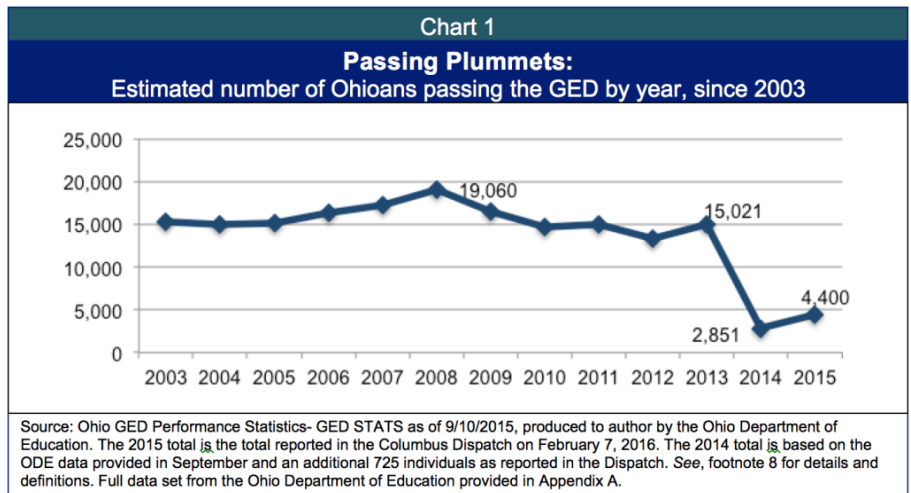
By: Tiana Daniels

The class of 2018 and beyond must earn 18 total points on the OST (Ohio State Test), along with the required 22 high school course credits, in order to receive a high school diploma. High school students feel like we're always being tested and those tests are becoming harder and more difficult, containing things we haven't learned yet. These tests are made by people who have no idea what lessons we learn and what us students have worked on throughout the year. The tests are based on curriculum we don't even know. We wish the people from the school board would let the teachers make the tests and stop giving us so many. It's unfair to me and every other high school student because most of the time we have no clue about what's on these tests; we don't even get a chance. Most of the tests we take have little to nothing to do with our grades in class or our graduation. Almost 70% of students say that the tests we're required to take are setting us up for failure - and maybe we aren't just being paranoid. They see most of us kids in the district are in poverty and how previous generations of families didn't even receive their high school diploma, and they set us up for disaster; it's an endless cycle.

Every year, Ohio's graduation rate has been dropping. However, as early as 2016, A.J. Wagner, a member of the Ohio Department of Education, said in *The Plain Dealer* that as much as 60% of the 2018 class will not be receiving their diploma! He warns, "Once these new standards are enacted for the class of 2018, we will see steep declines to about 60 percent". "This isn't because Ohio's students have lost their intelligence, it isn't because they've stopped trying. It isn't because teachers have suddenly given up, the decline from over 90 percent graduation rate to 60 percent will be from policy makers who have decided that every student must be pre-

pared for college or they must be failed." Other Ohio board members have called our future graduation a "train-wreck". What's worse is that there is no federal law that ties our graduation to passing any test - the state of Ohio chose to make passing these tests a law.

Those who think these tests are important tell us that making tests harder will make sure we have the knowledge and skills we need to graduate because students are not graduating with good work skills. However, according to another article in *The Plain Dealer*, Ohio ACT scores have actually gone up and, "the top five qualities of



graduates: teamwork; decision-making; communication skills; organizational management; and the ability to obtain information" are soft skills that can't be tested for and are actually hurt by constant testing that hurts students' self-esteem.

So, what happens to students who do not graduate in 2018 because they don't earn 18 points on 9 tests? Perhaps they will earn a "certificate of completion"? However, if they think they will be able to get their GED, they might want to think again. According to *Scene Magazine*, the GED has been sold to the test makers Pearson and they have made it twice as difficult to pass, totally computerized, and more expensive. Since it was bought in 2014, "the number passing the GED is down more than 70 percent".

## Don't Pop the Bottle, Drop the Bottle

By: Carlos Vasquez

The average number of alcohol drinkers in high school may not be as high as you think, but alcohol use is still a problem with teens. Did you know that alcohol affects teenagers and adults in different ways? According to the website, Everfi, "research has discovered that alcohol blocks memory development and interferes with learning much more in the teenage brain than in the adult brain". Alcohol impacts the brain and body in many ways we already know about, but for teens, we are discovering that those effects on the brain are more severe. The more alcohol people drink and the faster they drink, the more severe those effects can be. For teenagers, we are learning that those effects, since the brain is at a crucial level of development, may include lifelong brain damage, impairment to brain, and it puts you at risk for developing a host of health conditions. That's why it's so important to be aware of the risks associated with drinking. Drinking in high school cannot only mess up your grades, but can also endanger those around you by your actions.

Media, and especially alcohol advertisements, often manipulate people into thinking that most people drink heavily, have fun while



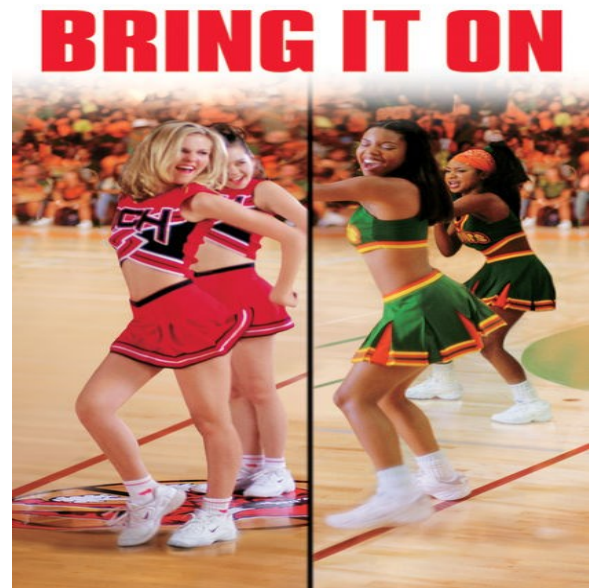
drinking, and never have anything bad happen. Yet, in reality, many high school students choose not to drink because of their family back-

ground, their support for the legal drinking age, or the fact that they don't want alcohol to prevent them from achieving their goals. The truth is that our society has always shown alcohol on tv as a fun way to relax, and a mature way to stand around and look "smart" - what studies are finding out is that the best and most common way to keep your intellectual intelligence is to stay away from alcohol at all times.

## All-City Musical Update!

By: Evelyn Kelly

Shout out to the wonderful young ladies, Anastasia Cobbs and Jocelyn Stone who got picked to be a part of the *BRING IT ON* musical! This musical will be playing to the public between Tuesday, April 24 to Friday, April 27th. You ask where? It will be at the Playhouse Square Rehearsal hall on Euclid Ave. Come and support your talented Rhodes actors, go on a play journey of a lifetime, and ask a teacher near you for when our school gets to go see this production!



## Movie Review: *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*

By: Kaila Adams

As a child, I'm sure many of you enjoyed watching the 1995 film *Jumanji* starring Robin Williams. It is a film about a boy named Alan Parrish who finds an African board game, Jumanji, and plays it with his friend Sarah Whittle. Not three turns into the game, Alan is sucked into the game. Twenty-six years later, siblings Judy and Peter Shepherd hear the rumbling of the game in the attic and play it. After that, Alan is freed, the three find a now middle-aged Sarah, and they finish the game while dealing with the danger the game unleashes with every roll



of the dice. When they have finished the game, Sarah and Alan are right back to when they were kids and they get to do life over again.

Hollywood put out a more modern version called *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*. They included famous actors

such as Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan, and Nick Jonas. The story is set in a high school environment and the main characters are all from the different cliques: popular, jock, and nerds. They all get detentions. (This reminds me of the beginning of "The Breakfast Club.")

The only thing about the game that was similar to the original version was that at the end, you return to where you were before you played. Instead of a board game, the modern version, is a multiplayer video game that the group finds in the basement they were cleaning for detention. They get sucked into a jungle as these avatars: Ruby Roundhouse, Dr. Smolder, Mouse Finbar, and Shelly Oberon. Each of these characters has skill and the players must use the skills to return a stone called the Jaguars Eye and call out "Jumanji".

I like the concept of a more modern *Jumanji*, but sometimes you shouldn't touch what was already great. They changed it so much and it was not very funny. However, I do understand that this generation's humor is a lot different than humor in the 90's. It wasn't the most terrible film; it just didn't quite hit the mark and lots of people agree. Everyone is free to have their own opinions about the film, so don't let this review in particular change your mind.

## Sock Drive

By: Angela Spraggins

Do you ever hate when your feet are cold, dirty or wet? Starting February 1st, The James Ford Rhodes Junior Ambassadors is having a sock drive to help the homeless! Bring in a NEW pair of socks and your homeroom teacher will give you a raffle ticket. Each pair of NEW socks you donate will improve your chances to win Rhodes accessories, exclusive items and snacks! Please donate as much as you can, because every Friday until the last Friday of February, we are having a raffle!



faster than  
any other  
article of clothing  
and are the  
number one  
clothing need  
of the homeless

## King of the Hill

By: Iyana Bachelor

James Ford Rhodes had a basketball game right before winter break called "King Of The Hill" tournament. Many of our students participated in this game from each grade. The first game began with 9th grade Environmental Science vs. 9th grade College/Career. The 9th grade College and Career beat Environmental Science, 10th grade, and 11th graders. They were, however, beaten by our seniors. Then, the seniors faced off against staff, but the staff won and reigned as King of the Hill!



## The One Who Bleeds Blue

By: Carlos Vasquez

The most significant event for me is my baseball championship game in the year of 2017. This moment is significant for me because I did it for Coach Gary, football and baseball coach at James Ford Rhodes High School, who unfortunately passed away the winter before baseball season. He was more



GHAINOUS X

than just a coach to me; he was a father. Coach Gary talked to me through my darkest times.

After his death, I became depressed and severely traumatized. My grades plunged. I didn't want to be home. I'd go to his grave to talk to him. Everything went downward. I

couldn't keep up with myself. The thought of quitting baseball came to my mind and I wanted to give up. People tried helping me, but I ignored them, until my thoughts and actions became harmful. I thought of ending my life and even tried it, but I told myself to seek help and that's what I did. I began to open up to one of my teachers. I told her everything. She gave me advice, and I forced myself to act upon it. I thought of this depression as a fight and Coach Gary is watching every move I make. Instead of hurting myself and letting him down, I need to show him how much potential I have and what a great person he made me.

The day of the game, it was partly cloudy but when Coach Gary's boys got on that field, the sun came out and I felt him immediately. I pitched that game and when we got that last out, I fell forward and started to cry. I dedicated every moment of that game to the man who I looked up to as my dad, my best friend, my coach - Coach Gary.

## What is the ACT?

By: Ashley Rengifo & Brittany Caminero

The ACT is a standardized test that many students take during their junior year. The ACT is very important if you want to go to college or a university. It's used as an entrance exam to make admission decisions by most colleges or universities. The sections that you'll be tested on are English (45 minutes), math (60 minutes), reading (35 minutes), Science (35 minutes) and writing (40 minutes), although the writing portion is usually optional. If you have a good enough score, you can earn scholarships or even make it into your dream school. A score of 22 points is considered below average, and 26 points is above average.

So, if you need a minimum of a 22 to even be considered by most colleges, you might want to consider studying! Have you ever heard of Khan Academy? It is a free, popular organization that has tools of all sorts to help you out with any academic needs. Khan Academy ([khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org))

benefits you by offering helpful YouTube videos, quizzes, practice problems and useful notes for any subject. This source can be an advantage for you to prepare for the ACT through many activities and quizzes. Khan Academy can help you with any type of problems, if you're struggling in just one subject, you can figure it out with the help of this website. Here are some other ways to prepare for the ACT: [PrepFactory.com](http://PrepFactory.com); [Vocabulary.com](http://Vocabulary.com); and [ACT Online Prep](http://ACT Online Prep). Do you want more one-on-one help? You are in luck! Starting now at 2:30 p.m., there's ACT prep for Juniors Only!

Tuesdays - Math - room 200  
Wednesdays - Science - room 303  
Thursdays- English - Room 316

Any students who attend get bonus points from Ms. Hupcey and Mrs. Ferchalk! Don't let the ACT get you down - be proactive and start studying NOW!

## School Segregation is Reappearing

By: Angela Spraggins

**S**egregation is the enforced separation of different racial groups in a country, community, or establishment. The case of *Brown v. Board of Education* decided that school segregation by race is unconstitutional. This civil rights case in Topeka, Kansas, dates back to the years of 1952 to 1954. However, research shows re-segregation is resurfacing with a vengeance!

lution, but it should have been the first step to things improving. Statistics such as these are increasingly being reported on by magazines such as *The Washington Post*, *Vox*, *The New York Times*, and many other reliable sources. Our nation is stepping backwards, not forwards! So the question is, what will the world we live in look like in the near future? What are teenagers like us supposed to do about this?

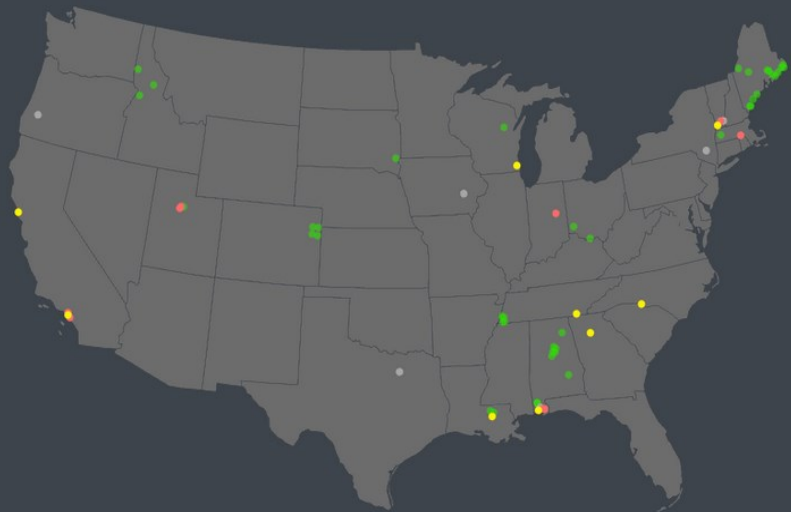
According to a VOX news article, some communities in America are voting to break up and, "create their own school district... a legal decision that allows parents to use borders to segregate their kids away from their less desirable peers".

Have you ever noticed that suburban schools are inhabited by wealthy Caucasian students and city schools are populated predominantly by lower class students of different races? New federal data shows that minority children are becoming increasingly isolated from Caucasian, affluent peers in the nation's public schools. Also, high-poverty schools serving primarily African-American students more than doubled between 2001 and 2014.

The problem of Americans segregating themselves by race and income is not new; history is repeating itself. *Brown V. Board of Education* was never a so-

### 71 communities have tried to secede from their school district since 2000

■ Seceded (47) ■ Ongoing (9) ■ Defeated (9) ■ Inactive (6)



Data from the EdBuild report "Fractured: The Breakdown of America's School Districts"

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### The Rams



## Student Work

### Quite the Lady

By: Angel Cline

Two quite sinful people came to hell today  
And for a long time they'll be here to stay  
Their names are Macbeth and Lady Macbeth  
And their hands are stained with blood and death  
I have to admit, this Lady Macbeth is interesting  
While other woman were cooking or cleaning, she would be scheming  
While other woman were raising children, she was manipulating  
While other woman were sleeping, in murder she was assisting  
Oh, she tried to wash her hands of the blood and guilt  
Knowing humans think water cleans sin makes my head tilt  
Sin can be erased with hell's holy fire  
(Although I must say she walked gracefully down to hell's spire)  
How unfortunate that she's down to our level  
Oh well, I think she will make an excellent devil.



Artwork by: Cydney Jones