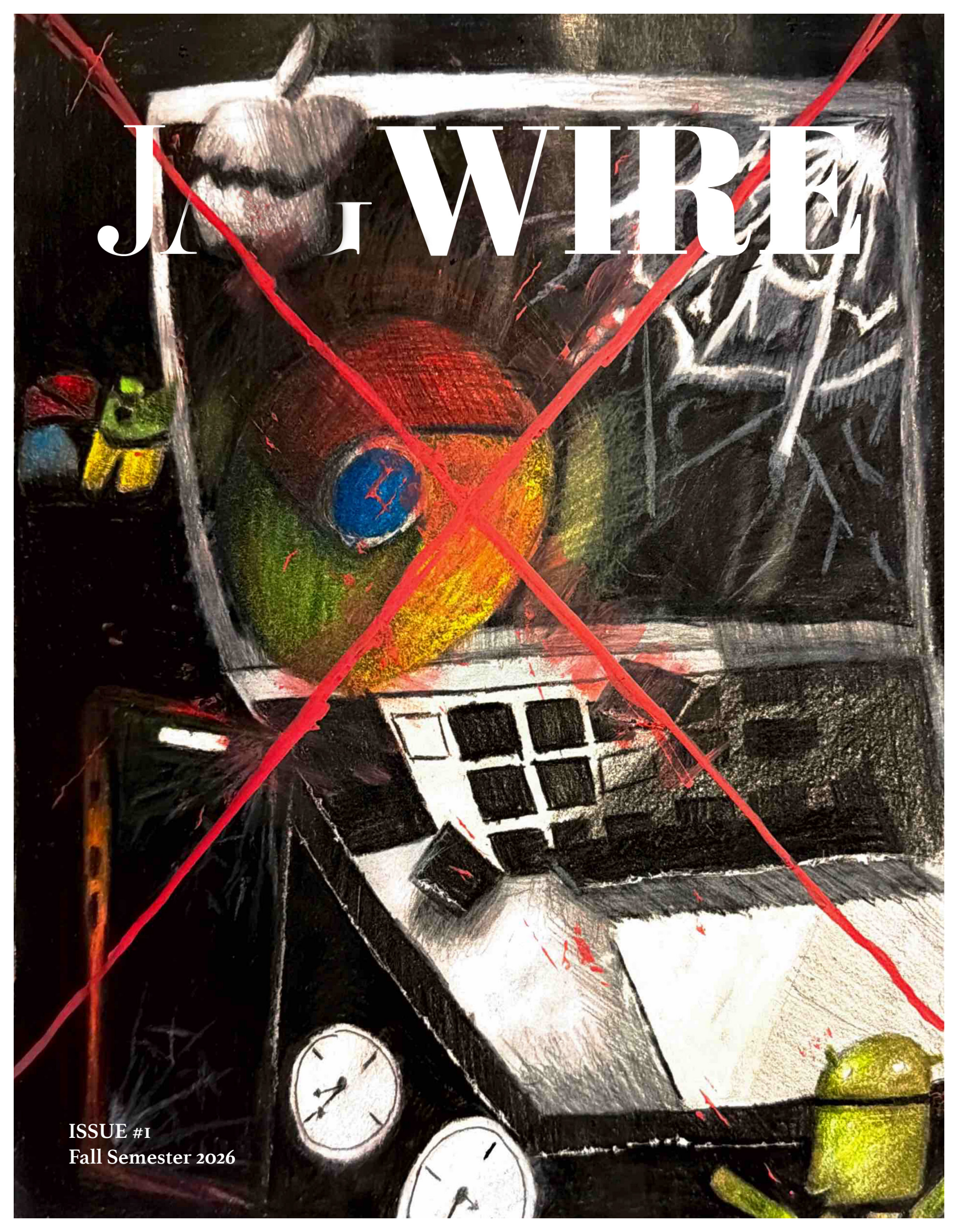


JAWIRE

A dark, textured collage artwork. In the center is a laptop with a keyboard. Above the laptop is a large, colorful, abstract shape with a blue circular element. To the left of the laptop is a small green Android robot. Below the laptop are two analog clocks. In the bottom right corner is another green Android robot. A large red 'X' is drawn across the entire image. The background is dark and textured with various colors and patterns.

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Disconnect to Reconnect

by Chloe Mooney & Jocelyn Ngo

Last year, the hallways echoed with the sound of TikTok audios and were illuminated by the faint blue glow of smartphone screens. This year, everything has changed. According to the Colorado General Assembly, Colorado state law HB25-1135 articulates that schools across the state, including Jefferson Academy, are required to adopt and enforce a communication device policy.

From the 2026-27 school year onward, students are expected to follow the “bell-to-bell no cell” policy. From 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., all electronic devices not owned by the school are to be turned off and stashed in backpacks, where they are unable to become a distraction. “Over the past few years, we have seen a dependency on cell phones for students and adults, and we had to put a policy in place per the legislature by July

1,” Assistant Principal Marti Porreco explained. “This was the time to make the switch.” Today, the hallways of Jefferson Academy seem to have traveled back in time to 1995. Meaningful connections are one of the many notable perks teachers have noticed students participating in. “I love [the policy] because I see a lot more engagement in the students with each other. I see a lot more of them

interacting on this human level, which is really lovely,” Ms. Luceri said.

The phones that were once an easy distraction to hide behind have now become a mere accessory.

“I’ve lowered my screen time limit and reduced the amount of time I spend on social media,” junior Carson Franklin noted.

This decrease in technology has allowed some students to experience the school environment through a new lens.

“I’m not on my phone as much,” junior Ella Reisbeck shared. “One of the benefits of this policy is that we’re able to communicate with our friends a lot more without having a distraction.”

Additionally, instead of going on their phones for entertainment, students have been finding alternative ways to keep themselves occupied during their free time.

“I have already seen students having more conversations with one another and finding different ways to have fun, and if they have an off-block, they are playing games [and] reading books,” Mrs. Porreco commented.

While teachers direct their focus toward the logistics of the policy, a deeper concern weighs on the minds of students.

“We live in a place where school shootings are very prominent, and we have had a couple encounters with shootings in the past couple of years, which goes to show how important it is to be able to

Bell to Bell, No Cell

The law: Colorado state law HB25-1135 requires schools, including Jefferson Academy, to adopt and enforce a communication device policy.

The deadline: Schools had to have a policy in place by July 1.

The rule: From 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., electronic devices not owned by the school are turned off and stashed in backpacks.

contact your parents,” noted Kiera Daly, a junior.

Although the policy allows students to better focus on their classes and assignments, athletes who participate in out-of-school activities often encounter hurdles with communication.

“I do cross country, so if there’s an announcement or a changeup, I would have to check immediately after school when I get out,” sophomore Josh Kingen stated.

Students in certain classes that require a level of technological presence are finding it difficult to navigate the phone ban as well.

“Getting interviews and photos is challenging, and it is so hard to upload interviews and use new technology,” said Reisbeck. “If we had our phones, we’d be able to quickly get an interview online rather than search around and take all these extra steps.”

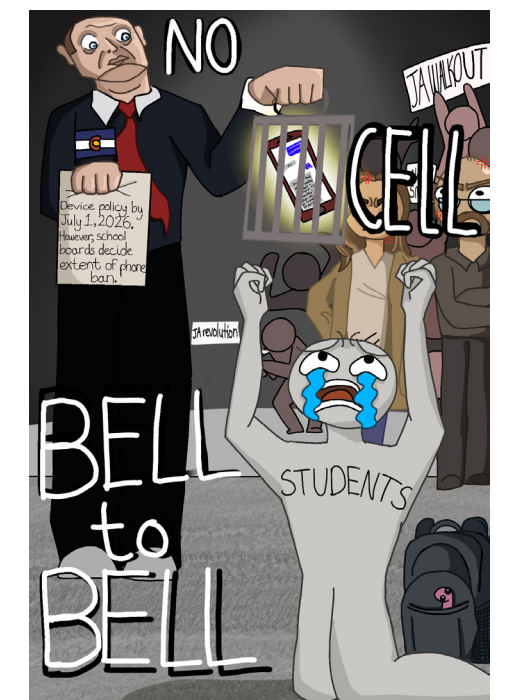
While there are concerns about communication challenges, some students believe the policy will create more opportunities for them to

interact with their community compared to how it was originally.

“The overall impact [of the policy] will be positive because everyone will spend less time on their phones and will interact more and with more people than they might when they have their phones readily available,” reflected sophomore Nicholas Garioto.

For some, the impact goes beyond increased interaction in the community. While the policy fosters connections within the school, it also encourages people to live in the present.

“I absolutely believe the cell phone policy is helping us stay in the moment. It’s the only time and space where life exists. You can’t control the past, and we have very little control over the future,” Ms. Luceri reflected. “The present moment is where we are, and we can’t stop going back to that human experience.”



Computer Lockdown

New Year, New Rules

by Zaraylea Navarro

The sounds of students in agony at the thought of losing their electronics for the day have turned into quiet resolve throughout the hallways as Chromebooks open and the day begins.

Starting this year, Jefferson Academy students are not allowed to use their personal devices in class. Instead, they must retrieve a Chromebook from a cart with their designated number, only to start the process all over again in 90 minutes.

"The state said to come up with a cell phone policy that also

entailed technology. And technology [includes] our Wi-Fi, our internet access, and more. So we were required by law to come up with a policy and how we were going to deal with it," Executive Director Dr. Schultz explained.

In addition, staff members found that some students set up hot spots on their phones.

"We could not supervise what [students] were doing, and that became problematic [on personal devices]," Dr. Schultz commented. "We had parents come up to us very, very upset

that we weren't supervising what [students] were doing at school."

Getting this new policy in place was a challenge on various fronts. Ms. Davis, JA's technology coordinator, reflected on the struggle that she and National Honor Society volunteers had to work through before the school year started.



"First we had to get all the carts. We didn't have enough carts, so we had to purchase and set up 33 more carts than what we had. And then 710 Chromebooks," Ms. Davis recalled.

One main goal of technology regulations on cell phones and Chromebooks is to push students to be more social with friends and others throughout the day. Lately, many more students have been utilizing the school library.

"We had over 1,200 books checked out in the first three weeks of school," Ms. Davis shared.

The new Chromebooks have proven to be beneficial in some areas of the classroom.

"The computers are always there. They're always in every

classroom, and they're ready to go," Mr. Proctor stated.

Some teachers note that personal devices may be essential to the learning process.

"The biggest challenge is that last year our laptops started showing their age for graphic design and started getting really slow, so I had students using their own devices and laptops. That helped balance out the problem of not having enough functioning computers," Mrs. Garcia observed.

Many students feel less productive this year without their personal devices.

"You get used to your own computers, and with the school computers you have to log in every time and you lose everything," sophomore Eloise Knudsen expressed. "My computer is a lot nicer than the school computers, so it's harder to work at school."

While the benefits of a computer policy may include better school safety, some students don't believe the good outweighs the bad in this case.

"The thought behind it was good, but the execution of it was not ideal," senior Matthew O'Donnell claimed. "They forcibly took away our rights as students, and I feel like they exert a lot of control over us."

Scrolling Toward Change

by Komal Basnet



According to an article published by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, a lawsuit against Instagram and Facebook claims the platforms were designed to be addictive and harm young users.

From the lawsuit, Meta has come to a settlement and agreed to pay up to \$17.1 billion and make changes with the aim of improving safety for young users. The lawsuit has brought attention to how social media companies may influence the habits and attention spans of young people.

"I think big industries are taking advantage of our minimal impulse control. They are benefiting their futures and damaging ours, considering the decreasing attention span and lack of restraint to social media

that our generation contains," senior Edith Lindberg noted.

Although Meta is making changes to its platforms, parents may also have a role in helping teens manage their technology use.

"I think parents need to be more involved in what their children are doing. There is 50% of what your child says and the other 50% of whatever else they may not tell you," Vice Principal Mrs. Porreco asserted. "If parents are paying for their kids' devices, they have every right to put mandates on their technology."

Some believe that beyond restrictions from companies and parents, schools can help students develop skills to better understand and manage social media.

"It's not about the usage, it's about how we foster it in our community. Our education system isn't teaching media literacy or giving the opportunity to work on emotional behaviors regarding media," senior DJ Petrie stated.

As Meta begins implementing these changes, their long-term impact remains uncertain. For students, parents, and teachers, the settlement may be less about simply limiting social media and more about learning how to use it responsibly.

"Teens who have been using social media a certain way for a long time will probably be impacted minimally, but I think younger children and upcoming generations will benefit from these changes much more," mentioned Lindberg.

Leading From the Middle

by Sabrina Madruga

As a vibrant school year courses into action at Jefferson Academy, our school community came together to give a warm welcome to our new interim principal, Mr. Pierson.

Oftentimes, a change in leadership can bring about new opportunities for growth. With Mr. Pierson's extensive experience in the academic realm, the potential for a better JA is on the horizon.

"I'm starting year 32 in education," Mr. Pierson stated. "Most of those have been spent through the whole ecosystem of education."

Prior to arriving at JA, Mr. Pierson worked at Standley Lake High School from 2008 to 2018. After leaving a legacy behind, he then went on to transform the Jeffco system.

"In 2018, I was recruited by the executive director of safety and the community superintendent to take on an innovative role," Mr. Pierson mentioned. "They had a [million-dollar] grant that the Board of Education had proposed to the whole district."

Mr. Pierson's creative thinking and talent led him to soar to new heights in the education community.

"[My] idea was to bring a principal over to be a first responder," Mr. Pierson continued. "[They would be] trained with the safety security

team and law enforcement, and be an open carry control and oversee school safety, but have never gone through law enforcement academy. I was the first really in the nation to do something like this."

A new principal with an eye for change can give the students and staff the opportunity to

reflect on what JA needs to succeed.

"We need someone who is open-minded and strong, but has the ability to be empathetic and

sympathetic to everyone's needs," Mr. Cloonan mentioned. "When you can take a step back and look at all of the little pockets our school has and be able to support them from that leadership role to help them achieve something, or to help them figure out how to work better together, those are the qualities that would bring success to our school."

Becoming one with the JA community, despite the changing atmosphere this new year has brought, is something that many students would like

to see come to fruition as well.

"I think [Mr. Pierson] is in a rough position, because he joined [JA] at the same time a bunch of unpopular rules were implemented," senior Todd Short commented. "The most important thing [for a principal] is to be able to inspire confidence within the students,

and especially with these rules, to ease them into it and make sure everyone is content despite things happening that they don't really like. And I think he's

done a decent job of that."

The addition of a new principal gives JA a supportive environment to foster growth and development, now more than ever.

"My own personal opinion is that a good principal hears all voices," Mr. Pierson declared. "[A good principal can] make sure that students have a voice, can advocate for staff, but can do it in a way where we meet in the middle. I don't ever consider myself the boss and everyone who's ever worked for me knows that I'm truly a servant leader.



Interim Principal Pierson, brings significant leadership experience to JA. Photo by: Claire Torpey

Halftime Harmony

by Lily Rector



Freshman Elena Gerig preforms at the halftime show at the NAAC. Although JA doesn't have a color guard she uses the vantage program to still do her hobby for another high school. Photo by: Lily Rector

Blasting lights, cheers from the crowd, all mixed with the pep and energy from the bleachers, start off this year's marching band season with a bang.

Talented Jefferson Academy students are recruited to other schools to participate in school spirit in this new musical opportunity.

"I was actually introduced to [marching band] through a leadership conference that one of the regional managers at Music & Arts signed me up for," explained senior Abby Renner. "I went and did it and I loved the whole experience."

While the band is more well known for the music that it plays, the marching band's character is created through the color guard.

"I do color guard at Standley [Lake High School]," freshman Elena Gerig stated. "I really like the dancing and flagwork side of the community."

Marching band, like many other extracurricular activities,



Freshman Elena Gerig represents the Jaguars JAvantage program. Performing as a color guard during a halftime routine at NAAC. Photo by: Lily Rector

"We like to call it the Olympics." - Abby Renner

comes with its own unique challenges.

"[My biggest challenge] is dressing, which is when you are trying to make sure you're in line with people beside you and in front of you, and you are constantly moving," Renner expressed.

For color guard members, like many student-athletes at JA, balancing events and schoolwork can be a challenge.

"I try to get my schoolwork done in school, and if I don't, then I try to get it done in between school and color guard since there is not a lot of time to get it done after practice," Gerig mentioned.

There are certain rituals that occur before the band performs.

"We all do a bunch of team bonding exercises. We like to call it the Olympics," Renner

expressed. "Whoever wins gets to dump water on the rest of the sections and chase them around. I think that it is really fun!"

A marching band is a very different activity compared to a regular concert band.

"[The band] has to memorize more music compared to when you play in a band, where you have the music right in front of you," Gerig clarified.

Students take pride in being a part of this challenging activity and look back on achievements warmly.

"A huge accomplishment for us at Standley is as a group we finished the drill way before the first show, which is all of the moving pieces of the choreography, and that makes me really happy," Renner noted.



Sophomore Ashley Hawes hits an ollie for the camera, showing off how far she's come since she first started. After months of hard work, she can confidently nail her very first trick and hopes to master a rolling ollie next Photo by: Jocelyn Ngo

Beyond the Bruises

by Jocelyn Ngo

Knees bent and chest angled sideways, a skateboarder lingers on the lip of the bowl, overlooking a terrifying drop into the deep, smooth concrete crater below. If skateboarding has taught them anything, it is to always trust the board and take the risk.

They lean in and let gravity

take over, but their back foot slips, the board flies away, and they slam into the ground. Yet, before the dust can even settle, the skateboarder is already reaching for their board, ready to climb back up and go again. To an observer, this might seem like madness, but to some Jefferson Academy students, the

constant cycle of falling and trying again is part of what makes skateboarding meaningful.

“It will take me months to learn something that took someone else a week to learn,” sophomore Ashley Hawes mentioned, “but you have to get back up to face new challenges.



Sophomore Ashley Hawes and Seniors Tate Stadler and Kai Zissler all hit a ollie. Skateboarding is one of the many hobbies students pick up at JA that help them get away from all the noise. Photo by: Jocelyn Ngo

“It gives you that self-confidence.” - Ashley Hawes

It gives you that self-confidence, especially once you land a trick for the first time.”

According to senior Kai Zissler, one of the biggest misconceptions about skateboarding is that it's easy. Behind every unique trick is weeks' worth of practice marked by bruises, scrapes, and falls.

“When I'm skateboarding, I can't think about my math test,” Zissler joked. “I'm focused on landing this trick and not dying, and it's a great way to just be in the moment.”

While the intense focus of skateboarding offers a mental escape, skateboarding is rarely a solo journey. It also gives

students a community where falling isn't something to be embarrassed about. Instead, skaters can encourage and support one another as they work toward learning new tricks.

“[Skateboarding with other people] feels nicer because we're cheering each other on, and while skateboarding by yourself is still fun, it's more fun when there's other people working together to learn something new,” senior Tate Stadler said.

Although skateboarding is mostly a recreational sport, it has reframed how these students approach challenges.



Senior Kai Zissler attempts an ollie on two skateboards. Photo by: Jocelyn Ngo



Senior Tate Stadler clears the coping lip of the bowl at a skate park, executing a trick he's practiced for months. Photo by: Jocelyn Ngo

“Before I started skateboarding, I saw failure as a bad thing,” Zissler shared. “Now, I see it as a learning experience and a way that I can get back up and do better.”



Sophomore Vida Arissian stretches on her driveway in preparation for Martial Arts practice. Her martial arts training is one of the many commitments she balances in her daily life. Photo by: Jocelyn Ngo

Fully Herself

by Sophie Richling

Vida Arissian doesn't have the typical Jefferson Academy story. Born in New Mexico, raised for a time in Canada, and proud of her Iranian heritage, Arissian arrived as the new student carrying a strength and intelligence most of her classmates could never imagine. But being new was the easy part; the real challenge has been learning how to hold onto every piece of who she is at once.

"At some point, I tried to be American, and push away anything Iranian about me. I would not speak Farsi. I thought that's the way to get friends, and I realized that didn't work. I still didn't fit in," expressed Vida.

Conversations about faith in Iran require careful cultural navigation, as the topic carries significant emotional and social weight. Arissian has faced intense scrutiny at school for wearing her hijab, a daily ordeal that demanded an immense amount of quiet confidence and resilience. Navigating an environment where her personal faith was constantly judged required her to stand firm in her identity every single day.

"There was a period of time where I was wearing the hijab to try it out, and the amount of people who would come up to me with some kind of booklet and try to talk to me or convert me," Arissian shared.

The judgment Arissian faced



Sophomore Vida Arissian is accomplished and dedicated, balancing everyday struggles, martial arts, and school. Amid such a chaotic and busy daily life, she always makes time for fun with her pet snake, Fereshte. Photo by: Jocelyn Ngo

at school paled in comparison to the fear and grief she witnessed within her community after a nearby tragedy. She had recently visited a mosque in San Diego just a day before it became the target of a shooting. Returning to the space, she witnessed a community processing immense trauma.

"Being Iranian and hearing people speak so negatively of Islam while there's a woman crying on another woman's shoulder and being Muslim and being hurt," Arissian recalled.

Yet, amidst the heartbreak, she also found profound unity and beauty during prayer: "People had all these different colored hijabs just like a rainbow while you're praying,

"Don't be afraid to embrace who you are." - Vida Arissian

and it was so beautiful and so saddening to see."

Not only is Arissian experiencing internal contrast, but also the external molds of society. Balancing the weight of both as a 15-year-old girl is excruciatingly hard to live with.

"I feel like this constant state of never being fully American and never being fully Iranian, never really fitting into both, but how can you be both when you don't really fit into either category?" Vida voiced.

One of the original goals for America was to be a combination of different cultures and people, but over time this saying has lost its meaning for people.

"I would say the melting pot hasn't been melting so far, especially here in my experience ... I just wish there was a space for some of us who aren't always represented," Arissian communicated.

In Arissian's life, the common trivial worries like popularity and gossip, while not to be disregarded, are in constant contrast with the immense silent anxiety for family overseas.

"My cousin Sarah was one of those women who did not want to wear the hijab, and she was fighting for freedom of women, but she could have been murdered or taken to a government camp," Arissian

shared.

The current U.S.-Iranian conflicts have affected innocent people all across Iran, including grandparents, children, and mothers. The lack of education and empathy for these people heavily affects Iranian American people like Arissian.

"There's no way to talk to your family and know if they're okay," Arissian shared. "Their entire towns were destroyed."

Demeanor-based racism and generalized stereotypes have no place in society, especially since cruel remarks can heavily impact a teenager's well-being.

"Other people can put Muslims under being terrorists or being women oppressors and stuff. People would say 'your parents deserved it,' or 'that country deserved to be bombed,' and there's so much more to Iran and Islam; we weren't always just another oppressive state against women," Arissian stated.

Arissian has people and things to look up to and be inspired by to continue to be a confident and positive person.

"I talked to my mom, and I realized that it's okay to be Iranian and American, but I will definitely continue to embrace being Iranian," Arissian said.

Vida Arissian is truly a groundbreaking and strong individual. She is so well-spoken and educated and has



Sophomore Vida Arissian shows off the many versatile things she can do within martial arts, blending not only her flexibility but also her coordination and dedication to the craft of nunchucks. This versatility can be seen throughout her life, with the way she balances school and extracurriculars, along with important cultural aspects of her life. Photo by: Jocelyn Ngo

overcome so much in her life. She is someone to be inspired by.

Arissian shares her words of wisdom for her community: "Don't be afraid to embrace who you are, whether you're an immigrant or not, you're from a different culture, be who you are and don't care about what other people say."



Sophomore Vida Arissian sits at home with her friends, completing homework she accumulated that day, laughing about the irony of her background given the JA's new technology policy. Photo by: Jocelyn Ngo

A New Lot in Life

by Jocelyn Ngo

For some Jefferson Academy students, getting to class is only half of the battle. The other half is getting through the parking lot.

This year, navigating the parking lot looks different. Over the summer, Jefferson Academy introduced a new layout, with the addition of new staff-designated parking spots and personalized senior parking spaces.

“The senior spots are a good way for [seniors] to express their creativity and celebrate their journey through high school,” junior Jacob Hard said.

While the seniors are excited to continue the tradition and finally get their own parking spaces, the new layout has brought some concerns.

“I feel bad for the seniors parking by the sidewalks,” senior Edith Lindberg commented. “Traffic is so much worse this year, and it’s even worse to be parked on the sidewalk. It’s a lot harder to get out.”

Along with the changes to the student section, this new design has addressed previous issues.

“Last year, teachers were complaining about students parking in the unmarked area where staff parked,” Lindberg explained. “The staff spots this year are pretty nice.”

While the new staff parking spots allow for a more structured parking lot, some



Senior Kat Shadrach takes part in a senior tradition by painting her assigned parking spot. Trying to outdo the seniors from the years before and be original from her classmates, it's a journey to finish the tradition.

students question their efficiency.

“Staff parking should’ve stayed farther back since most of [the staff] enter and exit through the art wing,” senior Jimmy Garcia said. “The spots could’ve been better designed.”

For some students, the parking lot is more than a place to leave their car for the day. Instead, it can represent the freedom, hard work, and dedication it took to get this far.

“I go out there during lunch

so I can do work and go to lunch with my friends,” Garcia added. “We also blast music at each other.”

The parking lot can provide a sanctuary from the chaos of a high school lunchroom. A paved haven to spend time with friends can be a good break from the school day.

“We go out there because it’s quiet and we can get away from the rest of the school,” Hard shared. “We can talk about whatever is on our minds.”

Flip-Flopped

by McKenna Mauney



As summer begins to wind down, the new fall semester at Jefferson Academy brings various new trends and styles all around campus. The main topic in the fashion category, however, is flip-flops. Both affordable and versatile, this trend made its way to JA fast.

Over the last summer season, flip-flops came back as a staple in fashion styling, with multiple brands having a resurgence in interest. This comes as a surprise for some JA students, since flip-flops were almost a taboo fashion choice just a couple of years ago.

“I think it was discouraged a few years ago because some people think it is weird and gross to wear their toes out in a place like school,” said junior Izzy Daniels.

While flip-flops might have been unfashionable, they sure are the thing to wear now. Multiple brands from the runway to retail stores have caught on to the trend and have

curated various styles to appeal to customers. The same can be said with all the ways they are incorporated into personal style and outfits.

“The flip-flops I like to wear the most are my black slide flip-flops

because they match with almost everything. I usually style them with jean shorts or just jeans,” noted sophomore Olivia Johnson.

The adaptability of flip-flops has made them popular, but for some it is the kind of conversations the beachy flats start up. Boys varsity soccer has started wearing flip-flops on dress-up days for their games as though they were as common as any other pair of formal shoes.

“People are surprised when we wear flip-flops and ask about them. We tell them it’s game day and then they

become more aware of it and hopefully come to support us,” Lane commented.

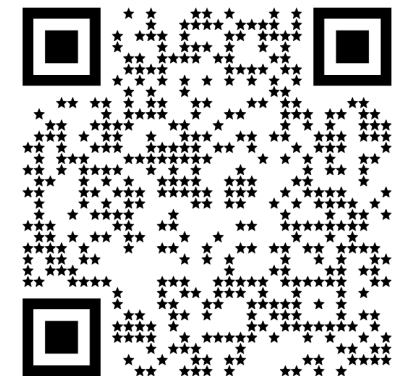
The rise of flip-flops in the overarching trend of simplistic and low-effort styling has definitely had an effect on the school styles of this quarter. The warm temperatures that have stayed throughout September might also be a leading cause of why flip-flops are so widespread.

“Flip-flops are an example of laid-back styling by just letting go and wearing what you want even if it is frowned upon,” exclaimed Johnson.



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Game On

A photo essay on the start of the fall sports season



Senior Abe Gomez settles the ball after a pass from his teammate. He continues his path in hopes of scoring a goal to add to the lead the team has had so far.

Photo by: Claire Torpey

With the beginning of a new school year comes the beginning of new sports seasons, like cross country, boys soccer, softball, boys golf and girls volleyball. Coaches build teams, and athletes figure out where they want to go and how far away from that goal they are. Coaches solidify teams, and athletes work to get small and big wins alike for their teams. Whether that's through lessons from crushing losses or dominating wins like the boys varsity soccer team's 8-0 win against the Stargate Eagles, athletes and coaches alike start to plan out how the season might look. Early individual athlete successes, like junior Daelin hitting two inside-the-park home runs, help motivate the team for a successful season.



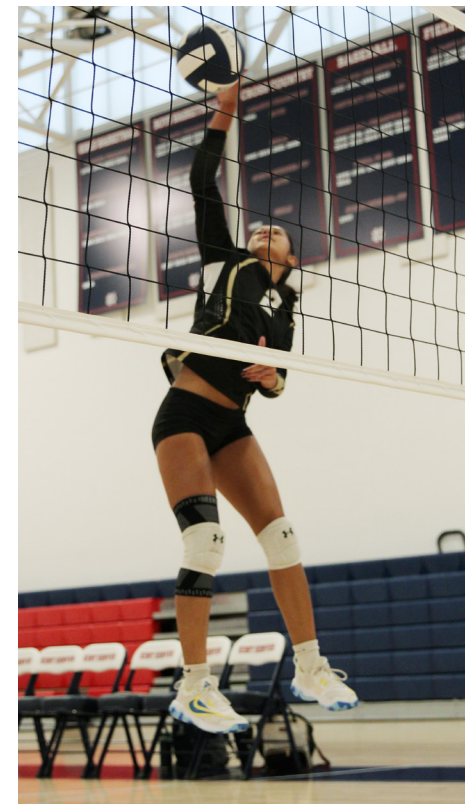
JA's boys cross-country team gets a strong start to the Jaguar Twilight Invitational 5k. Competing against the likes of Stanley, Pomona, and a few other high schools in the area, this is a good start to the season, scoping out the competition and seeing what's to work on and what's going well. Photo by: Kayla Hughes



JA's girls cross-country runner Sofia DeLalio gets a blazing start to kick off the Jaguar Twilight Invitational 5k. Being one of the first runs of the season, this is a great place to gauge where you are for the season. Photo by: Kayla Hughes



Varsity soccer players Sophomore Arnel Mehidic and Junior Preston Orrell fight for the ball at JA's first home game. Number 10, Senior Mason Spicer has returned back from Spain and has been a vital member of the team. Photo by: Claire Torpey



Jaguars girls varsity team go ahead to head with Kent Denver at an away game, playing good to secure a win. Photo by: Matylda Podlesny



Sophomore Charlie Murray drives the golf ball on one of the hardest holes of the Broadlands Gold Course. This tournament is the kick off of a hopeful golf season for the Jaguars. Photo by: Claire Torpey



Jaguar girls varsity softball team tries to bring everything together in front of a home crowd at Forge. With them being down 14-0, they're trying to get a win anywhere they can. Photo by: Sabrina Madruga



Senior Ben Pena-Pederson successfully rescues his ball after a drive into a sand trap. With no other golfer being in the sand in his group the pressure was on. Photo by: Claire Torpey

A Fresh Start on the Fairway

by Matylda Podlesny

The first swing of the season is more than just a shot down the fairway. For the Jefferson Academy golf team, it marks the beginning of the new season and the opportunity to create memories together.

“I was really excited to get out there and compete. It was a little stressful at the beginning with it being my first tournament, but I figured it out throughout the round,” said senior Eli Schlatter.

The tournament provided the team with an early look at what the rest of the season could hold. The JA boys golf team emphasizes the importance of supporting each other throughout the season. Whether a player is having their best round or struggling through a difficult hole, the team will encourage each other and

celebrate the small victories.

“Every tournament gives us something we can work on, even if you miss a hole or something, you can look and figure out what you need to improve on for the next one,” expressed sophomore Teague Murrey.

Golf requires patience and consistency, and one bad hole does not have to define an entire round. Players have to reset quickly, focus on the next shot, and trust the work they have done.

“I think we have built a community. Since starting the team as a sophomore, it has got more and more connected every year. Sometimes a couple of the guys will play a round together for fun or hang out before a tournament. I think getting food after a tournament is also a good way we have built a



Senior Dawson Smith points out his successful drive. With this being one of the first tournaments of the season, it was all about figuring out what the season was going to look like and to have fun.

Photo by: Matylda Podlesny

closer community,” senior Dawson Smith explained.

With their clubs in hand and the season ahead of them, the JA golfers are ready to tee off and see where the year takes them.

“We’re just really excited to see what this season brings. We have much to learn, but we’ll have fun and enjoy the sport,” said junior Jack Wagner.