



The Jaguar Journal

May and June 2019

End of the Year Chat With Mr. D

By Dakota Calcaterra

Would you like to say anything to the students of Memorial regarding the past year?

We have had an outstanding year. Our advisors have such great things planned. Not only are the classes in the school academically able, they have proven themselves to be very athletically gifted. I see some good things in the years to come, both with our student body's accomplishments and with our events that are being planned.

What are some things that could or will be improved upon in the next year?

Yeah, our entire summer is being devoted to improving the school. We will be rewriting the history curriculum, and we are purchasing new chromebooks, soon they will most likely be 1:1, meaning all students will have a chromebook at their disposal.

Would the school like to make an official statement regarding the bathrooms in Clayton?

What has happened is that we have three major bathrooms that we use, and we have students either intentionally stuffing toilets, apple, cans, etc. We've literally had sinks torn out of the wall, hand dryers ripped out, and it's created a situation where, since we can't have cameras inside the bathrooms, of course, we can only monitor who goes in and out. The vandalism problem is the driving factor, we're trying to deal with it through these means. We're looking into new systems to guard the bathrooms, but as it looks right now, the only solution is time. We hope the people doing this realize that they are making it worse for others, and that their actions truly have consequences.

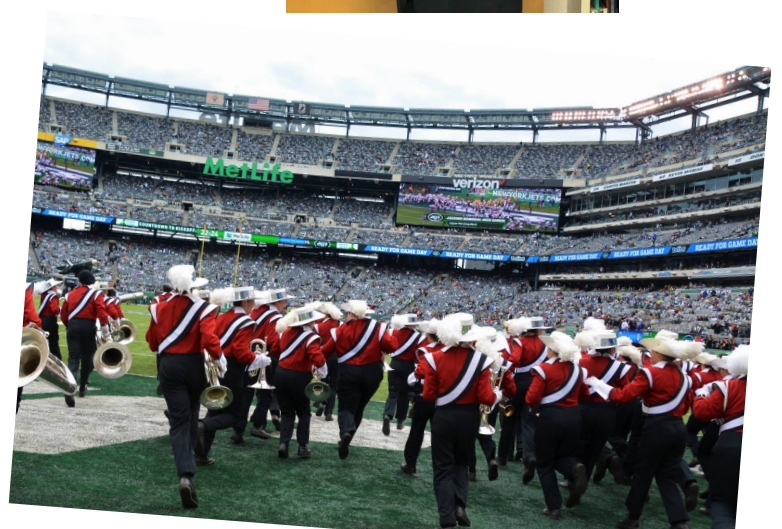
What are some major successes in the past year?

You look back... our band is amazing. In Norfolk, we've won basically all of the trophies we can win. All of our fall teams have won either the South or sectional championships. What else... we have an all time low harassment, intimidation, and bullying (H.I.B) rates. We have LEAD, which is reaching out and allowing

for even more representation for our minority students. We always try to make them feel welcome, and this is just enhancing that, Mr. Melendez and the whole group are doing great work, and that's reflected in our lower H.I.B. rates. Our spring sports teams look like they're a force to be reckoned with, be it varsity, JV, freshmen, they're all doing great.

Any messages to the outgoing class?

I couldn't be more impressed. One of the most achieving classes I've ever had. It's amazing, Princeton, Yale, Penn State, this class has a very bright future, they are one of the most academically gifted we've seen in this school.



Jaguar Band Year In Music

2 Red Dead Redemption 2: Game Review

By Owen Skidds

Rockstar Games' Red Dead Redemption 2 is a love letter to everything that made the Western genre great. Every step the player takes in the shoes of Arthur Morgan is breathtakingly well-crafted. Everything about Red Dead Redemption 2 just screams high quality, backed up by the game's 105 gigabyte size. The developers have created not only a living, breathing cross section of the Louisiana Purchase, but a story that will leave many players fully absorbed from the opening scene to the final fight. Every major story cutscene uses framing techniques reminiscent of an old Western movie, even occasionally mimicking some frame-by-frame such as a train robbery scene in the game's second chapter. Every character is fully fleshed out, and many seem like old

friends by the time the game's final chapter comes to an epic finish. Despite the mastercrafted story and the free roaming gameplay, the game's missions leave something to be desired. Rockstar's hand-holding mission design guides the player through a linear set of paths. Whereas in most sandbox games, the player might be given one objective and have several paths that they themselves have to take, Rockstar instructs the player how to do everything. It gets a little frustrating, but it by no means makes Red Dead Redemption 2 a bad game. All in all, I would give Red Dead Redemption 2 a 9.5 out of 10. The game has some minor problems that are far trumped by the gorgeous and vibrant environments found in every corner of the game world

and the absolutely fantastic writing of the characters and story that feels like one of the great Western tales of old. If you haven't played Red Dead Redemption 2 yet, you're missing out on a lot.



Endgame=The End of an Era

By Mr. Apa



It's the end of the world as we know it. Well, the world of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). What started with 2008's Iron Man, and spanning twenty-two movies, the MCU is forever changed during the events of Avengers: Endgame. But, to go into those changes would be giving away spoilers, and-- as my students will tell you-- I'm not a fan of those who give away the ending (I'm looking at you Andy). So, keep reading for a spoiler free review of the newest installment in the Avengers series.

Endgame is a direct sequel to last year's Avengers: Infinity War. As a brief refresher: Thanos, who happens to be one of the most powerful villains in the Marvel Comics and films, is bent on saving the universe by wiping out half of its population with the snap of his fingers (no, seriously). After collecting the Infinity Stones which are housed in the Infinity Gauntlet (it's like they went to the Batman school of naming things) Thanos succeeds and half of the universe's population blows away in a cloud of dust. This includes animals, people, aliens, and a whole lot of superheroes (told you it would be brief).

Avengers: Endgame is a three hour epic that sees our heroes trying, once again, to defeat Thanos and reverse the

finger snapping destruction that ended the previous film. But it isn't necessarily the action scenes, the special effects, or even the story (which this movie has plenty of all three) that sets this installment apart from the flooded superhero genre. No, what sets Endgame apart is: this movie has heart.

Don't get me wrong, I love a good superhero throwdown, but seriously, Steve (Captain America), Tony (Iron Man), and Thor (Thor) are going through some deep emotional stuff. Will they make it out of the movie as friends? Will Steve and Tony make up from the deep rift in their relationship that started with Captain America: Civil War? Will our heroes persevere and win the day? Will they all survive? Well, like I said, no spoilers, so you'll have to see it to find out.

What I will end with is this: Endgame is a long movie that does not feel like it's three hour run time. It is an emotional (I may have cried a couple of times... no shame), suspenseful ride and one that, if you've been on it over these last nine years (22 movies!) you will not want to get off. Alas, you must, but don't worry true believers (we miss you Stan) Spider-Man: Far From Home will be out in July to bring on phase four of the MCU.



THE **JAGUAR**
Journal

Newspaper Advisors:
Ms. Kathleen Regan
Mr. Leonard Apa

Jaguar Journal needs:
Writers, Photographers,
and Graphic Artists!

Stop by room
520 for more
information.

By Kristina Donza

It was finally the night, the night I've been waiting for since the first day I had picked up a basketball...the night where I scored my 1,000 career points. Joe Perry Gymnasium was circulating with energy from our fans awaiting for the special moment to happen. Looking around, I was more nervous than ever and the only thought running through my mind was "I cannot let the people that love me down." I was 5 points away from this milestone, anxiously waiting. Game time finally comes and we're all ready for tip off. Without hesitation I shoot a 3 pointer, the first shot of the game, but it rolls off the rim; however we gained possession of the ball and I got fouled resulting in 2 free-throws. Hitting 1 out of the 2 free-throws, my heart was pounding so much I thought it was going to come out of my chest. After a few more possessions of play I receive the ball on the post, positioned on the block, I execute a quick spin and there are 2 more points..only 2 points left to go. After a few more back and forth plays, my moment finally stood before me. My good friend and teammate for about 11 years now, Bianca Giordano, inbounded me the ball and at



that moment I saw a clear path to the basket and I looked my defender in the eyes knowing that she had no idea what was coming. After a few dribbles and a layup, it felt like time stopped while the ball kissed the glass and dropped through the basket. 1000 points.
No words could describe what I was feeling at this moment in time. Joy? Pride? Excitement? As my teammates rushed over to hug me, I looked up in the stands to see my current and past coaches and

trainers, my best friends, and most importantly my family clapping and crying with proud smiles on their faces. The balloons, the banner, the amount of support received, there was nothing else I could have asked for during this everlasting moment. I didn't want it to end, but when it did then it was time to win for my teammates and coaching staff. This is honestly the best sports program that you could be a part of, and there is not a single player or coach that is not locked into our goals and the love and support we have for one another. This moment felt like it lasted forever, and I wouldn't want to experience this milestone as a junior with any other girls by my side.

In the photo: Coach Steph Mason, Coach Brandon Vega, Coach Rachel Goodale, Haydee Donza, John Donza, Ariel Donza, Bianca Giordano, Mackenzie Dakin, Haley Pitlak, Rachel Capua, Allyson Vella, Destiny Phillips, Zoe Holmes, Melody Salguero, Abigail Reist, Amber Williams, Dani Evans, Brooke McKown, Kristina Donza

Golfing is Co-Ed, Too
by Grace Sabine

Coming into JMHS as a freshman and athlete, I pictured myself running track for the next four years. After completing my freshman season, I had realized that although I loved practicing with my teammates each day, the spring track season was not what I wanted to be putting my time into. After much thought and influence from my freshman gym teacher, I decided to go out on a whim and pick up the game of golf over the summer and join the golf team during the spring of my sophomore year. Little did I know that this would completely change the course of my high school experience.
Joining the boy's golf team meant that I would be competing with all boys for matches, and also compete in both boys and girls tournaments each week, taking up every Monday from the end of March to the end of April. All of my time and energy for the past two seasons has been put into balancing the very busy season along with AP and honors courses.

However, the hard work and dedication paid off last year. I received my varsity letter for my first season, as well as payed off this year when I won the Girl's Ocean County Tournament. As my college search goes on, I have also spoken to multiple coaches at different schools, hoping to play the game in college. If someone had told me my freshman year that I would quit track and win a golf tournament, I probably wouldn't have believed them. Reaching out of my comfort zone has opened up new opportunities for myself, and I look forward to continuing the hard work and reaching for more success with years to come.

College Prep Summer
Reading List

- English 1-
Gym Candy
Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie
Solo
Stick Figure: A Diary of my Former Self
- English 2-
The Immortal Henrietta Lacks
The Confession
Fast Food Nation
Long Way Down
- English 3-
Down and Across
Outliers: The Story of Success
The Last Lecture
The Old Man and the Sea
- English 4-
I Am Malala
Behind the Beautiful Forevers
The Alchemist
Enrique's Journey

FOR THE AP AND HONORS LIST SEE THE DISTRICT WEBSITE



Ask Jade

Dear Jade,
I feel like no one understands me or listens to how I feel. Even sometimes I feel like not being here anymore. How can I cope with this?
-Sadness324

Dear Sadness,
Thank you for writing in. Depression is something many people deal with in many different ways. I know my words probably won't help convince you, but just know there is always someone there for you. You have family, friends, even the school's faculty is there for you. There are resources that you can use for help. If you are unsure where to go, I would start with the guidance department, or a teacher you trust. I know it may feel like no one is listening to you, or understanding your feelings, but remember there is always someone who is willing to listen. For me, if I ever feel sad or hurt I try to write down my feelings. This allows me to explore what is bothering me. I also like to spend time with my friends, or do an activity that I love. Whatever brings you happiness should be your focus when you're feeling lost. Your life is so important and precious. If you do feel like you are going to harm yourself please do call this number 1-800-273-8255. Don't make a decision that truly will cost your life.

Good luck,
Jade

Being Well and Aware of your Choices

By Aubrey Stoner

Jag's P.A.W. (Positive Awareness of Wellness), formally known as S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions), is a club about mental health awareness and making good and healthy decisions. It was originally about making smart decisions while driving and its name used to stand for "Students Against Destructive Driving." This club was created because of the destructive decisions that contributed to the tragic deaths of many, including James Volpe, a former student from Jackson Memorial High School who died in a car crash while he was a backseat passenger with two other students. He was a baseball player who was best known for his wit, personality and his love of baseball. James had many future goals, such as attending Kean University in the fall. James had many goals and dreams but was unable to achieve them because of someone's poor decisions.

This club is truly about spreading the awareness of having good mental health, driving safely and overall making smart and healthy decisions. This message is important to high school students as many aren't making the most healthy decisions. Many aren't thinking about the consequences when they choose to smoke, vape, or drink. Once kids realize the risks they are better able to make the right decisions. By being healthy both physically and mentally, you are setting yourself up for success in the short and long term.

Jag's P.A.W. Club meets in the Clayton side of Jackson Memorial High School in room 526. It has around 20 members and meets every Wednesday. Every meeting, we go over upcoming events and how we are going to make an impact on people by showing them the benefits of having a good mental wellbeing. The advisors of this club are Mrs. Kearney and Mrs. Stenta. Jag's P.A.W. is always looking for new members and is continuing to grow as a group and inspire others to take action in their own lives.

Why I Love Working With Children

By Kyra McKeegan

I am an Early Childhood Education student who got the opportunity to work with children in a kindergarten setting. This class was offered to me after I completed the class Living With Children. By getting the chance to observe children and interact with them, I learned a great deal about how important it is to be a guide and an influencer for them; it taught me to be patient and gave me a different perspective of the minds of children. This class is very fun and eye-opening to anyone who may have or is interested in a career relating to children in the future. This class consists of 12 students who travel to the local elementary schools to work and observe the children. We usually get assigned a class to observe over the course of the semester and our goal is to grow bonds and make an impact on those in the classroom. It's a very hands on experience including helping the kids read or count and write numbers. It's a very rewarding program because you get to see how the students have grown and a sense of pride is felt when they reach a goal. Our teacher Mrs. Constanzo is very good at getting us these opportunities and even sharing her personal experiences with children and how they truly teach you new things. I believe that if you are interested in pursuing a job working with children, this is the class for you.

Guns, Swords, and Flags!

By Alexa DiGiovanni

When most students think of a marching band, they associate it with people who play instruments. However, there is a whole different world of the marching band program called the Color Guard. Next time you see the band perform at the halftime football games, focus on the colorful flaps and (fake) weapons being tossed in the air. In the JMHS Color Guard program, you learn how to twirl, toss, and catch a flag, rifle, and saber in ways that seem almost impossible. By being a part of this program you gain a new family and so many beautiful memories.

Each season the number of members varies between 20-30 people. You also become very bonded with all 150 ensemble members. The color guard program at JMHS is open to any grade and no experience is needed to join. At the end of May, there will be new member practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Clayton/Memorial gym so the newbies can learn the basics before the season officially starts in July.

By being a part of this program offers the opportunity to go on so many trips, such as the 2017 Disney Trip and the 2019 Virginia Trip, where you get to spend a few days away from home and perform in front of hundreds. Being in Color Guard not only helps you stay in shape but teaches you valuable things like teamwork and discipline. By involving myself in this program I have met some of my best friends and have enjoyed every minute of each season. The Color Guard director, Miss Espinosa, genuinely loves all of the members and has helped every one of us grow as a person. The staff, students, and parents involved in this program would do anything to see the performers happy.

The overall goal in marching band is to win nationals and states (which was done by our 2017 show called "On a Cold Winters Night") and have a good time while doing it. When trying to achieve this goal we have long and hard practices 3-4 times a week but in the end, it pays off. Being a member of this team has truly made me happier and I can not wait for this upcoming season. Keep an eye out for the new member schedule recently posted and come and join us!

Join the JMHS Lacrosse Team

By Madison Comire

The Jackson Memorial High School lacrosse team is looking for new people to join our team next season. This is a great opportunity to make new friends and to feel a part of something. We all have a great relationship with one another and are always looking to add to our family. We enjoy hanging out together on and off the field. Our season lasts from March Until May and is filled with many scrimmages, games, and practices. Our team is very focused and dedicated but likes to have fun at the same time. We meet everyday in the team room located in Clayton Gym at 2:00. Members are assigned their own lockers to store equipment including a stick, goggles, and a mouth guard. Cleats or sneakers are allowed. We then head out to the field and start our practice on time. We start with a warmup and then run plays and drills throughout the remaining time. We are taught the basic stick skills and to stay in shape. The head coach is Coach Stritzki and assistants are Coaches Cairone, Zarrilli, and Jen. Our team consists of 60 girls from all levels. There is a spot for everyone whether you are playing varsity, jv, or freshman. Last year we were able to make it to the Shore Conference and compete in States. Can't wait to see you next season!

We Just Click!

By Ashley Scellato

For some who may not know, our school has a photography club. What ensues in photography club is quite simple: we share our photos. This year we are taking a different approach than last year. Instead of us receiving projects or being told what to do, Mr. C wants us to have a little more freedom in our work as well as knowledge. Mr. Compitello is the advisor of the club. Most of our club is made up of students that he either has taught this year or years prior. We have more than 15 participants in the club this year.

Our club meets in room 528 after school. We recently just changed our meeting day from Wednesday to Mondays. The goal of photography club is to help educate you on photography, and the skills it takes to take a nice photo. You do not have to be a professional to be in this club, we welcome everyone with open arms. You also don't have to had Mr. Compitello as a teacher to be in the club, you can join with only the love of photography. There are a few benefits to joining this club. The first one is you get practice with public speaking. When we present and show our photos to the club we stand in front of everyone and tell what specks we had set for the photo. Another benefit is you get to be around really good and nice people. Everyone is also very supportive of one another, always complimenting the photos. If you like taking pictures, then give photography club a shot!

Key Club Isn't About Keys

by Holly Buonocore

Despite its name, Key Club is not about opening locks. Key Club is instead about unlocking service, leadership, and character building opportunities for students. It is a nationwide, student-led organization that's part of Kiwanis International. I've been in the club for 3 years and I've found that out of the 50 or so members our club has, very few seem to truly know what Key Club is. Our club makes up one of 9 clubs in our division, Division 8, which is one of 22 in New Jersey. These districts are each led by a lieutenant governor, and the lieutenant governors are led by a district board. While much of the school year is focused around our club, there are also many opportunities for students to attend district wide and statewide events. These events are excellent ways to meet new people from all over the state and form new friendships. It's also a perfect medium for exchanging ideas for new service projects that can be both extremely beneficial, while also being fun.

Some club wide events and service projects that we participate in are "trick of treating" for UNICEF in October, Thanksgiving for the Homeless in November, Breakfast with Santa in December, a "Soup"er Bowl food drive in February, and more. District wide events include volleyball tournaments that raise money for various charities and joint projects with other schools. Statewide events, however, are when it's extremely easy to see just how big Key Club is. These events include Fall Rally in October, where the service year begins over at Great Adventure; Key Leader, a weekend retreat where members learn about what being a service leader means; and District Convention, where awards are given out, elections take place for the following year, and the service year is closed out.

If this sounds like a club you'd be interested in, we meet on Wednesdays in room 224 and are advised by Mr. Pate. We hope to see you there!

Seniors of The Month

Aiden O'Connor

Adriana Ugarte



If I could have dinner with anyone famous, I would have to pick Elon Musk. Being an aerospace engineering major, I would schmooze my way into a cushy job at SpaceX. I would also like to discuss Tesla, and the image it promotes about the future of renewable energy sources. Finally, I would see if he could pay for my college tuition.

May Seniors of the Month:
Alexandra Eichorn (not shown)

June Seniors of the Month:
Joseph Mira III (not shown)



If I were to give advice to one JMHS student it would be to be open minded. I came into Jackson Memorial from another country as a reserved, quiet, and shy girl, as I was preparing to meet new people at JMHS. Joining the tennis team, though, was what truly opened my mind to becoming friends with such distinct people and seeing the vast opportunities ahead of me. Being a part of something here made me feel like I finally belonged somewhere and I was making friends with people who had similar interests as me. To this day, I still remain close friends with those girls from my tennis team and if it weren't from learning to be open minded from them, I would not be the same person that I am now. Being open minded does not only apply to meeting new friends though, it applies to fields of study and interests. Be open minded about what you want to study, Branch out and explore the vast number of subjects that JMHS has to offer whether it be learning comp sci or practicing a foreign language. At such a young age, we can not know for sure what we want to exactly do in the future, but what we can do is be open minded about about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Congratulations!



CLASS OF 2019