

KAMSC's

A large, colorful word cloud centered around school subjects and activities. The words are arranged in a roughly triangular shape, with some words like 'NOTES' and 'JOYCE' appearing in multiple colors. The words include: CRICKET, FORMULA, KALAMAZOO, NOTES, STARWARS, FILM FEST, OPENLAB, CRAMMING, SLOPE, MICROSCOPE, BEAKER, ASTRONOMY, MASS, STUDENTSENATE, POSTULATE, RULER, THETA DUTTON, CLASSCLASH, BIOETHICS, PROOFS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, GRAPHTHEORY, ALGEBRA, TRIGONOMETRY, BOG, JAVA, PENCIL, THEOREM, MATH, LENGTH, CODING, BANS, LOUNGE, GEOLOGY, CALCULUS, EQUATION, LECTURES, MICROSCOPE, TESTTUBE, VINE, CHAPOTON, ALSHEHRI, INGLES, INTEGRATED, MATRIX, THORSTENSON, COMPUTER STUDIES, SCALE, ORGANIC, FOURTHCOAST, GALILEI, HOUTROUW, STEPS, INTEGRATED, NOTES, CALCULATOR, BOOKS, CARDWELL, GEOLGY, GALILEI.

STEPS

Back to School Edition



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Letter From the Editors

Welcome back to KAMSC, a new school year has started once again! Some of us may prefer the relaxed atmosphere of the summer; however seeing our KAMSC family is a great way to help forget about the summer days. We at “84 Steps” want to welcome all of the KAMSC students and faculty. We’ve written this first issue as a greeting to everyone and the school year ahead of us.

This first issue of 84 steps includes a wide variety of articles including some helpful tips on how to survive your school year. Along with these articles, there are also some fun topics such as the top 10 list and teacher survey, which regularly feature in our issues. All three of our editors are current seniors; our editor-in-chief this year is Simran Singh, and our associate editors are Grace Beverage and Jawad Aqeel. Our Junior editor this year will be Lily Kitagawa. Together we hope to continue to produce great issues of “84 Steps” to make you all laugh and forget about the stresses that come with KAMSC.

We wish all of you the best of luck this school year! Make sure to enjoy the year and not get too stressed out. These are the years you will always remember, so live in the moment and create many memories that will last all of you a lifetime. We hope to help share some of these memories that are being created in our issues.

Our website has been updated for the 2015-16 school year! Head over to kamsc84steps.weebly.com for anything related to “84 Steps”! Not only would we love for everyone to stop by our website, we also would love more writers! Everyone is welcome on our “84 Steps” team, so please email us at kamsc84steps@yahoo.com. Happy school year from your 2015-16 “84 Steps” team!

Your Editors,
Simran Singh, Jawad Aqeel, and Grace Beverage



First Year Survey



Simran Singh
Survey

As the summer draws to a close, KAMSC's First Year Orientation marks the beginning of a new school year for the incoming 9th grade class. This year, Orientation was held on August 31st at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. The incoming First Years had the opportunity to meet others in their class, tie dye t-shirts, play games, and ask this year's senior class for advice. The 9th graders also took a quick survey with some fun questions so that we can get to know the incoming class.

1. Which subject are you most looking forward to?

Science: 29 Math: 20 Computer Science: 18

2. What is your preferred operating system?



Windows: 40 Mac: 15 Linux: 1
iOS: 5 Android: 5



3. What is your favorite musical genre?

Rock: 8 Pop: 28 Jazz: 7
Rap: 7 Heavy Metal: 2

Write in Answers included: Classical (5); Alternative (7);
Country (2); Techno (1).



4. What is your favorite biome?

Grassland: 7 Rainforest: 21 Tundra: 11
Desert: 2 Mountains: 25

Write in Answers included: Cornfield (1).



5.What is your favorite language?

English: 54 HTML: 2 C++: 5

Java: 5 Esperanto: 1

Write in Answers included: Russian (1); Pig Latin (1).



6.What's your favorite shape?

Circle: 20 Square: 10 Hexagon: 14

Triangle: 4 Squircle: 17

Write in Answers included: Corn Shape (1); Pyramid (1); Heart (1).

7.How did you feel when you were accepted into KAMSC?

Overjoyed: 35 Invigorated: 7 Scared: 4

Anticipatory: 13 Confused: 5

Write in Answers included: Excited (1); Happy (1);
Tingled (1); Disappointed (1).



8.What would be the best KAMSC mascot?

Calculator: 12 Banana: 29 Flashdrive: 7

Test Tube: 12 Ruler: 4

Write in Answers included: Pig (1); Corn (1);
Tulip (1); Lightning Shark (1).

9.Star Wars or Star Trek?

Star Wars: 54 Star Trek: 14

10. Michigan or Michigan State?

Michigan: 35 Michigan State: 31

Write in Answer included: Texas (1).



How to Survive Your First Year

Finally the distant dream of KAMSC has arrived, and what seemed like something so far away, is now becoming more frightening than ever before. Stories from previous first years talking about stacks of homework, sleepless nights, and

200 multiple choice exams have now become *your* reality, and it is my job to help you become anything other than the stories that have perhaps worried you about your first year. Surviving your first year is not an easy task. It takes dedication, hard work, and a desire to do well and requires you to strive to achieve high goals. Although it may seem like a far-fetched dream to do well and conquer your first year, it is an attainable wish that I hope you will attempt to make come true. Biology, math, and IT, three classes that will make you work harder than you've ever before—yet also teach you how to become a stronger student.



Zoha Aqeel

Advice



Let's start with the class that may be the toughest for most: biology. For me, this class was enjoyable and full of experiences, yet studying for tests was definitely something that took some time to adjust to. Coming into such a rigorous course, many are confused on how to mold their “studying style” into perfection, and I'm still yet to discover what works best for me! Every individual memorizes and focuses in their own way, but biology is a subject that I found only certain studying methods work, in which one of them is simply taking good notes, and studying them. Lots of students would take excellent notes during class writing every detail that our teacher would speak, but only few would take advantage of those notes and study them every night! That is the key to your success, I promise you! Even if not every night, you can create a schedule in which you break your notes apart into small sections, and study a bit every night. This will help you greatly, especially if you find it difficult to memorize material quickly. Another tip that I found helped me, was go straight to the textbook and type up notes from each paragraph, or create a study guide for myself full of questions that would help me in quizzing myself. Sometimes simply reading your notes doesn't help, because it's almost as if you're simply looking the content over instead

of truly making sure you know your notes. By asking yourself questions with the answers not easily accessible—the information is more easily memorized. Along with notes, *make sure* that you pinpoint the vocabulary and nail it down long before each test so you're always ready. Lastly, don't ever forget that your amazing biology teacher is only steps away from you literally waiting to help you at almost every time. Open lab from 6-7:30 every Wednesday is designed for teachers to assist you with understanding material. Before and after open labs, you can find other KAMSC students hanging out at Fourth Coast Café and Bagel Beanery, places you will grow to love over the next few years.

While maintaining your studying habits in biology, you also have to pay attention to and focus on math. While biology may be new, math is a regular—so it helps that it's something you're used too. A major and helpful math tip is just to do as many problems as you can. Study for your tests by doing your homework every night. No matter what math class you start into this year, this will work for all of them. Also, make sure you don't just push aside your homework into a pile of "getting this done." Try to actually understand it and clarify anything complicated to you with your teacher, this will help you not only know that you've understood the content, but feel like you're ready for any tests coming your way.

Lastly, IT with Mr. Cardwell will be a great class for you to get your mind off of all the work you have pending, and keep you busy in the technology KAMSC has for new students to become more familiar with different programs on the computer. This is not a class to stress about, but to enjoy. Mr. Cardwell is really a great teacher and makes this class relaxing, yet entertaining at the same time. It's definitely a highlight of your first year.

Along with these tips all I can say, is don't just read these tips but USE THEM! Even though it may be impossible to not procrastinate once or twice, just make your life easier and listen to me! I wouldn't be giving you this advice if I didn't think it wasn't helpful for you. Although the year may be stressful at times, alleviate it with your wonderful KAMSC peers that are going through this with you—and use this as a study tool as well as a stress reliever. KAMSC truly becomes your family if you choose to make it a beneficial experience.



How to Survive Your Sophomore Year

So you're ready to take on sophomore year. You're not the youngest anymore and you're comfortable, settled in with your schedule, teachers, and friends. Armed with a pencil case full of highlighters, extra 0.7 mm lead, and colorful pens, what could possibly go wrong? After all, you know how this

works now, right? Well, maybe. Because as much as you've already learned last year, this year will push you to grow even more. Here are my tips on how to survive (and even thrive in) sophomore year:

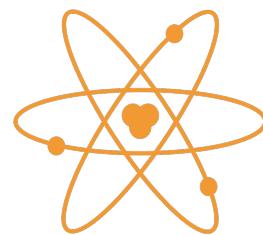
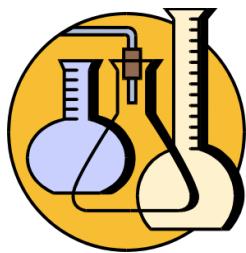
- Just do the USACO problems. They help so much and are even fun sometimes.
- Take the research test seriously. I cannot even begin to express how much harder it is than the 9th grade one.
- Do the assigned chemistry readings. I know how easy it is to fall into the habit of just skipping readings when you have other homework waiting, but the readings were assigned for a reason. They're important.
- Find what works for you. I know this has been said before, but I can't tell you what to do. *You* have to find what works for you. For some, hundreds of Quizlet cards do the trick; for others it's color-coded notes. Find your most efficient way of studying and stick to it.
- Don't waste time. I'm not just talking about procrastination (which is also an important thing to avoid, though sometimes the appeal is irresistible). I'm talking about making use of those little 20-minute nooks and crannies in your day. You know, between cross country practice and rehearsal for the musical, when you normally just pull out your phone and send Snapchats because "there's not enough time to pull all your stuff out anyway". There is enough time. Use it well.
- Along that line, before you start driving on your own, the car is a great place to work if you don't get carsick.
- Have fun! Remember that school isn't everything. If you get a bad grade, pick up and move on. Take time to step back; don't get caught up in the small things. Make time to relax and spend time with friends. Don't isolate yourself because you're stressed or have a big test coming up. Because in 10 years, it won't matter what you got on that one math test. What will matter is the kind of person you were and the effort you put in each and every day.

I know you have it in you to excel this year and I hope you enjoy every minute!



Lily Kitagawa

Advice



How to Survive Your Junior Year

Congratulations! At this point, you've survived two years of high school and you're moving up in the world as an upper class person. Junior year is one of the most difficult and important years academically, and it's imperative that you push through. It's one of the biggest shots you have to form good relationships with teachers, get awesome grades, and really show college admission counselors what you've got.

The key to success for this year is time management. Time management is the key to success every year, but this year, it's the super duper golden key. Don't procrastinate because as a junior, this will seriously come back and bite you; no one wants to stay up until 2 A.M. doing math homework and finishing a physics lab report. The material isn't necessarily more difficult than previous years; however, there are more concepts to learn in your classes, which is why time management is essential. In order to finish all of your work, study for tests, and have enough time to do all of your daily activities, time management is crucial and figuring out when you have time to do homework and study will truly help out. Plus, teachers will generally give homework and test dates at the beginning of the week, letting you plan out everything you need.

There are two major advantages to having KAMSC in the afternoon: meeting with teachers and having seniors for guidance. If you're struggling in class or have a question for your teacher, a prime time to go ask is either before classes start or after KAMSC is out. Many of your teachers are more than happy to stay after KAMSC to let students study in their room and finish homework. And if you're unable to make either of these times, just pop in at Open Lab and the teachers will gladly help you. It's important this year to keep up with content! If you don't understand something, take some time with your teachers to catch up. The other good thing about afternoon classes would be help from the seniors. Seniors totally get where you're coming from, considering that they were in that same spot last year. They are also willing to pitch in if you need some last minute help, and they're also good options for tutors. If you're struggling, don't be afraid to ask, whether it be from your teachers or other students.

Junior year can be stressful, and everyone has a meltdown now and then. When it happens, take a break from your work. Sometimes, finishing that homework assignment is less important than getting an hour of sleep before the next day of school (but this doesn't mean you should skip homework every night to sleep at 10pm). Be honest with your teachers and they'll understand; it's an overwhelming year! Just keep chugging along one day at a time and you'll be alright. You'll do just fine in your math, physics, and elective classes.

Best of luck to you this year, and in the famous words of General Dodonna from *Star Wars*: May the Force be with you.

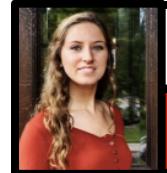


Boemin Park

Advice

How to Survive Your Senior Year

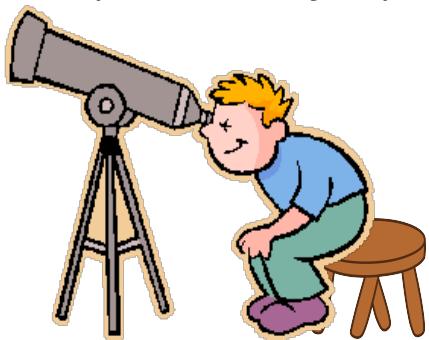
You've made it! Finally, you are just inches from the big, 12-year goal: graduation! Senior year is a whirlwind of happiness, bittersweetness, sadness, and so much more. So here are a few tips to get you through your final year at good, ol' KAMSC.



Colby Hanley

Advice

1. Cherish the people around you right now. You and your peers will be moving on to do great things in every corner of the country and even around the world after this year. So, of course, do your best in your college applications and your schoolwork, but also spend as much time as possible with your loved ones. Go to that hangout in your friend's basement, make dinner with your parent(s) one night, go watch a movie with your sibling. Because soon enough, those people might not be so close by.
2. Don't focus on the "what if"s. With college applications comes college applications stress. The "what If" game can become a natural reaction to college decisions you don't like, regretting not studying for that one bio test, wishing you had joined that one sports team. But what all KAMSC seniors need to remember is that you are becoming amazing, inspiring adults, scholars, and members of society. No matter what school you go to, or your ACT score or your GPA, you have truly done your personal best and acceptance is very important.



3. Take the opportunities that are thrown at you. Go to the Friday night football games, attend all of the KAMSC dances that you possibly can, get dressed up for Winter Formal. Even though some of this stuff might be starting to feel a little old, you don't want to look back and regret missing awesome high school activities!

4. Put your time management skills to work this year. It is the craziest year of high school by far. Sure, you might have an “easier” schedule than you did junior year, but there are many other aspects of life to balance now. DO NOT be the kid who finishes their CommonApp essays the night before they’re due (I have friends who did this and, believe me, there was some crying), don’t keep that advanced physics homework until 11:30 at night, but also don’t drop all of your extracurricular because of the stress of college and schoolwork. Continuing the KAMSC tradition of excellent time-management is key as senior year throws more at you than you’ve ever seen before. Try to be your best person, and try to be your best, non-procrastinating person.
5. Try your best not to get bogged down by everything you have to do. Persevere through the late-night math problems or the countless computer programs you have to write. Write those 20 college essays. In the end, it is all worth it and you will be a better person and student because of it.
6. Last, but not least, just enjoy yourself! Take chances, seize the moment, appreciate the people you love and the awesomeness that is KAMSC. When you’re finally done with school at this amazing place, don’t forget to stop by once in a while, walk up those 84 steps, and reminisce on your



Student Senate News



Grace Beverage

Update

New to KAMSC? Looking for a way to be involved in the KAMSC community?

Senate wants you!

After a successful 2014-2015 calendar, KAMSC Student Senate is excited to start a fresh year with new KAMSC students. For those unfamiliar with KAMSC Student Senate, we are a student run organization at KAMSC that plans a variety of social and charitable events throughout the school year. Senate is proud to continue long standing traditions, such as our spring and fall dances, and class clash. We are also excited to host the most anticipated social event of the year: the 15th annual Sci-Fi Film Fest, an all-night movie lock-in featuring the year's most atrocious flicks. New this year, Senate will run a spring book drive in the same spirit of our holiday food drive.

If you are excited to be a part of this busy Senate calendar, we are happy to invite any KAMSC student to plan, attend, or otherwise contribute to Senate events! Meetings are held Wednesday nights at 7:30 (after open lab) in Mr. Sinclair's physics classroom. In our first meeting we will start planning for class clash, explain the process of running for 9th grade representative, and eat Sweetwater's doughnuts. If you are unable to regularly attend meetings, keeping in touch with me (gracedrink@gmail.com) or other Senate leaders is a great way to be involved in planning and volunteering.

Best of luck to everyone in a new school year!

-Grace Beverage

2015-16 Officer Positions

President: Grace Beverage

Vice Presidents: Gerrit Rummel and Simran Singh

Treasurer: Jawad Aqeel

Secretary: Maggie Benjamin

Senior Representative: Benjamin Behrens

Junior Representative: Danielle Janowicz

Top 10 Things KAMSC Kids Did During the Summer



Ben Behrens

Top 10

1. Binge watch shows on Netflix. Come on, we all know you did it!
2. Yell at the back to school commercials that started halfway into summer. Did they really need to keep reminding us?
3. Get the heck out of Michigan and go somewhere more interesting.
4. Practice for fall sports.
5. Laugh at the people who had to practice for fall sports because they all have a farmers tan.
6. Catch up on all the sleep you lost in the last school year.
7. Come up with reasons to not be productive. College Apps aren't due until Halloween, that's plenty of time. Summer reading can just be Sparknotated, right?
8. Do USACOS and continue your path to becoming a Code Warrior.
9. Answer endless questions about your future every time you see a new adult.
10. Meet up with friends and enjoy the summertime before homework has a chance to consume your life.



Simran Singh

Events

Happenings Around Kalamazoo

- Sept. 8 – Stroller Stroll, Kalamazoo Nature Center
- Sept. 9 – Birds and Coffee Walk, W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary
- Sept. 11 – Gazelle Sports Historic Walk, Downtown Kalamazoo
- Sept. 11 – Bronco Bash, Western Michigan University
- Sept. 11 – Kalamazoo Astronomical Society’s “Clash in the Autumn Sky”, KAMSC
- Sept. 12 - 31st Annual Peacock Strut, Celery Flats
- Sept. 13 – Princess Tea Party, Henderson Castle
- Sept. 18-20 – Kalamazoo Balloon Fest, Gull Meadow Farms
- Sept. 19 – Kalamazoo Water Festival, Riverview Launch
- Sept. 26 – 3rd Annual Ultimate Extreme Ultra Point 1K, Downtown Kalamazoo
- Sept. 27 – Bronson Children’s Hospital Walk & Run, Bronson Methodist Hospital
- Oct. 3 – Fall Stamp & Cover Show, Kalamazoo County Expo Center



Now vs. February



At the beginning of the school year, life is more hectic than in summer, but not at all unmanageable. So appreciate the beginning of the school year, because come mid-February, your daily routine will not be so breezy.



Grace Beverage

Comparison

	Now	February
Waking Up:	I may want to sleep, but this crisp early fall air and the promise of new adventures bid me awake!	There hasn't been fresh air in my room for a month. My head perpetually aches.
Going outside:	What a beautiful day!	Everything outside is grey.
Driving:	OMGGGG IT'S ALMOST FALLL LOOK AT THE LEAVES!!!!	I'M SLIDDING I'M SLIDDING THIS IS HOW IT ENDS...
1 st hour:	*yawns with a smile*	*yawns like a wounded bear*
2 nd hour:	Isn't it just fascinating how words in different languages are defined and related to each other differently which comes to shape the ideas of the speaker...	Wait did I not finish the homework worksheet? Oh no, she's collecting them!
3 rd hour:	A movie in class? This will be boring, better take some thorough notes though.	A MOVIE IN CLASS?! Is this a gift from above?
Lunch:	I think I packed all five food groups today...	I deserve to drink coffee with whatever meals I want to drink coffee with.
KAMSC Friends:	Hey guys, what's up?	I know I have bags under my eyes don't say anything.
Math:	$a^2+b^2=c^2$!	Maxwell's equations looked prettier without proofs.
Science:	I read the whole chapter!	It was utterly incomprehensible.
Computing:	My screen says "Hello world"!	If I stare into my screen it seems to be vibrating...
After school:	Homework: 1 hour Eating: 30 minutes Family: 1 hour Internet: 1 hour	Homework: 4 hours Eating: 15 minutes Family: 20 minutes Internet: 1 hour
Sleep:	10:30 seems a little early to hit the hay, but why not.	If I focus and work quickly, I can get a tight 5 hours of sleep in. Only 4 months left.

Teacher Fun Facts



Maggie Benjamin

Fun Facts

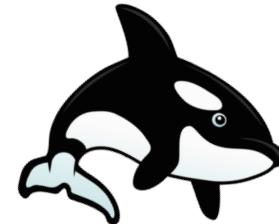
1. What is your favorite mythical creature?

Mr. Cardwell: Gandalf the White.

Mr. Houtrouw: Medusa.

Mr. Sinclair: Dragons. Dragons are awesome.

Mrs. Kalnins: Gnomes.



2. What is the coolest thing you did this summer?

Mr. Cardwell: Watched “Interstellar” with Mr. Sinclair and my nerdy brother-in-law, who kept stopping the movie to ask questions.

Mr. Houtrouw: CS4HS.

Mr. Sinclair: Watched the Ashes cricket series live streaming (England defeated Australia).

Mrs. Kalnins: I spent a lot of time in Leelanau Peninsula this summer with family and friends.

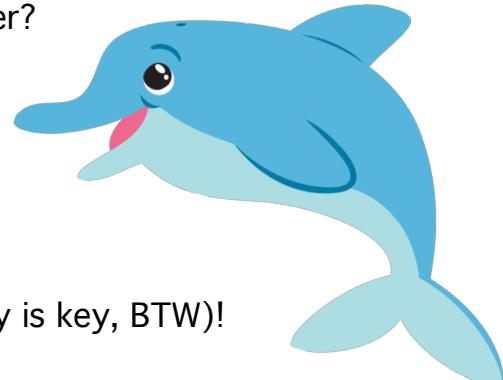
7. What is your favorite animal that lives in the water?

Mr. Cardwell: Giant squid.

Mr. Houtrouw: Dolphin.

Mr. Sinclair: Killer whale.

Mrs. Kalnins: Dolphin.



8. Do you prefer peanut butter or Nutella?

Mr. Cardwell: Both together, or course (crunchy is key, BTW)!

Mr. Houtrouw: PB.

Mr. Sinclair: Peanut butter.

Mrs. Kalnins: Nutella.

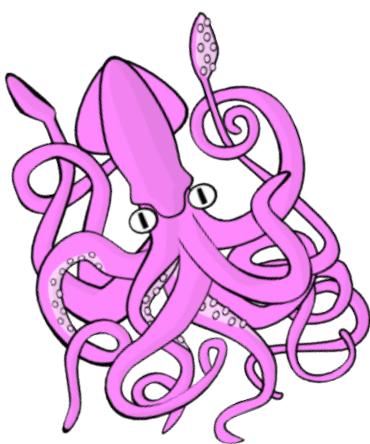
5. Do you like chunky or smooth peanut butter better?

Mr. Cardwell: Big time crunchy. Not even close.

Mr. Houtrouw: Both.

Mr. Sinclair: Smooth and creamy peanut butter.

Mrs. Kalnins: Chunky.



6. Did you do any sports in high school? If so, what sports?

Mr. Cardwell: Wrestling, baseball, cross-country, track & field.

Mr. Houtrouw: CC.

Mr. Sinclair: Yes. A little baseball and cross-country.

Mrs. Kalnins: Volleyball.

7. What is your favorite quote?

Mr. Cardwell: “Two roads diverged in a wood and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference”– Robert Frost.

Mr. Houtrouw: “REDRUM!”

Mr. Sinclair: “All science is either physics or stamp collecting.” Ernest Rutherford

Mrs. Kalnins: I actually have many. I chose this one from Albert Einstein:

“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.” My mother had a slightly different version of the quote: “Only lazy people don’t make any mistakes”. I reminded her of that when I broke a window, while I was cleaning it and also when I shrunk her favorite angora sweater.

8. What is your favorite part about coming back to school?

Mr. Cardwell: Seeing students.

Mr. Houtrouw: Students.

Mr. Sinclair: The thrill of a new year and meeting my students.

Mrs. Kalnins: Seeing all the students and my colleagues.

9. Do you have a Netflix account?

Mr. Cardwell: Yes, but maybe not for much longer.

Mr. Houtrouw: Yes.

Mr. Sinclair: Sort of; I use my daughter’s account.

Mrs. Kalnins: Yes.

10. Who is your favorite SpongeBob character?

Mr. Cardwell: Ernest Borgnine (guest starred several times)

Mr. Houtrouw: Not

Mr. Sinclair: Mr. Krabs.





Grace Beverage

Advice

Dear Grace...

We all know getting through the school year can be tough, and some dilemmas need a second opinion. Submit any of your questions, qualms or queries to 'Ask Grace' at kamsc84steps@yahoo.com for anonymous & amateur advice. Questions are also accepted in the form of sealed letters quietly slid across tables, no questions asked.

Dear Grace,

I'm a first year and I think I like it here at KAMSC. There's just one issue: some of the kids in my grade are weird. This is not to say that I don't like them – but they're strange. They all have very unique senses of style, humor, and self. Frankly I was expecting more people here to be just like me. Is this normal?

Sincerely,

Immediate Idiosyncrasies

Dear Immediate Idiosyncrasies,

When I first came to KAMSC I had no idea what to expect, and quickly found that the greater Kalamazoo area offers up a lot more diversity than my middle school years led me to believe. Learn to appreciate all of your peers, because while they may seem like dorks now, in a few short years they will be the leading role of a musical, go D1 on a sports scholarship or even tutor you through calculus. Be proud of your KAMSC friends and above all be respectful of everyone you meet here. Over the next four years your peers will be some of your greatest assets.

Sincerely,

Grace



Dear Grace,

Over the summer I've gotten in a really bad habit of taking three hour mid-day naps every day, sometimes twice a day. Most of the time I don't even get in bed, I just lay down in some part of my house and sleep. When I'm spending six hours at home doing essentially nothing it doesn't particularly matter that I'm comatose, but I'm worried that this excessive sleepiness may follow me into the school year. What should I do?

Sincerely,

Nearly Narcoleptic Napper

Dear Nearly Narcoleptic Napper,

Hopefully all this sleepiness can be attributed to catching up on lost hours from last school year, or maybe to the hot and hazy summer days. Either way, this is one vice that can't be carried too far into September. While KAMSC teachers understand the importance of a good night's rest, they don't take too kindly to sleeping through class, or when homework isn't completed on account of beauty rest. I recommend coffee for a morning boost, with cold water and gum to keep you awake through class. Eating a lighter lunch also helps avoid the food-coma feeling. Start building your sleeplessness endurance now, because you'll need it, come second semester.

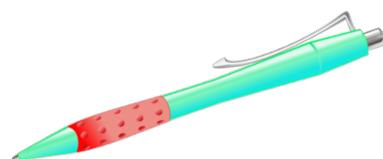
Sincerely,
Grace



Dear Grace,

I'm at a crossroads in my life, and it's not the mall. After years of being stuck with the same, I think I've found something new that might be a good change for me. Let's just say someone has presented me with a lucrative offer, and as much as I would hate to hurt anyone I feel compelled to take a risk. A new school year feels like the perfect opportunity for a fresh start. I know I've been beating around the bush, but there's never a comfortable way to ask controversial questions: should I switch my Bic Gel Ink pens for Papermate Flair?

Sincerely,
DePENDING on You



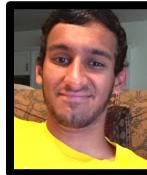
Dear DePENDING,

There are times to branch out, and times to stick with what has been true to you. In the case of Bic® gel ink pens vs. Papermate® flair, this choice is as delicate as ever. My advice is to make a pros and cons list with twenty items on each side, and then assign each reason a point value 1-5 depending on how important it feels to you. Remember to be honest with yourself. Once you're done total up the points for each decision, and the pen with the higher score wins. Be respectful of each pen set, and no matter what happens keep a strong working relationship Ticonderoga® for emergency writing needs.

Sincerely,
Grace



Sports Corner



Jawad Aqeel

Sports

Kento Hirakawa

A new school year has finally started after a long summer; however, the work for student athletes in fall sports has already started. Football players have already played their first game, cross country runners have participated in several meets, and volleyball players have been bumping and setting for close to a month. Tennis is no different and student athletes within this sport have also participated in several matches as well. Among these players is current KAMSC senior Kento Hirakawa, and his season has started off with a bang as he is undefeated through 4 matches.

Kento has played tennis since the age of 10 years old. He states he only started in order to beat his brother. He was so dedicated towards achieving this goal that he quit both baseball and soccer, which were two sports he was very skilled at (he once threw a perfect game in little league). At the age of 12, Kento won his first tennis tournament and the rest is history. He continued to practice in order to better himself and was able to win several more tournaments in the following few years, but he still couldn't beat his older brother. Kento states, "It was frustrating to lose to my brother, but it really helped me become a better player." This frustration was finally put to an end in eighth grade when he was able to beat his brother for the first time, and ever since then he has had no problem doing so.

Having finally beat his brother, Kento's next goal was to play on Varsity for Portage Central. He achieved this in his first year of high school and played at the two doubles spot. Kento had a great first year, only losing a couple times, and he and his partner even made a run in the state tournament to the semifinals. The next year, Kento made a switch from doubles to singles. This change had no effect on him, as he again only lost two matches at the two singles position and had a solid run at states. Junior year, Kento played singles and played even better. He lost only once during the season; however, he got injured during the state tournament in the quarterfinals and lost in a very close match.

In this new season, Kento has made the switch back to doubles and is playing at the one doubles position. His year has started greatly as he is undefeated through his first handful of matches. In one of these matches, he had even won a match without losing a single point! This is Kento's final high school season, and when talking to Kento about this following year of tennis he said, "I hope I can finally win a state championship this year, it would be a great way to end my competitive play in tennis."



Book Review

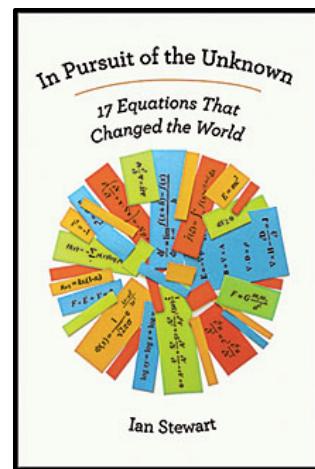


Lily Kitagawa

Review

During a blissful summer filled with day trips to South Haven spent bumming on the beach, late-night concerts by a favorite artist, *Harry Potter* binge-reading sessions, and the numerous other incredible summer pastimes, the only relevant equation was no school + beautiful weather = happy person. But, as the school starts back up and the air turns chilly, this equation starts to break down. Without the leisurely sunny days, it proves useless. Don't prematurely dismiss all equations as nearly as evil as alarm clocks set for 6:30, though. In fact, equations shape every aspect of life, unbeknownst to most. Ian Stewart shows just how interesting equations can be in his book, *In Pursuit of the Unknown: 17 Equations that Changed the World*.

Throughout *In Pursuit of the Unknown*, Ian Stewart takes readers on a tour of the equations that have been most fundamental in shaping human history. He devotes a chapter each to: Pythagoras' Theorem, logarithms, calculus, Newton's Law of Gravity, $i (\sqrt{-1})$, Euler's formula for polyhedral, the normal distribution, the wave equation, the Fourier transform, the Navier-Stokes equation, Maxwell's equations, the second law of thermodynamics, relativity ($e = mc^2$), Schrodinger's wave equation, information theory, chaos theory, and the Black-Scholes equation. Each chapter is a brilliant mixture of historical tidbits, trivia, mathematical explanation, and applications to everyday life packed into a concise package of around 20 pages. One of the best aspects of *In Pursuit of the Unknown* is the author's incredible ability to walk readers through mathematical topics, making even the most complex concepts accessible to all. Even those with no math experience beyond middle school would have no trouble comprehending the highlighted equations, ranging from simple geometry in a right triangle to the partial differential equations of multivariable calculus; Stewart is a fabulous teacher and elucidates each thoroughly. Another appealing aspect is the holistic review of the equations. Stewart does not simply explain each mathematically before plowing on to the next; instead, he creates little vignettes, windows into history and the mathematical and scientific world at the time of the equation's beginnings. Thus, math nerds and history buffs alike can find a little something to love in *In Pursuit of the Unknown*. In his delightful, informative, and accessible book, Ian Stewart provides clear explanations for otherwise difficult concepts and strikes the perfect balance between history and mathematics to produce a unique experience that shows just how important equations are in everyday life. It might even change your mind about those confounded equations (or at least make you appreciate them a bit more).



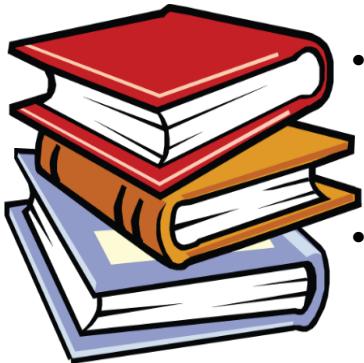
Funny Quotes



Boemin Park

Quotes

- "When you're in a country that's on the metric system 😍 " "Ben, you're in Canada." - Ben Beach, PN Senior, and Simran Singh, PC Senior
- "I named my violin Isaac after Newton!" - Boemin Park, PN Senior
- "I am never going to forget about leg day because of the KAMSC steps." - Gerrit Rummel, PN Junior
- "I thought I'd stop drowning in school work once the school year ended...but now I'm dying in summer homework." - Liya Jin, PC Sophomore
- "When people tweet about stressing about college apps, it just stresses me out." - Simran Singh, PC Senior



- "Thanks to KAMSC book club, whenever someone smells good I think, 'We must have very dissimilar immune systems.'" - Grace Beverage, PC Senior
- "After a week at KAMSC camp, I can say that the lab reports aren't too bad, but the stairs are the worst part." - Gwendolyn Park, PN first year

- "When I was in England, I got to see Newton's textbooks and Trinity College's library, and just to spite his spirit, I went to the store afterwards to buy chocolate cookies called "Choco Leibniz." - XingXing Nordmoe, LN Senior

- "Why do the Tigers lose every time I go to Comerica Park? What's with that? Schrodinger clearly showed a 50/50 probability for a win." - Mr. Sinclair, KAMSC physics teacher



- "Have you started your excerpts yet?" "Sodium." "What?" "Na." - Boemin Park, PN Senior, and XingXing Nordmoe, LN Senior

- "The University of Michigan segway campus tours are all filled up and I am distraught." - Grace Beverage, PC Senior

- "I'm about to use a magnetic stir plate to make some bomb rice pudding later." - Ava Wood, LN Junior

The 84 Steps Team

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Junior Editor

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