



BALANCING LIFE AT AMERICAN STUDIES By J. Alexander('10)

Attending the 29th best high school in America can be difficult, and many of us tend to deal with the work load differently. Aside from physical education, health class or electives, a typical student's schedule is made up of honors or advanced placement courses. For many of us, this was a drastic change from our past middle school lives. *Common Sense* reports.

We're almost done with October and our minds are engaged in an academic mode. Obviously our academic game is up there, the ranking doesn't lie, but how do our social lives balance out? Do most of us even have time for one?

Some students manage to maintain a good balance between their academic and social life.

For most freshmen, this is relatively easy because the work is not that difficult yet. But several are still adjusting to the change in workload.

For upper grades, this was the time when some of them learned a new verb: *to study*.

Apparently the freshmen class



Picture staged by Jemaal Alexander('10)

Z. Jones('10) mixes sleep, studying, and texting with some success.

this year is doing a better job at managing their new workload. Lili Gelfand('13) told this *Common Sense* reporter that she is able to manage both her social life and academics well, and even has time to hang out with new friends on weekends.

This reporter thought this whole "managing academics and social lives well" was just a myth. But maybe it's only something underclassmen are good at doing.

When asked how American Studies has affected his social life, Alex Miller('12) felt angered and replied "I can't do anything...sometimes. I get crazy amounts of homework."

Not all underclassmen do a good job at balancing school work and social duties.

According to Hallie Marx('11), because of our school's family like setting, she has become "more
(Continued on page 2)

HALLOWEEN ON A SATURDAY

By K. Martinez('11)

The time has come once again for all boys and girls to celebrate that little understood holiday Halloween. Though most things haven't changed, female costumes have year by year began to focus more on seduction than scare. *Common Sense* investigates.

In a survey done in HSAS, most students seem not to really care about this. The only students that had problems with this are a few of the female students.

Ruona Ughwanogho('10) wrote "they are slutty and don't display any creativity."

The trend of the popular costumes may eventually lead to the banning of Halloween costumes in school a few years from now. This won't affect the seniors or juniors of HSAS, but the freshmen or sophomores may see this occur before they graduate. Some protective parents may also have a challenge dealing with their kids' costume choices.

This year, Halloween falls on
(Continued on page 2)

HSAS PRE-WEISS REMEMBERED

By Rene Cardona('10)

To the surprise of many, HSAS had a principal before our beloved Alessandro Weiss. Mr. Weiss became principal in 2006 when the current seniors were entering frosh students. The majority of students in HSAS did not get a chance to meet Myra Luftman, but many had something to say about her.

Jahaira Flores('10) was one of the only remaining students at HSAS to have met Ms. Luftman. When asked, she said "when I met her, she was really nice, but from what I've heard from other people, Mr. Weiss is better." She did not back this statement up with any details.

However, many were not sure what to believe about Ms. Luftman, as most hadn't heard much about the school's first principal. She was famous for her one-on-one meetings with small groups of freshmen at pizza lunches, and she ran a tight ship.

Officer Castro said: "Everyone has a different style of management. She was a good principal, but when she left, we received another good Principal."

(Continued on page 2)

NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE PROCESS

By Vlad Barbu('10)

The college process . . . it's the one thing that's on the mind of every single senior. It may be the most dreaded thing that any senior, junior, sophomore, or freshman will ever have to do. Every senior knows how much work there is to be done for the college process, and how annoying it can get. *Common Sense* exposes this process and its pitfalls.

When Rene Cardona('10) was asked what he would give to bypass the college process and just go straight to college, he told *Common Sense*, "I'd give my soul, in a plastic bag!"

It's clear that nobody wants to deal with the college process, yet we have no choice but to participate, unless we enlist in the military.

As bad as the college process may be, we do receive a substantial amount of help from our beloved guidance counselors.

Ms. Wise herself even admitted that: "It's a very stressful time, for all of us, which is why we have a very well thought out process." So, we (the students) aren't just left to suffer on our own. Ms. Wise, Ms. Harris, and often even teachers help us with the process.



Photo staged by V. Barbu('10)

A. Emmanuelli('10) searches for the light at the end of the tunnel.

Fortunately the college process isn't something that's a huge surprise when we enter our senior year. Most students start hearing about the college process fairly early. John Beltrez('12) admits to this by answering, "a little bit," when he was asked whether or not he's scared about the college process.

When Jonah Eastzer('13) was asked if he knew anything about the college process, he responded with: "Well, I keep hearing there's lots of papers involved."

As juniors we're told enough about the college application

process to get a pretty early start.

When Alyssa Molloy('11) was asked if she had started thinking about the college process yet, she answered, "not really," then paused and said "well, sort of."

Many students don't really begin to think about the college process until later in their junior year. Yet there are many informative meetings that the guidance counselors set up for juniors.

Really, we can begin the college process as early as mid-second-semester junior year.

As long and strenuous as the
(Continued on page 2)