

TIME ZONES AT HSAS... *Continued from page 1*

I was mad tight when this happened again at 2:41. It was the longest period ever...and I slept through it."

There are many with similar stories.

Andre Vogel('13) recalls that in a class of his, "it feels (like) an entire hour has passed, and it turns out to have only been a minute."

Some students such as Zach Jones('10) attempt to pass the time by other means.

"Z-money," as Zach is known to a few, stated: "I happen to have a clock on my phone and once, according to my phone, 15 minutes had passed but when I looked at the clock only 4 minutes had actually passed."

To avoid instances such as this, Zach and many other students attempt to go to the bathroom regularly, to use up class time.

Zach, an experienced clock-watcher, recommends that each student try to use the restroom facilities at least once a period.

But even this has failed.

Zach stated that "another time, I went to the bathroom to escape at 10:45 and came back it was 10:43!!!" He later left the classroom with a feeling that

"teachers mess with the clocks."

Jake Karpin('10) felt the need to put his two cents in when he shared "I think the clocks are run by *menehune* whipped by the school administration."

Lennox Degrasse('11) thinks that the clocks at our school go the slowest he's ever seen.

"I've seen the clock stop for at least 10 seconds before...and I wasn't the only one to notice."

He continued to state that "Mr. Mansdorf has buttons under his podium that control the clock."

When questioned on the legitimacy of this claim, Mr. Mansdorf did not deny it and said that his job "is to make sure young students don't have any free time. It always amazes me how kids can just sit there and stare into space."

Regardless of whether or not Mansdorf spoke the truth, it is evident that clocks in our school have a mind of their own. We as students have no choice but to find away to battle this dilemma; whether that means escaping the room or somehow fixing the clocks.

Or, perhaps we can focus and use our time in school to better master the subjects we are taught. ☞



Z. Jones('10) questions the accuracy of the school's clocks.

SPECIALIZED SEATS... *Continued from page 1*

saying "it was an annoying test. I took test prep for it, but I regretted it because it was so boring."

When asked to describe his experiences on test day, Charlie Cohen('11) recalled "I woke up early, went to Stuyvesant, and saw my friend Jesse James. I remember feeling confident about the test, and I gave my mom a high five when I got out."

Sabin Lisov('10) was able to give a slightly different perspective on the test because he took it as a freshman and entered HSAS as a sophomore. When asked about the ninth grade

version, Sabin responded, "It was easier than in 8th grade."

When asked about her feelings towards the SHSAT, guidance counselor Ms. Wise told *Common Sense*: "It's a very big test for a young student."

Ms. Wise also mentioned that the test has been around since the 1930s, and will continue to be the acceptance criteria for many years to come.

Two faculty members are graduates of a specialized high school, yet this reporter could not identify them to ask them their feelings on the exam. ☞



Seniors plead poverty when it comes to funding their entertainment.

SENIORS TRIPPING ON DETAILS... *Continued from page 1*

in suspense if they are going to find out that there may not be a senior trip.

This is because the majority of us know that HSAS cannot support a senior overnight trip as it does for sophomores and frosh students. No high school that this reporter could find provides that kind of generosity so the limitation placed upon seniors is more than expected.

The class of '09 failed to go on an overnight trip as they had neat ideas but believed others should pay for their good time. They instead attended two great single day trips at reasonable rates.

Seniors recall that Senior Class advisor Paula Fiore said something along the lines of if seniors want to go on a fun trip, it costs a whole lot of money. That's true. For an overnight trip, the buses, hotel costs, food, and events have to be

covered.

Mathew Cocco('13) says that if he were a senior and was unsure of whether he would go on a trip planned by his class, he would be "nervous, devastated, and a little ticked off."

While there may be underclassmen that contribute to fundraising, many believe a majority of the money should be coming from the seniors, because it's their trip.

**"Go somewhere where you can chill, hang out and have fun."
-Lenox Degrasse('11)**

If the seniors cannot accomplish an overnight trip, there is a day trip planned. But that's only one day.

There are few day trips that are more favorable than overnight ones. Lennox Degrasse('11) couldn't have said it better when he told *Common Sense*: "As seniors you guys have to

TALENT SHOW...

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been trying to participate in the show since he heard about it, shared "I'd like to get in the talent show just 'cause I like to play music, I guess." The prize is not his motivation.

Matthew Cocco('13), stated that he wants to be in the Talent Show "... just for the fun of it."

Maybe it's about the recognition you receive on being more talented than the other people who participate, and being known for your skill.

That just might be the reward in itself. *Common Sense* accepts this response, for now.

TECH AT HSAS

By Vlad Barbu('10)

It's not always easy to stay awake and pay attention in class, trying to listen to the teacher talk about why Blanche Dubois was so messed up, or what $\sqrt{(2x + \frac{2}{3}x^n)(7y^m)}$ equals, or even how Napoleon became a powerful dictator when he was only 5'6".

We've all dozed off, fallen asleep, or simply started to daydream and ponder things. *Common Sense* investigates whether technology can reignite student interest and why it has not been used by more teachers.

Yet as much daydreaming and pondering as there may be, no one ever seems to wonder about all of the tech equipment in our school.

Lili Gelfend('13) responded with, "not really," when asked if she ever wonders about the tech in our school.

Nina Gershonowitz('12) was asked the same question and said, "... no, I don't ever wonder."

And so the questions arise. Is the technology in our school really that important? Why is there so much technology in our school? Is the tech ever used? Is there even really that much tech? In search of the answers to these questions, the investigation begins.

There are at least four computers per classroom.

Every teacher has one desktop connected to an overhead projector.

Room 119 has eight desktop computers, and a cart of Mac book Pros. There are also a ceiling projector and smart board in many rooms. *(Continued on page 3)*



valued we are in this facility.

In general, students at HSAS are well behaved and cause no problems for the authorities. Yet, campus safety officers have frequent run-ins with our students.

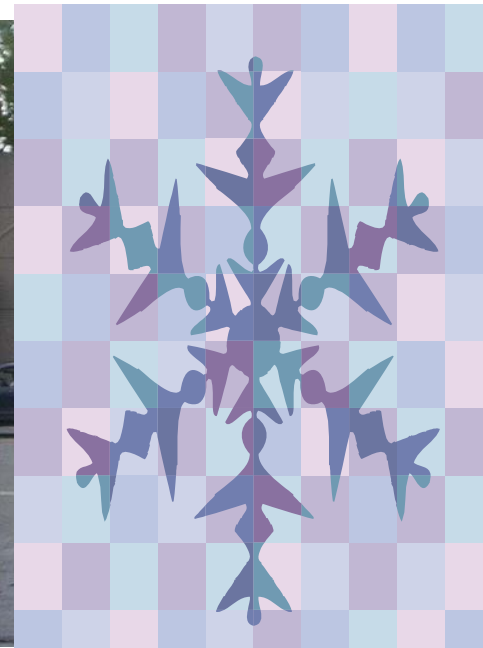
"I remember last year when it was four of us in Gillette Hall's tunnel," Ariana Solis('10) recalled. She added that "we almost got in trouble just for being in the building without permission."

Roman Velez('12) thought back to his own experience with campus police, sharing that he "actually was stopped one time walking to the cafeteria while bouncing a

A *Common Sense* survey reveals that, 32% of HSAS students simply stated "no" when asked if the food at Lehman College was any good, 44% of students replied with a "not really" and four students chose to respond with an "eh".

There are a select few who actually like the cafeteria food such as Simone Kolleeny('13) who shared "it's alright." She continued by adding "it's much better than the food at my middle school."

Mr. Mansdorf replied "The only food that's decent in the cafeteria is the soup" and he went on to say that



F. Francis('11) buys lunch at the college, yet he does not feel welcome. even then he can only buy the soup once in awhile.

Matthew Berdeguez('11) responded "it's better than last year, but I still don't think it's something we should pay for," suggesting food should just be handed to him and others.

Timothy Watts('11) chimed in "It's just annoying. It's not that great, and it's the same thing over and over."

Despite the overwhelming dislike and indifferent feelings towards the cafeteria food, we go back day after day and buy hundreds, even



Image created by Jacob Cintron('10)

thousands of dollars worth of food.

In the previously mentioned survey, all participants were asked how much they spend on a weekly basis. It ranged from \$7 to \$35 with everyone surveyed spending a total of \$2,070 a week.

This is not considering the close to ten months we spend in school and the two hundred and fifty or so un-surveyed students.

So it seems that perhaps Lehman College employees and staff should treat HSAS students with some more respect because we buy their food. ☪

An empty hall after school does not reflect the crowds between classes.

SCHOOL GROWS IN PRESTIGE & SIZE By Ariana Solis('10)

As HSAS grows in prestige, more students have started to look towards our school for their high school education, but some of the current students think that might be a problem.

"There's too many freshmen and underclassmen all together," said *Common Sense's* very own Danelia Dillion('10). She proceeded to say how "difficult and inconvenient" it is to get from class to class and to her locker.

Simone Kolleeny('13), a first year student, agreed with Danelia, saying how "it gets really crowded."

It's obvious that the sentiment is common from the freshman to the senior class, but no one knows what the effects of a growing freshman class are each year.

When the class of '06 began the HSAS student body, they had all of their classes in the APEX.

A year later they moved into what we now know to be our lovely school.

In the last three years classes started to be given in Gillette Hall, the campus library and even in the lower cafeteria.

"Where else are we going to go? The reservoir?"

- Mr. Weiss.

"Where else are we going to go? The reservoir?" posed our principal Mr. Weiss.

The school's entering classes have grown from the 56 student class of '06 to a 92 student class of '13, a 64% increase.

Upperclassmen such as Lauren Huang('11) are fearful that the freshman class is going to surpass a limit that would keep the student population at a convenient size.

"We are not built for class sizes

that break triple digits" she said.

According to Lismelia Vargas('12), "the school can't bring in more than what it can hold. It wouldn't make any sense." She is, in fact, right. The school offers a certain amount of seats per year, approximately 150. Of those seats, students that made the HSAS cut decide whether they'd like to attend or not.

The school is still young, and has yet to reach capacity.

Since not everyone will decide to attend HSAS, the student body will stay at a reasonable size. The school is still young, and has yet to reach capacity.

Although the freshman classes will most likely increase in size as the years progress, there is a limit, and the school will not be bursting at the seams, at least not anytime in the near future. ☪

Winter Dance Tonight!!!

East Dining Room
from 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Tickets are \$5.00 at the door.
Soda & Pizza included

Participate as a Bake Off judge for
an additional \$2.00

TECH AT HSAS...

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The desktop computers and ceiling projectors are commonly used. Michael Martinez('11) also says that he uses the school desktops "4 or 5 days of the week"

A recent *Common Sense* survey revealed that all students in every grade have seen a teacher use a smart board this year.

"Oh, you know how I feel!"
- Mr. Sacchini

When Mr. Sacchini was asked how he feels about the smart boards, he said with a big smile, "ah, you're asking me!? Oh, you know how I feel!"

Mr. Sacchini is a regular smart board user.

Other technology in our school includes six laptop carts with Dell laptops. Classes such as journalism and doc film seem to revolve around these laptop carts.

So in the end, it may seem that teachers don't often use the tech in our school, such as the smart boards and ceiling projectors, but they are in fact being used.

Many teachers find all of the technology pretty convenient, and so do the students.

Julian Watts('10) was asked what he thinks about the tech in our school, and he responded with, "(it's) pretty up to date compared to other schools."

Sure all of the smart boards and desktop computers and projectors cost money, but many would agree that it really does help make it easier for teachers to teach and for students to learn. ☪