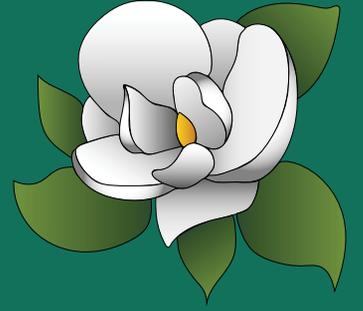


# LOGOS



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## Redistricting splits Davidson County into three districts

BY AVA SJURSEN

Editor-In-Chief

On Feb. 7, Governor Bill Lee signed the Tennessee Senate, House and congressional maps into law. Less than two weeks later, on Feb. 23, three voters sued state officials for alleged unconstitutional redrawing.

Tennessee was not alone in redrawing its districts during the beginning of this legislative session. Redistricting efforts in all 50 states took place during the first few months of 2022 as a routine way to incorporate the new data from the 2020 census into state and congressional representation, as mandated by the landmark Supreme Court case Baker v Carr.

Gov. Lee's passage comes as no surprise as the maps had already been proposed and passed through the majority Republican Senate and House. The maps' ability to withstand legal challenges, however, remains contested.

The lawsuit, filed in a Davidson County

Court, has been backed by the state's Democratic Party, who is covering the legal fees. "From the very beginning, we doubted that the Tennessee redistricting process would be open and fair," Tennessee

with extremely unequal populations or who underrepresent a racial minority.

The lawsuit, which focuses on the new maps for the state legislature, not Congress, highlights the legislators' decision to

McNally said about the new maps when asked about the lawsuit.

Although the new Congressional map was not contested in the recent lawsuit, it still had profound effects on Tennessee's political makeup. After accusing his state of "dismembering Nashville," Rep. Jim Cooper announced that he would not run for reelection in the upcoming midterms, retiring after 32 years in Congress.

Although political gerrymandering by both parties has been an issue for centuries as polarization has increased in recent years, this tactic has become even more prevalent.

Cooper is now the 29th House Democrat to announce retirement after states' redistricting maps were revealed

"It used to be that voters choose their representatives, now representatives choose their voters." Moses's statement echoes Remus's demand that Tennesseans "pick their own representatives and not the other way around." Upper School Social Teacher said.



**DIVIDING DAVIDSON COUNTY:** New redistricting map splits Davidson County into three districts. Photo Courtesy of Tennessee General Assembly.

Democratic Party chair Hendrell Remus said. "Unfortunately, Republicans also violated the law while gerrymandering our state. We're proud to be supporting these individuals in their efforts to ensure equal representation for every Tennessean."

Although partisan gerrymandering, redrawing a map with the intent to increase the political power of a party, is technically legal, it is illegal to divide counties into ones

include "more counties in the House of Representatives reapportionment plan than necessary" and a failure to consecutively number senatorial districts in Davidson County.

Advocates of the congressional map hailed the changes as necessary amendments due to the population growth of both Williamson and Davidson counties. "I think we will be able to successfully defend it," Lt. Gov. Randy

## Harpeth Hall goes mask-optional as COVID-19 restrictions relax

BY AMELIA ALEXOPOULOS

News Editor

As the Harpeth Hall community has navigated the two-year COVID pandemic, masks helped the school stay open and in-person. Now that Harpeth Hall's mask mandate has ended, students and faculty are adjusting to optional masks.

An article published Feb. 10, 2021 from the Journal of the American Medical Association states that "compelling data now demonstrates that community mask wearing is an effective nonpharmacologic intervention to reduce the spread of this infection, especially as source control to prevent spread from infected persons, but also as protection to reduce wearers' exposure to infection."

This statement is consistent with many given by the CDC throughout the course of the pandemic.

As coronavirus cases decline, states and schools across the country are removing mask mandates, including predominantly liberal states like California, Oregon and Washington which are due to lift their mask

mandates after March 11.

While Harpeth Hall was able to stay open ever since the beginning of the

has ended, and students and teachers alike are reflecting on the presence (and absence) of masks at school.

could have and should have gone on longer, at least until spring break maybe."

Some students, however, continue to wear a mask during the school day. "It's more about security of mind, and I just feel more secure in general wearing a mask. So when I'm in class or in the cafeteria, I just feel safer wearing a mask and that's why I choose to wear a mask. But I don't judge anyone for not wearing it" Sophomore Lily Cashen said.

Upper School World Language Teacher Mrs. Maureen Aguilar encourages her students to be non judgemental and respectful of each other as everyone figures out their comfort level with not wearing a mask.

"As we get accustomed to optional masks, we need to understand that our friends and our community are trying to navigate the waters of 'will I use a mask today, will I not use a mask tomorrow' and it's ok to not know. Because, at least in our classroom, we're in a space of respect, vulnerability, and empathy, and knowing that our peers are going to be navigating through the same process," Mrs. Aguilar said.



**MASKLESS FACES, NEW SPACES:** Harpeth Hall freshmen enjoy time together in the Bullard Bright Idea Lab without Harpeth Hall's mask mandate in place in Feb. 2022. Photo Courtesy of Rory Fraser

2020-2021 school year, the school's mask requirement was instrumental in keeping in-person learning.

For all Harpeth Hall students and faculty, wearing a mask at school became part of the daily routine, but as of Feb. 14, Harpeth Hall's mask mandate

While some students are excited about the new policy, others have more mixed feelings. One Upper School Student said, "I'm double vaxxed and boosted, and I feel ok not wearing a mask and I don't think I'm going to spread it. But I feel that, definitely, it [the mask mandate]



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@LogosNowHH

# Putin mobilizes Russian troops to invade Ukraine

BY KIRAN DHILLON

Opinions Editor

As of late, Russia's violent advances and Ukraine's plight have captivated the hearts and minds of people around the world. According to the United Nations, an estimated one million people have fled from Ukraine since Russia's brutal attacks began, and many more are isolated in their homes without food, water, electricity, or phone signal, rendering them extremely vulnerable in this period of war.

In February, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin publicly recognized Ukraine's Russian-speaking-majority Donbass region as independent of Ukraine, allowing Russian troops to advance further toward Kyiv, the Ukraine's capital. The Ukrainian government met this shocking declaration with great disdain, encouraging all of its civilian citizens to aid its army in the battle against Russia.

Putin's motives for invading Ukraine are not limited to solely-territorial endeavors. As he has proven in numerous public addresses, the President has particular demands and ambitions for Ukraine, which contradict and combat crucial agricultural, cultural, and especially social aspects of the West and thus spark intense conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and the West.

Putin's recent recognition of the independence of the separatist Donbass region, Donetsk and Luhansk, has yielded economic and political advantages for Russia. The region served as an integral part of Ukraine's industrial eastern sector, as it yielded plentiful supplies of grain and oil. The region has long been characterized by its pro-Russian and anti-government sentiments,

**"We're back in a world where borders are changed by violence."**

Dr. Art Echerd

so Putin likely saw it as free real estate to expand the reach of his armies. As previously mentioned, Russia's troops have been able to advance through the Donbass with minimal resistance.

"The problem that Ukraine has... is that, in the elections they've had since 1999, the easternmost parts of Ukraine really aren't ethnically Ukrainian," Upper School social studies teacher Dr. Echerd said.

"In the Eastern third, Russian is the language spoken by the majority of people."

Putin's conquest also has historical and religious ambitions driving it. The religious conflict between Orthodox Russians and Roman-Catholic Ukrainians dates back to the tenth century and a Russian monarch named

Yaroslav the Wise of Kyiv, claimed by both countries. Today, many Russians and

pro—Russian citizens in other countries believe that — since a monumental Russian figure was from Kyiv there is no reason why Ukraine should be separate



**PUTIN'S UPDATE:** Russia's President Vladimir Putin holds a press conference on January 19, 2021. Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons, www.kremlin.ru

from Russia, despite a plethora of stark customary and linguistic differences between Ukrainians and Russians.

The most apparent motives for Russia's sudden invasion of Ukraine are social in nature, namely Putin's dictatorial hold on Russia and relationships with NATO and the European Union.

Going back nearly seven decades to the beginning of the Cold War, NATO's Western, democratic and capitalistic endeavors rivaled those of the Eastern, dictatorial, communist Russian nation. Later in the conflict, Putin was a spy for the Soviet police: the KGB. Throughout his early life and his KGB training, he developed a deeply-rooted anti-West ideology, which he has clearly carried into his politics.

Ukraine's government is generally

described as a democracy: an open society that, although it doesn't always function the best, has adopted Western liberal government policies. The proximity of democracy—the antithesis of Russia's current corrupt government—as a direct threat to his nation, and therefore wants to eradicate the threat by ensuring that Ukraine does not join NATO or the European Union.

With Russia's increasing aggressions toward the West and NATO, the world prepares for what could quickly spiral into a much worse situation. As talks continue between nations--allies and rivals, alike-- the world's hope for a swift resolution rises and falls. "We're back in a world where borders are changed by violence," Dr Echerd said.

## President Biden announces new SCOTUS nominee

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson makes history as first Black woman to be nominated to the Supreme Court

BY AVA CASSIDY

News Editor

On Feb. 25, President Biden announced that he nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve on the Supreme Court, making Jackson the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

In order to fill the vacancy that will be left by Justice Stephen G. Breyer, who has recently announced his retirement, Biden needed to nominate another justice. Once someone is nominated, the Senate needs a majority vote to confirm the nomination.

Few Republican Senators are expected to support Jackson, and if she is confirmed as Biden's nominee, the Supreme Court will still have a 6-3 Republican majority. However, the Democratic Party currently has the majority in the Senate, meaning that it is likely that Judge Jackson will become the newest Supreme Court Justice, especially considering the fact that three Senate Republicans voted to confirm her to the DC Circuit Court.

Biden's choice to nominate Judge Jackson means that he has fulfilled one of the promises that he made during his campaign: to nominate a Black woman for Supreme Court justice.

"For too long our government, our courts, haven't looked like America. I believe it is time that we have a court

that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation," Biden said about his nomination.

In its 232-year history, only seven of



**BARRIER BREAKING:** Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson attends her first press conference in the White House after her nomination as President Biden's Supreme Court nominee, and the first Black female to be nominated on Feb. 25, 2022. Photo Courtesy of Sarahbeth Maney, New York Times.

the 115 justices in the Supreme Court have not been white men. If confirmed, Judge Jackson would become the eighth.

"I think it's really interesting that Biden promised explicitly to use identity as a criteria during his campaign, and he followed up on that promise. The view is

that the Court needs to be a cross-section of American experiences and identities. I think people can argue about that, but I think that it's clearly a trend," Department

Chair of Upper School Social Sciences Dr. Fulwider said. Judge Jackson graduated from Harvard Law School and was appointed by President Biden to the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit in 2021, which is widely seen as a typical path

to becoming a Supreme Court Justice. Jackson has also served as a law clerk for Justice Breyer and a public defender. In another first, Judge Jackson will be the only current justice that has worked as a public defender if she is confirmed.

"I can only hope that my life and career, my love of this country and the Constitution and my commitment to upholding the rule of law and the sacred principles upon which this great nation was founded, will inspire future generations of Americans," Jackson said. In her remarks, Judge Jackson also thanked God and acknowledged her own faith for helping her to get to this point in her life.

"The Supreme Court's decisions are enormously important to the way the country looks and the way the government runs," Dr. Fulwider said. "The Supreme Court has been increasing its power over the course of American history really from the beginning of the Constitution in the 1780s... Though never really intended to be a co-equal branch with the legislature and the executive, it has come to be the supreme law making body."

Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation hearings in the Senate will begin on March 21, and the goal is to reach a final Senate vote by April 8.

# Wave of book bans and burns takes over country

BY HALLIE GRAHAM

Editor In Chief

In 1982, Banned Books Week was launched in response to a surge in challenged books in school districts, libraries and bookstores. Another wave of book banning is taking place now, 40 years later.

Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," William Golding's "Lord of the Flies," F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby": these are just a few of the numerous titles that are banned and challenged classics, according to the American Library Association (ALA). Although Harpeth Hall's curriculum continues to include these books, in a lot of high schools around the country, books like these and other classics are being contested, as they have been many times in America's history.

In 1982, District v. Pico, a Supreme Court case that ruled school officials cannot ban books in libraries for their content, sparked what we know today as the Banned Books Movement. That same year, the American Booksellers Association: (ABA) BookExpo America trade show showcased books deemed dangerous in large, metal cages.

After the success of ABA's exhibition, Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, Judith King and the ABA teamed up to start a new initiative: Banned Books Week - an annual event celebrating the freedom to read.

Though Banned Books Week is not until the end of Sept. Jan. and Feb. of this year were months filled with book burnings and bannings. According to the New York Times, a county prosecutor's office in Wyoming considered charges against library employees for stocking questionable titles. A suggested bill in Oklahoma prohibited public school

libraries from buying books that focus on sexual activity and gender identity.

Such issues are not limited to Oklahoma and Wyoming, as books in Tennessee have already been targeted by school boards and churches in 2022.

The McMinn County Board of Education voted to remove Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer-Prize winning graphic novel "Maus" from their eighth-grade curriculum on the Holocaust for its nudity and curse words.

At a Facebook live-streamed service, controversial pastor Greg Locke led a book burning at a Mt. Juliet church in early February. According to The Guardian, Locke's event drew a large crowd that hurled copies of books from

popular series like "Harry Potter" and "Twilight" into the fire.

"I ain't messing with witches no more, I ain't messing with witchcraft...I ain't messing with demons...I'll call all of them out in the name of Jesus Christ," Locke said in a sermon immediately prior to the burning, as attendees cheered and

clapped at his statements.

While most members of the congregation actively and readily participated in the burning, a photographer at the bonfire said there was one counter protester, holding

up copies of Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" and Darwin's "On the Origin of Species" and throwing a book of their own into the fire: the Bible.

A national issue, the American Library Association has seen a recent and unprecedented uptick in challenges to books. The ALA reported that 330 books were called into question for objectionable material in the fall of 2021 compared to the

156 in all of 2020.

"In my twenty years with ALA, I can't recall a time when we had multiple challenges coming in on a daily basis," Deborah Caldwell-Stone, the Director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom said.

Books have been challenged

throughout America's history, but the recent surge in book-questioning leaves professionals and the ALA searching for a difference this year. As books are being called into question, educators and librarians are being held most accountable by emboldened parents and even politicians.

"The politicalization of the topic is what's different than what I've seen in the past. It's being driven by legislation, it's being driven by politicians aligning with one side or the other. And in the end, the librarian, teacher or educator is getting caught in the middle," s Britten Follett, the chief executive of content at Follett School Solutions, one of the country's largest providers of books to K-12 schools including Harpeth Hall said to the New York Times said.

Harpeth Hall has a number of challenged books included in curricula for various grades. Upper School English Teacher and member of the Education Advisory Board at CATO Joe Croker believes in freedom of thought.

"My basic impulse is to resist attempts, but at the same time, there may be instances in which we may not have selected age appropriate texts. That would be cause for reassessment," Croker said, believing in a 'Goldilocks' approach.

Croker said that Harpeth Hall receives push-back against the curriculum on a case-by-case basis. If a student or parent has a particular problem with a title, the teacher of the course seeks guidance from their Department Chair, who has oversight over the entire curriculum that is revisited every year.

"We need to be on top of our game to provide a curriculum for our students that will most enrich their lives. That's the goal," Croker said.



**MAUS REMAINS:** Art Spiegelman's *Maus* remains a modern classic in the Harpeth Hall library, despite its recent ban in Tennessee's McMinn County School Board on Jan. 10, 2022. Photo by Mary Meacham

## Teacher shortage ripples across the United States

BY CAROLINE FORD

Arts & Entertainment Editor

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to drag on, its effects are evident in all sectors of society, including in schools across the country. After two years in lockdown, people have been driven to take advantage of the ability to work from home instead of confronting the potential health risks of in-person work. A record number of people quit their jobs in 2021 in what has been dubbed "The Great Resignation," leaving the workforce to take care of family, change their lifestyles or retire early.

This force of people leaving the workforce has had palpable effects on the population of teachers, compounding a teacher shortage that already existed pre-pandemic. As more and more teachers leave due to health risks, low pay, school shootings, and constricting legislative teaching requirements, few people are lining up to take their spots.

Another one of the biggest pressures of teaching mid-pandemic is the rigidity of curriculum expectations. Even as COVID-19 created an academic gap and left students missing key parts of previous years' lessons, teachers are expected to continue at a pre-pandemic pace despite studies showing students struggling to keep up.

This cry for substitute teachers has caused immense turmoil. With over 60 school districts moving to remote learning and 75 child care centers

closing, New Mexico resorted to unique measures to help with the acute shortages. On Jan. 21, New Mexico's state governor announced that the National

to accommodate the teacher vacancy. Some states like Kansas have relaxed qualifications to be a substitute teacher, requiring only a high school diploma;



**SUB SAVES THE DAY:** Substitute teacher Mary Ellen Hartong tackles Ms. Linden's Calculus class on March 4, 2022. Photo by Mary Meacham

Guard would be stepping in to teaching positions to fill educational vacancies that threaten public schools' ability to stay open.

Although New Mexico remains the only state to turn to the National Guard, other states have made adjustments

others like Ohio have allowed state employees to work as substitutes while retaining their regular jobs.

Several teachers have described "mega-classes," large gatherings in gyms or auditoriums of students whose teachers are absent.

Harpeth Hall has been affected by the shortage of teachers with the lack of substitute teachers available. "There have been weeks in which filling subs has taken over my job," Upper School Administrative Assistant Lou Alice Rogers said. "Sometimes we ask teachers to cover for other teachers' classes, but we really try hard not to ask other teachers to cover—it's a lot more for teachers emotionally."

Across the country, local news outlets have been filled by headlines heralding different solutions and calls to action by school officials. These efforts range from changes to daily schedules to retired teachers returning to work. Principals and school administrators in many districts have substituted for a variety of classes.

However, many teachers have viewed these tactics as a way to avoid larger, older problems that have exacerbated the national shortage. Groups have pointed to decades of low pay and lack of autonomy as the original causes of these shortages, along with unions organizing to advocate for teachers' rights.

"Teachers were dissatisfied because they had little or no control over the conditions under which they practice their profession," a teacher and union leader David Seldon said. These unions also point to the negative effects on students, as studies show that students suffer when teacher turnover is high.

# Faculty feature: Ting and Kennedy take the stage

BY PRIYANKA CHIGULURI

Editor-in-Chief

In continuation of last semester's effort to introduce the large class of new faculty joining Harpeth Hall this year,

Logos will highlight new members of the Performing Arts Department:

Director of Performing Arts Brion Kennedy and Lead Choral Music Teacher Esther Ting.

Mr. Kennedy joined the Harpeth Hall community at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year after

moving with his wife from Decatur, Georgia, right outside of where he grew up in Atlanta.

While Mr. Kennedy always planned to work in the performing arts, he unintentionally found himself in leadership roles at his former school, St. Pius X Catholic High School. His former school supported him as he looked at new schools to work in higher artistic leadership positions than St. Pius X offered.

"I was looking for an opportunity in administration," Mr. Kennedy said. "When I saw Harpeth Hall come up in Nashville, it was like a no-brainer."

Having the opportunity to expand an arts program is important to Mr.

Kennedy in his new leadership role at Harpeth Hall. Next year, he will introduce AP Music Theory and Modern Band to the Upper School curriculum.

Mr.

Kennedy sees the strength in the performing arts programs that the school already has and the opportunity to strengthen and add them in the future. He also recognizes the importance of maintaining the arts at an academically

rigorous school like Harpeth Hall.

"It's such a necessary outlet for students to be able to be expressive, whether that's in the dance room or on the stage. It allows students that opportunity to use that creative part of their brain," Mr. Kennedy said.

In his free time, Mr. Kennedy likes to play the guitar. In fact, he taught guitar for 11 years before coming to Harpeth Hall. He also loves to watch Jeopardy and travel the world with his wife. Together they have traveled to countries like Thailand, Zimbabwe, and Morocco, which is his favorite place that he has visited.

At Harpeth Hall, Mr. Kennedy is excited for what the future holds and for

the opportunity to work with students.

"I would encourage students to, with this sort of new chapter, to think about what they want out of the performing arts here at Harpeth Hall," Mr. Kennedy said.

Ms. Ting also joins Harpeth Hall's performing arts faculty as the new Lead Choral Music Teacher.

Growing up in Malaysia, Ms. Ting has been singing in choir since she was three-years-old. She reflects on having phenomenal choir teachers as a teenager who helped her realize that she loves the art form. Although choral directing was not her focus as an undergraduate, she slowly shifted more towards the subject through her electives and interests over time.

"I just thought that it felt so right when I stand on the podium and just rehearse the group," Ms. Ting said. "So, I just decided to pursue music later in my life."

Aside from teaching choir, Ms. Ting knows five languages including Malay, English, Chinese, Fuzhou and Cantonese. She also spends her free time visiting Malaysia and has even spent up to 55 hours flying from her hometown to

Nashville.

Ms. Ting lived in Atlanta, Georgia before she moved late this summer to Nashville, which is known for its music scene. Ms. Ting was drawn to Harpeth Hall because of both its location in Music City and its students and faculty members.

"I love working with the students here. They are smart, they are expressive, they are so light," Ms. Ting said. "They are very talented students, and they are very teachable, that's why I just love working with my students."

During Spring Break, Ms. Ting will take her students to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York. She encourages the

Harpeth Hall community to attend the choir's collaborative performance with MBA on March 27 in which the choir will recreate their performance from Carnegie Hall for their Nashville audience.

Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Ting are both working towards creating more opportunities

in performing arts at Harpeth Hall, and they bring their passion for the arts and working with students to the Harpeth Hall community.



**SMILING FOR THE CAMERA:** New Director of Performing Arts Mr. Kennedy grins for the photographer. Photo courtesy of Mr. Kennedy.



**STRIKING A POSE:** New lead choral music teacher Ms. Ting smiles in her headshot. Photo courtesy of Ms. Ting.

## NCVC fights to preserve the reputation of downtown tourism

BY LUCY MCNALLY

Sports Editor

As pedal taverns continue to increase traffic throughout Nashville, many view tourism as a negative asset. The social and economic benefits that tourism brings are often overlooked by the cramped traffic and rambunctious bachelorette visitors.

However, one company argues that without tourism, Nashville would not be as culturally diverse or filled with exotic and unique restaurants, entertainment and people, and the company is actively fighting to reframe

locals' outlook on the industry.

The Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation (NCVC) works not only with the city to advertise Nashville to the nation but also works first-hand with the tourists themselves. Nashville's Big Bash on New Year's Eve and the 4th of July Fireworks Show are just some of the events the NCVC hosts to attract

visitors and locals alike.

Butch Spyridon served as president and CEO of the NCVC starting in 1991 and recently transferred the title to Deana Ives. Under their leadership,



**EXPLORING BROADWAY:** Tourists roam the streets in Downtown Nashville. Photo by Sarah Jean Caver.

Nashville thrives through tourism, which generates locally-owned businesses and restaurants.

"Tourism diversifies as well as strengthens the Nashville brand. There is a huge demand to come here now because tourism has brought a vast dining scene, new businesses, and culture that even locals enjoy," Spyridon said.

He claims that bachelorette parties make up only 1% of the tourism that comes through Nashville, but they have become the poster child of what locals dislike the most about tourism.

At NCVC, Spyridon and Ives work to expose the tourism that sustains our economy and provides us with fantastic entertainment and food.

"With tourism comes events like the NFL draft and the New Year's party, in which a large portion of the attendees are local. Additionally, approximately 2,038 dollars are saved in local tax every year because of the income flowing from tourism," Ives said.

The NCVC also works to sustain the authenticity of Nashville. Country music has long been a staple in the Nashville brand and often attracts aspiring musicians and writers to the city. As tourism has increased over the years, restaurants and entertainment industries have played into the brand of country music and used it to promote their businesses.

The NCVC tries to amplify other musical genres, as well as preserve the history of country music in Nashville. According to NCVC, locals sometimes view tourism as a log in the fire of

corruption to the Nashville brand. This viewpoint is reflected by some students at Harpeth Hall.

"The authenticity hasn't been lost, it's just been changed. When you think of Nashville you don't think so much about the rich history as much as you do the craziness on Broadway," junior Ava Hayes said. "It has been harder for locals to enjoy the city. Downtown has become a place for the tourists."

Upper School Social Science Department Chair Dr. Ben Fulwider and Upper School Art History Teacher Mr. Robert Womack have seen the effects of tourism firsthand.

"The reason why people want to come is because of the brand, which consists of a party culture," Dr. Fulwider said. "People perceive the city to be about fun. I'm not sure how much you can separate the perception versus the reality of tourism."

Although the craze of downtown has led to a negative opinion from the locals about tourism, the influx of visitors has allowed other neighborhoods to flourish. "Tourism has spurred other neighborhoods like the Nations and East Nashville to bring in new businesses as outlets for locals," Mr. Womack said.

Nashville is considered one of the top cities in the nation, and with the work of corporations like the NCVC, tourism can be kept at bay while also providing for the city.

## Rise and Shine: Late-start Wednesdays arrive at HH

BY JULIA ALLOS

Features Editor

In February of 2020, Harpeth Hall announced that in the fall, school would

start at 9 o'clock on Wednesday mornings. "I still remember when Ms. Lemon announced that we would be having late-start Wednesdays, the entire school just erupted in cheering," junior Maddie McCall said.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic unexpectedly obligated Harpeth Hall

to convert to hybrid-learning for part of the 2020-2021 school year, making it difficult to have late-starts once a week. Starting in the fall of 2021, classes have started on Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

In a survey of the Upper School, 98% of students expressed that they like the late-start Wednesdays. "The late start Wednesdays help me feel more refreshed at school, and they allow me to reset and catch up on the sleep that I missed," sophomore Davern Cigarran said.

In 2019, schedule specialist Roxanne Higgins came to Harpeth Hall to evaluate

Harpeth Hall's schedule and make necessary changes. One of these changes was the implementation of the late-start Wednesdays.



**SWEET DREAMS:** Junior Julia Tavi tries to stay awake while doing homework in the Junior Lobby. Photo by Mia Corts, Lead Photography Editor.

"The late-start Wednesdays let students and families know that we value their wellness and we value how they are feeling," Upper School English Teacher and head of the balance committee Denise Croker said. Late-start Wednesdays provide a way for students to get an extra hour of sleep, which can greatly impact their well-being and how they perform in school.

"Sleep is the thing we cheat because we can," Upper School Wellness Teacher

Buffy Baker said.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), teenagers need 8-10 hours of sleep per night. According to an Upper School survey, only 10% of students get 8-10 hours of sleep per night. 64% get 6-8 hours, and almost 25% of students only get 4-6 hours of sleep per night, four hours less than what is recommended.

So what's the issue? Why do students at Harpeth Hall not get enough sleep at night? The CDC has recognized that there is a natural change in a person's circadian

rhythm during the teenage years.

"Even if I get less sleep, I am still more focused and more awake on the days with the late-start," Davern Cigarran said.

Melatonin only comes into effect in the teenage brain at around 11 p.m, so by 6:30 a.m, when most students start getting ready for school, the hormone is still very much working on the brain, inducing drowsiness.

Students' lack of sleep can lead to sleep deprivation, symptoms of which include poor academic performance, an increase in car crashes, susceptibility to higher levels of anxiety and more.

The late-start Wednesdays certainly help students fight sleep deprivation. "In sleep reflections, students have been saying 'I am more refreshed for my day. I find that I don't forget things as much when I get that extra hour of sleep,'" Coach Baker said.

"The ideal would be if we could have a late-start every day," Mrs. Croker said. Other states have adopted laws that follow this ideal.

In 2019, California passed the Senate Bill 328, prohibiting high schools from starting before 8:30. They had become aware of the body of evidence suggesting that teenagers function more optimally with later start times. Although the schedule for an entire society cannot practically be modified to conform to the needs of teenagers, California has found a compromise.

Harpeth Hall's later Wednesday start time reflects an agreement with this philosophy. "Late-start Wednesdays are a start in the right direction of us emphasizing the importance of sleep for students," Coach Baker said.

## Computer Science is becoming a gig deal at Harpeth Hall

BY LENA QIAN

Features Editor

Computer science has become one of the most popular professions in the world, and its influence is increasing at Harpeth Hall.

Harpeth Hall's junior robotics team, the BearBots, recently won the Excellence Award at the January FRA meet, qualifying the team for the state championships. The award is given to the team that stands out the most in driving, notebooking, designing and programming.

The programming aspect played a major role in the BearBots winning the highest award in Vex Robotics. Every match, there is a 15 second autonomous period where the four robots on the field complete tasks without a driver directing them.

This section was the period during which the H Team (the junior team) stood out.

"I love the problem-solving aspect," junior Sarah Joffrion said. "I like it when it works. It feels really nice when it works."

While most teams had a code that only did simple tasks or none at all, the H Team had complex programs that could retrieve one neutral mobile goal and perform an additional task.

Additionally, the H Team has the highest skills autonomous code in Tennessee.

In a large part, this achievement is thanks to Joffrion who, for two hours each day before school during Winterim, went to the library classroom to work on the autonomous program. The combined autonomous and driving score

put Harpeth Hall at the number three ranking for skills at the competition and number eight in the state.

Currently, the team is incorporating inertial sensors, which utilize an accelerometer and a gyroscope, to allow for more accurate navigation. Thus, the H Team will have a higher chance of doing well at the state championships.

Upper School Robotics Coach and Physics, Computer Science and Engineering Teacher Matthew Groves agrees that a computer science background has helped the robotics team immensely.

"I think that computer science in the coursework and robotics as an extracurricular, they complement each other really well, because if you have more class time with computer science, then you will do better in robotics," Mr. Groves said.

On top of the existing Introduction to Computer Science and AP Computer Science A courses, Mr. Groves is offering two new semester-long computer science courses, Web Design and Visual Coding and Game Design and Coding.

Web Design and Visual Coding is

a project-based class that implements HTML, CSS and JavaScript to build interactive web pages. Students will design their own personal website as a digital resume and build a website for a topic or nonprofit of interest to them.

The Game Design and Coding class will teach students to design, build and iterate prototypes of their own video

games using existing computer science experience. The final project is an exploration of the video game genre.

"I think expanding our curriculum lets more girls with more interests get involved in computer science and new electives are very visual, so it's very satisfying that you can see what you made and interact with them," Mr. Groves said.

The rise of Computer Science at Harpeth Hall can also be seen through internship opportunities. For example, during

Winterim, junior Gabby Mchaourab interned at Vanderbilt at Meiler Lab.

She worked with Python to study machine learning and neural networks. Her internship helped narrow down her career path.

As the role of women in computer science expands, Harpeth Hall has followed seeks to lead through new programs, both academic and extracurricular.



**CRACKING THE CODE:** Junior and member of the robotics team Sarah Joffrion prepares a code in the new Bullard Bright Idea Lab on Feb. 24, 2022 Photo by Lena Qian, Features Editor.

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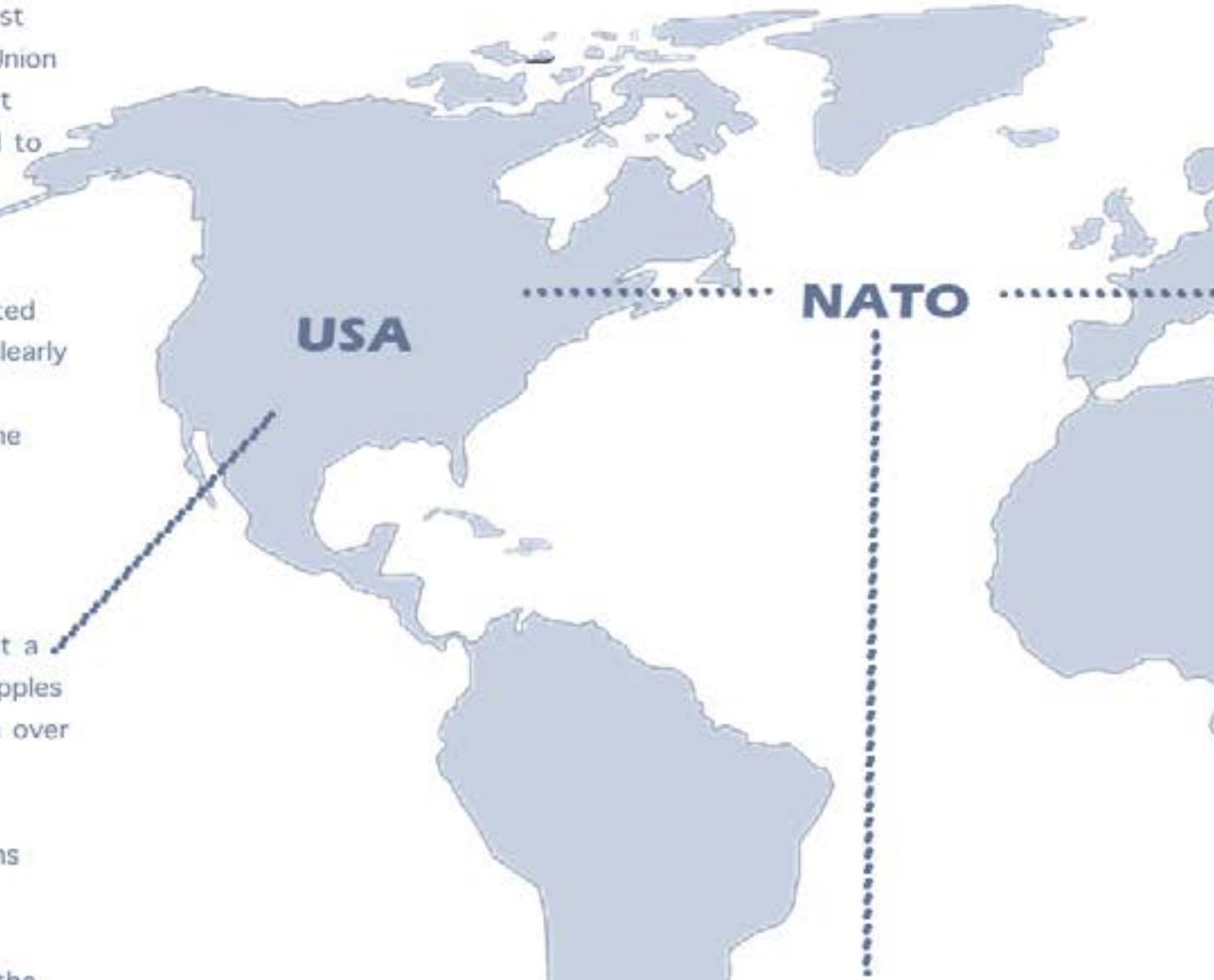
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# UKRAINE & RUSSIA: AN OVERVIEW

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President Joe Biden spent the first 15 minutes of his State of the Union Address on March 1 talking about Russia's invasion as he continued to pledge support for Ukraine. "Democracies are rising to the moment," he said about the international collaboration prompted by the crisis, "and the world is clearly choosing the side of peace and security." Biden also reassured the public that U.S. forces "are not engaged and will not engage in conflict with Russian forces in Ukraine." America's economic sanctions on Russia have come at a difficult time for Biden as he grapples with widespread voter frustration over inflation in the face of upcoming midterm elections. In his speech, Biden addressed citizens' concerns about the economic effects that American families will experience. Although he promised to target the Russian economy, he acknowledged that costs for the rest of the world would be unavoidable. The U.S. also drastically enhanced its shipments of military aid and protective equipment to Ukraine. The potency and volume of these exports show the great extent to which the U.S. is willing to support Ukraine's own armed conflict without involving any American soldiers.



NATO, the intergovernmental alliance among America, Canada and 28 European countries, has been unified in their condemnations of Russia's invasion. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called Russia's moves "a brutal act of war" and affirmed Thursday morning that the military alliance would defend "every inch" of its territory if Russia attacks a member country. Because Ukraine is not a member country, however, NATO will not deploy troops to Ukraine. The decision to stay out of the conflict has been a contentious one, as Ukraine has long asked to become a member but has been shut out in large part because of Russia's opposition to NATO's eastward expansion. About 20 nations in both the alliance and in the European Union have funneled weapons into Ukraine. NATO has also moved military equipment and thousands of troops into member states bordering Russia. "European security and defense has evolved more in the last six days than in the last two decades," Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Union's executive arm, said in a speech to the European Parliament.

Eight years after armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the Kremlin launched a full-scale military invasion into the country on Feb. 24. The largest military mobilization in Europe since World War II, countries around the world have been affected by this conflict, with many pledging to support Ukraine militarily and economically. Here is a guide to what is going on that highlights a few of the conflict's major players.



President Vladimir Putin's decision to invade Ukraine is his most aggressive move in a long series of conflicts attempting to redraw the boundaries of the former Soviet Union. In response, Putin has faced a plethora of sanctions intended to break down the country's economy from countries around the world. By March 3, the nation's stock market had dropped nearly 40%. Defending his decision amid a crumbling economy, Putin declared Russia could not feel "safe, develop and exist" because of what he claimed was a constant threat from modern Ukraine. Although Putin's long term goals in Ukraine are unknown, it is clear that his current efforts are to seize the major cities and overthrow the country's democratically elected government. He denies seeking to occupy Ukraine and rejected a UK accusation in January that he was plotting to install a pro-Kremlin puppet. German Prime Minister Olaf Scholz has warned that "Putin wants a Russian empire." Despite thousands of anti-war protestors flooding the streets of Russia, Putin has continued to shut down and detain opposition, including many independent news sources. Putin also ordered Russia's nuclear forces into a higher state of alert, though it is unclear what this means for the risk of nuclear conflict.

Despite Ukrainian intelligence labeling him as Russia's "target No. 1," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has refused to leave the country. "The fight is here; I need ammunition, not a ride," he said in response to the U.S.'s offer to help him flee. Zelenskyy has also accused NATO countries of turning a blind eye to the atrocities in Ukraine by refusing to implement a "no-fly zone" over the country. "All the people who will die starting from this day will also die because of you. Because of your weakness, because of your disunity," Zelenskyy said to NATO. On March 2, the first major Ukrainian city fell to Russian forces. The capture of Kherson, a port city with a population of around 300,000, increases concerns of Ukrainians that Russia will cut off access to the Black Sea. As the crisis in Ukraine escalates and civilian attacks continue, a refugee crisis has emerged. According to the U.N. refugee agency, over 1.3 million Ukrainian citizens have fled the country since Russia's invasions began. Millions more have left their home to seek safety in the western reaches of Ukraine or in underground shelters.

**text by Olivia Majors**  
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# Music industry ushers out the new and in the old

BY MICHELLE IKEJANI

Arts and Entertainment Editor

Older artists like Michael Jackson and The Beatles are now common household names, and to this day, many people still enjoy their styles of music. With an increased interest in older music, it is no surprise that these songs are making up more than half of the music streams today.

According to MRC, a music analytics provider, in 2021, catalog (music with included royalties released 18 months ago) shares of music were much more popular than current shares of music at about 75.4% since 2020 when the percentage was 66.4%

For the first time in 2021, MRC was able to start tracking catalog shares and surprisingly, the trend of listening to old favorites picked up around the time COVID-19 began. In fact, in 2021, the 200 most streamed new songs were consistently making up less than 5% of total streams. This number has decreased drastically over the years leading up to 2021.

Along with streaming, many music businesses have been investing in music catalogs because of their increased value. Last year, Sony Music bought Bruce Springsteen's for an estimated \$500 million, while Universal Music Publishing Group purchased Bob Dylan's music that same year for about \$300 million.

With catalog music taking a lead in the industry, another perspective of music consumers is highlighted. Along with Gen-Z music listeners, a large portion of streams are also coming from people who are older and grew up listening to different artists.

According to the Music Business Association's statistics for the 2021 music landscape, around 34% of listeners range

in age from 35-54 years old.

"These generations were probably only listening to the radio, but now they're on Pandora, Spotify and Apple Music," Director of Performing Arts Brion Kennedy said.

Some say that older music is objectively

now with digital recording, you can cheat a lot and you can fake things and loop things a lot easier." Mr Kennedy said.

Mr. Kennedy also argues that digital production has opened up to more than just professionals in the music industry, and consequently, the quality of music

specific times or years in their life. Some old songs are also purely iconic, which accounts for their constant popularity among streaming service users. "Don't Stop Believing by Journey is huge, and I think that those kinds of songs are always going to be such heavy hitters regardless of generation or time." Mr. Kennedy said.

One recent instance in which people were turning to older music was with the well-known artist Taylor Swift. By releasing the Taylor's Version of many of her previous albums, millions of fans were able to listen to their nostalgic favorites. Many Harpeth Hall students have been listening to Swift's music on repeat. Although Swift was ultimately trying to regain ownership of her songs, she also released old memories for many of her fans.

For example, sophomore Chloe Graham loves to listen to Swift's music and attends her concerts frequently. "When we were younger, when all these songs came out, we were like ten or younger than that, so it's different now that she's going through her life experiences but so are you, so she can relate to songs differently and now you can." Graham and numerous other Swift fans who have grown up with the artist now experience Swift's songs with a different perspective.

As we watch the increase in streaming for older music, our generation and the ones before us are able to enjoy all the music they love, whether it was released 50 years ago or just last year. Clearly, the world of music has changed and evolved in the last few decades, but everyone is able to find the type of music they appreciate and want to put on repeat. Somehow, the taste for nostalgia remains consistent.



**HERE COME THE STREAMS:** The Beatles' album "Abbey Road" continues to grow in popularity after its release in 1969. Photo courtesy of Creative Commons.

better. Although critics believe this argument is invalid because musical tastes are simply an opinion, Mr. Kennedy thinks that there are some exceptions to this idea.

"Most artists had to record to tape which meant that they had to be really, really good and get the take... Whereas

has suffered. "There are people who are doing music now that probably would never have made it earlier because they've got a lot of tricks at their disposal," Mr. Kennedy said.

However, what many people like about older music is that it resonates with them. The melodies bring back memories from

## Hyping up the Hype House: new reality TV show hits Netflix this year

BY ANNA KERR

Arts and Entertainment Editor

During the lockdown in the summer of 2020, high school students found themselves spending their quarantine days on TikTok, watching various dance videos, tutorials, humorous memes and other content. However, one group of influencers came to be a sort of Tik Tok royalty, a collection of some of the most famous people on the app, who called themselves the Hype House.

The Hype House included popular creators like Charli and Dixie D'Amelio, Chase Hudson, Sienna Mae

Gomez, Kouvr Annon, Thomas Petrou, Nikita Dragan, Larri Merritt and many more. These massively popular stars comprised the majority of the content that was promoted on users' "For You" pages on the app. During the end of 2021 and into 2022, the Hype House maintained a steady following, but the group's once rapid popularity growth has since plateaued. In response, the collective has been reinventing its image to better engage fans. Creators found that releasing a Netflix show that portrayed their lives together called "The Hype House" would help to reinvent their

popularity.

The purpose of this television series is to show the behind-the-scenes lives, struggles, backstories and aspirations of these teenage influencers. Since many of these stars became famous at young ages ranging from sixteen to twenty, the show explores the difficulties of growing up in the public eye.

**"Hype House will make you depressed to think that they all will have a rocky time in their 30s."**

- Decider Editor, Joel Keller

Once "The Hype House" was released, it generated a lot of backlash from teenagers who thought that they were showing off

their wealth while still claiming to be living humbly. Although the show's goal was to create a sense of connection to its viewers, many felt that the stars were flaunting their wealth by participating in reckless activities for the sake of a social media post.

"Their problems are so insignificant to the rest of the world. They act like rich teenagers. Kouvr talked emotionally about her life before fame and the difficulties she faced, but then she became a snob with fame,"



**TIKTOK TAKEOVER:** Hype House members Charli D'Amelio (17) and Dixie D'Amelio (20) manage TikTok accounts with over 180 million followers combined. Photo courtesy of Philip Cheung.

freshman Lillian Yarbrough said.

Receiving a 2.2 out of 10 rating on IMDb and a 11% on Rotten Tomatoes, the show is often described by critics as

the worst version of reality TV.

"Their popularity is decreasing because no one can relate to them. When they first began TikTok as individuals just having fun, they were able to generate a fan base that could relate to them. Now, they only post videos in hopes of gaining a certain number of views for the money. They have lost the passion that they had when they first began TikTok," Yarbrough said.

Some believe that the Hype House is known for posting trendy dance videos, but this type of content lacks the level of relatability that many TikTok users are seeking.

Struggling to maintain its coveted "For You" page spot, the Hype House consistently adds new members to increase the collective's popularity and relevance.

The television show did not serve its intended purpose; instead, it was a feeble attempt to get viewers interested in the personal lives of the show's stars. While fans were able to

learn about the people behind the screen, the show's creators failed to balance entertainment with relatability.

# Polar Bears hit the ice and make Tennessee history

BY LUCY MCNALLY

Sports Editor

The Harpeth Hall Honeybears often compete on the field, court and pool. Recently, this list has grown to include the ice. The Polar Bears is Harpeth Hall's first hockey club, co-founded by sophomores Davern Cigarran, Chloe Graham, Kate Lenderman and junior Grace Moore.

Growing up in hockey families and watching Montgomery Bell Academy hockey games sparked an idea in the girls that turned into Harpeth Hall-affiliated sports team.

A lot of students expressed interest in the Polar Bears, as around 45 girls signed up, which is 20 more than the team needed. After a pitch to the administration, Harpeth Hall's first hockey team was on the ice as a HH Upper School club and the first girl's high school hockey team in the state of Tennessee.

As a new sports team, the Polar Bears had to start fresh with basic necessities: practice space, meeting times and equipment, including uniforms. Gear and jerseys were acquired at a used sports equipment store, Play It Again Sports, and the Nashville Predators even showed support by helping design jerseys, giving ice time in the Ford Ice Center in Bellevue and donating old equipment. Regular practices were set to 1-2 per week, and approximately 25 girls consistently now participate as part of the team.

The Polar Bears are paving the way for new clubs at Harpeth Hall as well as girl's hockey in Tennessee. The next steps include joining a JV league, encouraging

summer training sessions and becoming an official team with the help of Director of Athletics Kylee Lee, who has spearheaded the movement as a sponsor and confidant of the team. She helped establish the club, acquire gear and even

career. After moving to Nashville and starting a family, she found avenues to incorporate her hockey experience by coaching.

"I've never seen her so excited about coaching a team. It just clicked

people," said Cigarran.

Like Coach Moore, other figures in women's hockey have shown support for the team. Recently, the team received a video from U.S. women's ice hockey gold medalist AJ Mleczko applauding them for their hard work and achievements.

"To see the growth of women's hockey at an international and global level, but to see it grow right here in the United States and in Tennessee is incredible," Mleczko said. Leaders like Mleczko in the women's hockey world support the Polar Bears in all their efforts.

With inspiration from influences like Mleczko, the team came together from all different experiences and backgrounds. They emphasize the importance that everyone is accepted, no matter how much past experience they have. "Hockey is for everyone. We want every girl to be welcome no matter their past experience in hockey," said Graham.

The team also unifies girls from different grades. "There is a sense of unity, and we have a diverse group of girls from different grades and friendships that would have never happened without the Polar Bears," Grace Moore said.

The intended atmosphere of acceptance and connectedness cultivated by the team members is what makes the Polar Bears so special and monumental in Harpeth Hall's history.

In a sport primarily dominated by male teams, the girls on the Polar Bears are breaking down gender barriers and inspiring young girls everywhere to go after a dream, no matter how unachievable it may seem.



**ICE, ICE BABY:** Sophomore Chloe Graham, junior Charlotte Mosley and junior Kiran Dillon practice at the hockey lab on Feb. 6. Photo courtesy of Julia Tavi.

dressed out for a practice on the ice.

Among other adult role models leading the team, co-founder Grace Moore's mother, Jennifer Moore, eagerly volunteered to coach the Polar Bears. She grew up in the North, where hockey is more prevalent, and she played goalie competitively throughout her high school

automatically, and she works so hard with the team," junior Grace Moore said.

Coach Moore is beloved by her team as she encourages them through the trials and errors of learning to play hockey. "She's very connected to all the girls and cares about our growth as players and as

## Predators bring fans and culture to Stadium Series

BY RILEY KATE HIGGINS

Sports Editor

The Nashville Predators hosted the National Hockey League's (NHL) annual Stadium Series game at Nissan Stadium on Saturday, Feb. 26 against the Tampa Bay Lightning. Although the Preds lost, the event was about more than hockey to the organization, the fans and the city.

Junior Grace Moore who attended the game described the experience as unforgettable and ecstatic. "The 68,000 or so in attendance was a huge change compared to the max capacity of 20,000 at Bridgestone," Moore said. "Having a big crowd, every aspect of the game was amplified."

Junior Lydia Dodd also made the trip to Nissan decked in gold to watch the game. "Event games go beyond the rink," Dodd said. "People hold deep passions for players and connect with their other fans."

The first outdoor NHL game in Tennessee was not only special for the Predator's fans but also for the players of both the home and the visiting teams.

Many professional hockey players are from Canada or Scandinavian countries, so returning to the thrills of an outdoor rink is something that many players cherish.

"[Outdoor games] are always special events. As a kid when you grow up, you're skating in outdoor rinks. That's one of the best things in your childhood when you were able to get out there with your friends and just play some hockey."

Predators center Mikael Granlund said,

Outdoor games are also a family affair for the players. "Our families are going to be pouring into town, and friends and everybody is so excited," Predators center Colton Sissons said "It will be an amazing experience to have an outdoor game in

for moments throughout the season that kind of rejuvenate or motivate you, and an outdoor game is perfect for that."

While event games like the Stadium Series and the Winter Classic draw in tourists from the visiting teams, they also bring in new fans from the hosting

support of the Preds, fans could feel the atmosphere of pride and hope to encourage their team for the rest of the season. "Even though the Preds lost, you could feel a sense of pride and unity from all the fans in every chant," Moore said. "I think it boosts team morale and potential momentum and success for upcoming games as well."

While NHL teams host a Stadium Series game annually, the Predators put the Music City twist on the hockey classic. With the game's theme being Honkey Tonk, it was essential for Nashville's culture to be reflected throughout the game.

During game stoppage, the house band The Stadium Biscuits played with a lineup of Nashville-based musicians. From Dustin Lynch performing just as the teams were arriving to the headline performance with Miranda Lambert and Dierks Bentley, the Stadium Series put country music front and center.

"I saw Nashville culture reflected through the game with fans being genuinely nice," Dodd said. "People would smile and have conversations with others around them, and I think sports, in general, allow better connections between fans."

As the Predators' season inches towards its final stretch, the Stadium Series was not only a refresher for the fans and families but also an opportunity for fans to celebrate their team and their city.



**SKATING IN FRESH AIR:** The Nashville Predators hosted the National Hockey League's annual Stadium Series game at Nissan Stadium on Saturday Feb. 26 Photo courtesy of Ed Higgins.

our backyard."

Even the visiting team enjoyed the special event. "I think the crowd just brings such a great atmosphere to the event," Lightning defenseman Ryan McDonagh said, "[Players] always look

community.

"I feel like they also draw more support from people like me who do not know much about hockey but love to support the team."

With larger attendance and increased

# Cell phone crack down divides students

## New essential phone policy promotes face-to-face contact after pandemic

BY ANNA CATE GRAHAM  
Staff Writer

The third quarter has been one of many significant changes in the Harpeth Hall Upper School. From a dropped mask mandate to a new cell phone policy, restrictions are simultaneously being relaxed and tightened. At a private, rigorous institution like Harpeth Hall, such a cell-phone policy is vital to ensuring academic focus and effective social interaction.

During one of the first Upper School Meetings of the semester, Upper School Dean Mrs. Carver approached the podium with an announcement: “The administration is cracking down on phones around the Hall.” As a student myself, sitting in seat H4, I felt my chest tighten.

An announcement of any new restriction in the days of a pandemic makes me, a high school student whose chance at a normal experience has been fractured at every turn, apprehensive to say the least. Not only was I nervous about yet another restriction—declared at the first meeting sans masks mind you—but the new cell phone policy also has rather severe consequences.

The first time a student is caught on her phone, she will receive a Saturday school and will be required to turn it in to the office for five school days. Upon the second infraction, the student will receive another Saturday school, will be required to turn in her phone to the office for 20 days, and her parents will be notified. The third time, heaven forbid, the student will have a “visit” with the Discipline Committee.

As an easily intimidated freshman, I was originally scared by the prospect of any confrontation with the administration. Upon reflection, I realized that a cell phone-free environment, however it must be achieved, is necessary for the success of an institution like Harpeth Hall.

As a screenager, there are days that I spend at least three of my four classes on my laptop in some capacity, whether I am on OneNote, my email or PowerSchool. Since the majority of my homework is also on my laptop, I spend significant time on a screen after school hours as well.

Inside the classroom, girls should be focused on their teacher’s lecture, their peer-editor’s thoughts or the comments of another student on a novel. The immersive Harpeth Hall experience is an academic one as well as a social one, and both aspects are compromised by cell phone use.

After 1.5 years behind masks, I can finally see my peers’ faces and expressions. If your face is buried

in a phone, we might as well still be wearing masks. Even without masks, I still am distanced from other students by cell phones.

Sitting in the pod at 7:30, 25 minutes before the ability to use a cell phone expires, there is a steady hum of conversation; however, most girls are on their phones. I would take the delightful roar of 90 plus girls fully present and excited over the distracted laziness of a student with her phone. Cell phones serve as a distraction and a distancing factor within our community.



**LET’S TAKE A SELFIE:** Sophomores Marit Davis, Lila Jane Pulliam and Josie Garrison on their phones in the pod on Feb. 28, 2022. Photo by Shaffer Dale, Photo Editor.

The global goal of “returning to normalcy” is impossible without dropping all effects of the pandemic, including interacting only in the digital space. Now that we have been gifted the space to spend time face to face, we should take advantage of that opportunity instead of reaching for our phones. Seven hours goes by like *that*.

**Now that we have been gifted the space to spend time face to face, we should take advantage of that opportunity instead of grabbing for our phones. Seven hours goes by like *that*.**

## Students resort to secretive phone policies as a result of ineffective policy

BY LUCY FARRINGER  
Staff Writer

The new phone policy has not drastically changed the usage of phones during school and punishments in general do not single-handedly stop students from bringing out their phones during school hours.

“I don’t know anyone out of all the people who have gotten their phone taken away that have

cooperation from the students.

“The phone policy hasn’t actually affected me in any way to where I don’t use my phone. I haven’t stopped using it anymore than I

**“The new policy just makes people want to be more secretive and sneaky about using their phones.”**

-- Anonymous student

used to,” freshman Ellie Davis said.

Many students believe that the use of phones during school hours is necessary in some situations. For example: when students need to let their parents know something important, they feel as if they need to text them in order for their parents to receive the information as soon as possible.

“My mom never checks her email,” a freshman Lilly Watkins said., “And if I need to let her know if something has been canceled or if I’m not feeling well, then the only way I can reach her is to text her.”

Davis also notes that the added aspect of ‘the call home’ is pointless. “If they call my parents, then I won’t really care, that part doesn’t bother or scare me at all. My parents would already know if I got Saturday school anyway.”

“It’s not stopping me from getting out my phone,” an anonymous student who has had their phone taken away several times said. Regardless of this, she still feels that the automatic Saturday school is a frightening aspect to the cell phone policy.

“The new policy just makes people want to be more secretive and sneaky about using their phones,” she explained. So, it is evident that the policy is not stopping students: the policy is just making them more cautious about where they bring out their phones.

The new policy has not had that much of an effect. Phone usage is not actually impacting student’s time in class. Most students only use their phones outside of class, when they do not need to pay attention.

“I think that the administration overestimates the amount of time the students are on their phones during actual school. Most of the time, students are on their phones during breaks—they are never actually on them during class time,” another freshman said.

Girls are becoming anxious about how to communicate with their parents in case of emergency as a result of the new cell phone policy, and they are being forced into secretive manners of phone usage.

stopped using it during school. The new policy hasn’t affected it at all. It is just the same people who don’t learn their lesson or just don’t care,” a freshman said.

The new policy includes harsher punishments such as automatic Saturday school, turning in the phone to the Dean’s office for a number of days, and even a call to the student’s parents if they get caught a second time.

While there have been some changes from the original policy, there hasn’t been a prominent shift in the consequences, and there does not seem to be a significant response or

# Civics should constitute a part of the HH curriculum

BY OLIVIA MAJORS  
Editor-in-Chief

My favorite class I've ever taken at Harpeth Hall has been Democracy and Leadership. My second favorite is AP U.S. Government; third place goes to Economics. As I've learned about landmark Supreme Court Cases, the foundational documents of America, and how the national economy works, I've realized that very few of my friends have taken any of these courses and are, in effect, missing out on a big chunk of this fundamental knowledge. And it's not their fault.

As course selections roll

around every spring, each student decides their "thing": that class (or study hall) to fill up their sixth block. Semester and year long electives range from the arts to math to science to, of course, civics. Civics has

always been my chosen "thing," but I can't blame other students for not choosing civics as theirs. There's simply not enough time.

I propose that Harpeth Hall makes time.

The school should replace one of the seven required semesters of wellness with a mandatory civics class: either a basic, level-one "Intro to Government" or a more advanced course, like AP Gov.

Students opting for an introductory class could enjoy no homework or traditional tests, replacing those assignments with class discussions, followed by brief written assessments that would require no

studying. The more advanced courses, however, would require students to commit to homework and tests.

These choices would allow students to gauge both their personal levels of interest

and their current workload and make the decision that is the most logical for them. Wellness, of course, would remain an integral part of our schedule, just for one less semester.

It's not just my personal obsession with politics nor a disdain for running laps that is fuelling my request. A lack of civic education translates into a broader, potentially dangerous, national issue. According to the Brookings Institute, 1 in 4 Americans cannot name the three branches of government. A depressing 17% of Americans trust the government to "do the right thing."

While a high school government class will not automatically restore trust in the US government, it will certainly allow students to understand the power that they, as citizens or constituents, have to make a change.

As a member of the Center for Civic Engagement Student Advisory Board, I know that Harpeth Hall takes political deliberations seriously and wants to conduct them in a respectful and beneficial way. The best way for students to practice these vital skills is in a civics class.

In fact, it is surprising that Harpeth Hall does not already require a civics course. In order to develop "responsible citizens who have global perspectives and make meaningful contributions to their communities," as our mission statement reads, a class requirement dedicated to encouraging and allowing students to understand civic participation is essential. Additionally, 30 states already require a

semester-long civics course in their public school schedules.

Now, don't get me wrong: Harpeth Hall has interwoven a basic understanding of US government into its curriculum starting in fifth grade. But, contrary to what some may say, this simply is not enough.

Despite considering myself a politically informed person, I didn't know the specific influences that citizens wield other than voting until Democracy and Leadership. I also didn't know about landmark Supreme Court Cases that drastically alter politics as we know it, such as Citizens United vs. the Federal Election Commission. Most importantly, civics classes have allowed me to refine my ability to talk and think critically about a

wide array of contentious topics.

The problem with Harpeth Hall's schedule as it stands is

that it creates its own form of incestuous amplification (a condition that Democracy and Leadership warned me about): mostly politically-oriented students choose civics courses, thereby contributing to the civic education of the people who technically need it the least.

Unfortunately, simply requiring a civics course for students will not be adequate. Students have other passions, other subjects they wish to pursue in their too-few spare blocks. By creating a time and space where students sacrifice just one semester of wellness, the administration can prove its commitment to promoting healthy civic dialogue and producing well-rounded, informed young women.

**"It is surprising that Harpeth Hall does not already require a civics course."**



**NOTING DEMOCRACY:** Students take notes as Bonnie Moses, Upper School History teacher, lectures on the executive branch in AP United States Government on March 2, 2022. Photo by Olivia Majors.

# U.S intervention results in more harm than help

BY GABBY MCHOURAB  
News Editor

According to CNN, on Feb. 2, 2022, President Joe Biden announced that ISIS leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hasim al-Qurayshi had been killed in an American military raid in northwest Syria. According to President Joe Biden, as US forces drew nearer to the compound, Qurayshi blew himself up. Although officials claimed that there were multiple civilian casualties, the Syrian civil defense group and the Biden administration seemed not to agree on the exact numbers.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby stated that the raid resulted in four civilians and five combatant casualties. However, the White Helmets, the Syrian civil defense group, claimed that there were 13 casualties, including six children and four women. It has still not been made clear why this discrepancy is so large.

President Biden also claimed that they decided against an airstrike. However, a Syrian witness stated that at least three helicopters were flying overhead before a huge explosion was observed soon after. In addition, the same witness said that he heard what resembled a drone strike before all the helicopters left.

Many who witnessed the event also note that the building did not appear to have been destroyed by a suicide bomb. In fact, it better resembled a building that had been destroyed by a missile from above.

"If you look at the pictures of the building after the so-called suicide bombing, it looks as if the destruction is due to a bomb coming down on the building and that has been pointed out by many people. However, with every aspect of this story, it is hard to ascertain what really happened on the ground," said my father, Hassane Mchaourab, who lived in the Middle

East throughout his childhood

I believe these discrepancies come from the fact that the US really had no idea who was present at the attack zone and had no way of seeing what happened on the ground because they came from above. They went into the raid blind, all while knowing that many civilian lives would potentially be lost in the attempt to kill one person. The United States has repeatedly downplayed the importance of acknowledging



**SURVEYING ISIS:** President Biden and Vice President Harris watch the counterterrorist attack against ISIS leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi from the White House Situation Room in February, 2022. Photo Courtesy of the White House.

the lives of innocent children that are taken during these drone strikes.

Another example of said ignorance is when the US military murdered 70 women and children in Syria, according to the New York Times. This occurred on Mar. 18, 2019, during a battle against the Islamic State in Syria. A US military drone was circling overhead, tracking military targets, when they saw a huge crowd of women and children sitting on a riverbank.

Without hesitation, an American F-15E attack jet dropped a 500-pound bomb where they were all sitting. As many tried to flee, the jet dropped two more 2000-pound bombs, killing most, if not all, of the initial survivors.

This attack is referred to as the Baghuz strike and resulted in one of the highest rates of civilian casualties during a drone strike, even though it was never publicly acknowledged by the military. The fact of the matter is that this



could and should be considered a war crime and should have been thoroughly investigated. However, it never was, because instead of respecting the lives lost and owning their mistake, it seems the US military did everything they could to cover it up.

The US government has always downplayed the death toll, suggesting that those lives were just a number. The US made sure to delay the report and classify them. The United States also

destroyed the site to remove the evidence.

"Leadership just seemed so set on burying this. No one wanted anything to do with it. It makes you lose faith in the system when people are trying to do what's right but no one in a position of leadership wanted to hear it," Gene Tate, an evaluator for the inspector general's office, said.

Images received from aerial drones are very unreliable, and usually one cannot see images clear enough to know who it is. Perhaps a lot of these drone strikes have gone wrong due to the misinterpretation of images. However, if the US is uncertain about who they might be attacked, why would they attack them in the first place? The US has made countless mistakes that have led to the death of innocent civilians.

In a residential neighborhood in Kabil, a US drone strike killed ten family members in 2021, seven of whom were children, according to CNN. The US had received intelligence that a suspected ISIS-K suicide bomber was in this residential neighborhood. So the US carried out a defensive airstrike, sending a US drone that couldn't properly see the people into the house, and bombed it. Among the seven children dead were two 2-year-old girls.

A brother of those killed said they were "an ordinary family. We are not ISIS or Daesh and this was a family home – where my brothers lived with their families."

I worry that the US launched this attack without any reliable information, that they had no way of properly seeing who was in that house and if it was the target they suspected it to be. If they simply saw a car in the drone, assumed it was the suicide bomber, murdered ten innocent civilians, and completely destroyed the home of already impoverished people, that is unacceptable.



Across

- 2. Lunch line
- 3. Former Logos sponsor
- 5. Literary object, or a phone message
- 6. Common Gen-Z slang term
- 8. Late start
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_ tree
- 14. Art history trip
- 18. Mary Meacham and Caroline Ford
- 20. Shade of green
- 21. Our skirt, Scottish clan
- 23. French teacher
- 24. Optional
- 26. 2022 Prom theme
- 27. Campus power couple

Down

- 1. Mary Shelley's classic novel
- 4. Newest addition to campus
- 7. Auburn's rival
- 10. Senior theme
- 11. Impressionist painter of "Waterlilies"
- 12. Literary magazine
- 13. Rude
- 14. School play
- 15. Indian spiced tea
- 16. A clever, witty remark
- 17. Southern catchall
- 19. "Oh Harpeth Hall, oh place beloved..."
- 21. weep
- 22. Dreaded math problem of freshman year
- 25. punishment