



# MANY SIGNS, ONE VISION, ONE COMMUNITY

## THE NEWSLETTER OF "47" THE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH SECONDARY SCHOOL

Volume 1, Issue 3 | Summer 2021

### Introduction

Hello, "47" family!

Welcome to the third issue of *Many Signs, One Vision, One Community*, our school newsletter—and welcome back to school! In this issue, you can find photos of our Spirit Week and 2021 Graduation, a celebration of our May and June Students of the Month, a comic relief page, and staff highlights of Arnine Weiss and Caitlin McGrory. We hope this information proves useful and interesting to you.

We also want to highlight that this coming year's Parent Association (PA) elections will take place in September 2021. If you are interested in joining or running for a position, please contact Parent Coordinator Delta Ortiz at [dortiz@47aslhs.net](mailto:dortiz@47aslhs.net).

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please reach out to us directly at the email address below. We will see you for our next volume in a few weeks!

With our warmest regards,

#### "47" Communications Committee

Ms. Helton, Mx. Howard, Ms. Schaeffer, and Ms. Zaken  
[communications@47aslhs.net](mailto:communications@47aslhs.net)

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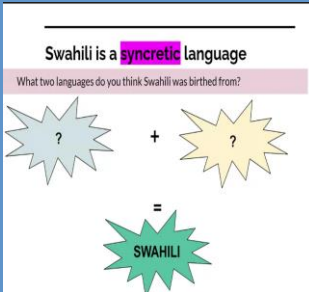
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Calendar

# Spirit Week

MAY 10-14, 2021

"47" celebrated Spirit Week with a variety of academic and fun activities throughout the week! We had a lot of fun participating in teacher run "How-To" events, such as "How to bake cookies," "How to fingerspell," "How to prepare for an interview," "How to fold origami," and much more. We also went on virtual field trips to the Central Park Zoo, rode the Staten Island Ferry, and went on a scavenger hunt in Central Park. In college and career workshops, students learned all about College Now, Advance Placement classes, and college tours. Teachers and students also participated in a Relay Race and a painting class. It was a wonderful week!





# Graduation 2021

JUNE 25, 2021

On June 25, each of our 31 students in the Class of 2021 walked across the auditorium stage to receive their high school diploma. The ceremony included addresses from Assistant Principal Vianny Vallejo, Principal Watfa Shama, and Alumni President Cheryl Pipp (presented by Ms. Michelle Zaken), and a stirring ASL rendition of the national anthem by Ms. Christina Dunams. The salutatory address was given by Aaliyah Martinez '21, the valedictory address was given by Kayla Lugo '21, and the "47" school cry was led by Malakai Gadsden '21 and Tahlaiya Thompson '21. Congratulations to our Class of 2021—we are so proud of you! We will miss our graduates very much, and we hope they visit soon—when it is safer, of course.



## CLASS OF 2021

Isaiah Agosto	Jesus Garcia	Aaliyah Martinez	Tahlaiya Thompson
Arthur Avery, IV	Jhayreni Garzon	Alissa Nieves	Skarlette Troncoso
Brithney Bazantes	Neida Gonsaga Santos	Branden Ramirez	Kaylee Valdez-Cuevas
Endy Delossantos	Charlie Gonzalez, Jr.	Ana Sanchez-Gutierrez	Guadalupe Vergara Vargas
Maryam Feknous Facundo	Adonis Lemos	Crystal Santiago	Isaac Vergara Varona
Zulemma Feliz	Ashley Lopez	Quayshonna Seeley	Mikayla Wilde
Malakai Gadsden	Kayla Lugo	Ivan Soto	Irene Zamora
Alyssa Calcano Garcia	Marlene Marin	Siara Soto	

# Pride Month

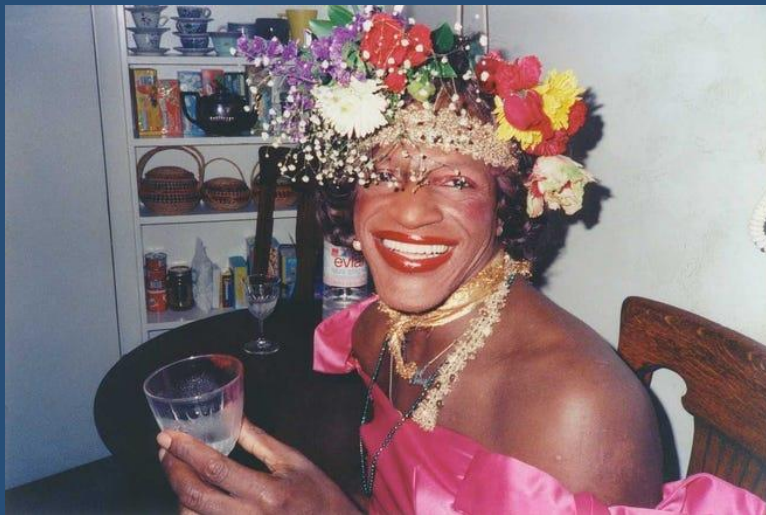
## JUNE

Happy Pride Month everyone! June is when we celebrate the entire LGBTQ+ community and continue to spread love, awareness, and acceptance for the entire community. So how did Pride Month start? And why is it in June? Here's a little background and history on the beginnings of Pride.

### *Stonewall Uprising*

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1969, the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in Greenwich Village, was invaded by police. Prior to this, any "homosexual acts" were illegal in the US, except in Illinois, and police often intimidated, harassed, and arrested LGBTQ+ people for simply being a member of the community. As the invasion of Stonewall was happening, LGBTQ+ people decided that enough was enough, and they stood their ground and advocated for the right to be who they are, no matter what, and live their lives as they want to.

From that point, the Stonewall Riots were set into motion. This historic event was led by a Black transgender woman and activist, Marsha P. Johnson, and a Latina transgender woman, Sylvia Rivera. The riots created a huge shift in activism for LGBTQ+ rights and led to creating organizations and groups that support and advocate for the lives and the rights of all LGBTQ+ people in the US and all over the world. The Stonewall Inn—still open and as popular as ever today—was declared a historic landmark by New York City in 2015, and then declared a national monument by President Barack Obama in 2016.



*Pictured: Marsha P. Johnson*

### *Pride Today*

One year after the Stonewall Riots, on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1970, the first Gay Pride parade occurred in New York City. Other major cities, such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, and more, followed suit and began organizing parades of their own.

While we still have a lot to work to do towards equity and justice for queer and trans folks, it is also important to look back and remember those that came before us, and the amazing work they did to get us to this point. Because of Marsha P. Johnson and other members of the LGBTQ+ community who decided to take a stand, we carry on their legacy by celebrating Pride in the month of June and continue to march for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community.



# Outdoor, COVID-Safe Activities!

1. **Little Island NYC:** There can never be too many parks in this concrete jungle, and the first one opened since COVID hit has officially opened to the public! It is a free, public park in the West Village, at 13th Street in Hudson River Park. There are beautiful, quiet places to relax, different venues where live musical and other performances will happen, and various places for you to view the city. There are also educational programs that will be hosted there as well! Most of the events will be free or low-cost to all who attend. Some of the upcoming performers and events for the summer are:

- a. Tap dance and choreographer Ayodele Casel
- b. Playwright and award-winning director Tina Landau
- c. Actor, singer, and music director Michael McElroy
- d. Acting, musical, and storytelling group PigPen Theatre Co.
- e. Other performances and educational programming, such as spoken word, dance, music, and circuses.



Image Source: [Bloomberg](#)



2. **NY Pop Up Festivals:** Broadway will not be back for a while, but for now, you can get your theater fix by watching a pop-up performance or two! The coolest thing is that they are all unannounced, but if you follow their Twitter and Instagram, you can see them post hints about where the next one might be.

Image Source: [New York Times](#)

3. **(Drive In) Movies:** Movie theaters are opening back up! While there are still strict guidelines in places for everyone's safety, you are finally able to go out to watch a new film again! Drive-in theaters have been open for a bit as well. They've become the go-to for many during this time to stay safe in your own car but enjoy an outing that is a fun, relaxing getaway!



Image Source: [Time Out New York](#)



4. **Bronx Night Market:** It's back! Held in the Fordham Plaza, there's always amazing food, family activities, and a good place to social distance while still enjoying your time back in the world! It will be open every Saturday from now until November. Admission is free, food and drinks will cost extra.

Image Source: [Norwood News](#)

5. **Art Exhibits:** New York City is well-known for its museums and art, and although many things in this city have been down and out for a bit, there is no shortage of new exhibits happening all over! The following is a list of a few that are happening now:
- a. Niki de Saint Phalle's exhibition titled *Structures for Life* at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA); \$10 per ticket
  - b. Yayoi Kusama's exhibit at the New York Botanical Gardens; \$35 per ticket
  - c. Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum (recently reopened!)
  - d. King Manor Museum (Jamaica, Queens); suggested pricing: adults (\$5), students (\$3), kids (free)



Image Source: [Architectural Digest](#)

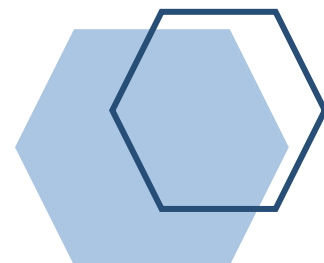


## 6. All the Tourist-y Adventures

- a. **Bike Rides:** Take your bike, or a Citi Bike, and ride one of the many trails in and out of the parks in each borough! Some good bike paths include Hudson River Greenway in Manhattan, Alley Pond Park or Cunningham Park in Queens, or Shirley Chisholm Park in Brooklyn!
- b. **The Staten Island Ferry:** Head on a boat ride from Manhattan to Staten Island and back and take in the beautiful views from the outside looking in. Grab a few friends, get some snacks, and take some Insta-worthy shots around the New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, and the skyline. They run 24/7, every 25 minutes, and they're free!
- c. **Brooklyn Bridge:** Easily one of the most tourist-y landmarks this city has, but still a classic. Walking over the bridge is fun and a great way to relax and get some energy out with friends, but there are also amazing eats to enjoy, such as the Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory. The best part is that since the pandemic, there have been way less tourists, which allows us locals to fall in love with our city and its views all over again!



Image Sources: [Curbed New York](#); [Catholic News Service](#); [Gerhard Huber](#)



# Students of the Month

## MAY

Congratulations to our May Students of the Month!

Ana Esthiecy Abreu Ortiz	Jason Gonzalez	Naomi Rivas
Velinda Amelco	E-Lin Gross	Remy Rodriguez Germosen
Anita Andrade	Nadia Hidalgo	Robert Sabando
Jeremy Benzant	Jose Lituma Molina	Janiyah Simpson
Jayci Davis	Leslie Lorenzo Rodriguez	Tahlaiya Thompson
Andy Delossantos	Jamison Martinez	Yahelis Vega
Amariah Emanuel Tyler	Amelia Mendez	Ariscela Vilchis
Jarely Fajardo-Altamirano	Geovany Mendoza	Kiaya Walker
Maryam Feknous Facundo	Memory Muchanyerei	Skye Williams
Emely Galeana	Arianna Olivieri	Jazmine Zuniga Lopez
Sirandy Garcia	Jessica Paulinomartinez	Maritza Zurita
Isabelly Gimenez	Raulybel Perez	
Chelsea Gomez	Emmani Raynes	

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## JUNE

Congratulations to our June Students of the Month!

Ana Abreu Ortiz	Aaliyah Martinez	Janiyah Simpson
Anita Andrade	Lyana Martinez	Yanitza Sojo Noel
Marina Baric	Amelia Mendez	Siara Soto
Xavier Cannon	Zuleyka Mendez-Garrido	Amaya Sousa
Gillian Davidson	Geovany Mendoza	Teciya Tomlinson
Amariah Emanuel Tyler	Arianna Olivieri	Katherine Vargas
Emely Galeana	Raulybel Perez	Kati Vasquez
Evelyn Guzman	Emmani Raynes	Justin Ventura
Ameenah Horne	Naomi Rivas	Skye Williams
Cynthia Laguer	Remy Rodriguez	



# Comic Relief

## THAT DEAF GUY

Matt and Kay Daigle, by permission of the artists

### THAT DEAF GUY

BY MATT & KAY DAIGLE



### THAT DEAF GUY

BY MATT & KAY DAIGLE



## SOME JOKES

What kind of tree fits in your hand?

*A palm tree!*

How do you know that the ocean is friendly?

*It waves!*

Why aren't dogs good dancers?

*Because they have two left feet!*



# Student Contributions

In this issue, we're proud to feature contributions from the following "47" students:

## ASL CLUB ARTWORK

Students in ASL Club each created their own art piece inspired by the work of the late Chuck Baird, a Deaf artist who created art primarily using a combination of an ASL sign and the concept it represented. Students utilized several different mediums, from colored pencils to marker and writing to digital media. Each student chose a sign that influenced their art piece by pulling from their knowledge of ASL and Deaf culture.



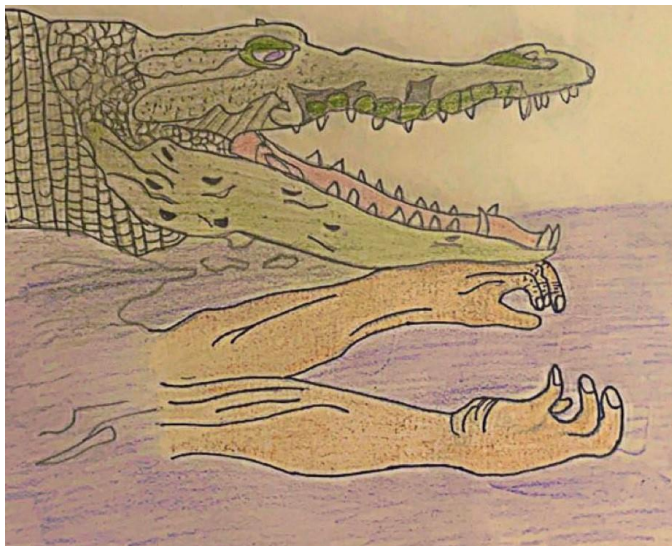
*Clockwise from  
top left:*

*Drums by  
Anonymous*



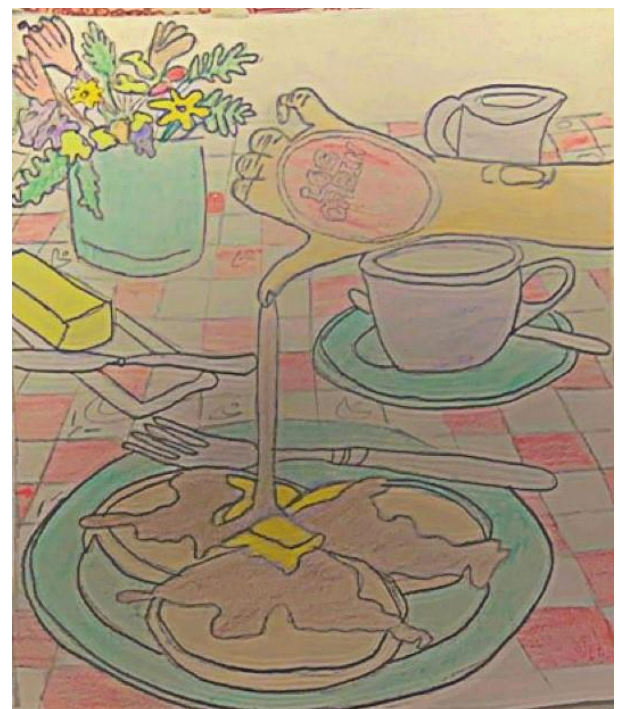
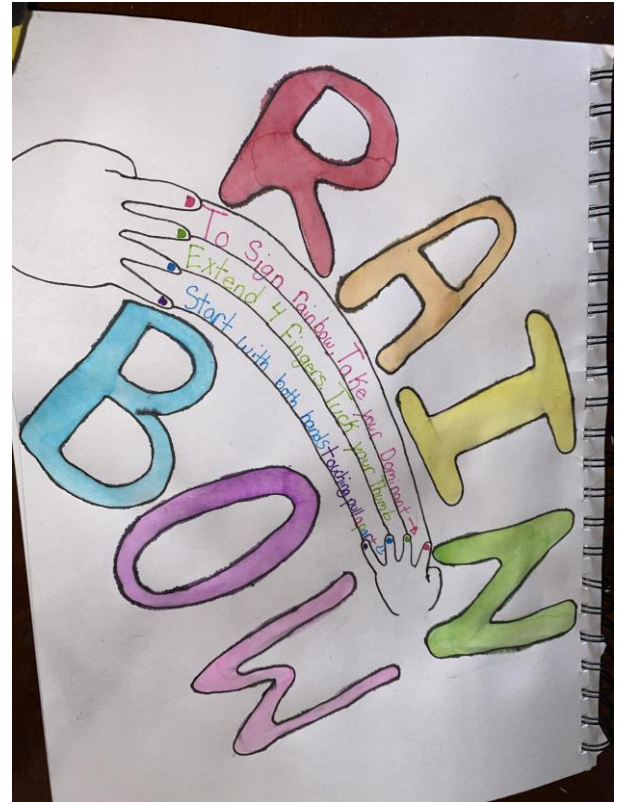
*Rainbow by  
Anonymous*

*Syrup by Amelia  
Mendez '24*



*Crocodile by  
Amelia  
Mendez '24*

*Stars by Tahlaiya  
Thompson '21*



## SLAVIC CREATION MYTH

*By Angel Tigre '23*

Earth is but a speck of the entirety of all creation  
Inhabitants come to realization, wondering of its fabrication  
From stories, to theories, many have pondered the question  
So follow along, as we acknowledge a Slavic lesson

The Slavic Myth starts within the abyss  
As the vast dark envelops a gold spark,  
An egg;  
An Origin;  
A Symbol;  
A Forefather;  
Of Life, Of God  
Rod's strength developed within time,  
Natural feelings, stark polarity awoke it  
Hot to cold,  
Ease to bold,  
From this, the Rod had cast itself from the depths,  
And brought out the system of opposites from where it had slept  
Formation of two divine manifestations,  
Dark and Light,  
Day and Night  
The Forefather had sought out balance from this,  
The idea of every action, existing a risk  
For if there was Life and Light,  
Darkness and Death are sure to follow  
Rod had sought  
An infinite  
Cycle,  
Equilibrium,  
Engagement,  
Between that of the Beginning's demise to and End,  
And an End's demise to a Beginning.  
The prime objective was neither winning nor losing,  
Rather to ensure that stability would keep on moving.

## NORSE CREATION

*by Ciro Ortiz '23*

When the frigid stillness of the North,  
And the sweltering of the South,  
Come together

Gods will come forth,  
Spring forth from the mouth  
Of a bovine

The Cruellest God,  
Life created by his hand,  
One drop of his blood  
Flesh turns into land

Odin and his sparks  
Rising from the depths  
Planted in the sky  
Creating vast parks

When bitterness prevails  
And Odin fails  
Lines carved in the wood  
Will ruin all that was once good.

*Myth used - Norse Creation Myth*

## HINDU CREATION MYTH POEM

*By Anita Andrade '23*

Prajapati, Prajapati speak so there can be light  
Prajapati, Prajapati no need to be alone  
Prajapati, Prajapati speak so there may be people  
Prajapati, Prajapati don't do anything wrong  
Or else Rudra will fling you to the sky and you will become Capricorn.

## INSPIRED BY PANGU THE CHINESE CREATION MYTH

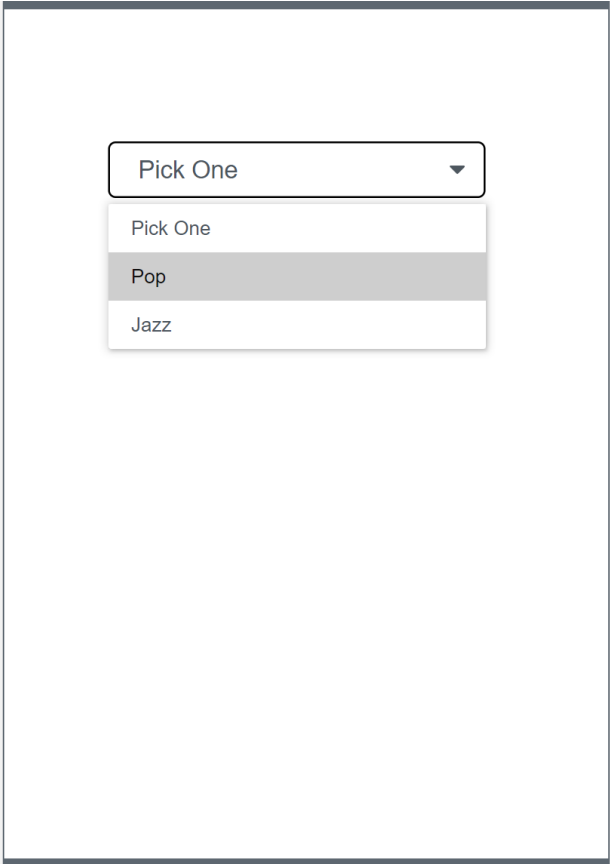
*By Janiyah Simpson '23*

The start was like all others  
Chaos ran rampant and heaven and earth were still  
conjoined together  
Within the chaos a giant slept  
Encased within yolk and shell in the universe's depth  
When he awoke out he came  
Separating earth and heaven  
Standing on grassy plains  
Years later he would pass  
His body becoming the blueprint for the world we know at last



APPS BY COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS

“Music Search App” by Egypt Boyd ‘23 (click to open)



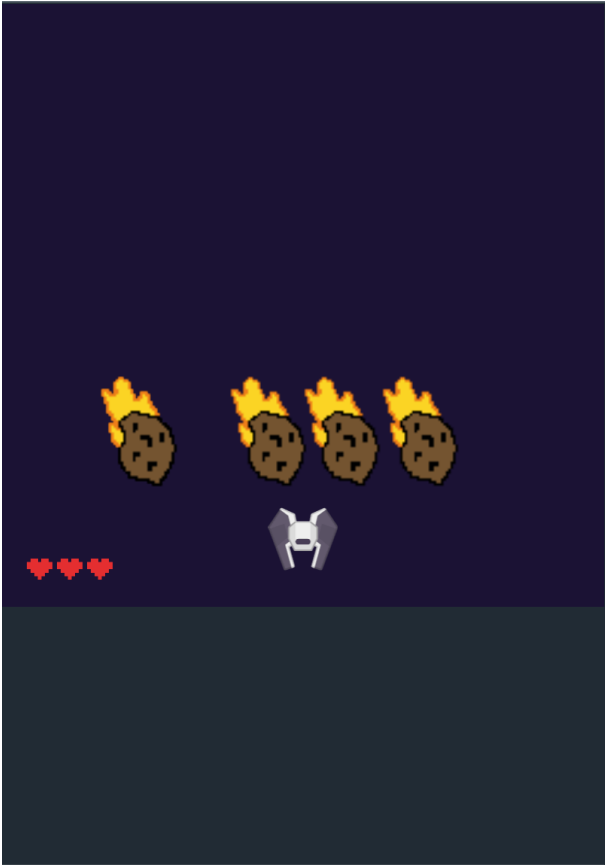
“Crocs Finder” by Isabella Gimenez ‘23 (click to open)



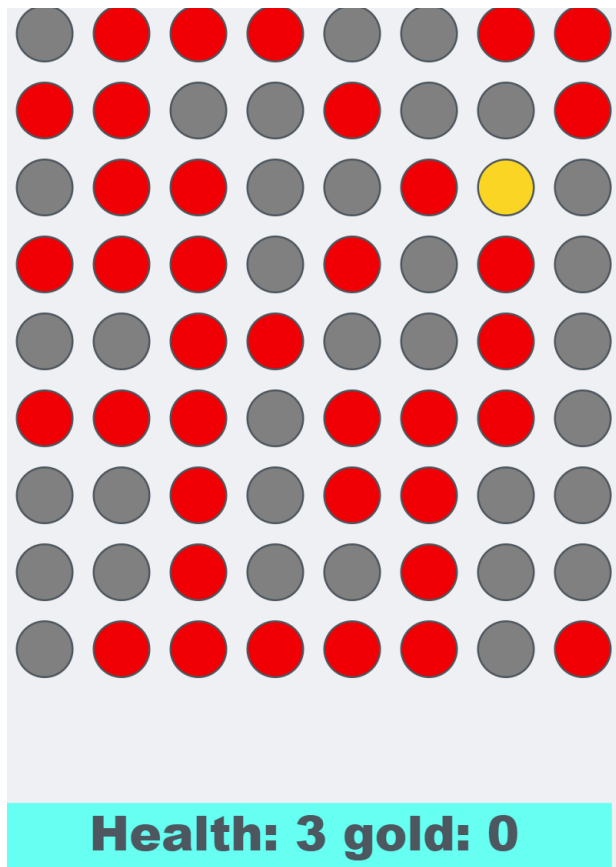
“Learn Korean” by Emely Galeana ‘23 (click to open)



“Asteroid Game” by Jason Gonzalez ‘23 (click to open)



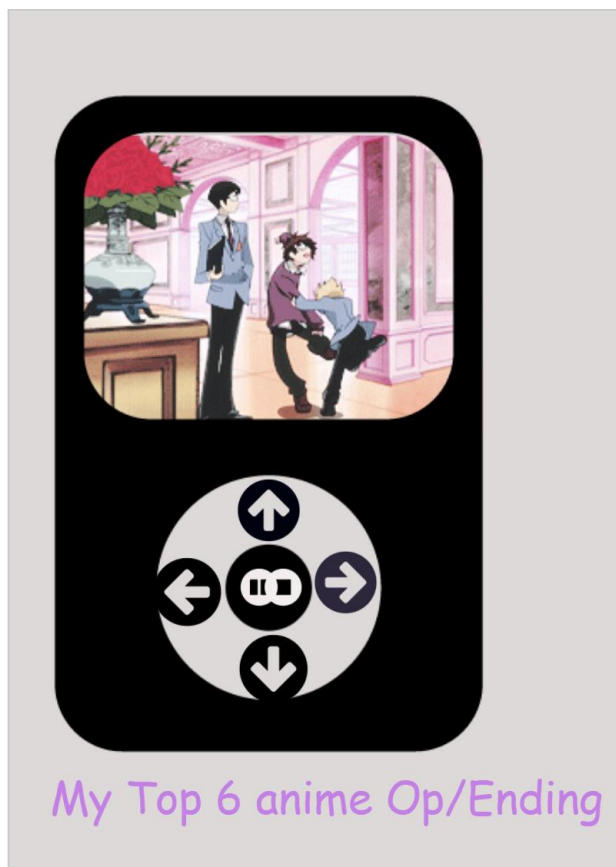
*"DODATS" by Jerry Leon Enriquez '23 (click to open)*



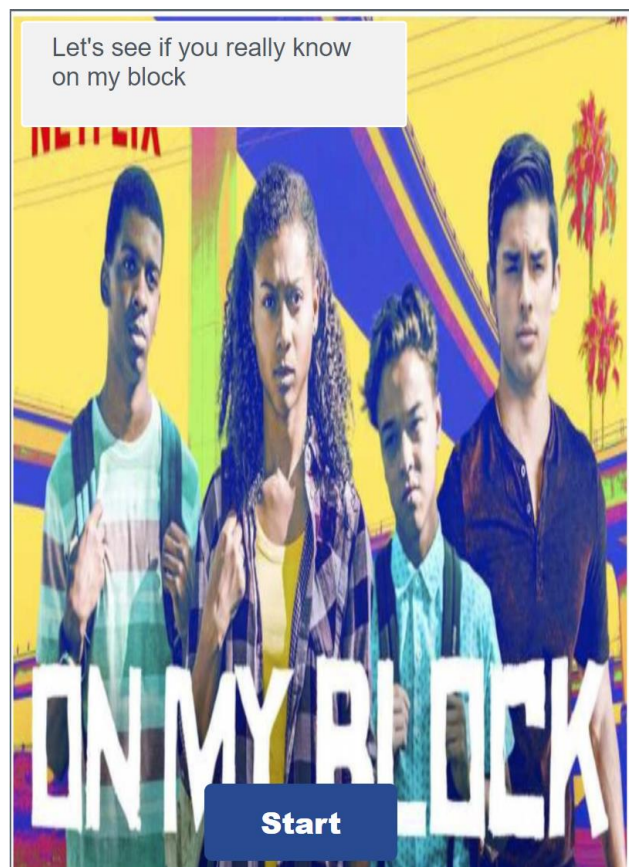
*"The Basketball App" by Mark Hazel '22 (click to open)*



*"Anime Openings" by Jessica Paulinomartinez '23 (click to open)*

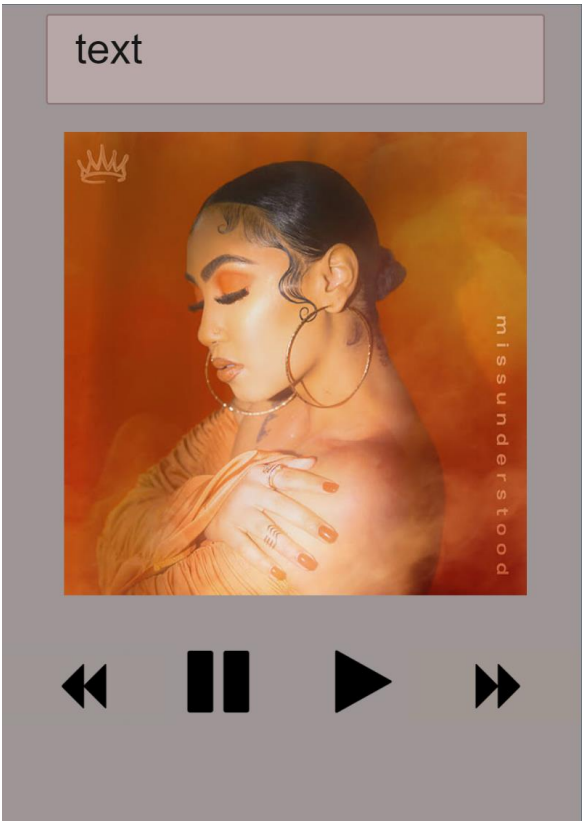


*"On My Block Quiz" by Memory Muchanyerei '23 and Yahelis Vega '23 (click to open)*





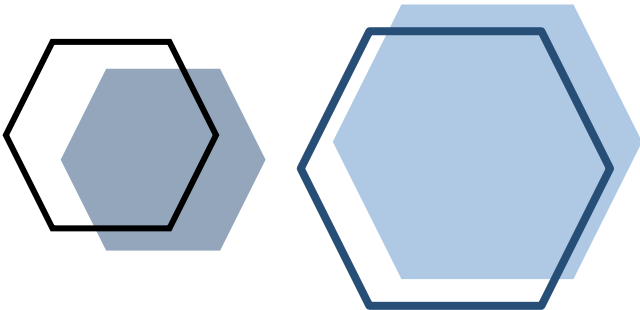
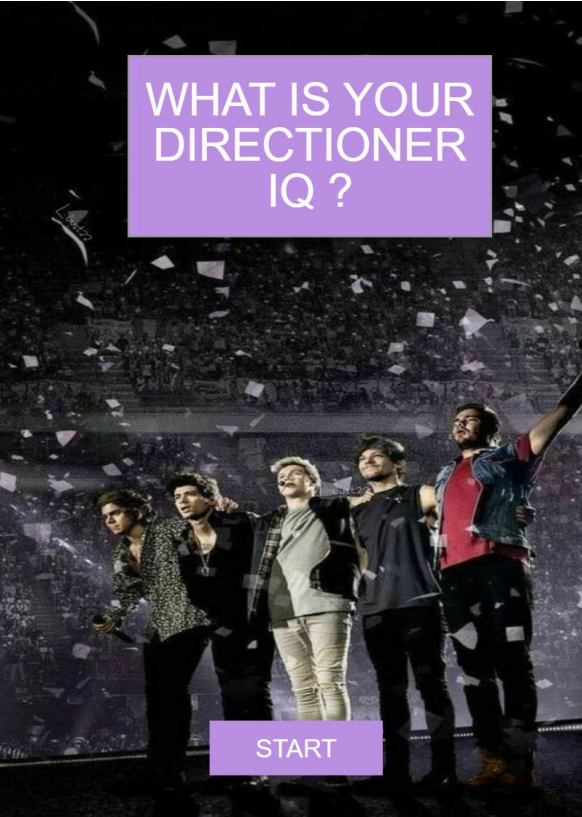
*"missunderstood Player"* by Natalie Quintero '23 (click to open)



*"Communications App"* by Velinda Amelco '23 (click to open)



*"One Direction Quiz"* by Sheyla Perez '23 and Kimora Cancel '23 (click to open)



# Staff Highlight

## MAY: ARNINE WEISS, HEARING SPECIALIST

Q1: *Describe yourself in a hashtag.*

#MoreThanJustAHashtag!

Q2: *What is your favorite time of day?*

Late afternoon.

Q3: *What is your dream place to visit?*

Ireland (already been there).

Q4: *What is the biggest surprise you have had?*

I had my first book published. [Editorial: 😊]

Q5: *Do you prefer vintage or new?*

New.

Q6: *If you could win an Olympic medal for any sport, real or fake, what would it be?*

Speed skating.

Q7: *If you could make a documentary, what would it be about?*

About the legacy that schools for the Deaf have left.

Q8: *If you could choose someone to play you in a movie, who would you choose?*

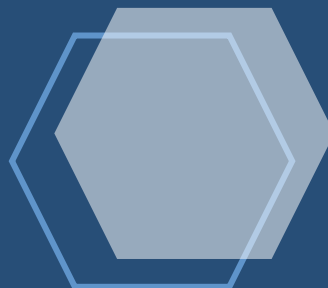
Diane Keaton.

Q9: *What is one thing that you enjoyed when you were younger that kids today don't get to do?*

Playing outside.

Q10: *What is the best advice you have ever gotten?*

If you keep your sense of humor you can get through anything.





## JUNE: CAITLIN MCGRORY, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

Q1: *Describe yourself in a hashtag.*

#introvertpower #imagination #yaybooks

Q2: *What is your favorite time of day?*

Night owl here! I love the moon, the stars and how creativity (for me) seems to blossom in the evening/night.

Q3: *What is your dream place to visit?*

I would absolutely love to visit Brazil. I would love to visit Bahia, Rio, the Amazon rainforest and soak up the culture—the food, the music, the language, the natural beauty, and the emotional warmth of the people.

Q4: *What is the biggest surprise you have had?*

Recently, I "caught" the bouquet at a wedding. It was extremely funny and SUPER awkward because no one caught it, twice. So I picked it up, thinking no one won, and I was being helpful. Suddenly, the bride screamed out, "Caitlin!" and began rejoicing as my eyes opened wide, and I was surrounded by a huge circle of selfie sticks and gushing women. Luckily, my boyfriend was outside... and did not witness my awkwardness. However, he was sweetly into this happening—and the most surprising thing was—underneath the awkwardness, so was I! :)

Q5: *Do you prefer vintage or new?*

Vintage! I love retro styles.

Q6: *If you could win an Olympic medal for any sport, real or fake, what would it be?*

Yoga! I am not a very externally competitive person, but I am with myself.

Q7: *If you could make a documentary, what would it be about?*

I would love to make a documentary about the resilience of the human spirit, with various people who have experienced trauma—physically as well as emotionally—and their journey to wholeness. I would also like to make documentaries on near death experiences and lucid dreaming.

Q8: *If you could choose someone to play you in a movie, who would you choose?*

I would probably ask Joanna Newsom to try acting. She is a singer/harpist, but I think she'd be a great actress.

Q9: *What is one thing that you enjoyed when you were younger that kids today don't get to do?*

Getting lost in a book with no temptation of being interrupted by the siren songs of an iPhone! In hindsight, that made me who I am today.

Q10: *What is the best advice you have ever gotten?*

Be yourself—everyone else is taken.



# Calendar of Important Dates

For more information, check out the [New York City Schools calendar](#) and [our school calendar](#).

## BACK TO SCHOOL 2021 FORUMS

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 | Brooklyn, Queens

Thursday, September 2, 2021 | Bronx, Staten Island

Thursday, September 9, 2021 | Manhattan

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2021–2022

Monday, September 13, 2021

## YOM KIPPUR | SCHOOLS CLOSED

Thursday, September 16, 2021

## ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY/INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY | SCHOOLS CLOSED

Monday, October 11, 2021

## ELECTION DAY | FULLY REMOTE, ASYNCHRONOUS INSTRUCTION

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

