

SRO Seniors Feel the V18e



By Paige Hayes, GHS 2019

The seniors of Greenwich High School have put together their own production called *Standing Room Only* (SRO) which will take place on March 8-10 at 7:00 pm in the PAC.

The theme for this year's SRO is *Feel-in' The V18e*. "It's a very fun, chill environment," said senior Hannah Doyle. "A lot of the songs we are dancing to are throwbacks that everyone should know and everyone can have fun with. SRO is a special thing because it's a group of people coming together from all different types of musical and performance backgrounds to put together one show, so there is something in there for everyone."

Tryouts for the senior show were held January 25th for music and January 26th for skits. Emily Delepine, the Skit Chair of SRO, described those trying out as "very comfortable; no one seemed really nervous. I think the fact that they were auditioning in front of peers instead of adults really helped."

So far, there are 125 students in the production. Although auditions are over, any seniors that are willing to participate are welcomed to join.

SRO primarily consists of singing, acting, and dancing. As Emily Gunzberg, one of the Overall Chairs of SRO, explained, "the skits are a commentary on GHS while the dances are to show the unity of the senior class"

All of the ticket sales of SRO and bake sales go directly towards the senior prom budget.

The purpose of SRO is to "bring the seniors together as a sort of a last hoorah to celebrate what they've done and to point out quirks they've noticed during the high school career."

The Skit Chair of SRO, Emily Delepine, shared with us to expect a lot of "comedy skits relating to popular things seen at GHS that a lot of students can relate to." In the past, there have been skits on popular school subjects, such as the wifi.

The entertaining and unique senior production, SRO, has been a Greenwich High School tradition ever since 1971. SRO is worth seeing for the whole school to have a laugh and promote unity within GHS. As a close knit community, it is essential we keep these values and customs alive in our town.



Photo: Anne-Emilie Rouffiac

STUDENTS HESITANT OVER MEDIA CENTER CHANGES



By Gregory Macora, GHS 2018

Near the beginning of second quarter, a sudden change took place in the Media Center. Adorning each large, round table was a sticker stating that only 5 people were allowed to the table at a time.

At first these stickers were largely ignored, taken as a suggestion, rather than a requirement. Then, students were asked to leave the library if they violated the rules. Naturally, this was very aggravating to the students, mostly seniors who wanted to hang out with their friends or do homework in a place other than the noisy, packed, student center.

The problem has recently worsened, with the round tables not only having a limit of five, but now intended to be quiet group study. Currently, deans prowl the library, providing further enforcement of the rules.

However, the uproar from the students about Media Center limitations may not be entirely justified. After all, the Media Center is a library, a place intended to be a quieter, smaller area for studying, which many students use to socialize.

The Beak interviewed Ms. Waters about what she thought of the situation.

She said that the changes were actually prompted by student complaints that the library was too loud, and that it was difficult to get work done, which also came up last year in student government meetings.

If one was to look at the silent study carols now they are absolutely packed almost every block, indicating a strong need for a quieter Media Center.

Many of the changes to the Media Center layout was to make the back of the student center quieter, and push group study to the front, limiting the amount of noise that could reach studying students.

The reality, in fact, begged the need for a change. The Media Center is often full of students, which poses as a fire hazard and annoyance for traversing teachers. Ms. Waters informed us that that the 5 student per table limit was created in response to this issue, to limit the number of people in the Media Center to about 200 due to the fire code. Previously, before the limit, students would fill the center of the library with so many chairs that it became extremely difficult to move through the area.

Ideally, other rooms in the Media Center could be opened up for group study, but there would need

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Home for Break? Have a Staycation



By Elizabeth Casolo, GHS 2018

Wondering what to do over your Connecticut staycation? Here are some ways to step-up your February break:

Check out the **Avon Theatre Film Center** to see the latest and most innovational cinematic masterpieces (this will actually let you appreciate the Oscars!). On **Saturday, February 17**, the Avon is screening a series of Oscar nominated documentary shorts. Finish off the day by channeling your inner '50's self with a milkshake at Lucky's Classic (they even have a Nutella one—yum!).

Are dogs your only friends (it's ok... we all know that's probably true)? Stop by Tod's Point to spend some quality time with local pooches. If you're more interested in exotic animals (including rare Amur baby tigers), take a trip to Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo!

Stop by the Bruce Museum to see their Treasures of the Earth and American Abstraction exhibits before they close in April. The magnificent displays of mineral formations and '70's artwork will blow you away.

For those of you SoBol fanatics, attempt to make your own DIY acai bowl! Start out by blending acai berries, other frozen fruits, and yogurt to thicken the smoothie. After pouring your concoction into a bowl, top it off with bananas, blackberries, strawberries, coconut, granola, or even almonds!

To satisfy your inner foodie, stop by Michael's to try out one of their signature cake decorating classes. For only \$15, receive professional instruction, so you can actually make a semi-decent cake! Classes are being held on the 13th and 15th of this month.

For a good group bonding activity, book an escape room at trap't Escape Room Adventures in Stamford. These puzzling rooms range from an art gallery to a subway stop.

If you're in for a splurge to top off your vacation, check out iFLY Westchester! This indoor skydiving locale offers packages starting at \$89.95 per person, but this bucket list item will leave you speechless.

Cardinals Talking Heads: Thoughts on the Media Center seating changes?



"I don't really go to the Media Center that much, but it's good because there are areas that are completely quiet... there are areas where you can work on a group project without being disturbed."

-Dylan



"I personally think the limit is unnecessary. I don't know how to describe it... my friends and I like to have room to sit"

-Jordan



"It's awful. It's trash"

-Adam

Anonymous Quotes

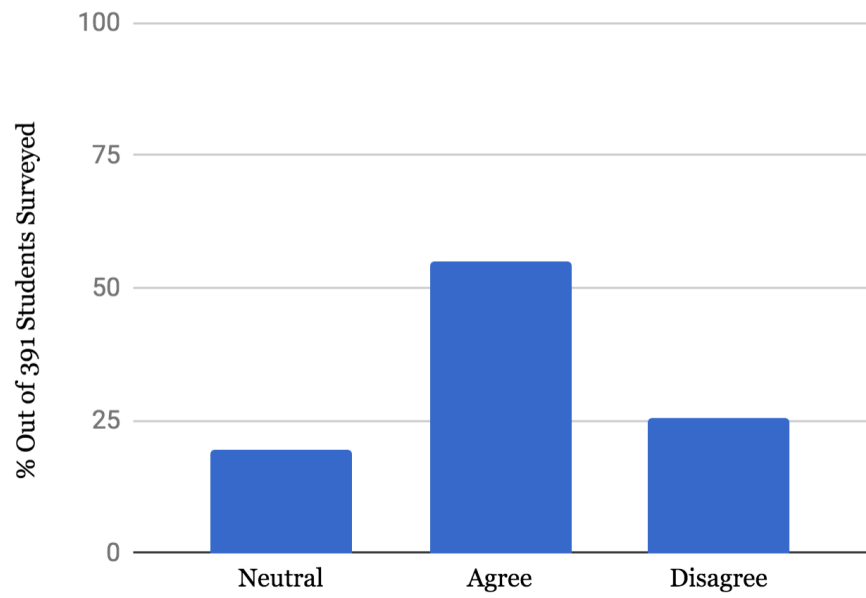
"I think it's useful because it used to be noisy."

"I think it's nice; I like those three tables [in the back] as well."

"I feel like it's weird; the tables should be farther back."

"I don't know the complete arrangement. It looks the same."

Student Opinions on The Introduction of "Quiet Study" Tables



Friday Night Lights: Fields are Not Lit

By Gracie Sunoo & Anne-Emilie Rouffiac

As GHS athletes would know, the debate over the Cardinal Stadium lighting limitations has continued to develop as the winter season progresses. The present dilemma dates back to June of 2000, when the Board of Education put forth a municipal improvement application, responding to the growing call from Greenwich residents and students for Cardinal Stadium lighting. The Planning and Zoning Commission rejected the proposal, however, and the Board of Education turned to the Representative Town Meeting, which overturned the denial with a majority vote.

Bill Effros, a Greenwich High neighbor sued the school, arguing that the lights would flood into his home and neighborhood while contributing to pollution of the area.

Nevertheless, the Planning and Zoning Commission authorized the installation of new lighting in June 2002, but established a set of conditions the school would have to follow: the lights could only be used for 10 games and six 1-hour practices a year and would have to be removed during certain seasons during which they are not needed. Such conditions were an attempt to create a compromise with school neighbors.

Yet, Mr. Effros filed lawsuits against the school and Board of Education twice more, resulting in a settlement in 2003 that allowed for lighting but required the school to follow the conditions set up earlier by the Zoning commission.

In November 2017, the Board of Education chose to allow litigation, or the reopening, of this case in an attempt to restart the conversation about the topic and obtain revisions of the lighting limitations. In addition, it organized a meeting at Central Middle School on November 14th; an intense debate between athletes, school parents, and GHS neighbors took place as the future of field lighting was put into question. The additional struggles that GHS athletes had to face caused many parents to share their thoughts on the issue. Football parents spoke of the team's need to be bused three times a week to New Canaan schools so that they may practice with field lighting, making them return home at even later hours.

Yet, one point of consensus transcended the disagreements at this meeting. "For the most part, it seemed like everyone wanted some sort of change" explained Emily Philippides, a senior and captain of the girls' track team. Furthermore, they dug into brainstorming of potential solutions, such as lighting GHS field 7.

A later start time, short winter daylight, and lighting restrictions have obligat-

ed many GHS teams, such as football, to train in the dark throughout the winter season. "This became a real issue from the beginning of December until the middle of January" said Emily Philippides. The football team, training for upcoming state events in December, had to use flashlights placed into belt packs in order to see on the field. The indoor track team (which trains outside) was advised by their coach to purchase LED Beanie Headlamps to help illuminate the track and reduce the chance of collisions between students running in darkness.

"Since there is not enough sunlight during practice, which always goes past sunset, we have to rush to get everything that we want done; this causes people to improperly warm up and cool down and leads to injuries" explained George Karakadas, a captain of the indoor track team (which trains outdoors throughout the season).

The Board of Education has worked to purchase lights for Central Middle School's field as an alternative, allowing GHS teams to conduct practices in the evening.

As the court case is reopened, the school and Board of Education have continued to create solutions and compromises using updated facilities and modern technology. The idea of LED lights was explored as a favorable replacement to the blinding flood lights currently in place.

"Current LED technology is safer for athletes, better for spectators, and would be less polluting for our neighbors" Rob Burton, director of the Greenwich Athletic Foundation, explained last summer as the conversation about Cardinal stadium began (Greenwich Free Press).

As solutions are pondered and litigation progresses, Greenwich residents and students await to hear the fate of Cardinal Stadium, an iconic and integral thread in the fabric of GHS culture. Presently, students are eager to learn how their practices, games, and spectator experiences will be affected by the decisions deriving from new court agreements.

GHS Tackles Midterms Head On

By Woojin Kwak, GHS 2019

Stress has been one of the hottest topics going around in Student Government. The Student Government Executive Committee has been issuing many surveys to the GHS student community to evaluate their thoughts on the current midterm schedule and to determine student stress levels before and after the exams.

Before midterms, the Student Government Executive Committee sent out a Pre and Post-Midterm Stress Surveys for students to fill out. In total, there were 790 responses for the Pre-Midterm Stress Survey and 593 responses for the Post-Midterm Stress Survey.

Regarding midterm-related stress in the Pre-survey, 54.6% of the 790 responses said that midterm-related stress negatively impacts academic performance on midterm assessments. The Pre-survey also showed that students were mostly stressed about, "the time-constraint to do large amounts of work before and during midterms, the fact that midterms count for a large portion of my grades, and all the assignments, tests, projects, etc. due before the midterms."

In the Post-survey, the Executive Committee asked questions on whether or not a day off before or after midterms would allow students to perform better on exams. They also asked whether students believe midterms reflect their academic ability, and the level of mental exhaustion the day after the final midterm exam on a scale

of 1-5. 74.5% of students believed that a day off before the first midterm exams would make a difference, and a resounding number of 90.9% of students believed that a day off after midterms would alleviate the level of mental exhaustion. The questions that were stated above will be presented to the Board of Education by Headmaster, Dr. Winters. Whether or not the Board of Education will implement any change, these surveys are a major step towards improving the midterm experience.

In terms of relieving Midterm Stress, Wellness teacher Kathy Steiner says, "What I think would help [with midterm stress] is to go to class everyday, be on top of your work, pay attention, do not procrastinate, and get help along the way when you need it. That way you're always in control leading up to the midterm, or project, or whatever the assessment is." Continuing on, she said, "Stress is always going to be there, and assessment is a part of life, stress is a part of life."

On the topic of getting rid of midterms however, Steiner had an interesting point of view. "Sometimes a midterm is needed, sometimes maybe just a project might be the way to assess what kind of learning has happened during the semester."

The general consensus between teachers and students on midterm stress, seems to be that teachers need to provide midterms to students in a way that alleviates midterm-induced stress, and that a midterm is not always the right option for every single class. Perhaps with the rise of this topic in Student Government, midterms may be less stressful in the future.

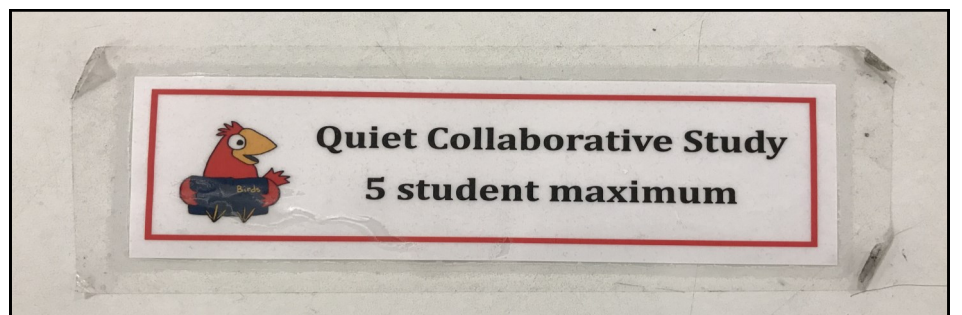


Photo: Ben Rosenfeld

MEDIA CENTER

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to be a teacher in those rooms for that to happen. There simply isn't enough staff to allow for students to use those rooms freely. In fact, many of the issues with the Media Center stem from the sheer size of the school, making it exponentially more difficult to manage students.

Clearly, there are two sides to this issue and no easy solution. The Media Center should stay readily available to all students, but what degree of freedom will they have within the library, and is it fair for kids to be kicked out? It is important to recognize that the Me-

dia Center is shared by the entire school and that allowing large, noisy groups of people, comes at a cost to others who want a more academic area.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with the changes, they are not set in stone, and are constantly changing. The Media Center specialists are very open to suggestions and students should feel free reach out to them in person or through the Schoology group.

Hopefully a compromise can be reached in the future, but until then students will have to deal with a more restricted Media Center.

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