



The Tiger Chronicle

College Preparatory
Middle School

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Tearing Up Those Tests!

Here we are, already at the end of the second quarter! That means our hard-working Tigers have already come back from Winter Break and taken the midyear diagnostics. Everyone here at the school is right back into the swing of things, focused on what we are here to do: teaching and learning.

This issue of The Tiger Chronicle has some very well-researched articles written by our student journalists. In this issue, we have a strong focus on sports, on travel, and on music. These are topics our College Prep students are well-educated in, and are passionate about.



Please enjoy reading the articles that are the result of all the hard work invested by the team this quarter!

Earn Your Stripes!

Prepared-Respectful-Engaged-Professional

2024 Rap Album of the Year Grammy Predictions

Rachel Q. & Delina K.

“I really appreciate the moments that I was able to win rap album of the year or whatever.”

-Kanye West, 2013. Inspiring right? Although it seems like winning the Best Rap Album Award is



not exciting to Kanye, for most rappers this award is a big deal!

A Grammy is an award that artists can win for releasing the best new pop, rap, and R&B albums or singles. Currently, we are talking about rap albums released throughout 2020-2023.

The rappers with the most Grammys are, of course, Kanye West and Jay-Z - with 24 Grammys each. That's so many! Would you like to see who we predict will win the rap Grammy this year? How about what 8th Grade CPMS students think?

Rap Grammys are controversial almost every year. Some fans think artists don't deserve the award and some think that they do. For example, in 2018 Alessia Cara won a Grammy for her song

"1-800-273-8255." According to USATODAY (an online newspaper), several people did not agree with this win, and thought SZA should've been the winner of the award since

Alessia won over several artists that are considered to be more popular. The 2024 Rap Grammy Award may be the most debated one since 1995, when the award became a category. This year, well-known and old-fashioned rappers have been nominated. One of the albums that has been nominated for best rap album of the year is Travis Scott's *UTOPIA*, which rapidly gained popularity through many social media apps, like Tiktok and Instagram.

Another nomination is *Her Loss*, which was made by Drake and

21 Savage. Like *UTOPIA*, this album also had lots of fame from the music's rhythm, as well as from funny memes. Our personal favorite meme is the one where people edit Drake and 21 Savage when they were featured in the video game WWE. Although these two albums are each very popular, they



are not the only nominees who have a chance of

winning. *Heroes & Villains* by Metro Boomin is also nominated. Even though it was released almost a year ago, it is still very popular. In our opinion, despite the fact that this album was released last December - which is the oldest out of all nominees chosen - we think that this album deserves the hype it is receiving because the music is nationally enjoyed. Although the other nominees were not as hyped by a



lot of teenagers, they still are listened to by many adults. *King's Disease III* is the fourth nomination and was created by Nas. This album is filled with inspiring lyrics and great rhythm! Last but not least, we have *Michael* - by Michael Santiago Render - as the final nominee. This album spread a bit more across social media platforms than *King's Disease III*, mainly because Mike's team decided to increase the popularity of the album by adding popular artists to feature in songs. In our opinion, we think this was an amazing decision on their behalf because it features some of our personal favorite artists such as André 3000, Ty Dolla \$ign, and Currensy. Between these two albums, our favorite was *Michael*.

The 2023 Rap Grammys were not as talked about as the 2024 Rap Grammys. For 2023, people generally knew who they wanted to win since all the albums nominated had such different flows. Kendrick Lamar, an iconic rapper, earned Rap Album of the Year in 2023 for his fifth released album, *Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers*. This album was the first one Lamar published in 5 years! DJ Khaled's *God Did* was the second album to be nominated last year. This album gained popularity because of social media memes of the album and artist. Future's album was the third to be nominated - *I Never Liked You*. 8th grade students like Daniella Y. think *I Never Liked You* is the best album released since 2020!



Future rose to success by partnering with well-known singers such as The Weeknd, Travis Scott, and even Taylor Swift. Many teens appreciate this album because it gives the impression of being nonchalant, even though (as the title suggests) some of the songs on this album are about Future's heartache! *Come Home The Kids Miss You* is Jack Harlow's fourth nomination, released in May of

JACK HARLOW
COME HOME THE KIDS MISS YOU TOUR
WITH CITY GIRLS

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 06 NASHVILLE, TN | 23 SEATTLE, WA |
| 08 DALLAS, TX | 24 VANCOUVER, BC |
| 10 HOUSTON, TX | 25 PORTLAND, OR |
| 11 AUSTIN, TX | 27 SALT LAKE CITY, UT |
| 13 PHOENIX, AZ | 28 DENVER, CO |
| 17 SAN DIEGO, CA | 30 MINNEAPOLIS, MN |
| 20 LOS ANGELES, CA | |

OCTOBER

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 01 CHICAGO, IL | 11 WASHINGTON, D.C. |
| 02 DETROIT, MI | 14 MIAMI, FL |
| 05 TORONTO, ON | 15 TAMPA, FL |
| 08 PHILADELPHIA, PA | 16 ATLANTA, GA |
| 09 BOSTON, MA* | |

* WITHOUT CITY GIRLS

2022. The song "First Class" elevated this album to new levels of recognition, but it is not the first time his music has gone viral. He's also become well-known for his collaborations with Lil Nas X, including "Industry Baby" and "Montero". *That's What They All Say*, another album Harlow made was released in December 2022, which contains his second highest rated song, "What's Poppin," which comes just before "First Class." Our personal favorite from Jack Harlow is the song "Already Best Friends" which is in the *Thats What They All Say* album. Pusha T released the Grammy-nominated album *It's Almost Dry*. Pusha T rose to prominence after working with Kanye West on his album *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*.

"Runaway", one of Kanye's greatest-selling songs, featured him on it. We personally think "Runaway" is one of Kanye's best songs and feel as if Pusha T's contribution played a big part in making this amazing song.

We decided to survey 8th graders from CPMS. Many 8th graders had doubts about who would win the upcoming Rap Grammys. Since students each have different music tastes, it was interesting to see what everyone chose. Students like Franco G. and Natalie N. believe that “Utopia may win” because it was “impactful” and “has the best beats”. We do think *UTOPIA* has the best beats, but we don’t think it was as impactful as other albums. Other students chose “Metro Boomin” because, like Marcus K. says, they “enjoy their music”. We agree with Marcus K. because we also enjoy Boomin’s music, but we think that *UTOPIA* or *Heroes & Villains* would win. On the other hand, some students, like Emmalin T., chose *Her Loss* (by Drake and 21 Savage) because they, “love this album.” Nathaniel C. said, “Though *UTOPIA* may win, *Her Loss* was a way better album beat and flow wise.” We respect Nathaniel’s opinion but disagree with this statement because we think *Her Loss* has repetitive beats in many of the songs. Like Nathaniel C., many students think *UTOPIA* will win even though *Her Loss* is their favorite nomination. Students like Timothy V. on the other hand, stated that his favorite album recently released was *For All The Dogs* by Drake, but he also thinks *UTOPIA* will win the Grammy.



The Rap Album Grammy of the Year nominees have had rich history and backstories that amaze some people. An article on Medium, a magazine website, and countless fans, have labeled Nas as one of the best rappers of all time, with roots in East Coast hip hop. Nas, the child of jazz musician Olu Dara, began his musical journey as "Nasty Nas" in 1989, recording for fellow East Coast rapper



Large Professor. Subsequently, he made an appearance on the 1991 song "Live at the Barbeque" by his own group, Main Source. Wikipedia states that Nas released *King’s Disease III* in early November of 2022. *King’s Disease III* had great critiques from adult audiences, but not many good ones from teen audiences. *King’s Disease III* was inspired by Nas’ previous albums *King’s Disease* and *King’s Disease II*. Nas’ first hit album, *Illmatic*, won the greatest album award in 1994. Nas collaborated with J-Lo,

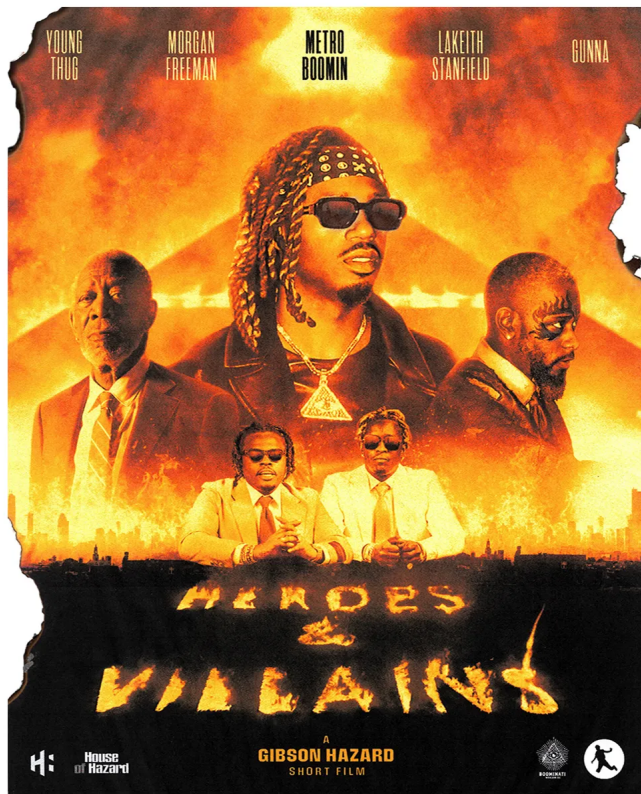
Mariah Carey, and Will Smith - and even contributed to Smith’s hit song “Gettin’ Jiggy Wit It.” This song won a Grammy in 1997. This Grammy was Nas’ first nomination. He then won another in 1998 with Smith as well.

The very enjoyed album, *Her Loss* was a big hit across platforms. With songs like “The Off-season” by J. Cole, many people love this album. Drake began his career as an actor playing "Jimmy Brooks" on *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. According to Wikipedia, Drake began his music career in 2006

with his debut mixtape, *Room for Improvement*. Vibe (a magazine that covers rap music) wrote in 2008, "Hip-hop's next Fresh Prince is spitting with all he's got," Drake's career took off after this record since all of his future albums were tremendous hits. We think these albums do deserve the hype they've been getting through the years, but many songs that are from the same albums can sound incredibly similar to one another. This issue can be shown in *Views* and *Take Care*, for example. Drake and 21 Savage had issues with their album, *Her Loss*. One of Drake and 21 Savage's marketing strategies for *Her Loss* was to produce a fake Vogue cover. This dilemma led to Drake and 21 Savage being sued by Vogue for confusing readers who turn to Vogue for "a voice on fashion and culture." While Drake's attorneys and 21's attorneys are constantly arguing back and forth, the only thing we've heard about this topic from either of the rappers is a diss from Drake's featured verse on Travis Scott's "MELTDOWN." In this song, Drake raps, "You lucky that Vogue was suing, 'cause I would've been with the Wassas in Paris..."! So far, 21 Savage has not replied!



Despite the fact that Metro Boomin is a producer and not an artist, he is nevertheless extremely



successful because of his music. Boomin's main source of popularity was social media which gained him some attention. Boomin began producing tunes for Future's mixtape 'Streetz Calling' while Boomin was only 18 years old in 2011. Metro Boomin's debut album, *19 & Boomin*, was not released until 2013. But, Metro Boomin gained popularity three years later, when he was credited with writing hit songs including Migos' "Bad and Boujee," The Weeknd's "Low Life," and 21 Savage's "X." Our favorite out of these songs is "Low Life". In the same year, he helped Kanye West on *The Life of Pablo*. We think that all of these features with big artists early on in his career show just how much potential these rappers saw in him. Metro Boomin is also one of our favorite music creators, as he features our favorite artists Yogotti, Ace Hood, and Lil Durk. Unfortunately Metro Boomin is going through some

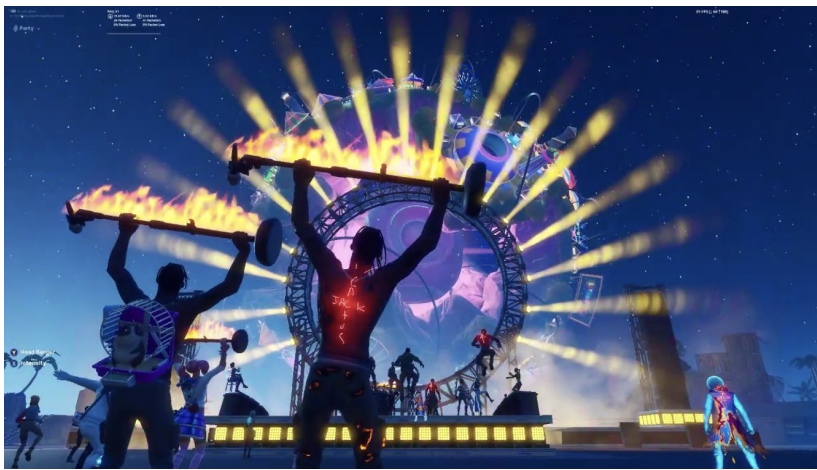
federal issues, and is in jail because of his partner, Young Thug, who was featured several times on the Heroes & Villains album. As Young Thug is being held in jail for a RICO case, Metro tweets that he and "spider" (who is Young Thug) are in custody and will be released later. But Young Thug is not the only one involved in this RICO case; YSL, a record company that includes rappers like Lil Baby, Lil Keed, and Yung Kayo is also involved.

Travis Scott released *UTOPIA* four years after *ASTROWORLD*. *UTOPIA* consists of 19 songs, several including SZA, Drake, Beyonce, and Future. Travis was kicked out of home early in life, which was a rocky start to his career.

Nevertheless, he moved out to New York to pursue his dream of being a rapper. During the start of Travis's career, Kanye West duplicated *Owl Pharaoh*, Travis' first mixtape. Later, Travis released his debut album, *Rodeo*, in 2015. Travis went on tour for *Rodeo* where Kanye West and Chris Brown made guest appearances. Travis then released *ASTROWORLD* in 2018, which was so famous that Travis was able to create a digital concert



inside the video game Fortnite! Fortnite is known for hosting such events for several popular artists such as Marshmello, Ariana Grande, and even Eminem! During Travis's virtual concert, he played "SICKO MODE", "STARGAZING", and "goosebumps" which are his most viral songs. Travis has grown so successful that he is the first and only hip-hop artist to sell out at SoFi Stadium. Travis Scott's *ASTROWORLD* incident had a large impact on his career. After releasing *UTOPIA*, in an interview for GQ's Men of the Year Issue, Travis Scott spoke out about what occurred four years ago



on his *ASTROWORLD* Tour. Many people sustained injuries in the audience at Travis's concert in Houston, Texas; eight perished on the scene, and two more died after being hospitalized for the serious injuries received due to crowd stampedes that occurred when Travis allowed fans to get closer to the stage. We found out that Travis has written a song in *UTOPIA*, that is based on the events of his *ASTROWORLD* Tour. About the song "MY

EYES" he states that the lyrics "were very emotional to me" and that he wants people to "know I have pain too." The lyrics that referenced the *ASTROWORLD* Tragedy were "I replay them nights, and right by my side, all I see is a sea of people that ride with me / If they just knew what Scotty would do to jump off the stage and save him a child." Travis Scott is still facing charges because of this incident, so he will be in court in May, 2024.

Michael Santiago Render, also known as Atlanta's rapper, began his career with Outkast's 2000 LP *Stankonia*, which landed him his first Grammy nomination. In addition, Mike appeared in films like *Idlewild* and *Baby Driver*. Mike is mainly known for being half of a famous duo (with El-P) named *Run The Jewels*. He also founded *Grind Time Official Record*, which has very talented artists.

According to CBS News, while Mike is not creating music, he takes part in social and political activism, focused on issues such as social injustice, police brutality, and systemic racism. Mike has delivered several talks on the matter at universities, and he has discussed racism in music. Mike was brought out during Lil Baby's performance of *The Bigger Picture* at the 2023 Grammy Awards. The performance was for the purpose of increasing knowledge about abuse of authority by law enforcement and fighting for equality. We are proud that Lil Baby decided to mention this in his performance, because this is an issue that needs more awareness from people who teenagers look up to.



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| | |
|------------|-------------|
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The Fight for the Win

Gianni A. & Elias S.

There are many high-quality teams that are in the Champions League tournament this season, even though they have not had much success in this competition in the past.

The Champions League is the most important trophy in European football because it determines which is the best club in Europe. Only the very elite teams have won the Champions League Trophy many times. Qualifying for the Champions League is very hard. Almost every country in Europe has a Champions League spot in their domestic league, which means the league each team competes for in their own country. Earning this spot brings them to the qualifiers, or the start of the actual Champions League tournament. Getting through these qualifiers puts teams into the round of 16. This is a knockout, which means that if they lose, they exit the



Champions League, and can't compete in it until next time. This year, there are huge teams in the competition with little Champions League success; such as Napoli, Paris Saint Germain, Atletico Madrid, and Arsenal. These teams make up 25% of the teams currently in the competition (as of the 9th of January, 2024). In the past, these teams have been very close to winning a Champions League trophy, but they have not done so yet. However, these teams that have not won before are very good right now, so maybe this time they might finally win it! The Champions League is the biggest tournament in Europe in which all clubs compete for the coveted Champions League Trophy.

The first club we will discuss is Napoli, a huge club that hasn't won it yet. Napoli competes in the



Serie A, the Italian league, because they are located in Naples, Italy. Napoli are not so consistent right now, losing to Roma 2-0 and Torino 3-0 in the Serie A. Even though they are down to ninth place this season, Napoli is a great team - winning their league last season. As of January 11th, 2024, Napoli has won 12 Serie A Trophies over the years. Currently in the Champions League, they are facing Barcelona. In the group stage, they have placed second in their Champions League groups, and are one of the favorites to

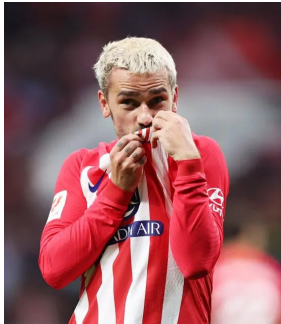
win the Champions League Trophy. Their most useful players right now are Kravastelia and Victor Oshimen. These people helped them win the Serie A, and get them to their best ever Champions

League run. Historically, Napoli's best Champions League run was last year when they made it to the Quarter Finals, but lost to AC Milan.

Paris Saint Germain plays in the Ligue 1, the French League, because the team is located in Paris, France. Like the other teams specify, they do not have a Champions League Trophy yet. Paris Saint Germain have signed Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe, Neymar Jr, and Angel Di Maria. They came close when they made the Champions League Final in 2020, but lost the Champions League Final to Bayern Munich. They are on a winning streak as of January 7, 2024, Paris Saint Germain won 9-0 against Reims in the French cup, a competition in France where all of the teams in France fight for this trophy. As of November 27, 2023, they also beat Monaco 5-2 in the Ligue 1. On the 12th of January, they are on top of the Ligue 1, with 40 points - leading right now. Paris Saint Germain have eleven Ligue 1 titles. Paris Saint Germain's best players are Kylian Mbappe, who scored a hat trick in the World Cup final, and Kolo Mauni, who scored in the penalty shootout versus Argentina. Paris Saint Germain, also known as the most successful club in France, had some very successful runs in the past; and they are very good right now.



Atletico Madrid is in the Spanish league, the La Liga, and are in fifth place right now. Madrid, Spain, is where Atletico Madrid is located. They also have never won a Champions League Trophy before. Atletico Madrid have made the Champions League Final before, when they lost to Real Madrid. Atletico's best players right now are Diego Godin and Antoine Griezmann, who became the man of the match in a World Cup Final, and Diego Godin, who was at Villarreal before Atletico Madrid. Also, the team has won ten Copa del Rey competitions, and two Supercopas de Españas. Atletico are in good form beating Almeria 1-0, Malcorra 1-0, and Sevilla 1-0 in the La Liga. As of January 10th, 2024, they have lost to Real Madrid CF 3-5 in the Supercopas de España Semi Finals. Atletico Madrid won 11 titles from 1939 to 2021.



Arsenal is located in London (England), and compete in the Premier League. They have also not won any Champions League Trophies yet. Their best players right now are Declan Rice and Martin Odegaard, who are both helping Arsenal to do very well in the Premier League. Historically, their best Champions League run was losing the final to Barcelona in 2006. Their success in domestic cups is very impressive. Arsenal have won 17 FA cups, and 17 Community Shields. Arsenal have won three Premier League titles up to date right now. As of January 11th, 2024, Arsenal's best players are Bukayo Saka, and Martin Odegaard, who have the most shots on goal so far in this season.



And that's all of the info that you need to know about these teams without any Champions League Trophies.

The Restaurant Race

Kaitlyn D. & Levi H.

If you could walk into a world with all of your favorite restaurants, where would you go first? How much would you spend? According to the United States Now website - from an organization that shares information about the wonders of the United States - the standard household in America spends almost \$3,000 each year eating at restaurants. Now, \$3,000 a year roughly breaks down to about \$60 per week. Some people would think that this is less than expected, but more than 75% of Americans actually go out to eat less often than once a week. We have asked the 8th grade community their favorite place to eat out and have found out that the top destination for our hungry Tigers is... In-N-Out!

When was the last time you ate at a fancy restaurant? Did you go to your favorite location and get food you love? Well, we surveyed the 8th grade class here at CPMS to figure out the most popular restaurant in our grade. We tallied the votes we obtained and the winner for the favorite restaurant is...drum roll please...Din Tai Fung!! The restaurant - located in the UTC mall, as well as many



other places around the world - received the most votes. Now, 7% of the votes may sound low, and that's because it is! Because our survey results included such a vast pool of different choices, one establishment receiving 7% of the votes was the top of the board. These votes that went to Din Tai Fung - coming from Daniella Y., Alaina Y., and Faith E. - made it the single most popular restaurant our 8th graders eat at. When we asked why, Daniella Y. kept it simple, saying that she “loves the food.” Other

restaurants that acquired two votes each, are the steakhouse Ruth’s Chris, the Chinese chain restaurant PF Chang, the restaurant and brewhouse BJ’s, the sushi places Narumi and Tappi, and the Texan and Southern style steakhouse Texas Roadhouse. Personally, out of these, we would choose Narumi as the top pick, but unfortunately, it didn't come first among the votes of my peers.

Din Tai Fung was number one in the restaurant category, so here is some information about how it came to be. According to Din Tai Fung’s official website, the restaurant became an establishment due to a man named Mr. Bing-Yi Yang who was born in China in 1927. When Yang was 20 years old, he migrated to Taiwan with 20 dollars in his pockets. In Taiwan, Yang founded a shop selling cooking oil and came up with the name, Din Tai Fung. The shop sold Xiao Long Bao, the dumplings with heated soup and pork inside, which became very popular. Yang then made Din Tai Fung into the restaurant everyone loves and enjoys. This restaurant has



earned lots of awards, including the coveted “Michelin Star at its Hong Kong branch”. The Michelin Star is a prestigious award given only to the best of the best. The Star means that the restaurant has high quality food and standards day in and day out. The restaurant has become a worldwide famous brand, serving people all around the world in the “United States, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, Europe, and Thailand.” Now with more than 170 restaurants around the world, this restaurant has won the most prestigious prize yet: it has come out on top of the CPMS 8th grade list for best restaurant in San Diego!

Imagine walking into In-N-Out smelling the juicy burgers on the grill, or you walk into Panda Express and the scent of the orange chicken wafts through your nose. How do you feel when you walk in? Excited? Delighted? What will you order? We wanted to know what the 8th graders thought about this. When we asked the students about fast food, In-N-Out won first place with a huge 35% of



the votes. Julian K. is one of our 8th grade students who believes that In-N-Out has a “...perfectly cooked burger to my liking and the lettuce is fresh beyond measure and the bun is rich in flavor and the sauce is mixed with the most amazing things bringing delight to my tongue.” In-N-Out is special in many ways to us Californians. To many people across the state, the name represents that flavorful burger we all love. It’s that delicious burger paired with their signature fries that keeps us running back for more. Sitting in one of those red booths just evokes great times eating their food. The runner up in the fast food category was Raising Cane’s - with 13 votes. The delicious fried chicken from Cane’s - and their signature sauce - have taken over 20% of the votes from our 8th grade community. Alaina Y. likes Cane’s because both “...their chicken tenders and their

sauce” are delicious. Although fried chicken isn’t healthy, we dream of a world where we all could eat fried chicken all day and stay skinny. After Cane’s, two fast food restaurants that came in tied for third place were McDonalds and Chick-Fil-A, each with 8 votes. Chick-Fil-A we happily support making the top three. But, what was the thought process in choosing McDonalds? Do students like the soggy burgers? Or maybe the always-broken ice cream machine? For whatever reason, it tied for third with Chick-Fil-A. We disagree with these opinions about McDonalds, but every single other fast food restaurant we can agree with being on top of these charts.

With an empty stomach and palm trees swaying in the wind, the smell of the delicious burgers wafting out the door, along with the smell of their fresh fries, makes you even hungrier than before. Because of the great food they provide, and that In-N-Out is so popular among the CPMS students, we thought we would research how In-N-Out became so successful. We learned that In-N-Out was founded in 1948 by Harry Snyder. According to the official website for the company, In-N-Out’s trademark symbol is that at every location two palm trees cross each other. Also, In-N-Out was the first ever drive-thru burger place in California. In 1948, In-N-Out made a speaker box to get the customers orders very quickly and efficiently. Animal Style (the mix



of grilled onions and extra spread) was added in the year 1961, and is an important part of In-N-Out's history. In 1963, In-N-Out introduced the double-double burger to the world. The double-double burger is a regular burger except with an extra patty: just what everyone wants to satisfy their needs. Many In-N-Out customers requested they add milkshakes to the menu; and in 1975 they received chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry milkshakes! Almost 20 years later, In-N-Out established its 100th property. Four years after that was its 50th anniversary. The students of 8th grade at College Prep are only a small part of the profuse amount of people who love In-N-Out.

How many times have you experienced the delights of going to Cane's? Once? Twice? 50 times? Well, however many times you have been there, have you ever thought about how Cane's came to

be? As you walk into Cane's, the whiff of fried chicken and a buttery garlic bread hits. You come to sit down at their marble top table and wait for your number to be called. With great chicken, Raising Cane's is the second most popular place, so we researched this establishment as well. From Under 30 CEO - a business that aims to help people have financial success in their lives - we have found out that Cane's was introduced in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1996, and only sold chicken fingers. Todd Graves, who currently owns 90% of the Raising Cane's business, is the original founder. By 2013, Raising Cane's introduced their famous chicken sandwiches. About 400 locations were opened by

2019 and their profit came to \$1.18 billion. In 23 years Cane's was able to accumulate over a billion dollars from selling chicken. Who knows how much they will make in the future. Cane's came pretty close to In-N-Out, but 13 votes is still a big difference. We believe that if Cane's was even comparable to In-N-Out, the votes would be closer. But, they aren't, and that is why In-N-Out is on top!

McDonalds is a very popular fast food restaurant to many people around the globe. Lots of people like it and so do the 8th grade students at CPMS as it is tied for top 3 in the CPMS 8th grade. Thanks to the Encyclopedia, Britannica, we know that the first ever drive-through McDonald's was opened in 1940 by brothers Maurice and Richard McDonald in California. At the start of 1949, they had a hamburger bundle on their menu for only \$0.15.

This bundle included a shake or drink, hamburger, and fries. This bundle seems like a steal if it was only 15 cents present day, but back then 15 cents equals about \$2.00 today, which is still a steal of a deal! Canada was their first out-of-country location in 1967. A year later, McDonald's introduced the Big Mac to its menu. This very famous hamburger became the company's second best selling element on their menu, after their french fries. By 1998,

McDonald's moved past the hamburger and cheeseburger business by purchasing the famous Chipotle Mexican Grill and the pizzeria Danatos in 1999. McDonalds had more than 34,000 outlets in 115 different countries around the world by 2000. Over the years, McDonalds has grown their menu, adding items like Filet-O-Fish sandwiches, Quarter Pounders, Egg McMuffins, Happy Meals,



and their world famous Chicken McNuggets. By 2018, McDonalds came out with vegan burgers. This company became one of the largest fast food restaurants with over 2 million employees. According to Britanica, these employees are at over 40,000 locations world-wide. McDonalds, although coming tied in third with Chick-Fil-A, is also the most overrated fast food restaurant on our list. So for all of you McDonalds lovers out there, why? That is our main question. If you don't understand why it's overrated, trust us! We are trying to help you choose restaurants and fast food places worthwhile to eat at.

After a long day at school, hearing your parents say you're going to Chick-Fil-A is the best thing that could ever happen. The thought of their crushed ice and amazing chicken sandwiches sitting there, waiting for the customers to devour them, is priceless. Chick-Fil-A established its first location in the United States in 1967. Chick-Fil-A is very famous for its chicken sandwiches, which according to



Chick-Fil-A's website are made of "boneless breast of chicken seasoned to perfection, freshly breaded, pressure cooked in 100% refined peanut oil and served on a toasted, buttery bun with dill pickle chips." The taste of their famous chicken sandwich makes us crave for more every time we eat one. Chick-Fil-A has a hidden meaning behind 'A' that nobody will know because it will always be a family secret. Did you know that Chick-Fil-A always closed on Sundays? Well, businessinsider.com - a news site - says that the owner of Chick-Fil-A "believes that all franchised Chick-Fil-A

Operators and their restaurant employees should have an opportunity to rest, spend time with family and friends, and worship if they choose to do so." Being a worker at Chick-Fil-A is very hard to get a job at because many qualified people apply for jobs at the restaurant. Businessinsider.com says that there is less than 1% chance to be hired as an employee, so it looks like Chick-Fil-A only hires the most qualified and hard-working candidates. In all, Chick-Fil-A has qualities that have convinced some 8th grade Tigers that Chick-Fil-A deserves to be the third-most favorite.

Some of our 8th grade CPMS Tigers have a sweet tooth. Although none of the soon-to-be-mentioned places are the traditional restaurants, some students felt that they deserved to be on the list of places they enjoy going out to eat. Salm S. says that Crumbl Cookie deserves a mention because it is a "...family owned location that strives for better in their food and recipes." Crumbl is a business that was established just over 5 years ago, and was founded by cousins Jason McGowan and Sawyer Hemsley. According to their official website, Crumbl Cookie has achieved a lot in a short amount of time, with over 800 locations already. It is a place we can go to to enjoy a cookie with friends and family. According to other 8th graders at College Prep, Handles, Mechies, and Dairy Queen are other 'restaurants' that they like. Calling these stores restaurants is understandable, since going to get ice cream is a way to connect with people. Learning your friend's favorite flavor or experimenting with different flavors and toppings is an experience that lots of people enjoy. Ice cream has come a long way from the original chocolate and vanilla flavors. There is now a large array of new flavors like Rocky Road, Mint Chip, and Cherry Garcia available for your mouth's desires. Pairing all the delicious flavors that have accumulated over time with a tasty topping and you will be in for a treat.



To be underrated means to be better than what people think about it. We think underrated restaurants deserve recognition and praise. But what restaurants are truly underrated? According to the 8th graders surveyed, the most underrated restaurant in San Diego is a tie between Sahara and Narumi. Sahara is a Mediterranean cuisine restaurant that has many locations throughout San Diego. Narumi, on the other hand, is a sushi place that resides on Fletcher Parkway in La Mesa. Alaina Y. thinks that Narumi is underrated because their "...sushi is amazing." Second place, however, had four places tied: Chili's, BJ's, Luna Grill, and Texas Roadhouse. Carolynn B. feels that Chili's has "...many choices of food options and their flavor is exquisite." The 8th graders at College Prep think that Narumi and Sahara are underrated. The yummy sushi and delicious Mediterranean food has drawn in many people. Although they weren't everyone's favorite restaurant, they still deserve recognition.

According to the 8th graders at CPMS, the most underrated fast food restaurant was a tie between Jersey Mike's and Carl's Jr. These two fast food restaurants have convinced 8th graders at College Prep that they deserve to be recognized and praised for their delicious food. Jersey Mike's sells their signature sandwiches and pairings of toppings, known as Mike's Way, just to the liking of our Tigers. Chick-Fil-A, KFC, and Panda Express are tied for the second most underrated fast food restaurants. Victoria E. thinks that Jersey Mike's products are "...fresh and the sandwiches are delicious." On the other hand, Rhys D. thinks that Carl's Jr "...never gets talked about" and is "one of few places that sell meat-substitute burgers." Over all, the fresh sandwiches and underrated burgers contributed to these establishments becoming underrated in the fast food category.



What does it mean to be overrated? Well in the world of food, being overrated means that people consider something to be better than it really is. The most overrated restaurant in San Diego, according to the CPMS 8th grade, is Olive Garden - with a total of 8 votes. The next overrated restaurant is Applebees. with 7 votes, which was a very close runner up to Olive Garden. People who don't like Olive Garden include Victoria E., who claims that "...people hype it up so high that when you get there your expectations are crushed." Even though Olive Garden is known for their "all you can eat" breadsticks, the restaurant has not impressed our College Prep 8th graders. Rhys D. thinks that both Applebee's and Olive Garden have "...generic food." Both establishments just don't have that kind of... flair that makes us want to keep on coming back for more. With this said, our College Prep 8th graders dislike both of these establishments' food.



What is overrated in the fast food category? Let's use McDonalds and Canes for example, lots of people like it, but most of their food isn't very good. This is exactly what some other students here at CPMS in 8th grade think too. McDonalds received a total of 20 votes and not far behind, however, Raising Cane's with 15 votes, so let's talk about what people said regarding these locations that make them overrated. The 8th graders think McDonald's food is "mediocre burgers...other food tastes

fake and doesn't have much flavor,” which was noticed by Chloe B. According to Madison K. and Franco G., the “nuggets taste fake,” and the food is “so unhealthy.” On the other hand, many people think Cane’s is the most overrated. Danica Gdoes not like that the “lines are so long just to get chicken.” Tara B. feels that the “chicken is not even that good.” Dominic H. says that Cane’s “does not taste that good.” If this doesn’t convince you that McDonalds and Canes are overrated, we don’t know what will.

We have given many reviews and opinions about different establishments and from different points of view. We hope when someone reads this they will use the information given to help you experience many different culinary delights. Good luck!



MYSTERIOUS MUSICAL MECHANISMS

Austin D. & Rhys D.

Imagine walking into a music store and you see an instrument you have never seen or heard of. You reach over to try playing it and you think to yourself, where have I heard this sound before? Maybe in a song, maybe a video game, or maybe even a movie. You then go home and figure out that the instrument you just used isn't even from this country, even though it sounds very similar to instruments you're more familiar with. Maybe all instruments are more familiar than you think!

Instruments are the foundation of all music, and we all recognize the distinct sound and versatility of the guitar; the classic, ear-pleasing sound of the piano; and the crashes and thumps of the drums; which many love. But what about the less familiar instruments? The ones that may only be familiar to the country of origin or cultures that traditionally use them? Instruments such as the sitar, tabla, marimba, castanet, kokyū, and hamisen are far less familiar here in America, but many of these actually aren't too far from more familiar instruments - whether the similarity is the sound or appearance. You also may be surprised to learn that some of these exotic instruments are actually featured in musical tracks you have heard before. Though unfamiliar at first glance, these instruments are more recognizable than they originally seemed to be.



The sitar is a stringed instrument, originating in India and dating back to the 18th century. It is a wooden instrument that features a neck, a body, 19 strings, and 19 tuners as the main structure. The sitar can be compared to a guitar as it is a stringed instrument that is played in a similar manner, though the sitar has more strings than a traditional guitar. Another comparable instrument to the sitar would be the harp, as a simple harp can feature around 17-22 strings, akin to a sitar (according to the Encyclopedia Britannica). The sound qualities of a sitar are recognizable, and can be described as having a distinct sharp and buzzing tone. The sound can also be compared to a 12-string Rickenbacker guitar famously used by The Byrds, The Smiths, R.E.M, and other artists of the Indie and Jangle Pop genres. The sitar was very popular in western music in the 1960s, and a profuse amount of well-known songs featured the sitar. Examples include The Beatles "Norwegian Wood," and The Rolling Stones "Paint it Black." One thing that makes this instrument very cool and interesting is its ability to fit into western music, usually playing the role of the guitar, even though it was not originally intended to serve that purpose.

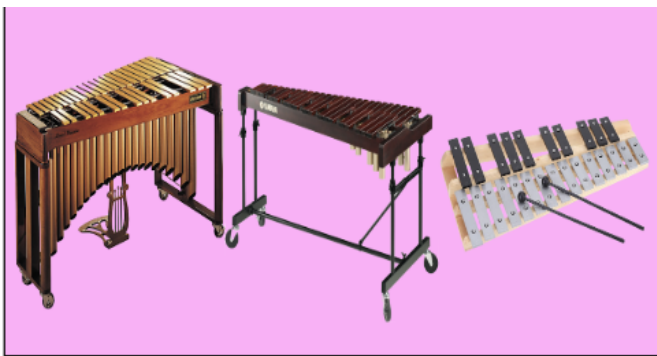


Like the sitar, the tabla also hails from India in the 18th century, though this one is a percussion (an instrument that is struck to be played) instrument. The tabla is a single-headed, wooden drum. The tabla shares many architectural qualities with the bongo drum, being of comparable shape and

material. The main difference between the tabla and the bongo is that the bongo is double-headed. The sound of the tabla can be described as a soothing, low, light thump that reverberates. An instrument with comparable sound qualities to the tabla is the conga from the Caribbean, which also produces a light thump that's just as pleasant to the ear. Another percussion instrument with a louder thumping sound is the tom, which produces an almost identical hollow tone. The tabla, just like the sitar, was popular in western music in the 1960s, where it was used in diverse ways in songs like The Beatles' "Love You To" and Led Zeppelin's heavier "Black Mountain Side." One thing that makes the tabla a fascinating instrument is its versatility. For example, it could be used in calm, soft music; or in harder, heavier music - yet it never sounds out of place.



The marimba is a mallet percussion instrument, which first debuted in the 14th century. Historians have debated where exactly the marimba originated, and have narrowed it down to either stemming from Africa or Southeast Asia. Architecturally, the marimba features wooden bars that each contain a resonator pipe which amplifies the sound produced by each hit of the mallet. The marimba shares many of its qualities with its fellow mallet percussion instruments: the xylophone and vibraphone, each of which also feature bars struck by mallets. The main difference between the marimba and the other two being the resonator pipes ([according to Wikipedia] they are large pipes connected to each bar),



Marimba (left) is very similar to its fellow mallet percussion instruments the vibraphone (center) and xylophone (right)

and the sizes of the instruments, the marimba being the biggest and the xylophone being the smallest. The sound of a marimba can be described as bassy, echoey, and powerful. The tone is strikingly similar to the aforementioned xylophone and vibraphone due to being made of almost identical material, and having a comparable design. Musically, the marimba has been used in a wide variety of songs and jingles throughout many decades. This abundance of songs includes The Rolling Stones' "Under My Thumb" and The Beach Boys' "All Summer Long" from the 1960s, and The Cure's "The Lovecats" from the 1980s. The marimba can also be heard in the unforgettable default Apple IOS ringtone from the 21st century - a tune which is recognized all around the world! One thing about the marimba that is appealing is that it's a simple instrument, but it is able to create a wide catalog of recognizable and impressive tunes and jingles.



Castanets are also a percussion instrument, but these originated in Latin America, and were first created over 3000 years ago - way back in the Bronze Age! The castanet is composed of two hollow, wooden circles tied together at the top. When you shake the string, the circles will collide, projecting a clicking noise. If done with correct timing, this action produces a rhythm. A related instrument is the clappers, which is also a handheld instrument that features wood tied together like the structure of a castanet. The pivotal difference between the two is the shape of a clapper, which is rectangular,

compared to the round shape of the castanets. The castanet has a very intriguing sound that shares very few qualities with other instruments. The sound of a castanet can be compared to the sound of

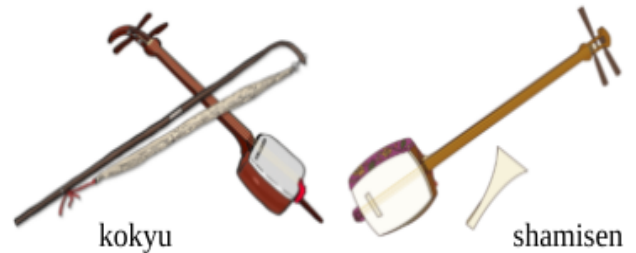


hitting a wood block, or the rim of a drum played repeatedly; only more staccato (which is a musical term for a short and quick sound), and with a more consistent and precise sound. In a song, the castanet fulfills the role of a rhythm instrument usually complimenting the drums, allowing it to be used in songs from various genres. A few songs made with these instruments are “The Logical Song” by Supertramp, “Be My Baby” by The Ronettes, and “Rebel Rebel” by David Bowie. The castanet is an exotic percussion instrument, consisting of a unique sound and shape that makes it, all in all, a

very interesting tool of music.

The shamisen and kokyu are both stringed instruments that originate from Okinawa, Japan in the 16th century.

The shamisen has a sleek appearance consisting of a lightweight square-shaped hollow wood body with striking white paint on it. The design of the shamisen and the kokyu also includes three pegs on the top of the instruments turned to tighten the strings for tuning. The



kokyu, on the other hand, has an oval-shaped body and three strings with a tuner for each. Though very similar, the two instruments have two key differences: The kokyu uses a bow-like accessory, while the shamisen requires a hawk talon-shaped plectrum called a bachi which fulfills a similar role to a guitar pick (according to Britannica). An instrument similar to the shamisen is the banjo because they are played diagonally and both have a similar white oval-shaped body. While the kokyu is similar to the cello as they are both played vertically with a bow. Though the instruments use different accessories to produce sound, both instruments have a lovely but sharp buzzing tone akin to the sound of a biwa (another Japanese instrument), the electric viola, and the electric violin. The shamisen also sounds like a guitar and a banjo: sharing a similar acoustic tone to each of these stringed instruments. Though similar in certain aspects, the two instruments also have many



differences. For instance, when played, one full strum from the shamisen produces a quick sound that gradually dies down as the bachi is taken away from the strings.

Alternatively, when one full note of the kokyu is played, it is constant and doesn't die down until the bow is removed from the instrument, similar to other instruments played with bows. Though they were “big in Japan,” neither instrument has been featured in a large variety of western music.

Interestingly, both are included in “Aqueous Transmission” by Incubus (released in 2001). The shamisen and kokyu are each very uniquely-designed. Even though each resembles common western instruments, they take their own spin on the sound and architecture, making them ear-catching.

These fascinating instruments are not commonly recognized in western culture, but they each offer an unforgettable shock of amazing sounds and notes to those who play and listen to these instruments. But to the readers, are they unfamiliar no more? Or are these just as intriguingly head-scratching as they were when you first learned of the instruments? That's up for you to decide.

Mexican Traditions

Allison R.

Mexico is a vibrant and colorful place, filled with life around every corner and has been around for hundreds of years. Mexico was first founded in 1776, but officially established in 1822. That's just over 200 years since Mexico was officially established!

Mexico is a pretty popular place to visit - especially the really famous destinations such as Cancun, Mexico City, Puerto Vallarta, and Baja California. But there are over 150 locations to visit in Mexico, and millions of things to do! These world-famous locations are popular among the 8th graders here at CPMS. Mexico is also known for its bright colors in the country of Mexico and also for some of the traditions, like Dia de los Muertos. History-lovers also like Mexico because there are the ruins from the Mayan and Aztec civilization. For people who love being by the sea, the beaches in Mexico are very beautiful.



Mexico celebrates many types of traditions. One tradition is called a Quinceanera, which happens when a Hispanic girl turns fifteen years old. The purpose of a Quinceanera is the rite of passage from girlhood into womanhood. An important part of the Quinceanera is the Quince Court (Corte de Honor), where the girl is supported by her damas (girls) and chambelanes (boys), who dance at the ceremony. Damas and chambelanes can be your close friends, cousins, siblings, or even people who are just hired to be part of your Quince court. The damas and chambelanes are an important part of the Quinceanera. Also at a Quinceanera, there is traditionally a mass at a church and then a party after, which includes dancing, followed by the surprise gift, which could be anything! The shoes change, showing the transition to womanhood from girlhood. The shoe change is an important part of the Quinceanera because it shows the girl is ready to transition from girl to woman. There is a “last doll” that the Quinceanera will receive. A Quinceanera represents the giving up of childhood, according to the



Encyclopedia Britannica. A Quinceanera is fun to go to because of the excitement and joy on this special day for a young woman.

Another Mexican tradition is Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). This tradition happens on November 1st and 2nd each year. On the Dia De Los Muertos, people celebrate the family members or friends who have passed away. November 1st is the day people under the age of eighteen are remembered on this special day because of their passing. On November 2nd, we celebrate people who were older than nineteen when they passed away. People traditionally make an altar



(ofrenda) showing pictures of the people who have passed. A person can purchase a type of bread called "Pan de Muerto," which is only sold around the time of Dia De Los Muertos. On this day, many families remember their loved ones who have passed. This tradition has been around for many years, which is why it is special.

There's many traditions in Mexico that are celebrated, but also there are many places to visit in Mexico. I surveyed CPMS 8th grade students and one of the most popular places to visit in Mexico, based on 8th grade responses, is Cancun. According to the responses, one thing that students in the 8th grade tend to do if they have visited Cancun is swimming or going to the beaches there. One 8th



grader, Abigail B. said she had visited the Mayan ruins located in Mexico. The Ancient Mayan ruins would be a fun experience because people then can see how the Mayan civilization was back then. Lots of Tigers have visited beaches located in Mexico. Iliana A. accurately describes the beaches of Mexico as "beautiful." No wonder the beaches are a popular place for the fifteen 8th graders who mentioned them! The beaches in Mexico are all very beautiful to see and visit when in Mexico.

When people visit Mexico, it is really common to buy things that are not available here in the United States. According to my survey, popular items 8th graders have brought back with them from Mexico are bracelets and hand-made beaded rings. Some visitors to Mexico purchase items to evoke fond memories of when they visited Mexico, to remember when they visited specific locations. Some other items that tourists like to buy are little animals

made out of rocks or even sand. These items are made with sand which stays together by the glue used. These little sand animals can be used to store jewelry, money, or even a coin. The animals are made from rocks and are carved into animals such as fish, turtles, or even dolphins! Souvenirs can be purchased from a cruise or a place people visited, like 8th grader Dominic H. did. Other people reported buying items at shops and from vendors. People even purchase snacks, candy, or food is another popular item to bring back from Mexico. Have you ever wondered about the foods that are made in Mexico?



There's millions of types of food in Mexico, so let me take you through some of the most popular ones. Churros are flour-based fried strips of bread, covered with sugar. Churros are very delicious to



enjoy at any time of the day! Mole is a dish made with either beef, chicken, or even pork; and it is served with a cooked chili sauce. It can be enjoyed at any time, but usually it is a lunch or dinner dish. Pozole, made with pork or chicken, is made with hominy, which is a small, round ball made out of white maize, and you could put toppings on top such as cabbage, lime, or even oregano. They are delicious to enjoy when the weather starts to get colder and colder. Burritos are a type of wrap, and can contain pretty much anything! There are so many different

types of burritos, but my favorites are carne asada burritos and breakfast burritos. Tamales are also a wrap, but they are different from burritos because a tamale is made from a corn base called maize that can be mixed with a variety of foods such as meat, beans, or even cheese. There's many types of meats or foods that can be made up into a taco, just like a burrito. Tacos are also popular in San Diego and every week there's a day called Taco Tuesday - where taco places have a deal on them. There's taco places everywhere in San Diego and they're popular in any area in San Diego. This list has only been a few of the many, many types of foods that were made or originated in Mexico.

Some delicious drinks in Mexico are Aguas Frescas and horchata and atole. Aguas Frescas is a drink that is very delicious you can enjoy at any time of day. They are made of many things, such as strawberries, mango, or pretty much any fruit you can think of. Aguas Frescas are delicious because they come in a variety of flavors and each one is delicious. You would most like to enjoy these drinks when it is a warm day, but really they can be enjoyed at any time.

Horchata is a drink which comprises milk and rice. Atole is a drink made usually around Christmas but can be enjoyed at any time and be drunk during the morning before leaving for work or school. Atole is a drink made with a combination of rice water and spices. There are many types of drinks and food to enjoy, but these are just a few of them.



There are many activities people can do in Mexico, such as hitting the beach, or visiting locations such as ancient ruins. Based on my survey responses, the most popular thing the 8th graders do when they visit places in Mexico is swimming at the beach. One 8th grader, Celine A., has gone



swimming; but not only did she go swimming... She went swimming with dolphins! Swimming with dolphins must be something very exciting and fun to experience and not many people get this opportunity. People also go snorkeling or ziplining while in Mexico. Students, such as Kami D., have gone to resorts and visited caves. Three of the students who responded have been to a waterpark in Mexico, and other activities that can be done in Mexico include hiking like Dominic H. or even sightseeing like Kaitlyn D. did. Another popular activity

when our 8th-graders travel to Mexico is as simple as enjoying foods that are traditional to Mexico.

The most popular places 8th graders at CPMS have visited would be Cancun. Fifteen students have visited Cancun. This destination is known for its vibrant nightlife along with its stunning beaches.

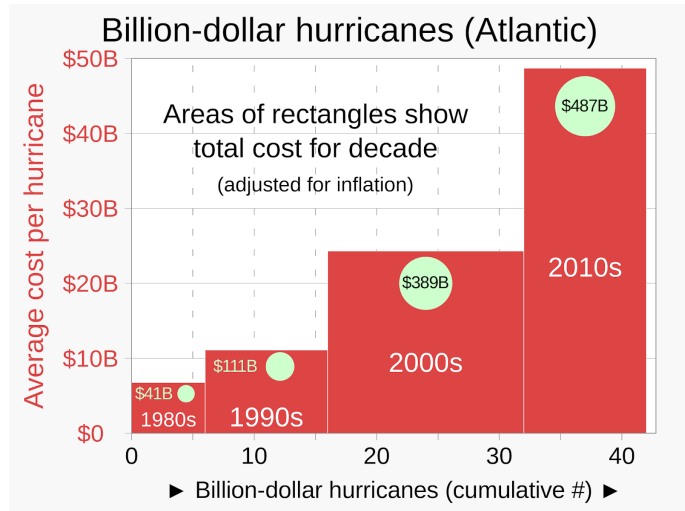
Some popular locations that are in Cancun are ancient Mayan ruins and Chichen Itza. The second most popular place visited is Tijuana, with nine students. Tijuana is known for being the most crossed border in Mexico, but is known for its nightlife like Cancun. The third most popular place visited is Puerto Vallarta with four students. Puerto Vallarta is known for its majestic Madre mountain range and the breathtaking backdrop of the city. There's many other places the 8th grade has visited, such as Tecate Mexico, Guadalupe Valley, and also San Lucas but, other places the 8th graders have visited, but there are just a few of the twenty five places the 8th graders of CPMS have visited.



The Climate Change Catastrophe

Danica G. & Victoria G.

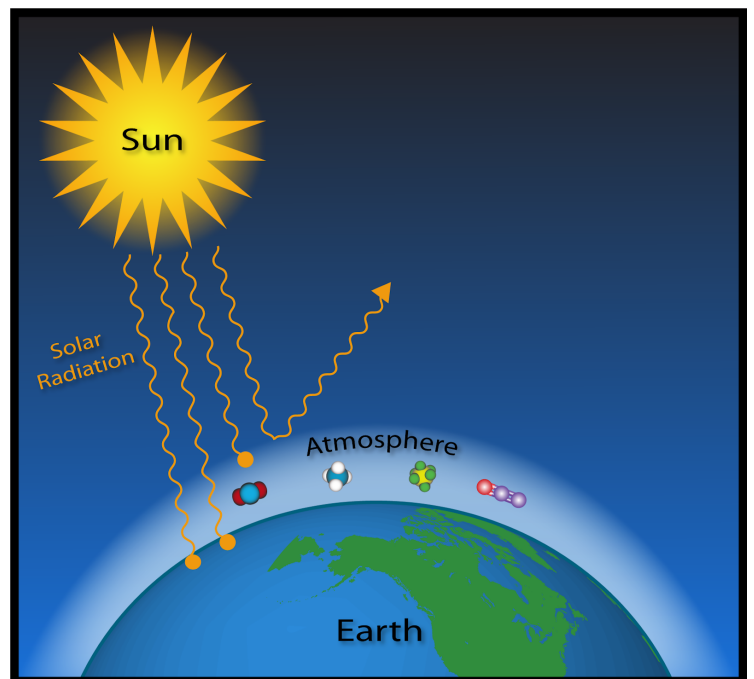
Imagine global warming has taken over the planet. Hurricanes and floods batter the Earth, destroying



countless communities and deposits of saved money. Glaciers have melted in the Arctic, causing oceans to rise, demolishing one trillion dollars of coastline homes and communities. Crops are dying due to droughts, causing shortages of food. Everyone wishes that they had put a little more effort in maintaining our once-beautiful planet, so they could have prevented the devastating state of Earth. Climate change could cause all these problems in the future. According to NASA, climate change is a long-term change in Earth's weather patterns that can lead to some serious

impacts - including extreme weather, sea-level rising, temperatures rising, and many other distressing results. Though many CPMS student make an effort to prevent climate change, it is important for all of us to be well-informed of the severity of this event, and try to help make less of an impact wherever possible

Part of the reason climate change has developed into such a vast problem is because of humans. The greenhouse gas effect is a big contributor to climate change. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (the NOAA is a government agency that regulates and researches the ocean and atmosphere), people have been adding the harmful gas, CO² (otherwise known as carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels and deforestation. These actions have increased the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere by 50% since 1750. Humans also release other harmful gasses into the atmosphere like methane, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons. These greenhouse gasses escape into our atmosphere through leaks in fossil fuel production, transportation, fertilizer production, clearing of land, and objects with chlorofluorocarbons that don't meet the international Montreal Protocol. According to NASA, this Protocol is an international agreement to protect the ozone layer of the atmosphere by



limiting the chlorofluorocarbons emission that contribute to greenhouse gasses. Releasing these gasses into the atmosphere may not appear to be a pressing problem because the atmosphere is made up of gasses. However, according to National Geographic, these harmful gasses can lead to global warming because they trap the sun's rays in Earth's atmosphere, which raises the global temperature over time. Creating and releasing greenhouse gasses has become a crucial part of creating things we need like energy. However, by continuing to pollute the atmosphere instead of finding cleaner ways to create resources, we could leave greater problems for future generations to solve.

Climate change affects the Earth in many ways. One effect of climate change is weather patterns changing constantly, which can affect food sources and crops. It can also lead to extreme floods, as shown by recent examples from Australia. A week before the New South Wales flood on November 14th, they saw nearly 2 inches of water caused by the rain. People in Victoria and many people in South Wales saw about 4.6 inches of rainfall on November 13th-14th. This exceptional amount of



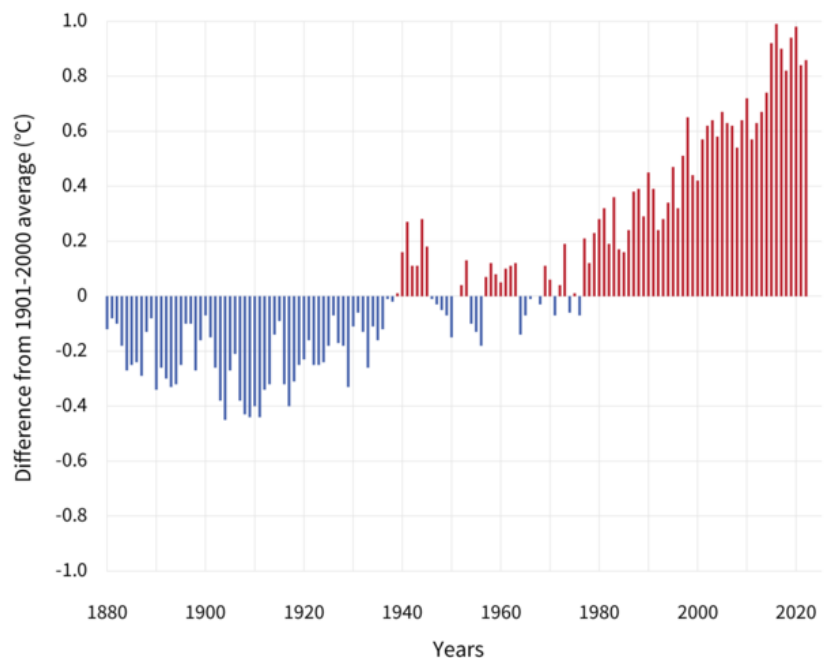
rain caused rivers and lakes to rise and flood towns nearby to lakes and rivers. During the first few months of 2022, Sydney had seen about a year's worth of rain.

Climate change could also cause extreme tropical cyclones that do a lot of damage to the community and their health. In 1970, The Bhola Cyclone hit east of Pakistan. This cyclone started around November 8th, it lasted about 4 days and made quite an impact on the east of Pakistan. This cyclone's cost was almost 90 million

dollars from all the damages! Sadly, 500,000 people died because of this cyclone. We can still try to fix climate change so these cyclones do not cause a lot of damage.

Glacier melting is another result of climate change. A recent report of this happening from The Guardian (a British newspaper) tells us about the European Alps glaciers that have lost a third of their size due to global warming. During the summer of 2022, the Alps glaciers suffered through a huge heatwave, with temperatures up to 86°F - which caused a rise in the elevation at which water freezes. This elevation was higher than Mont Blanc, resulting in a significant drop in the glacier's size. In the year 2100, the Alps glaciers will lose 80% of their ice if we continue to trap heat in the

GLOBAL AVERAGE SURFACE TEMPERATURE



atmosphere through greenhouse gas emissions. Even if action is taken to stop greenhouse gasses, the ones already in the atmosphere will sadly continue to shrink our glacier. We have caused lots of irreversible damage to the Earth that we don't even know about. Every action has consequences, so if we want to save glaciers and other parts of Earth from damage, it is important we find cleaner ways to produce the goods and services we need.

There is also a much bigger result of climate change called global warming. Global warming is when the Earth's surface temperatures start to rise, resulting in an increase in temperature, more droughts, and difficulty growing crops. Storms can become more severe with intense rainfall, leading to more flooding, compounded by clogged drains or blocked off areas and places like lakes, rivers, and ponds. These elements conspire to cause a lot of water buildup and water with nowhere to go, must overflow and flood the area. When a big storm or a flood hits, it costs a lot to repair the damage done. For example, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit southeast Louisiana. After this hurricane it was very hard to repair the damages, the cost came up to about 186.3 billion dollars. So if climate change gets too bad, it could be too late to help fix the cause and most people will live in poverty as our



Flood waters rush around a house in Long Island, New York. (photo credit: USGS).

money is used to repair the copious amount of damages.

Some ways to help prevent climate change require big adjustments in our lives, like burning less fossil fuel. Other solutions are easy things that everyone can do, like walking instead of using a vehicle to travel places. Some everyday habits each of us should build include using less electricity, like turning off the light when you're not in

the room, or not leaving the air conditioner on all day. Leaving the TV on all day or when you sleep can also be a waste of electricity. This might not seem much, but it can contribute to making the cost of electricity more expensive. We can build habits to be less wasteful. Even small contributions can amount to big changes.

Using renewable resources, like solar power, is a great example of a way to help prevent climate change. Other renewable resources you can use include cloth-made bags, reusing old clothing and cutting down on wasteful objects rather than using useless objects like plastic bags, extra packaging, and plastic water bottles that are wasteful and harmful to the community. The US Environmental Protection Agency - the EPA is a government agency focused on protecting the environment - explains that transporting and cleaning water for our home takes energy that contributes to greenhouse gasses. According to the California Department of Water Resources (part of the California Natural Resources government agency that regulates water use in California) there has been a recent drought in California from 2012 to 2016, which caused drinking water shortages. These

shortages mean we need to transport more water to our homes from further away, contributing to greenhouse gasses. When people leave the water running while waiting for the water to get hot, it is a waste of both water and electricity. We can save gallons of water by taking shorter showers, and by doing simple maintenance like fixing leaks in our homes. Most teens don't pay attention to their water use.

However, wasting water has a big

impact. The abundance of water needed in most gardens also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Instead of growing water-loving plants, we can try to create gardens full of plants adapted to the climate and weather of our area, and only water them when required to. Los Angeles Times (the sixth largest newspaper in the United States, that has won more than 40 Pulitzer Prizes - awards for journalism and newspapers) gives many examples of native plants of Southern California like

Blue grama grass, Silver Carpet Aster, Yankee Point Carmel Ceanothus, Dara's Choice Sage, Hummingbird sage. These look beautiful in a garden, but also are adapted to the Southern California climate.

Another solution to prevent climate change that is recommended by the National Park Service (a government agency that manages national parks and monuments) and the EPA is looking for the ENERGY STAR certified label. The ENERGY STAR certified label is found on appliances like refrigerators, freezers,

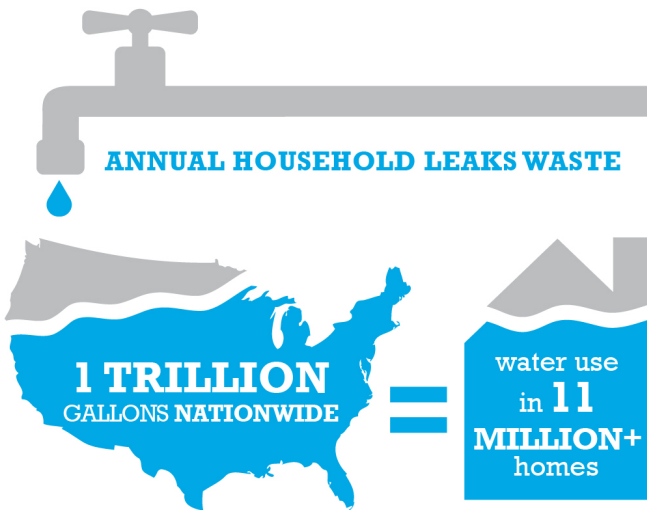
dishwashers and more. These appliances save money on energy. If the entire United States only used the ENERGY STAR certified models, \$15 billion dollars would be saved on energy with 175 million tons less greenhouse gas emissions. If everyone were to pitch in just a little bit of help, it could do a lot to change the impact of climate change. This could really help save the Earth from climate change and overall make Earth a better place.

Clearly, based on all the research presented so far, climate change is a huge problem on Earth. However, does everyone know that? Though climate change is a serious issue, CPMS students admit that they don't know much about it. Liana O. explains that though we do

PROTECTING OUR PLANET STARTS WITH YOU

- BIKE MORE DRIVE LESS**: Icon of a bicycle.
- reduce REUSE recycle**: Icon of a recycling symbol. Text: "Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three 'R's' to conserve natural resources and landfill space."
- choose sustainable seafood**: Icon of a fish. Text: "Learn how to make smart seafood choices at www.FishWatch.gov."
- PLANT A TREE**: Icon of a tree. Text: "Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change."
- EDUCATE**: Icon of books. Text: "When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources."
- CONSERVE WATER**: Icon of a faucet. Text: "The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean."
- SHOP-WISELY**: Icon of a shopping bag. Text: "Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag."
- Don't send chemicals into our waterways.**: Icon of a spray bottle. Text: "Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and office."
- Volunteer!**: Icon of hands. Text: "Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too!"
- Long-lasting light bulbs - ARE A - BRIGHT IDEA**: Icon of a light bulb. Text: "Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!"

oceanservice.noaa.gov



learn about climate change in school “there may be some details of climate change teenagers aren't aware of.” Jacob A. agrees saying, “it is not a major thing discussed at school or at home.” George B. and Henry A. argue some teenagers are well-informed because of non-profit organizations and social media. Though most students have some background knowledge on climate change, we could still strive to learn more about this topic. If more people are well-educated about our contributions to climate change, we could find ways in our lives to help prevent it.

Students do use the information they have learned about climate change to make their own opinion on the severity of this event. More than 50% percent of the grade have a lot of hope for the future



and believe that climate change is “just another problem we need to overcome.” Alex S. describes climate change as a “Moderate” problem, likely to be solved. Jacob A. agrees when he says “It is just another problem to overcome, because the majority of humans will be able to live on with their normal lives.” Grace B. and Benjamin R. suggest that if everyone took action to prevent climate change we can save our Earth. It is great that so many 8th graders are hopeful that we can end climate change. But, we should still fully understand how serious this event is and keep trying to prevent bad outcomes.

On the other hand, less than 50% of the grade is very concerned about climate change and believe it could be the “end of the world.” Students like Branden B. are very passionate that climate change may cause the end of the world. His reply to our survey included block capitals, multiple exclamation marks, and even phrases like “mass extinction” - all to convey the urgency he feels about this topic. Some students like Stephen O. feel overwhelmed by climate change and explain that if we can't stop this problem “it keeps getting bigger and bigger,” causing more harm. Henry A. summed up this feeling by describing climate change as a “Very large” problem. Many students like Katelyn U. are concerned that it will soon be “too late to fix” the damage of climate change. Other 8th graders agreed and described many negative effects they are worried about in the future. Neveah K., Timmy V., Gia J., and Jayne B. are concerned about the melting glaciers in the Arctic. Gia J. is anxious about the possibility of “San Diego becoming an island.” Thankfully, it is unlikely that San Diego will become an island anytime soon. But according to the NOAA, the sea levels are rising from glaciers melting, the ocean warming causing the ocean to expand, and the water that is taken from groundwater



deposits ending up in the ocean. This could cause higher tide flooding in coastal cities like San Diego. Other students like Isabel A., Giovannie Z., Katelyn U., and Alice D., care about the outcome of animals through climate change. Katelyn U. believes that “Climate change will inevitably lead to animal extinctions.” A lot of people in the world believe this could lead to a sixth mass extinction. The Natural History Museum in Balboa Park contends that we actually already are in a sixth mass-extinction event because of climate change. Natural disasters like floods and wildfires may become more common in 50 years. By trying to prevent this change, we could decrease the destruction of habitats for species.

Students have already decided to take action in their own life to prevent these outcomes. CPMS students like Rachel Q., Timmy V., and Henry A. reduce their use of gas by walking or biking to places instead of asking a parent to drive them. Xiomara O. also reduces her energy use by using “energy efficient electricity.” Climate change is slowly destroying the Earth we know and love. But by making small efforts we can all help stop this negative change on Earth.

It is clear that climate change is a tragic burden on Earth. Releasing greenhouse gasses leads to a profusion of problems including flooding, melting glaciers, and cyclones. It is imperative that each of us make an effort to prevent climate change by being less wasteful of resources. If something is not done now, we will leave greater problems for the next generation to solve. The future of the Earth is in our hands.



We Need Socksetball!

Dominic H. & Salm S.

The Problem

Have you ever wondered how playing sports like soccer and basketball can improve a person's life? Well, nearly three in every five Americans have played basketball or soccer in their lifetime, according to Statista.com (a statistics website). This means that most children in the U.S. have engaged in athletic activities in their lifetime, which benefits them at the time, and later in life. Concerningly, these numbers are dwindling slowly - by 2% every year - because kids are indulging in video games instead of sports. This comes to our reason for writing this article: to encourage everyone to play soccer or basketball.



What is Basketball?

Now, let's give you some background information about these sports. According to one author,



Dominic H., basketball is more than a hobby; it's an addiction that I can't let go of. This love for the game is not just on the court but also outside of the court, to the point that everything I do is to get better at basketball. I even dream of playing professional basketball, it can't just be a hobby, it has to be a part of that person's life to the extent that you are always thinking about it. But loving basketball is just one step toward becoming a

professional player. Players also need ambition to be the best, which does not come easy; it requires years of failure and losses and the resilience to bounce back from them to even come close to a professional career.

What is Soccer?

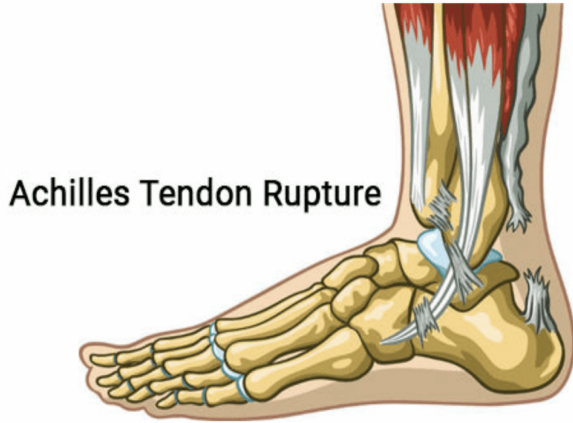
To our other author Salm S., soccer isn't just a sport; it's a lifestyle. Every day, I am thinking and brainstorming ways I can improve in the sport. I'm also thinking about how my training will go that day, and I make sure I am always performing at the highest level every single day there is training. To me, soccer isn't just about practicing; even after training is done, I am still going. At home, I set up my cones, do drills, and uphill sprints because I strive to be in that 1% who achieve their goal of becoming professional. I can never rest, even on rainy days. I will set up cones in the garage and continue grinding, even though I am tired, and then finish off



with stretches and ice baths. When gametime comes, I show my true effort and passion for the game. I put all my effort into the game and gave it my 100% until the last second.

The Down-Sides of Playing Soccer and Basketball

It should be made clear that basketball is one of the most injury-filled sports in the world. A journalist named Danielle Clark - from Weekend.com (a sports research company) - researched all



types of basketball injuries all over the body and how long it takes to recover from the injury. One example that the journalist provided was a torn Achilles, which can occur when the player steps really hard in a certain direction. This injury can take up to 10 months to recover fully from, which is longer than most injuries. Meanwhile, soccer also has the same risks, which includes those career ruining injuries. Salm S. has this personal experience from playing soccer: “I went up for a free kick but kicked the ball wrong, causing a pop to occur in my knee, and I was not able to

bend it, which caused me to go to the hospital and find out that my knee was sprained, this injury caused me to be unable to play soccer for 6 months. When I came back, I was very rusty, pushing me to work twice as hard as everyone else to become better than them again.” According to the University of Pittsburgh, the most common injuries in soccer are ankle sprains, knee sprains, calf strains, clavicle fractures, and more. Those injuries are no joke and can really hurt a person, but we think it is a risk worth taking.

Cost of Playing Soccer and Basketball

The cost of playing soccer or basketball isn't cheap. According to hoopsaddict.com, a well-known basketball website, a basketball player can expect to spend anywhere between 400 and 4,000 dollars a year on AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) basketball. This is a basketball league that connects all the highest clubs, so it does not apply to all basketballers. Recreational players just need to buy the shoes, the basketball, and the other gear required to play. According to SoccerNovo, a popular sports website, Elite Academy-level soccer can cost up to 2,500 to 4,500 dollars just in registration. Uniforms can cost around \$600, and travel around the whole season can cost anywhere from \$1,500 to \$10,000, depending on the player's club. Leading to the conclusion that soccer and basketball are both very expensive sports if the player is good enough to play professionally. But they can be cheap if players just play pick-up or a recreational league, which gives them benefits such as increased stamina and strength.



The Benefits Basketball Provides

Basketball is an intensive and high-contact sport, and playing it can improve a player's life all around. Basketball provides players with cardiovascular health and stamina. This is due to basketball players constantly sprinting up and down the court. According to a well-known cardiovascular clinic, southdenver.com, basketball provides people with strong joints. Players have to be agile, and to have mobility. Playing basketball can physically alter a player's body by improving the player's vertical jumping and muscle power. According to a doctor named Shu-Kun Lin at a sports journalism website



called mdpi.com (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute), playing basketball for at least 3 years can increase a person's life span from an average of 76 years to 81.3 years. This is because playing basketball can improve the player's immune system, helping to make the player a stronger person, both inside and out. Basketball is also a very hard sport mentally because, according to ESPN, it requires people to push past their natural limits. Basketball makes people mentally stronger by bouncing back from failure, improving their confidence, and lowering their self-doubt. In addition, playing basketball also improves the players' communication skills and ability to handle stress. It helps the player's communication skills because of all the talking as a team required to create a plan on how to win, helping players work together to accomplish a common goal. It also improves players' ability to handle stress by taking their mind off whatever it has been on and bringing it to a nirvana-type state, according to Dominic H., therefore making the player's subconscious and instinctual mind in charge.

The Benefits Soccer Provides

Soccer is an amazing sport that provides many benefits to the human body, and also to the brain. Most people think soccer is just kicking a ball into the net, but in order to accomplish that, players

have to make good passes, have good communication, and have good vision. According to the Australian government medical website (betterhealth.vic.gov.au), another important asset soccer provides for players is maintaining excellent cardiovascular health. According to soccernovo.com, an average professional soccer player runs 9 miles a game and only spends 2-3 minutes on the ball the whole game, which is why soccer players practice cardiovascular endurance. The final benefit soccer provides is that it helps players build muscle.



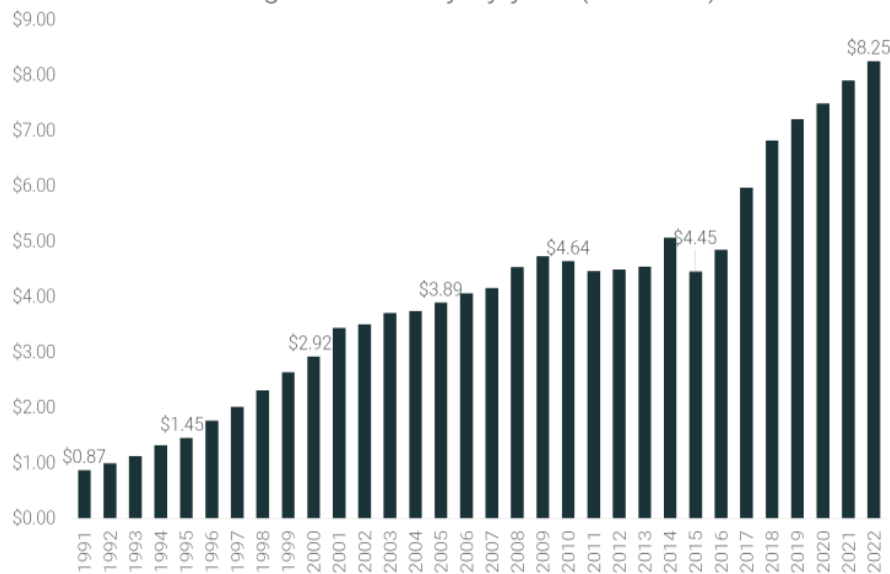
Soccer players may not look strong, but they spend hours every day in the weight room lifting weights to improve arm muscles, in order to have strong throw-ins, while also working to decrease body fat. A big focus in the gym is working out and hitting legs in order to maintain fitness. Professional players normally spend six or more hours a day in the gym, according to the trusted website progressivesoccer.com.

Bringing that money in!!

The very best basketball and soccer players in the world make insane amounts of money, compared to the average person. According to USA Today, the average NBA player earns \$7.3 million a year, compared to the MLS average between \$3 million to \$5 million per year, according to Progressive Soccer Training. Clearly, each sport can pay

players an insane amount of money; way over the USA's average wage of around \$60,000, according to the Social Security Administration. Money comes easily to these professional sports players, especially if they sign a contract that will increase their income. For example, Lionel Messi earned between \$50 million and \$60 million by signing with Miami. Another example is LeBron James's extended contract, which cost \$99,023,288 for a two-year extension. Both Lionel Messi and

Average NBA salary by year (\$ million)



LeBron James are regarded as some of the best athletes to ever play each sport, which is why their pay is way higher than that of the average professional athlete in these sports. Meanwhile, the average rookie salary in the NBA is \$953,000 for their first year, according to ESPN.com, a sports news website. A rookie player in the MLS normally receives from \$1 million a year to \$500k, according to the MLS Players Association.

What Do 8th Graders at CPMS Think About Soccer and Basketball?

Basketball and soccer are both great sports, but each has its own unique craft. Soccer and basketball are similar sports because they both require cardio, strength, and hand-eye coordination. On the other hand, these sports are different because soccer has two halves in a whole game and basketball has four quarters, letting players rest every 15 minutes. In professional soccer, once a player is subbed they are done and can't play anymore, unlike basketballers who come in and out of each game. According to CPMS students, like Andrew M. (8th grade), "Basketball can be beneficial because it requires players to run a lot and have stamina." Also, according to Neveah K. (8th grade), the same goes with soccer: "Soccer is beneficial for gaining strong legs and speed." Soccer players spend hours upon hours in the gym working their legs and using running resistance tools. Alaina Y. (8th grade) points out that "Soccer requires deep thinking skills." We agree because, according to Storelli, a well-known sports company that specializes in all sports, "Soccer is a 90% mental game." Andrew M. points out that basketball "requires players to have strength in their arms to shoot." Good point, Andrew!



Skills Required to Excel at Soccer

Though soccer is a physical sport, it is also a mental sport. The three important types of knowledge a soccer player needs to excel are vision, knowledge, and fast decision-making, according to the NCBI, part of a National Health Institute. Vision is very important, especially being able to scan the field and see where the opponent is. Knowledge is everything in soccer; the sport isn't just about kicking a ball or even mainly about players' footwork; it's all in players' heads, according to



Coach Mohammed Noor - who is a scout for Chelsea and DC United. Knowledge helps players make passes, helps players read plays, and helps players know what they will do next with the ball. In the sport of soccer, the two most valued things scouts look for are vision and knowledge. Knowledge also helps a player position themselves and helps greatly with the speed of play, which is the most important thing scouts look for.

Skills Required to Excel at Basketball

Basketball is a very intricate sport, with three main building blocks necessary to become a good basketball player. According to the Red Bull (a sports company, not just an energy drink producer) website, one important basketball technique is good ball handling. Ball handling is important in order to get a shot off or even get around a defender. Ball-handling makes the defender unbalanced and makes the player unpredictable, keeping the other team's defender restless. Being a good ball handler is also arguably more important than being a shooter, because players need to be able to create a good shot to make points. Another skill required to succeed in the sport of basketball is of course shooting, because good shooting-form allows players to score outside the paint. According to Dr. Dish, a basketball shooting machine website, shooting helps basketball players get recognized by scouts. The last building block is having a good basketball IQ. According to RedBull.com, basketball IQ has the largest impact on a player's overall game, and is by far one of the hardest building blocks to learn, due to players needing to experience mistakes to learn what to do right. If all those things are executed with the utmost accuracy, then players might have a chance at becoming a professional.



Hip-Hop in 2023

Billy L. & Franco G. & Nebal M.

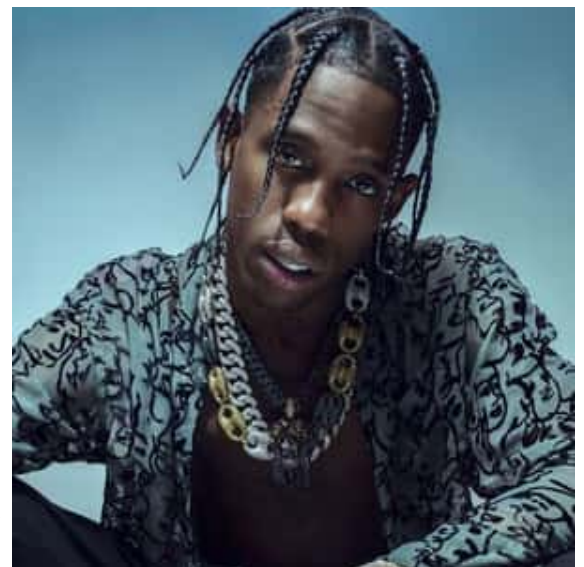
Have you ever wondered how your favorite Hip-Hop artists achieved their fame? Or how a lot of songs blew up in popularity? You will find this out and much more about what's relevant in the Hip-Hop scene in this article! Hip-hop has changed a lot throughout the years since it began. Some Hip-Hop artists from the last fifty years include Cool Herc, Eminem, Nas, and A Called Tribe Quest. In the present, 2023 has seen many new and known artists explode with popularity from their outstanding albums and tremendous songs. We are using the website called The Ranker (this site ranks artists based on their monthly listeners on Spotify) to take a deep dive into the Hip-Hop scene of 2023.

The first artist on The Ranker, which makes him the most-listened-to artist is Kendrick Lamar. He has changed music with his influential lyrics and great beats. His real name is Kendrick Lamar



Duckworth, he grew up in a high-crime area in Compton. In 1987, his parents moved out to Chicago to escape the violence. In 2004, he started to make music at the age 17. It wasn't until he made the album *Good Kid m.A.A.d City* in 2012 that he earned the popularity that made him a widely-known artist. The most known song on the album is "Money Trees" - which has over 1 billion streams on Spotify! Kendrick Lamar's most recent album was *Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers*. This was released on May 13, 2022 and went on to win him a Grammy for Best Rap Album. In our opinions, Kendrick isn't our favorite artist but he has very likable songs that we enjoy like "N95" and "Pride" - which are both well known tracks.

The artist that was next-most popular this year, according to The Ranker, is Travis Scott. Travis has made a big name for himself from many of his notorious songs, and his flow switches. His real name is Jacques Berman Webster II. He grew up in Houston, Texas with his grandmother; and later moved to a suburb with his dad. He started to gain popularity after he signed to Kanye West's "GOOD Music VERY GOOD Beats" label in 2012. His first mixtape was *Owl Pharaoh*, released in 2012. This helped him gain some attention. Then, two years later, he released his mixtape, *Days Before Rodeo*, in 2014. This gave him even more popularity and people started



hearing his name more and more. He later followed up with the album *Rodeo*. Our favorite song on the album is “90210,” featuring Kacy Hill. We love the flow switch in the middle of the song. For those readers who do not know the term, a “flow switch,” refers to when a beat switches from one beat to a whole completely other beat smoothly, changing how the song sounds. In that same year Travis Scott made the song “Antidote” - which many people loved, making him mainstream in the Hip-Hop industry. He went on to release the album, *Birds in the Trap Sing Mcknight*. This included the hit “goosebumps,” with Kendrick Lamar. In our personal opinions, we love the chorus of the song. It has two billion streams, which skyrocketed his popularity even more. Two years later, he released *ASTROWORLD*, which is his most known album. The album included so many hit songs that it virtually broke the Hip-Hop industry. Our favorite song was, “SICKO MODE,” featuring Drake. We love the iconic beat switch and the ending of the song. It wasn’t just us who liked it though. Many people all over the world like “SICKO MODE.” As we speak, “SICKO MODE” has two billion streams on Spotify. Three years later, after the release of *ASTROWORLD*, Travis held a concert in which nine people in the audience died due to how crowded it was. This included a nine year old boy. Travis received a lot of backlash, so his next album was delayed. *UTOPIA* came out on July 28, 2023. *UTOPIA* was highly anticipated and was awaited upon by many fans. *UTOPIA* had lots of featured artists like Teezo Touchdown, Drake, Carti, Beyoncé, Rob49 and many more. Most of the songs were good and if they weren't they were alright, but never once horrible. Our favorite song on the album was “FE!N” that featured Carti. The song had many beat changes that made it better. As we speak, *UTOPIA* is doing spectacular. Travis Scott has been able to make a super big name for himself and will continue to be successful.

Another big artist to release this year is Lil Uzi Vert, whose real name is Symere Woods. He was born on July 31, 1994, in Philadelphia. Growing up he didn’t have much money and had many family problems. He started making music in high school and his original sound of energetic trap



beats and emotional lyrics helped him catch the attention of many people. He signed to the label Roc Nation Atlantic Generation Now, in 2012. Later, in 2015, he released *Luv Is Rage* and the hit song “7 am,” was on the album, gaining 229 million streams on Spotify! He went on to release, *A Perfect LUV Tape*, *LUV is Rage 2*, and *Eternal Etake* all having hits such as, “XO Tour Llif3,” which is sitting at over 2 billion streams on Spotify, “Neon Guts,” and “Baby Pluto.” His new album, *Pink Tape*, was so anticipated that it crashed the Spotify app for a bit when it was released! In our opinion his best song is “Lo Mein,” with over 150 million streams on Spotify. To many people Lil Uzi Vert was the best artist who dominated the years 2016-2018. He made a post on Instagram saying that he will retire once he releases his last album,

“LUV is Rage 3,” which would upset many fans. One of our favorite Uzi songs from his new album is “I Gotta,” due to its really good beat and lyrics.

We made a survey for CPMS 8th graders. One of the questions on it is what is the best Hip-Hop song of 2023. The song that had the most votes was “Meltdown” by Travis Scott, ft. Drake. “Meltdown,” was released on July 28, 2023 on the album *UTOPIA* made by Travis Scott and very quickly became popular for its unique beats. As we speak, it has 229 million streams. We even remember when “Meltdown” came out and became one of the most popular songs on the album. Due to the hidden features that Travis had, Drake was rumored to be on a song after fans got a chance to listen to the album by Travis before its initial release date. It's been very well known that Drake dissed Pusha T and Pharrell Williams. A diss is when someone throws shade at another person in the form of insults, or other ways. Drake has been known for dissing Pusha T ever since Pusha T made a song telling the world Drake had a son. Not only was Drake taking shots at people in “Meltdown” but so was Travis. Additionally, well known producers like BNYX, Coleman, Boi-1da, Vinylz, Tay Keith, and even Travis Scott. Travis actually produced a lot of songs on the album and took his time to make this an album that was worth waiting for. During the song, both Drake and Travis Scott talk about their dominance in the music industry and give themselves a so-called “God-complex” according to the source Genius, which fits with the album since it goes against Satan. As the song continues, the song switches from pure rap, to a calmer type of rap that is more slowed down. The song debuted at number 3 on the Billboard top 100 during the chart week ending of August 12, 2023. It also debuted number one for the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart on Billboard.



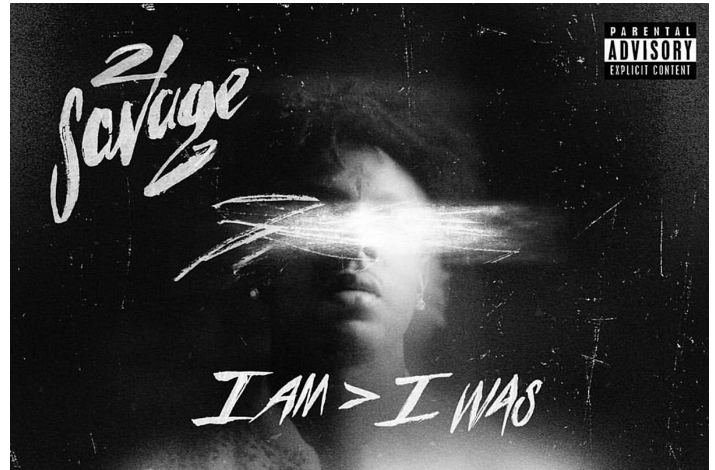
In our survey, we asked students which artist had the best features on songs in 2023. The artist who won was 21 Savage. 21 Savage, or Shéyaa Bin Abraham-Joseph was born on October 22, 1992 in



Newham, London. He later moved to Atlanta at the age of seven and was raised there. At the early age of seven, Savage would get into trouble and even get banned from going to school. On his 21st birthday, Savage was shot six times. In the same incident, his best friend died. This is what sparked his music career. In 2014, Savage dropped his debut song, “Picky,” which was popular in many streets across America but didn’t receive mainstream attention. In 2016 he was put on the popular magazine XXL under Freshman Class. This magazine is published every year in which the magazine lists rappers who are on the rise. This also came with a freestyle video in which the artists listed on the magazine freestyled on

a beat. Many people praised Savage for his freestyle and considered his verse to be the best out of the

artists. But, early in his career Savage received backlash for singing like a mumble rapper. This means that when he would sing he sounded like he was mumbling. He overcame this later in his career. In 2016, he dropped his album, *E.P Savage Mode*. It was a big success, most notably the song, “Bank Account.” This song at its highest reached number 2 on Billboard’s top 200 chart. In 2018, he released his second studio album, *I am >I, was*. It had many huge names on the album like Travis Scott, J. Cole, Lil Baby, and Offset. This album was yet another success. Such a success, that his song “A lot,” featuring J. Cole won a grammy for best rap song. By this point, Savage had received mainstream attention and was respected by many artists. Most recently he made an album with Drake called, *Her Loss*. Many fans thought that 21 Savage outperformed Drake in most of the songs on the album. The most popular song on the album was “Rich Flex,” which did amazing. Many praised 21 Savage for being great on the song and the whole album. Savage has also been known to help kids and donate money. He also doesn’t support bullying and speaks out against violence in the world. Many students at our school like 21 Savage. Savage has also had lots of features on songs, which he has outperformed the main artist. He does this very often and makes it evident why CPMS students voted him as the best feature artist. In our personal opinions, we do believe that Savage is the best feature artist by a mile. Even though 21 Savage has faced lots of backlash in the spotlight, he has gone on to have a successful career, and will continue to do so.



We’ve been talking about all these popular artists, but many big name producers help to make these songs. We will list the top three producers of 2023 according to the website, hiphopdx. This is a



respected website because it is very well-known in the Hip Hop industry, and has a large following on many platforms. They produced a list in which they listed the nominees for the best producers in 2023, providing information about the artists and why they deserve the award. First on the list is BNYX. He is a newer producer but has made a name for himself in the industry. He has worked with big artists such as Drake, Yeat, Offset, Travis Scott, and Lil Uzi Vert. It wasn’t always like this though. According to hiphopdx, BNYX dropped out of college and had to work at an AT&T store to provide for himself. It was during this time when he

heard a remix of the song “Swang.” He ended up making his own version of the song, which blew up. This helped him skyrocket his career. He started working with the artist Yeat who is known by many and has also made a name for himself. After producing music for Yeat he got noticed by other big artists. He has gone on to get nominated for working with Travis Scott on his new album *UTOPIA*. Surprisingly all this happened in a span of a year.

Conductor Willaims made it on the list at the number 2 spot. He isn't as popular as BNYX or some other producers, but has also made a name for himself. He started working with names like Conway The Machine, Rome Streetz, and Mach-Hommy. These artists are more underground, but as he became more popular in the music industry, he worked with bigger names. This year he collaborated with Drake on his new album, "For All The Dogs." During the song, "8AM in Charlotte," his producer tag, "Conductor," can be heard at the beginning of the song. This has gained him lots of attention and popularity, which has already led to him working with bigger names in the Hip-Hop scene such as Westside Gunn, and Tyler, The Creator.



Our last producer, and probably the most notable, is Metro Boomin. He is well known and has worked with many big names like, 21 Savage, Drake, The Weeknd, Future, and Don Toliver. Not only does he produce music, but he also sings in the songs. He has his iconic producer tags, "Young Metro," and "Metroooo" that are used in many songs. Getting a song produced by Metro isn't easy, which makes even getting his producer tag amazing. He has gained many streams, sales, and views. He worked hard to gain his success and like BNYX also dropped out of college to pursue music. He is a very special producer in the industry and will continue to be so in the future.

Travel Awaits!

Grace B. & Faith E.

Do you like to travel to new and exciting places? Do you want to discover some new destinations to go to? Then, this article is your first stop on that trip!

Traveling is a very fun and joyful time because there are extravagant and interesting places inside and outside of the United States. There are also a lot of fun activities to do while traveling. Many other people, including us, like to experience new food and the unique characteristics at different destinations as well as experiencing the different attractions at a destination. Some of our favorite vacation spots include Chicago, Europe, New York, Greece, as well as tropical places like Hawaii. Each of these destinations have many sites that everyone would want to visit. Keep on reading, so that you can join us on our journey through the United States and out of the United States!



Most of our research has come from two websites: Travel and Leisure, and Zicasso. Travel and Leisure is a magazine website that has professional journalists writing articles. Zicasso is a travel guide website that features articles written by companies and people actively getting information about places. Our research has revealed that some vacation spots inside of the United States that are popular and unique places to go are New York City, Honolulu, Las Vegas, and Orlando. These places inside of the United States have lots of attractions that many people may like.

For example, New York City has the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building, as well as many interesting stores to go to - like FAO Schwarz and Dylan's Candy Bar. FAO Schwarz is a toy store, which can be very fun for a family to go to and Dylan's Candy Bar is a popular candy shop that when people walk in, visitors are already getting a sugar rush because of the huge and delicious candy selection!

The enormous attraction in Orlando is of course the world-famous Walt Disney World, which is recommended for a lot of family-filled adventures, and for eating some unusual sweet treats like the Dole Whip, Mickey Pretzel, Macaroon ice cream sandwich - as well as some of their delicious drinks.

Orlando also has Universal Studios for some more family fun, and the city hosts some amazing



luxury hotels like the Four Seasons Resort in Walt Disney World and the JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes. Based on the JW Marriott website and the Four Seasons websites, each of these hotels have spacious rooms, fun water-slides, and many easy-to-access exciting activities for families.

Las Vegas is the home of one of the most known and loved places, Caesars Palace - one of the adventure-packed (and expensive!) hotels in Las Vegas. Caesars Palace also has some delicious steak



and seafood restaurants, very entertaining shows, and the outside beauty of it overall. Las Vegas is also known for the bright Las Vegas sign, and fun activities like going on the High Roller and Big Apple Coaster. The High Roller is a ferris wheel located on the Las Vegas Strip that provides a panoramic view of the area. The Big Apple Coaster is a thrilling ride going over 67 mph and has an intense 203 foot drop! The coaster also has a lot of loops and even goes upside-down! There are also many more entertaining events like catching a concert for your favorite music artist

and getting to experience Cirque du Soleil, which is a circus show with amazing acrobats and perfect performances.

Popular cities and countries to visit outside of the United States include cities like Paris and Rome, as well as the country of Mexico. The reason why Paris and Rome are popular is because they have many great examples of architectural places to visit - like the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and the Sistine Chapel in Rome. The Eiffel Tower is one of the most known sites to visit in Paris - because of its amazing history of how it was made and how it is a symbol of France. The Tower is also very well known because it's the tallest building in central Paris. The Sistine Chapel in Rome is a popular place to visit, also because of its history. The Chapel was built in the early 1500s by Pope Sixtus IV and features Michelangelo's famous paintings on the ceiling. It's the place to go if you're looking for something artsy and interesting! Rome also has great gelato. The nation of Mexico has many cool ancient ruins like Chichen Itza and the Palenque Ruins. We think that all of these places would be very fun to explore. Overall, where you would want to go is based on what food you want to eat, which activities you want to do, and the types of places you would like to explore.



Some holiday activities are thrilling, like scuba diving and riding roller coasters. Some travelers like to feel adrenaline when they are on holiday. Other activities people seek are more educational, like site-seeing, and learning about culture. Some travelers prefer to relax, and they might choose to go shopping, dining, exploring, swimming, even going to theme parks, or doing something simple like

going to the beach.

If you like to go scuba diving, going to the beach, or swimming in the pool, then according to Time Stamped, (a magazine created by TIME magazine,) places you would want to go include Paradise Island in the Bahamas, O‘ahu (an island in Hawaii), or any one of a number of hot and tropical destinations.

If you prefer more thrilling adventurous activities like riding roller coasters, then you would want to go to a place like Orlando in Florida where they have Universal Studios and Walt Disney World. On a more educational side, if you want to learn about new cultures and eat cultural foods, then some destinations include Mexico, Italy, and Turkey.



If you like to go shopping, then you can go anywhere you want whether it is a hot summer destination or a cold winter destination! In our opinion, we like to shop at the different malls like the one in Dubai, go swimming, and experience all types of architecture that we can, because we think that they are very brilliant and astonishing.

Finally, many people like to explore, so people can go to places like Rio de Janeiro and Greece, which have many interesting destinations that anybody would want to see - like the beaches! The Corcovado (which means “hunchback” in Portuguese) has a Jesus statue on top of its mountain in central Rio De Janeiro. Some people travel for events, rather than for places. For them, the Brazilian Carnival would be fun. In Greece, we would love to go to the city Santorini, which has clear-water beaches. We would also like to go to Athens and Mykonos, each of which includes a bunch of architecture like the Acropolis. The Acropolis is known as the “Sacred Rock” because it’s really important to the people in Greece for the history. These places also have a lot of hotels and homes that have a distinct white color to them, which makes everything look very clean, fancy, and interesting.



Overall, we would love to go to some place that has great cultural foods, uncommon activities, and interesting architecture. However, the activities that you want to do depend on what place you want to travel to.

We love to eat at fancy restaurants, especially menu items like filet mignon, Italian foods, and sushi. We also like restaurants that have a specific vibe and theme, like a restaurant located on the beach with a view, or a restaurant that has a rare element to it like eating underwater. We found many fancy restaurants around the globe through our research with Travel and Leisure - each of which you will

enjoy dining at!

For a more beach-type of setting, you would want to head to Nessun Dorma, which is located in Manarola (a town in Italy), Concina Del Mar (located in Cabo), or Pangas Beach Club, which is located in Costa Rica. You might also want to go to Ambrosia, which is found atop a cliff in Santorini; or to Dasheene, which is a restaurant that can be found between the twin mountains in St. Lucia. A sushi restaurant named Nobu is known as one of the best sushi restaurants, and it is much closer to home - in Malibu! But if you're looking for more of an elegant vibe and a fancy experience, the type of places you might head to is the Panorama Room located in New York, Duck and Waffle located in London, La MarleNaz in Bagnes, and Mirablau located in Barcelona. Each of these are on the fancier and more elegant side.



However, if you want a more interesting and adventurous experience, then you would want to go to restaurants like Rooftop at Lumiares in Lisbon, Portugal, Giraffe manor located in Nairobi, Kenya and is where you can eat African and European cuisine as well as giraffes outside of the restaurant that you can feed if they pop into the window where your eating. There is also the Ithaa undersea restaurant in Rangali Island, Maldives, and La Jules Vern located in the Eiffel Tower in Paris. These fascinating restaurants have many intricate details that are very cool. According to Travel and



Leisure, if you want to go to the restaurant Lumi Rooftop in Portugal, the magazine recommends choosing Bacalhau (which is a cod that Portuguese people love) since this dish is “Portuguese perfection.”

In our opinion, we think that the Ithaa Undersea Restaurant in Rangali Island, would be very fun and interesting to go to because it's a dining venue that is under the sea - giving an ocean-life experience.

Rangali Island is an island in the Maldives, and is very tropical and is known for the many under the sea-themed activities to do like this restaurant, as well as underwater Bungalows that travelers can stay in.

Another great restaurant recommended by the Travel and Leisure website was Vertigo, which is located in Bangkok, Thailand. It's a highly recommended place because of a very hyped-up night life,



with a DJ. The fact it is on a rooftop means people get a view of the whole sparkling city. The restaurant also gets recommended for their incredible food like the grilled snow fish or the lamb chops.

Another very surprising restaurant we found was Sierra Mar located in Big Sur, which is between Carmel Highlands and San Simeon in California and is most famous for Big Sur's rocky cliffs, mountains, Redwood forests, and their beautiful beaches. Sierra Mar is located on an edge on one of Big Sur's cliffs, which has an amazing view of the ocean and you can even see a spectacular sunset! A surprising fact about Sierra Mar is that the menu items' ingredients get handpicked from the chef's



garden, which we think is very cool. In conclusion, all of these restaurants have amazing and uncommon food items we don't usually see like the Bacalhau at Lumi Rooftop!

But when should you go to these places? The best seasons to travel, according to our research, would be autumn and spring. This is when there are fewer crowds, which means that you can have more time to do activities, like going to the beach. However, in our research from Expat Explore, a blog website that explains the best times to travel and where to go during

those times, we found that the Northern Hemisphere's high season (June-August) would be a good time to travel. High season is when tourism is at its busiest, while in the low season (November-February), tourism decreases and traveling usually becomes more inexpensive. This all depends on if you like to travel during the high or low season. For example if you want to avoid the crowds and like more chilly weather, then traveling in the low season is the way to go. If you like the spring and summer weather, like the busy crowds, and want to get the full tourist experience, then high season is your best choice.

A big thing that people might want to pay attention to is that when you travel in high season the hospitality staff pays more attention to the people because there are more people in that place, which can lead to bad things happening. The staff is also more prepared and geared up to help their visitors. But also there is more attending staff during high season in places like hotels, restaurants, and activities like tours around that place. Also based on our research from Expat Explore, the low season's hospitality staff won't be as meticulous because there are fewer crowds, which impacts the ability of workers to earn as much money as in the high season..



We prefer traveling in the high season because that is where the best weather is and where the best service comes in. We also like the high season because of the full tourist experience. Overall, where you want to travel depends on you; there are advantages and disadvantages to each.

We also collected some data from the 8th grade CPMS students about the different activities they like while traveling, the restaurants CPMS students like to eat at, and the times they like to travel. In summer, many of our 8th graders prefer going to Hawaii. Tara B. gives a reason for this: “Hawaii has a beautiful beach and many more fun experiences.” Miah M. agrees: “Hawaii has cool sites to visit.” Mexico is also a very popular summer destination. Delina K. said that Mexico “is tropical” and Chanel B. agrees that Mexico is “very tropical and nice.” The main motivations for student selection of favorite destinations was if there is “nice weather” in that place, or because “family lives there.”

Some students prefer winter destinations. Salm S., Chloe B., and Victoria E. all like going to Big Bear because of the snow. Others - like Giovannie Z., Jayne B., and Celine A. - prefer winter destinations like Mammoth, South Dakota, and New York. They like going to these places for similar reasons, which include snow. A lot of students chose a favorite winter destination because “family lives there.” For example, Jayne B. chose this reason for enjoying visits to South Dakota.



Some of the author’s favorite summer destinations include Hawaii and Bora Bora, because these places are very tropical and have a lot of summer activities that visitors can do - like going scuba diving in clear ocean waters. For winter destinations, we like to go to places where it snows like Big Bear, as well as cities like New York that have fun activities like sledding in Central Park, and walking around to see all of the Christmas displays.



We also asked about students' top three best restaurants in the United States that they have eaten at. The results were mixed. Some students, like Chloe B., Hailey I., and Kamryn D. (and many more!) ranked steakhouses like Ruth Chris and Hell’s Kitchen as their favorite restaurants to eat in the United States. However, many people like Gia J. and Timmy V. prefer to go to sushi restaurants like Nobu, Konichiwa Sushi, and Bamboo Tai.

As the authors of this article, our opinions differ. One author (Grace B.) likes to eat at fancy steakhouses because she likes steak; while the other author (Faith E.) prefers going to sushi restaurants because she likes seafood and the taste of sushi. Some of our recommendations are the steak restaurants Ruth's Chris, Flemings, and Mastro's; as well as sushi restaurants Nobu and Bambu.

Our results for what place students like to visit out of the United States were also mixed. A lot of students, including Roman G. and Rory K. said that the best place to travel out of the United States is Mexico. Other students like Abigail M., Drake H., and Layla H. like places that have more summer

weather like Bali, Cancun, and the Bahamas. An interesting response came from Yousif A., who “really liked visiting Turkey.” Turkey is a nice place to go to if you would like to try some Turkish cuisine and go to some of the famous markets there like the Grand Bazaar, which is Turkey’s oldest and largest market.

In conclusion, there were many students who liked to travel and eat at similar places, but most opinions differed. Some places out of the U.S. we would like to go to are places in London and Barcelona because of the atmosphere and vibe. Or maybe Brazil, because of the weather and natural beauty. Or Italy, for its amazing Italian food and its architecture. Maybe our dream is France, because of the unique desserts like their macarons. Also, most importantly, to visit the Eiffel Tower and go to the first floor, second floor, and the summit to experience the restaurants and the amazing views of Paris.



Wow! We just traveled all over the world learning about and experiencing some very fun and exciting places to travel to as well as CPMS favorite places to go to. We hope that you all loved finding out about unique destinations that we and the rest of you all can all catch a flight and travel to and enjoy. Thank you for traveling with us and we hope that all of CPMS had an adventurous vacation!



A Musical Fish

Nate C.

Do you need to listen to some calm, relaxing music about praising God? Music that also mixes in life struggles? Have you ever heard of Montell Fish?

Montell Fish is a religious musician who sings about God, relationships, and feelings. His music is a mix of R&B, soul and hip-hop. The beginning of his career was in early 2010, but he didn't start releasing music to Spotify until 2015. He's been making music since 2010 about his life struggles - including love and problems with addiction. The meaning and style of his songs allowed him to express himself thoroughly, and also to do what he loves. Montell released albums yearly until 2019, where he took a three-year break until 2022, but after 2022 he hasn't released another album as a single in 2023. His last album landed him in hot water with his fans and Christians that educated themselves on the subject, but he still maintains a huge audience. Montell Fish continues to express his feelings and struggles through singing gospel music.



Who is Montell Fish? Montell Fish is a religious, deep, lyrical, and heavy-hearted musician and songwriter - who gets roughly 10 million monthly listeners on Spotify alone! When he was 16, his mom kicked him out of her house because of his constant disobedience and addiction. famousbirthdays.com - a biography website that has a multitude of information about famous people compiled from primary sources - continues the story: "At the age of 17, he "found God" and used his depression to write music." Let's go back to the beginning. Montell was born in Pittsburgh, PA on October 19th, 1997. Now, 26 years old, Montell Fish makes music based on his struggles in life like heartbreaks, addiction, and depression. Most of his early music was based around Christianity, but recently he's included messages about his newest heartbreaks too. Montell might have added a new theme, but he continued to make the same style of slow and meaningful lyric-filled music.



A big part of Montell's career and life is his relationship with Christianity. The biography of Montell posted on famousbirthdays.com explains how, "Montell started to grow his relationship with

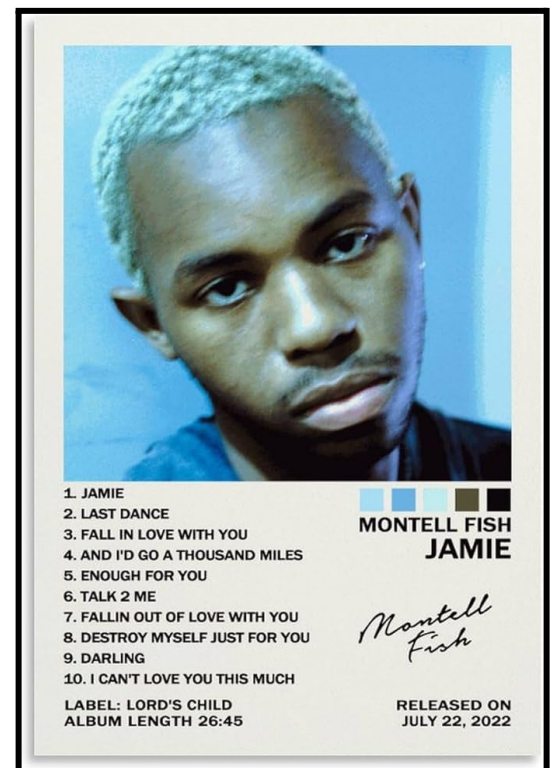
Christianity when he was 17.” When his mom saw these efforts, she allowed him to live with her again. He attended Church with his mom and stepdad, and continued to practice Christianity to further learn about the rules and teachings of Jesus and God. Highsnobiety.com - a digital magazine that's focused on global fashion and lifestyle - published an article focused on Montell's art. This



piece quotes Montell as saying, “On my mom’s side there was a lot of gospel, a lot of religious music.” Billboard.com (a website that reports on music) includes Montell’s claim that “I’d be at my mom’s house – no explicit video games or music, we’re going to church every Sunday, gospel music in the house.” Billboard.com also elaborates on how Montell wanted to take his title as a Christian seriously, and to truly give himself to God. He found hope, peace, and comfort in believing in God. He had been struggling with depression and addiction for a long time, and in following what the Bible says, he was able to get better. Montell studied the Bible and made sure to try his best to maintain following the moral codes. This led him to release his first song

to Spotify, called “TakeOff,” in 2015. His early songs were about praising God and Jesus and how they deserve to be celebrated and loved. Due to an apathetic attitude and other personal events, Montell tends to only release once per year. Montell keeps his morals which influences his direction in music; he continues to make music about God and faith, usually incorporating little parts into his songs. An example of this is when in “Destroy Myself Just For You” he incorporates a quote from Samuel 7:3-17 about “returning to the Lord with all your heart.” The song is about how Montell destroys himself to stay on the track to follow God. He explains in the song, “Pray my salvation makes it to the pearly gates, Bring the suffering that I face.” What he's focusing on is how he has to deal with a lot of pain to make sure he's able to get into Heaven. Even through all the pain, he continues to worship God because of all that God has done for him.

Montell was influenced by many things to make music, but his main motivation was because of a variety of his life’s experiences and problems. Examples of this are songs he's made like “Destroy Myself For You,” and “Enough For You,” early albums and EPs like *King David EP*, *Eternal Light EP*, *SomeWhereInTheForest*, and *As We Walk Into Forever*, were all released in 2015 and 2016. None of these EPs or albums gained much traction; this was because, compared to now, the quality of his voice in the songs and the beat were not as connected to the way Montell wanted to sing. As a fan, one thing stood out to me is that, even in his music before 2022, he still made slow, quiet, and relaxing music - even if it



wasn't music made at his full potential. When he released *Bedroom Gospel*, *It's Beautiful*, and *A Lo-Fi Christmas* in 2017 and 2018, he gained a small audience from these albums due to the increase in quality. Then he released the album *JAMIE* on July 22nd, 2022 and the album *Her Love Still Haunts Me Like a Ghost* on October 28th, 2022. These albums absolutely exploded Montell's career because of the amazing sound quality, deep lyrics, and style of the music. Some of the songs like "Fall In Love With You," "Destroy Myself Just For You," "Talk 2 Me," and "Hotel," accumulated hundreds of millions of views. Montell uses his music platform to express himself, and the meaning of the songs can be interpreted in different ways. Even though they are about his life, the lyrics can mean so many different things. Personally, the fact that I can listen to his music and I can connect myself with the song makes them even better. Montell's struggles with love, addiction, and

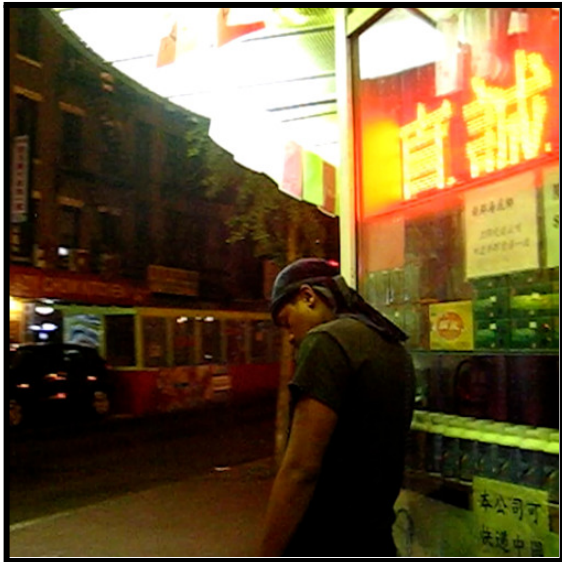
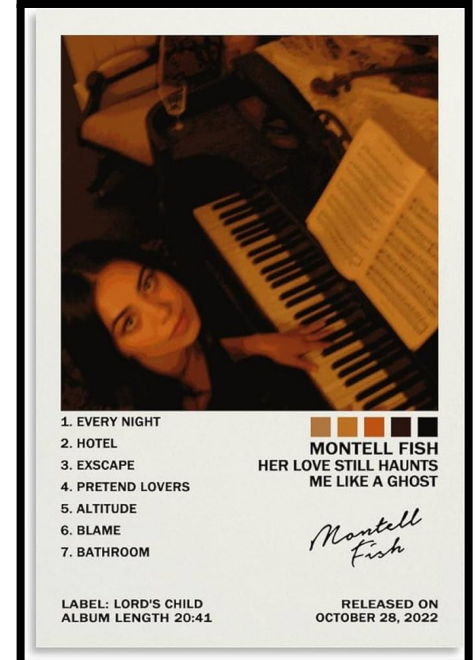


depression meant he was able to find motivation and structure for his music. It allowed him to express how he felt, and made a platform for him to spread his belief in his religion. A big part of his motivation and structure was what he listened to as a kid. The magazine article on [highsnobiety.com](https://www.highsnobiety.com) explains that Montell gave good insight to his early music listening by saying, "With my dad I remember we listened to a lot of rap, Lil Wayne – Tha Carter III, specifically. A lot of Tupac - a mixture of R&B and soul and hip-hop. On my mom's side there was a lot of gospel, a lot of religious music." The article elaborates on this by saying that Montell was "inspired by world builders like Kid Cudi, Childish Gambino, Tyler The

Creator, and filmmaker Terrence Malick." He was connected to music at a young age and really enjoyed listening to the different genres which most likely played a role in him wanting to make his own. As seen by myself today, I can subtly pick up little resemblance to those artists in Montell's music. Highsnobiety states, "Montell's pursuit is to use his ability to communicate emotion by creating more mediums of communication." Highsnobiety.com also explains that, "As time went on and his work evolved, Fish began making collaborative projects with his label, Lord's Child, while continuing to build out his artistic identity." Which means he can express himself more and find who he is. Then, Montell added in a very crucial part into what his recent music is about. Still incorporating his faith, he also made music about his heartbreaks. Personally I'd say this was the best approach Montell has had yet, because this is when he released his best album *JAMIE*.

Hypebeast.com - a website that has posted interviews with Montell from a range of publications - quotes Montell saying, "I like to build worlds around every project," he said. "When I was rolling out *JAMIE*, I included a lot of weird loopholes, clues for my fans about who Jamie is and where she comes from." By adding a storyline and universe connected to his album *JAMIE*, he found a great way to explain how he felt while making it interesting for the listener. Montell's push to make music is his problems and experiences, but he also expresses himself through music because he loves what he does even if got burnt out for a while and might again.

In 2022, Montell released the album *Her Love Still Haunts Me Like a Ghost*. This album would be the opposite of his former slow, quiet, and religious music. It took a more sinful path, which angered many fans. Highsnobiety.com quotes Montell explaining, “My comment section can go pretty crazy. Now a lot of Christians are mad at me because they think I'm too far gone like, ‘Oh, no, he's not coming back. He's never being what we first imagined him to be.’” In my opinion, this criticism is undeserved. Music is a type of freedom that people use to express themselves meaning, they can say whatever comes to mind and make any type of music they want. Highsnobiety.com adds that Montell said, “But at the end of the day, I've always only done what's genuine to me. I'm not going to write about something that is not, I don't know, it doesn't drive me.” Montell adds, “It's my therapy, so I have to be as genuine as possible.” Montell has shown his maturity and explained how he's not going to change for other people, but he still decided to respond to the criticism. Billboard.com explains that Montell responded to the controversies by saying, “No, I am not perfect. I fell many times, and I don't always get things right. Sometimes I do not always feel like worshipping and sometimes I get led astray, but I will worship you anyways.” Montell wanted to make different music, as he said, “I didn't want to make gospel or contemporary Christian music,”



Fish says, “So I began experimenting.” I think this is an amazing approach because even though he's switching his music on to an audience that listened for his other songs, his new songs gained a great amount of traction. Additionally, he's still expressing himself and if he forces himself to just make gospel music even though he doesn't want to, he could get burnt out. Even if his new approach to music angered people, Montell knew what he wanted to do. Montell had a very thoughtful response, shared by Hyperbeast.com: “It's just my life,” he says. “I can't hide much, and I'm just learning more and more that the only way you're gonna get far is if you are completely yourself.” Excited by the previous angered fans, in

2023 he released the song “I Just Wanna Feel Your Love Again.” This single followed the same style of *JAMIE*, than *Her Love Haunts Me Like a Ghost*. Even though he redeemed himself with the release of “I Just Wanna Feel Your Love Again,” nobody knows if Montell will continue on this track with his music. Montell Fish's impact on music is how he helped grow the genre of newer gospel music, instead of classic high pitched or choir gospel. He also created music for listeners that have similar problems, and to give them calming music displaying relatable topics about God and the struggles of life.

Did You Know This About Your Teachers?

Iliana A. & Abigail B. & Miriam C.

Imagine this: It's your first day at CPMS. You anxiously roam the halls, nervously awaiting which teacher has to offer. Will they be mean? Nice? Strict? You don't know. Every year, you are paranoid about your teachers. As you finally graduate, four teachers throughout the years have particularly stuck with you. Mr. Bobroskie, Mrs. Casagrande, Mrs. Brodersen, and Mr. Bensley are teachers at College Preparatory Middle School and each of these teachers is excellent in unique ways. But what are their interests or hobbies? What do students think of them? Teachers focus more on education rather than themselves, so let's find out about the interesting lives of the CPMS staff.

Mr. Bobroskie is our 5th-grade Science teacher, and he has been teaching at College Prep since 2022. Before coming here, he was teaching middle school in his hometown of Tallahassee, Florida - where he grew up not only with normal pets such as a cat or a dog, but also with exotic pets like an iguana, a ball python, a cockatiel, and at one point an entire aquarium! Growing up with so many different types of animals may explain his love for Science. In high school, he went to Florida's "most" haunted school, where he claims he had a suspicious encounter with what might have been The Blue Lady's specter. How horrifying, yet intriguing! We'd love to have more information about this! Eventually, in college, he also helped with research on lung cancer cells, and with surgeries - as shown here in this image!



Working as a tutor in college, Mr. Bobroskie discovered his love for teaching when he realized he "really enjoyed helping people figure things out." Eventually, he graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Nutrition, as well as with teaching credentials in both Biology and Chemistry. After this, Mr. Bobroskie began to pursue his career in teaching.



A fact about Mr. Bobroskie is that - while he was studying abroad in Spain - he took part in La Tomatina, an annual festival held in the town of Bunol, Spain. During La Tomatina, people take part in a huge food fight throwing heaps of tomatoes at one another. The festival is said to have originated from a street brawl that took place near a vegetable stand and turned into a major food fight. Mr. Bobroskie recalls having to "physically dig through

caked-on tomato seeds and sludge just to be able to touch my scalp.” Imagine how uncomfortable that was! We hope the fun of the festival was really worth all the mess!

Now that you’ve seen a glimpse of Mr. Bobroskie’s personality, you still have many questions about his classroom. We surveyed some of his students and the replies we received made sure to mention Mr Bobroskie’s jokes and his fun sense of humor. Both Elias S. (5th grade) and Leia B. (5th grade) say they “like his jokes.” Having fun teachers encourages students to do well in their classes. Morgan G. (5th grade) said Mr. Bobroskie has helped him learn by always making sure to “go over stuff” and if a student happens to have a question throughout the lesson “he answers the question and then goes back to teaching.” Mariam F. (5th grade) said Mr. Bobroskie has helped her learn by “making sure I understand the subject.” Patience is important for students as it makes them feel comfortable to ask for help when they need it. Claire A. (5th grade) describes Mr. Bobroskie as “social” and likes connecting with him by “listening and getting to know him better.” As we can all see, Mr. Bobroskie fits right into the CPMS community. He prioritizes his students' learning and makes sure they feel included too. It is clear that College Prep is proud to have Mr. Bobroskie as a teacher, he is a great addition to the CPMS Staff and is a wonderful teacher. This year's 5th graders and all his future students are so lucky to have him!



The history of our human development is taught in 6th grade History by the amazing, Mrs. Casagrande! She has three degrees coming from Virginia Tech, Western Washington University, and the University of Louisiana in Monroe, how impressive! Mrs. Casagrande has been teaching for a while, starting her career in Virginia teaching at a high school to settling down as a 6th grade teacher at College Prep. Her job as a teacher was fitting for her because she “loved working with kids” and hated “working behind a desk.” In Mrs Casagrande’s class, there are many fascinating stories about Ancient History she gets to teach, but it is Ancient Egypt and the Roman Empire that stick out to Mrs. Casagrande because she enjoys teaching them the most.

Want to work for the government? Well, Mrs. Casagrande has some experience! She worked as an intern for the U.S. House of Representatives in high school, something not a lot of teenagers have the opportunity to do. Speaking of high school, Mrs. Casagrande has fond memories of it, specifically with her favorite



teacher. After Mrs. Casagrande was no longer a student of her favorite teacher, they would go out to museums and monuments such as the South African Embassy.

As much fun as an exotic pet may be, Mrs. Casagrande prefers peacefulness in her day-to-day life; preferring to not have any exotic pets, even in a hypothetical situation. Mrs. Casagrande's contributions as a teacher at College Prep have made improvements to the life of attending College Prep, but what do her 6th graders have to say about her?

Mrs. Casagrande's teaching skills are outstanding! Many 6th graders agree with this sentiment when surveyed. Kadir G. likes that she gives very little homework, and Brayden E. and Gabriella S. say that she's a very nice teacher. Are you curious about the units you'll learn? Well, Tia T. enjoyed learning about Egypt, and so did Melanie Y. Mrs. Casagrande has captivated her students, such as Leona H with her teaching skills. Leona said that "she always makes everything make sense." Additionally, Jack S. also said that Mrs. Casagrande helps students understand the lessons. Overall, Mrs. Casagrande has made a positive impact on the academic lives of students and is a wonderful teacher.



Do you enjoy math? Would you like to learn how to crochet? Well, Mrs. Brodersen teaches 7th grade mathematics, and teaches crochet in her after-school club! Mrs. Brodersen is from Iowa but moved to a new state and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in May of 2022 - earning her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, along with a secondary degree in Teaching. She joined the CPMS staff team not long after in September of 2022. Just being 22, she is the youngest teacher at College Prep at the moment.

Mrs. Brodersen became a teacher after finding out about the concept of "math trauma," which is the idea that "students have negative experiences with math in the classroom and they begin to fear or close off when approached with anything to do with math." Mrs. Brodersen's goal was to lessen the effect of the negative experiences associated with math and to create a positive environment for her students. In her classroom, Mrs. Brodersen's favorite lesson to teach is solving areas with composite figures. She enjoys drawing the "odd figures" provided in the problems, along with cutting the figures to find the area of simple shapes.

Moving onto Mrs. Brodersen's interests, Mrs. Brodersen is definitely not fond of birds and fish. In fact, she despises them and even says they are "enemy number 1" in her books! She elaborates on her fear by saying that her distaste for birds comes from when



she got one caught in her hair. If that happened to us, we would have been scared too! Mrs. Brodersen's deep-rooted fear of fish comes from when she had pet fish growing up, and the strongest fish in the tank ate the others. Yikes! Mrs. Brodersen has fond memories of high school but specifically recalls her high school book comprehension competition. Mrs. Brodersen recalls that "my team won all four years when I was in high school." How fun!

Mrs. Brodersen enjoys nature, living near farms growing up in Iowa. Mrs. Brodersen's favorite animals are killer whales! She enjoys looking at their exhibits at SeaWorld. Mrs. Brodersen would enjoy having one as a companion, but she explains that "when I go to SeaWorld and see them in their tanks I do get a little sad thinking about the small area they live in compared to the ocean they used to have." Instead, she would prefer an armadillo. Her love of animals is never-ending, but not at the expense of their well-being. Mrs. Brodersen's hard work is evident through her contributions as a teacher and is a great addition to the staff at CPMS.



What do the 7th-grade students have to think about Mrs. Brodersen? Not surprisingly, the answers are overwhelmingly positive! They think that Mrs. Brodersen is kind and funny. Gabriel E. sees her as "very kind, understanding, and courageous." While Janarose D. enjoys how Mr. Brodersen has helped her with "the things I don't understand." When it comes to lessons, Alec A. enjoys Mrs. Brodersen's lessons on "enrichment and power rules." Mrs. Brodersen has made an impact in the classroom and has helped kids become the best versions of themselves. Based on our own experiences, Mrs. Brodersen is an amazing teacher who has made extraordinary progress with teaching, considering this year is only her second year as a teacher! We are excited about what the future has in store for her.

Last but certainly not least is Mr. Bensley! He is our 8th grade ELA teacher, and has been with the school for almost 10 years! He loves teaching, and he has the most amazing jokes you will ever hear! Mr. Bensley has lived in various places such as Australia, England, and New Jersey before settling down in California. Mr. Bensley has a double degree in the Bachelor of Teaching and Bachelor of Arts. His past teachers motivated him to teach, and he aspires to have the same impact on students as his past teachers had on him. Mr. Bensley is an avid fan of sports, he enjoys watching sports teams such as Tottenham Hotspur, Utah Jazz, and the Parramatta Eels. Before teaching at College Prep, Mr. Bensley was a high school teacher. In this job, he had to teach multiple grades each day. One period, he was teaching 10th grade, then the next was 7th grade, before teaching 9th graders, and finishing the day with his 12th graders. That must have been hard! If just teaching one grade is challenging, could you believe teaching so many different grades each day? How tiring!



Are you excited? The 8th graders should be, because at the end of the year, they will be working on



Poetry - how fun! This also happens to be Mr. Bensley's favorite thing to teach. Going all the way back to when he was a student himself, an upsetting fact that you probably didn't know until now was that Mr. Bensley survived a pretty bad car crash in his final weeks of high school. What a nightmare! This experience must've been traumatizing. On a lighter note, Mr. Bensley has lived on different continents, each containing a wide variety of animals. When questioned on which animal he would have an exotic animal as a pet, he responded that his desired pet would either be a Quokka or a Red Panda, how cute!

The 8th-grade students we surveyed had some things to say about Mr. Bensley. Benjamin R. (8th grade) "likes his jokes"- which is something that was also mentioned by Aiden T. (8th grade) and Hailey I. (8th grade). Many enjoy the guidance Mr. Bensley provides on the Exploros vocabulary lessons. Mr. Bensley has helped students with lots of things. Both Barrett J. (8th grade) and Fatima A. (8th grade) said Mr. Bensley has helped them improve their writing skills. Dominic H. (8th grade) said he really likes the CCP tasks because they help him improve his comprehension, and others - like Laith J. (8th grade) and Daniella Y. (8th grade) - also think that the CCP tasks have helped them. Mr. Bensley has connected with students with his ambition and strives to help students achieve, along with his humor and personality.



As middle schoolers approach high school, they have to be prepared for the environment their school may have, so here is some advice from our lovely teachers. Mr. Bobroskie suggests that incoming 9th graders should "Think about extracurriculars; you have the luxury to explore all the clubs and opportunities outside the classroom." Mrs. Casagrande implores incoming high schoolers to "do their work early." She also said that, in high school, she separated herself from her work in order to give herself a better perspective of what she wrote. Mrs. Broderson stresses the importance of a planner,



"Mr. Mitch and Ms. Callaway aren't kidding when they say your planner is important." Mr. Bensley also expects high schoolers to use their planner, he thinks that students should "establish good work routines." and encourages students to "have a good plan for your work." The importance of routine and planning are essential for success in high school, remember this 8th graders. The teachers at CPMS strive to help students become their best and guarantee the success of their students in the future. These four teachers are emblematic of the Tiger Pride this school strives for every day.