

The Tower

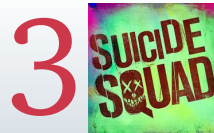
JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL

Wednesday, August 31st, 2016

STUDENT-PRODUCED * SINCE 1940

Our editor in chief covers election news from this summer

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DC's recent installment does not live up to expectation



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JA's own Third Estate sits down with one of our reporters



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The Adams football team's new program shows promise

NEW YEAR, NEW POLICIES: SEITZ'S GOALS FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

As the new school year begins, Adams High School opens its doors to over 1800 students, a record high for the magnet school. As each student enters the year with certain expectations for themselves, so does every member of the South Bend community for Adams- coming off of last years "B" ranking from the Indiana Department of Education, the successes for the high school can only increase.

For many principals, a "B" ranking would more than suffice. A "B" ranking means that the school's ECA passing rate is above average - Adams' math passing scores topped at 79 percent - IB scores are up, and graduation and attendance rates are consistently high, typically several points above the state average. Despite the school receiving the highest grade among all the SBCSC high schools, Principal Jim Seitz sees much room for improvement at Adams. "Look, the grade we received was great, but when I see things like our initial English ECA scores or the percentage of kids not in class, it does give me pause," said Seitz. "We need to constantly be improving and making sure every student is on track to graduate."

The main issue Seitz sees at school is attendance. "Last year we had students - IB, regular, CTE, you name it - routinely skipping during the day" Seitz explained. "Skipping single class periods puts the administration in a position where we can no longer be held accountable for a student's education or safety, and that's something we never want." Steering

away from the implementation of disciplinary consequences, Seitz embarked on a mission to enact a program that would still allow students to have an active role in their educations, while holding them responsible for negligent actions.

The new attendance policy, known as Credit Recovery Intervention, or CRI, bears a striking resemblance to ones of years past. When implemented, students will only be able to have 9 absences in a single class before going into "no credit status", and no longer fulfilling the requirements to receive a grade for the class. In order to get out of this position, students must attend Credit Recovery Intervention meetings after school in the library, where they will be able to meet with teachers to catch up on missed or tardy work.

While the effectiveness of these sorts of initiatives in the past have been unclear, Seitz believes that CRI will have a significant impact on student culture this year. "Students get bogged down with a lot of work and stress; the bigger, four year picture isn't always enough of a motivator," said Seitz. Hoping that the immediate consequence is more of a catalyst for student improvement, he believes that student engagement will improve greatly.

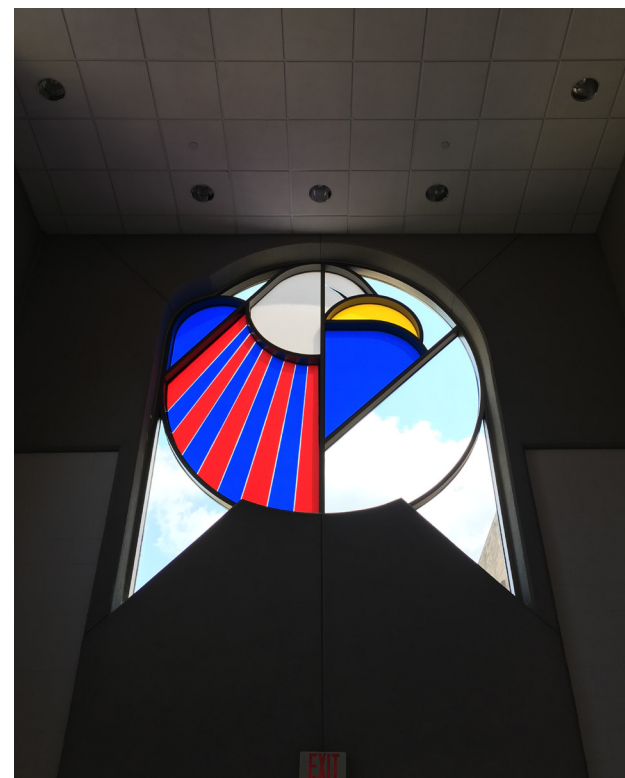
Is the attendance policy in any way related to the "B" grade we received? In some ways it is, Seitz explained. "Do I think that this could help us get an "A"? Yeah, I do. If students are in class more, they'll be engaged, they'll do better on their ECAs, they'll be more inclined to graduate." And that last reason, graduation, is deeply personal for Seitz. "We had 3 or 4 students last year that would have graduated if it hadn't been for the lack of a policy like this. I can't let that happen again."

For many IB students, however, attendance is not the issue. Ellie Henry, a senior at Adams said, "For me, it's not an issue of going to class; I struggle with time management and stress." Ben Ibrulj, also a senior, agreed, stating, "Balancing extracurriculars, college apps, and homework can be really difficult."

Seitz understands this dilemma. "There are things that some students need greater guidance in than others; no two kids or cases are the same." In order to alleviate some of this pressure, Seitz has authorized a school wide initiative to help students with stress that is brought on by ever looming college applications. During the week of October 24, senior students will not have any major testing or homework assignments, so that they may focus on finishing off applications for the early acceptance November 1 deadline.

These new policies are being implemented, it appears, not to fix any major issues, but to help the school - and its students to - continue excelling, both in and out of the classroom. Seitz concluded, "Our number one goal, regardless of program, gender, race, or socioeconomic status, is to build positive relationships with students, so that they can build those same relationships among themselves."

ALICE GOULDING



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The Tower is a student-run newspaper publication and a voice for the Adams student body and staff. Editorials submitted must pertain to Adams issues. Editorials must be sent to slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us, or submitted physically to room 1831 or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyckenham Dr.

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SUMMER ELECTION NEWS: WHAT YOU MAY HAVE (GLADLY) MISSED

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Over the summer, most of us wish to have a somewhat relaxing break from the hectic, sometimes dramatic, cruel and unusual reality that is school. However, the news cycle and its main subjects (looking at you 2016 presidential candidates) did not take the break that we all yearned for. Although it is tempting to just put your head in the sand and ignore the chaos surrounding the upcoming presidential election in November, do not do that. At this year's voting booths, make an educated choice for our future president. In case you missed it the first time around, here is a recap of this summer's presidential race highlights:

Election news in June began with a bang- Right after securing her place as the Democratic Party nominee, Hillary Clinton (or, more likely, her social media personnel) typed the tweet that quickly became her most retweeted one ever. The now-famed tweet was a response to Republican nominee Donald Trump's tweet that said: "Obama just endorsed Crooked Hillary. He wants four more years of Obama- but nobody else does!" Her response? A simple, "Delete your account", which has now racked up 482 thousand "retweets", making it by far the most retweeted tweet of the entire campaign, as well as Clinton herself.

Of course, this response, usually only resorted to by teenagers, garnered mass-media coverage and launched even further into a discussion of the maturity of this presidential race. Never before has an election had so many seemingly immature fights and name-calling. Of course, this could be attributed to the new role social media is playing this election year, but to what extent can we blame technology? As we all know, Donald Trump has also had his fair share of immaturity in this election, from swatting away a mosquito at a press conference and saying, "Speaking of mosquitoes, hello Hillary, how are you doing?" to making headlines for requesting a crying baby to leave his rally, Trump is no stranger to criticism.

July started as a particularly good month for both sides - previous Democratic contender Bernie Sanders, as well as President Obama, endorsed Clinton. Clinton was also released of charges. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan finally threw his support behind Trump and the rest of the party seemed to follow - Trump was named the official Republican nominee at the Republican National Convention (RNC). All except a lone ex-candidate Ted Cruz seemed united at the RNC - Cruz stopped short at the point in his speech where he was most likely supposed to be endorsing Trump - saying "vote with your conscience" instead. The RNC continued to be interesting with a controversial speech by Trump's wife, Melania, that was clearly plagiarized (with 16 important words used directly) from the speech given by First Lady Michelle Obama at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. Experts say there is a one in a trillion chance the speech was not plagiarized - later a staff member came forward and confessed to being behind the speech. Even with the confession, many questioned the nature of Trump's campaign - do the American people want someone in office that would surround themselves with people who would plagiarize? The same question arises again for some regarding the Clinton email scandal, in which during her time as Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton used a private email server. Although the FBI dropped the charges against her in July, her character as well has come into question.

This summer has been a series of good, slightly okay, and undeniably low moments for our presidential race. I am not here to endorse anyone, only to point out the sadness that this is what our country has produced as this year's presidential candidates. The only thing to do now is exercise our privilege to vote and elect someone that will not destroy the country. By the looks of it, we will need quite a bit of help.

SUICIDE SQUAD

CASEY CARROLL - OPINION COLUMNIST

Although the most anticipated movie of the summer has officially passed \$500 million dollars in the global box office, Suicide Squad failed to meet the expectations of critics and viewers. Set in the aftermath of Superman's death, the film features a so-called "suicide squad" of the most treacherous supervillains brought together by a United States Government agent, Amanda Waller, to do the bidding of the "good guys." Consisting of Deadshot, Harley Quinn, Killer Croc, Captain Boomerang, El Diablo, and Slipshot, most members of the squad have others to think about, but the major incentive for the Suicide Squad to help is to stay alive. An explosive is placed in the neck of each member, leaving them at the mercy of Amanda Waller and their leader, Rick Flag.

Task Force X, the official name of the Suicide Squad, is assigned to discard Enchantress, the witch inhabiting archeologist June Moone, when she goes rogue and releases her brother from his "prison." The squad faces many obstacles including other-worldly creatures, the Joker and his gang, and, as repeatedly brought up in flashbacks and dreams of alternative lives, their unresolved pasts.

Suicide Squad is an only-see-once movie, but it still had high points. The casting of the movie was admirable and the actors made the characteristics of the characters and their pasts believable. It can be agreed that the characters

WARNER BROS.

are fun and enjoyable to watch. Even fans of Heath Ledger's portrayal of the Joker in The Dark Knight agree that Jared Leto did the infamous character justice. The characters and their backstories were engrossing and showed audiences everywhere the criminals are more than the "bad guys" society makes them out to be.

However, this movie had some major turn-offs. The plot of the film is rushed and should have slowed down in order to accommodate the interesting history of the supervillains. Some scenes appeared as over-dramatized, adding a cheap quality to the movie. The villains of the film, Enchantress and her brother, do not fit well into the plot, leaving a hole in the film that remained unfilled. Seeing more of the stellar performance by Jared Leto as the Joker would have added to the movie as a whole. Some of the characters such as Katana, a woman on the path to avenge her husband's death with the sword that trapped his soul, are irrelevant to the plot, and it would have made more sense to leave out these characters and focus on the true members of Task Force X due to the fact that their stories seemed underdeveloped. The PG-13 rating that was meant to attract a broader audience took away the chance to add more graphic, action-packed scenes. Another issue was that the music in some of the scenes seemed unfitting and irritating. These issues have been noted by critics and audiences all over the globe as examples of why Suicide Squad raised so much money due to anticipation rather than quality.

Overall, if you have been wanting to go out and see Suicide Squad, stay at home and wait for its public release or do not see it altogether.

TEAM USA SWIMMING'S IMMATURITY PROBLEM

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As everyone is aware by now, the 2016 Summer Olympic Games ended just last week. The Olympics are normally a show of sportsmanship and patriotism, and as a swimmer, I've always been proud that my sport is represented by worthy role models like Missy Franklin, Dana Vollmer, Matt Grevers... and the list goes on. However, this year, the swim team's reputation was overshadowed and perhaps permanently stained by Team USA's two biggest jerks: Ryan Lochte and Lilly King. Even the potent smell of chlorine couldn't mask the stench of their immaturity.

Lilly King took an early lead with her attacks on Russian swimmer Yulia Efimova, who had been previously banned for doping. She repeatedly asserted that Efimova should not have been allowed to participate in the Games. Between mocking Efimova's wins and passive aggressive comments clearly directed toward a fellow athlete ("It is so incredible, winning a gold medal and knowing I did it clean"), she effectively turned the Olympics into "a war" and "a nightmare," in the words of Efimova. While I agree with King's stance that doping is unacceptable, it is childish to harass another athlete who has already been disciplined for her actions. Instead of taking aim at Efimova, King should have pointed her "number one" finger at the IOC's rule and overturning the ban, or, better yet, focused on sportsmanship and swimming.

Ryan Lochte claimed that he and three other swimmers had been pulled over on the way home from a party and robbed at gunpoint. As the story unfolded, however, it became clear that their vivid story of a roadside robbery was false due to inconsistencies in the timeline of events. In truth, an intoxicated Lochte and three other swimmers had damaged a gas station bathroom and, during a verbal altercation over paying for the damages, a security guard briefly pointed his gun at them. Lochte's reputation is crumbling; he officially lost four major sponsorships, Speedo included. To his credit, he owned up to and apologized for his story when he said, "I was coming from the France house [location of the party], I was highly intoxicated, and I made immature accusations. If I had not done that, none of this would have happened."

In short, the United States swim team has some work to do before the 2020 Games, but hopefully, Lochte and King will have matured by then.



RIO 2016: Highlights of the Olympic Games

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Every four years for a few weeks during the summer, much of the world turns its attention to the Olympic Games, the pinnacle of many sports and the premier showcase of the greatest athletes in the world. This year's opening ceremony took place on August 5, and the closing ceremony took place on August 21. While the host city of this year's Games - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - was surrounded by global controversy regarding its crime rates, health concerns, and general fitness to host prior to the opening ceremony, the Games went on as planned, allowing countless athletes to rise up or to make history for themselves, their countries and the world.

Team USA dominated the overall medal count with 46 gold, 37 silver, and 38 bronze medals for a total of 121. Aside from winning the overall medal count, the United States won the first and last gold medals of the Games: Ginny Thrasher won the first in shooting, and men's basketball secured the last. Second and third place in the overall medal count went to China and Great Britain, respectively.

Veteran and rookie American Olympians alike did not waver in making history for the United States. On August 13, the women's swimming 4x100 meter medley relay team (Kathleen Baker, Lilly King, Dana Vollmer, and Simone Manuel) won Team USA's 1000th Summer Olympic gold medal, a global record. Ibtihaj Muhammad became the first American to compete wearing a hijab, and she won bronze in the team sabre, a fencing event. Simone Manuel became the first African-American woman to take home the gold in an individual swimming event. Michael Phelps, the swimmer who has competed in five consecutive Olympic Games with a penchant for record-breaking, is officially retiring from the sport, but he finished his final Olympic event by winning his 23rd gold medal out of 28 total medals, further cushioning his record of most Olympic medals in the world. Simone Biles, a gymnast who made her Olympic debut this year, became the first female American gymnast and fifth female gymnast in history to win four gold medals at one Olympics, and she also won

one bronze medal. Women's basketball won its sixth consecutive Olympic gold, and the men's team followed with its third.

Outside of American athletics, Jamaica's Usain Bolt, the famed sprinter, defended his title in the 100 meter race, and he also won the 200 meter and brought his 4x100 meter relay team to first place. Fiji's rugby sevens team won the first ever Olympic gold medal for its country, beating Great Britain, and Monica Puig won the first ever Puerto Rican Olympic gold medal in tennis. In men's soccer, Brazil defeated Germany, providing some redemption for its 7-1 loss at the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Shaunae Miller, a track runner from the Bahamas, won the 400 meter over the USA's Allyson Felix with a controversial dive over the finish line. For the first time, an international team of refugees, created to shine a light on the world's refugee crisis, consisted of ten athletes who competed in swimming, judo, and track and field events and came from Syria, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In spite of scattered moments of drama (most notably, Ryan Lochte's "robbery" and Lilly King's attacks on Yulia Efimova) intensified under a global spotlight, the Olympic Games were largely a demonstration of the Olympic spirit: "a spirit of friendship, solidarity, and fair play." Although fans of the Olympics have four more years until the next time, the accomplishments in Rio should help to tide them over.

NBC



FALL PLAY AUDITIONS

Meetings 8/29 - 9/2
Auditions 9/5 - 9/8
Callbacks 9/9



email
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for more information

NEW CLASSES AT JAHS

DAYANARA LEIJA - REPORTER

The start of a new school year is an exciting time for many students. With it comes the hope of making new friends and creating fond memories. This year, John Adams faculty has added to this opportunity by offering new classes to its students, including Community Service, Film Literacy, and Civil Air Patrol. Each one of these classes targets different groups of students, broadening the scope of the new and exciting curriculum.

The community service class is under the leadership of Randy Ebright, a JA English teacher. It may seem quite an unexpected move for Ebright to take on another class on top of his sophomore English workload, but he references his experience with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Association as one reason he became a teacher. This would place Ebright as a likely candidate for the job, considering the fact that the class's objective is to provide mentoring service to students who are in need and are building, according to Ebright. This is very similar to the BBBSA goal of helping children develop supportive relationships with positive role models. "[The curriculum] focuses on freshman and sophomores, underclassmen who may be behind in credit, so that we can then get them the help that they need, even before they fall behind," explained Ebright. He also mentions that the class will "provide opportunities for upperclassmen to give back to the community and perhaps for them to find their calling." These details place Community Service as perhaps the most inclusive of the new trio.

The much-anticipated Film Literacy class is taught by yet another English teacher, Mr. James Elrod. However, the objective of this class is completely different and does not stray far from Mr. Elrod's IB English core. This class is a semester long IB elective that strives to give students the tools, the vocabulary, and the observational skills to be able to talk about film and television metaphorically in a useful way, according to Elrod. With the curriculum's IB status in mind, it is important to note that the class will be taught at an advanced pace, mean-

ing it may not be a perfect fit for everyone. "It's primarily [for] advanced seniors, but there are a few case by case exceptions made for juniors," said Elrod. Students taking this class can look forward to a class formed with their interests in mind, a fact Elrod revealed when he shared that "[he] is excited for the class and [he] made a survey over the summer and... got feedback on what they [students] wanted to study." This course serves as the perfect outlet for any senior who thoroughly enjoyed their junior year film unit, or wishes to gain the skills offered through a course such as this one.

Mr. Daniel Walsh's Civil Air Patrol class is the perfect opportunity from everywhere sophomores to seniors looking for a future in the military. The class is not new this year and was offered last year, but it has not been an option to students for very long. The course strives to give students an opportunity to experience what a military organization is all about, learn about it, and actually get some experience if they decide to choose a military organization and get into the military later on in life. Walsh lists the three missions of the program as cadet programs, aeronautic education, and emergency services- all three of which can be found, with more information, on the national Civil Air Patrol website. This ambitious course also plans to "create a drill team and a color guard to participate in all the athletic events," which will give students a "chance for extracurricular opportunities during school and then in the summer... an encampment as well."

Whether or not you are a part of one of these amazing opportunities Adams has to offer, look out for these classes to do great things!

NEW SBCSC SUPERINTENDENT

ABBY MEYERS - REPORTER

As students began the new school year this August, the South Bend Community School Corporation began a new term under new superintendent Dr. Kenneth Spells. He signed a three year contract with the SBCSC which officially began his term as Superintendent on July 1 of this year. Spells succeeds former Superintendent Dr. Carol Schmidt after her retirement

last June. He was formerly the Superintendent of Alton School District in Alton, Illinois.

After lengthy interviews including questions from the community and open interviews, the South Bend School Board chose Spells to assume the position of SBCSC Superintendent. When asked why he was interested in the position, he explained, "I love the community. I feel like we can build something special in South Bend." Before serving as a superintendent, Spells was a social studies teacher, assistant principal, assistant superintendent, and even served in the United States Navy. Many other SBCSC administrators are excited to have Spells in the position because of his extensive experience and ambition for growth in the corporation. "I am extremely excited about Dr. Spells' vision and excitement for South Bend Community Schools," said JA Principal Jim Seitz.

Spells has big plans for SBCSC for this school year. He believes that the corporation has lots of potential with plenty of good faculty, staff, parental support and excelling students. "This is a great school corporation. I have met many wonderful principals, teachers, parents, and students. I am thrilled to be the superintendent and look forward to serving the students of this community," he mentioned. Spells has high hopes for the corporation, including improving student achievement and academics, marketing the corporation to compete with surround school districts, implementing a "student first" mentality in schools, and establishing a parent university as part of the school system.

Many believe that our new superintendent will benefit our community and school corporation because of his fresh outlook on school issues and determination to get involved in the community. "Dr. Spells is very "hands on" and visible in both the community and the school district. Students and parents should expect to see Dr. Spells in our building and out at school events," Seitz said. In fact, he was at Adams during the first week of school in order to visit classrooms, the guidance office, and one of the lunch periods. In addition to his hands on approach, Spells wants students to be successful while in the SBCSC. "I want students to know that I will be an advocate for their success!" he said. With a new and determined superintendent, John Adams High School, along with the rest of the SBCSC, is in for a great school year.

THIRD ESTATE: Single and Music Video

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

It's been five months since one of JA's most prominent bands, Third Estate, won the Tower Rock Battle of the Bands. Since then, the band has been an unyielding musical force in the South Bend community. After annihilating the competition at Tower Rock with their covers of the indy hits Drop The Game by Flume and What You Know by Two Door Cinema Club, the band debuted their first original song at JA's 75th Anniversary Celebration. The alternative ballad, Habit, was well received by the crowd. Following their success at Tower Rock and JA 75, the band started performing locally; establishing a bond with South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg and booking numerous gigs at the Local Cup Cafe. They also played the annual Seitz and Sounds event this summer. But what's undoubtedly the most exciting update on these local favorites is the recording and release of their new original single, Skin, and it's music video to be released within the next few months. The song was a collaborative effort by the entire band and has had tremendous success since its official release on in July via SoundCloud. With an impressive 381 plays and counting in just 29 days on SoundCloud, the band has also been afforded the rights to release Skin via iTunes, Spotify, and AmazonMusic.

The process of writing and recording Skin was, according to lead guitarist, Mark Anella and drummer, Tye Happ, a bit unorthodox. The duo recalls spending a day in Happ's

basement discussing the need to "write something original that's upbeat; up-tempo". From there, the band began working. First Anella started literally jumping up and down, then Happ came in with the kick-drum, and finally the bass player, fellow JA senior Ben Hawkins, sped up the bass line to cement the backbone of the track. The lyrics didn't come into play for quite some time. Lead vocalist Morgan Garber had some of the lyrics already written, but the entirety of the song wasn't finished until the band had already begun recording the instrumentals in the studio. JA seniors Anella and Happ will both agree that it was amazing how well everything just seemed to fit together in time. Interestingly, the intro to the song, with Happ's kick drum and Hawkins' bass line, is the spark that ignited the track in the first place. Because of this, the track was originally titled "Kick". The boys can't exactly remember why the band decided to change the title to Skin, but they do agree the name is intriguing to listeners. The band hopes that having their single on all of the major music platforms will help with exposure and they'll use the funds earned from iTunes and AmazonMusic to put toward new equipment and a music video fund for their next single. Happ expanded on this saying, "As far as other music videos, my dad has professional-grade equipment so we may not have 'professionally' done videos, but we can put out more content". Anella added, "That goes for recording, too. Just being able to already learn and produce on our own makes me excited for what we could create in the future".

The music video for Skin will be released within the next couple of months, after editing and processing by the company who recorded for Third Estate. The ability to record a profes-

HUNTER MELANSON

sional music video is all thanks to the former band the boys belonged to, Interrobang, winning Battle of The Bands at last summer's Teen Night in South Bend. Band members Tye, Mark, Ben, Spencer Higgins, and frequent collaborative artist, Zach Bombon, were all apart of a former group, Interrobang, that competed and won in the competition last summer. The music video was recorded in South Bend this August. The band would like to extend a personal thanks to all of their friends who came on set as extras in the music video as well as a special thanks to photographer, sophomore Hunter Melanson.

As far as the future goes, Third Estate has big plans as well as hopeful dreams that are entirely plausible with the way they've been performing. The band is excited to announce that their other popular original, Habit, has been recorded and is in production. They hope to release the finished track soon. With Morgan leaving for college, and the rest of the band being seniors here at JA, Third Estate is hoping to redefine their sound, going more electronic, less indy, in the future- making recording long-distance easier as well as creating a sound that they find more enjoyable. The band wants everyone to know that they still plan on performing live when they're all together again and that they'll continue to create and produce as much as they can. "When Morgan's home we'll for sure put something together," Anella confirmed. "Yeah, or we could even maybe go down to Bloomington and do a show there. That'd be really cool," expanded Happ. The band also wants to collaborate with other local artists such as TRYBE7, Winter Yocom, Amia Weatherspoon, and Ian LaFountain of City Sun. Anella recalls meeting a local artist at a TRYBE7 show. Anella said, "We were using the urinals at the same time and he said, 'Hey, we should work together' ". This opened up the idea of creative collaborations with other local artists and Third Estate. The band also hopes that local artists will want to cover or remix Skin. "That's the goal right? That other people will want to take your song and do their own version? That's when you know it's good," Happ remarked.

There will be more updates on the band throughout the year and if you want to listen to and/or buy Skin, search for "Skin Third Estate" on any major music platform. Be sure to follow the band on twitter @bandthirdestate. Keep an eye out for the Skin music video as well as their new music coming soon.

To listen to the full interview with Mark Anella and Tye Happ of Third Estate, go to @taylor_sumiko on Twitter for the link to the





JOHN ADAMS HS - TWITTER

NEW FOOTBALL PROGRAM

NIKI HAKIMZADEH - REPORTER

With the start of the new school year comes the beginning of the long awaited high school football season. With their first game in the books, JA's football team starts their season with a 46-29 win over the Northridge Raiders on the away field. The team has made a tremendous improvement as this was their first win against Northridge since 2012. So, what changed?

At the end of last years season, school resource officer and Notre Dame graduate Antwon Jones was announced the new head coach of the John Adams Football team. Coach Jones has had 11 years of high school coaching experience and 9 years of experience as a head coach. Jones previously coached the Washington Panthers and led them to a NIC championship in 2009 and to state runner-ups in 2011. Jones plans to bring the same success to Adams with hopes to improve their 8-4 record from last season.

Jones has the boys working year round, starting offseason practices just three weeks after the season ends. However, their schedule is significantly less vigorous, starting with practices twice a week for the first months. Once the school year ends, the team begins their summer conditioning and the notorious two-a-days. "Two-a-days were a beast," said senior captain and quarterback Andrew Burgess. "A lot of our practices would go until 10:00 to simulate playing on a friday night," he said. Although practices can be demanding, year-round practices are essential for the football players. Jones said, "When you are in a contact sport such as football, or any other competitive sport, you have to keep your athletes on top of their game. That helps to keep them away from injuries." According to Jones, taking too much time off could significantly decrease the players performance. "They're going to lose muscle tone and won't be developing their bodies like they need to be so they can be better athletes," Jones explained.

With a new coach in charge on the field, there are changes he plans to make in the classroom as well. "Our first goal as a staff is to make sure our young men are better socially, which is why you aren't seeing them hanging around in the hallways and things like that." Jones continues, "The kids have been great with the new expectations. If they're taking care of the classroom work, then everything else should translate onto the field." The boys not only work hard in the classroom, but they continue to show their effort after school on the field. Jones said their strength is that they "have great kids who are working their butts off and are very driven."

Of course, Jones' players are also very grateful to have him as their new coach. When describing his coaching, many of his players mention that he pushed them "out of their comfort zone". Burgess said, "Coach Jones is an outstanding coach who knows a lot about the game. Myself as well as my teammates have learned a lot from him already. He's a beast, a great motivator. We are seeing major improvements." Fellow senior and captain Nick Lafountain agrees saying, "I think he is one of the best things that could have happened to our team. Looking back at how we were as a team in the winter and how we are as a team now... the improvement is just unreal." Jones has made a smooth transition into head coach and is ready to take the JA football team to the next level. One of his senior captains Jack Driscoll said, "Coach Jones brings a lot of excitement and enthusiasm to the football program, and as players we all feel extremely lucky to have him as our coach. He has motivated us to work hard and has given us a winning attitude we hope to carry throughout the year."

The team is extremely enthusiastic about the upcoming season. Both Jones and the rest of the team have their sights set high with big goals for the season. "We don't want to be South Bend good," said Jones. "We can be champions." All of Jones' players have his same winning attitude with the goal to bring Adams to a state championship. Along with all of the team's hard work, the boys have created a bond unlike any other. "When you're at football you go through so much and it just makes you a family," said junior captain Eric Williams.

The team already shows great changes since Jones became its coach. Lafountain said, "Honestly, if it wasn't for Coach Jones, I do not think we would be as close as we are now." Thankfully, Jones plans on staying for the long run: he plans to coach his own kids at Adams. He said, "[Adams] is always where I've wanted to be."

BOYS TENNIS

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

With a new school year comes a new fall sports season, and the boys tennis team is off to a great start. The team is, as of August 23, undefeated with a 3-0 record. Without any seniors this season, Tommy Han, a sophomore, serves as the de facto leader of the team in the position of varsity singles one. Many on the team view this year's lineup as strong and cohesive. "Oftentimes, teams are put together with a focus to win, and that's it. This group focuses on winning, but also on having fun and acting like a family. We don't get upset when we lose," Han explained. Matthew Petersen, a junior, echoed that narrative: "Everybody loves to come to practice and play the game. We don't need encouragement to show up. We all love being together as a team." Practices are very entertaining, to say the least. Zach Fernandez, a sophomore on the team, always has a playlist for the occasion. When passing by the courts, make sure to listen.

DOUGLAS DUNHAM



The team is looking forward to competing against challengers such as St. Joe and Penn, which are schools that traditionally excel at tennis. Defeating them may not be as easy as defeating other schools, but Coach Maria Strafford, well into her third year with the team, offered some solutions. "We have a young team, but a lot of talent. I'd say my goals are for everyone to keep working hard and improving their game," she said. She mentioned lack of senior leadership, but emphasized that the underclassmen and juniors have lots of potential. Win or lose, Strafford says, she enjoys coaching the team. Upcoming events include a match at St. Joe on September 6 and a match against Marian at Adams on September 7.

VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

9/2

Away vs. SB Riley

9/9

Home vs. Mishawaka

9/16

Home vs. Penn

9/23

Away vs. SB Clay

9/30

Away vs.
Elkhart Central

10/7

Home vs. SB Washington

10/ 14

Away vs. SB St. Joseph's

GIRLS GOLF

SYDNEY GRANLUND - REPORTER

The John Adams Girls Golf team officially started its season on August 1 after months of open golf practices. Coach Andy Kern is confident, saying, "It's been a real great start." The team hit the ground running at Elbel Golf Course on August 4 at the SBCSC Tourney, beating Riley, Clay, and Washington. The Eagles top four scores totaled up to 222, an impressive 34 strokes better than Clay, the runner-up. Leading JA and also carding the lowest scores amongst all players were Abby Kern and Morgan Guynn who both shot 55. The girls lost their opening NIC match against Penn and John Glenn at a tough course, Swan Lake Country Club, and split their NIC match the following week, losing to Marian by 14 strokes but beating New Prairie at their home course. During the second week of the school year, JA was able to split all three matches, beating Riley, Mishawaka, and Washington throughout the week. The team's NIC record finished at 5-7. Although the team's season is short, there are still plenty of opportunities to watch the Lady Eagles in action. Two after school matches remain on September 7 and 9 at Juday Creek and Plymouth Country Club respectively. They will travel to Beechwood Golf Course on September 9 during the school day for the Laporte Invitational, then play in the NIC tournament the following day at Eberhart-Petro Municipal Golf Course. The girls will attempt to earn a spot at Regionals at their sectional match on September 17 at Knollwood Country Club.

JA GIRLS GOLF

