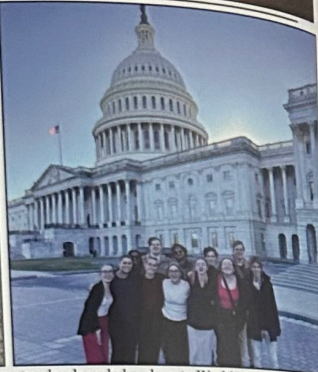
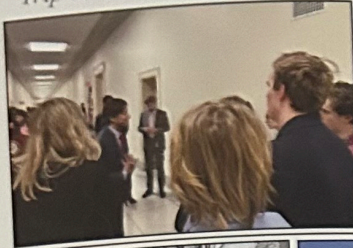


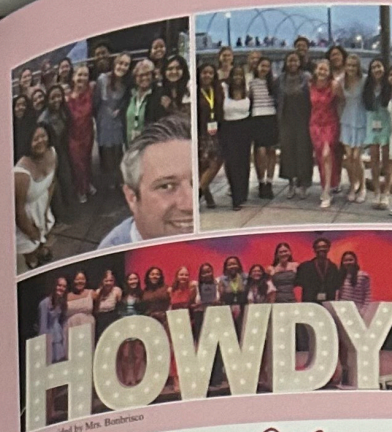
Seeing it 'Close-Up'

Students talk about their
Trip to Washington DC



On February 11th, 2024, 12 students and one teacher boarded a plane to Washington, DC through the Close-Up program, ready to embark on a journey unknown to them at the time. Little did they know they would make friends from across the world, build their political efficacy, visit monuments and memorials, and have the time of their lives. Going into the trip with not much background knowledge left room for some surprises, but thankfully all of them were good. Junior Isabella Boedeker shares her experience of the unexpected. "There were more surprises than I thought. I didn't think it would be as structured as it was, but I think it was good because we were split into workshops, and I got to meet different people that way. I also wasn't really with my friends because we were all in different workshops for most of the day, so I was forced to get out of my comfort zone and meet new people which was good," Boedeker said. Between the workshops and new bonds, the diversity within the trip added to the overall experience. With so many people from all over the place, it meant that there were multiple different viewpoints and opinions. Junior Brooke Thomas talks about how she learned from this diverse group. "We had such a large group of people from so many different places, and while talking to them I learned about how much we all have in common. It was cool to see how teenagers in Panama, San Francisco, and here all experienced similar stuff, but also different. Learning about all those little things was so interesting," Thomas expressed. With the trip coming to an end, Junior Jack Rabaut shares some advice for future students. "Try to interact with other people and use your time wisely. Don't take it for granted because, as they say, most people don't get that experience 'close-up,'" Rabaut said. As the last day came to an end, the emotions started to set in. Knowing that the close bonds created on the trip would go from laughing on the bus on the way to the Lincoln Memorial to only texting on the phone made these students start to appreciate the trip more. While standing in circles in cold weather might not have seemed like the most ideal way to spend the day, it was where the best memories were made and where BFFs were created.

Photos By Cara Karlata
Story By Cara Karlata



Photos provided by Mrs. Bonbrisco
Story by Cara Karlata

Valentine's Day Gifts Which Gift Will Make or Break Your Heart?



"I would rather give flowers because I feel like it has more of a sentimental value than just giving chocolates."
- Troy Lipscomb ('25)



"I would most certainly rather give chocolates because you can't really eat flowers. They don't taste good."
- Xavier Sarnaik ('25)

Sonnets, and Shenanigans Poets, Singers, and Songwriters come together for a joyful night



Photos by Lauren Loper
Story by Zoe Newsome

Acoustic Latte Lounge, hosted by the diversity club, every year welcomes students like senior Noelle Bland and Sophomore Keeley Rice. Acoustic Latte celebrates the creativity of students and how they like to express it either by a poem, song, stand up, or even by an instrument. It is also for a good cause. You can pay money to get in as a donation to your charity," Noelle said. The Acoustic Latte Lounge helps people have fun and feel ecstatic. "One word to describe the latte lounge is joyful because everyone was welcoming, and there were many great acts," Rice said. Acoustic Latte helps people let loose. "It was a very nice open space. It was chill. You could say we wanted to, or do what we wanted to. And, you know, there are people there that are interested in what you're doing," Bland said. Acoustic Latte Lounge comes with amazing people and an amazing support system.



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