

KAMSC'S



S T E P S



Fall 2013

Cover by Genevieve Sertic

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Letter from the Editors

We hope you've had a fantastic summer full of fun and lots of rest, for yet another school year has begun! Saying goodbye to the long hours of sunshine and sleeping in can be difficult, so we're excited to bring you the Fall Edition of *84 Steps* to help you transition back into the routine of school.

In this edition, we have lots of great articles loaded with helpful advice, tips, and information. You'll hear from

writers ranging from an incoming First-Year to a KAMSC graduate. Check out our articles on KAMSC organizations to see if one (or more) is right for you. Whether this is your first year at KAMSC or even your last, it's important to start out strong and to stay motivated. Be sure to cherish every moment at KAMSC and make the most of this year!

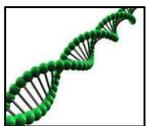
We've put together a new website at kamsc84steps.weebly.com to accommodate our growing list of publications, where you can read current and past issues in color. You can also contact us there if you would like to join the *84 Steps* team – or just email us at kamsc84steps@yahoo.com! We always welcome new staff writers!

Here's to a great year at KAMSC! Happy reading!

Your Editors,
Genevieve Sertic, Humza Mirza, and Dhara Patel



How to Survive Your First Year



Nikita Bhatia

Advice

Your first year at KAMSC can be very challenging, especially since you are making the adjustment from middle school to high school. This year will be tough, but if you work hard and manage your time well, you will be able to survive your first year. With all the great opportunities KAMSC has to offer, this year will also be one of your most enjoyable school years yet.

The first part to having a successful first year involves each of your ninth grade classes. All incoming First-Years will take Biology with Mr. Chopp. Biology has always been known to be the hardest class at KAMSC during the first year, even for the most dedicated students. In biology, homework shouldn't be a problem; it is very manageable. However, the tests can sometimes be a little stressful. Throughout this year, you will be required to understand and memorize many processes, body parts (and their functions) and other vocabulary. Therefore, you should try to review the material covered in class every night. By doing so, you will understand the material better and you



won't be stressed for the tests. When studying for tests, make sure you review everything you can find on that topic, including your notes, packets, labs, etc. Don't try to cram all the material in a day, it doesn't help! There is no way you will do well in biology if you just skim the basics of the topics the night before the test! You will find that as your year progresses in biology, it will become easier to keep up with all of your studying.

Depending on your previous math courses, you will be placed in one of the math classes

KAMSC has to offer, ranging from geometry to calculus. Most of you will find that math is not as rigorous as biology. To succeed in your math class, you will have to study at least a little bit before each test and do your homework. You will have homework most nights that will take a fair amount of time, so try to do assignments as soon as possible. Most students have found that completing the homework helps reinforce the curriculum that is taught in class. Additionally, some questions on the tests are very similar to questions on the homework. Make sure not to get behind on your homework as it will penalize your grades. Tests shouldn't be very difficult as long as you look over your homework and notes.

The least stressful class at KAMSC during your first year is Information Technology. In IT, you will learn how to use different computer applications as well as the basics of programming. As long as you stay on top of the projects in class, you won't have much homework about which to worry. The skills you will learn in this class will help you with some of your other classes, both at KAMSC and at your other school.



Being a KAMSC student is challenging at times, but it becomes easier as your year progresses. You aren't guaranteed one hundred percent even if you try your hardest! If you don't do so well on a test, don't brood over it! Learn from your mistakes and don't let history repeat itself. You are bound to make great friends at KAMSC that will make your high school experience even more enjoyable. As long as you give your best in all your classes, you will definitely survive your first year and you might have some fun along the way!

How to Survive Sophomore Year



Colby Hanley

Advice

Welcome to Sophomore Year! To get here, you have already been through A LOT. You have finished an entire year of KAMSC, which is a huge accomplishment. And before that, you had to get into KAMSC! You've made it through a year of new experiences and adjustments to high school life. As someone who has been through her Sophomore year, I am here to offer some advice for surviving the second year of KAMSC!

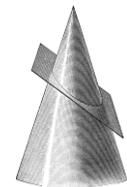
Chemistry Class! I will insert a disclaimer here: I had KAMSC Chemistry with Dr. T as my teacher. He retired this year, so for you upcoming Sophomores, your experience will be a little different with a new teacher. But hopefully my advice is still helpful for you! As First Years you took Biology with Mr. Chopp. This class is MUCH different than Chemistry. In Chemistry, your teacher will expect you to be capable of learning at a more accelerated pace since you are now experienced KAMSC veterans. So keep up with your homework and DO NOT procrastinate! Along with completing your homework, I strongly advise doing nightly studying. Read over your current chapter. Maybe even look at the next section you'll be doing tomorrow! But study every day. Chemistry is going to cover a large variety of topics over the course of the school year and you don't want to get behind. DO NOT CRAM. Studying in increments will help you greatly, because in Chemistry you will have a lot of material to simply memorize like elements, chemical formulas, and equations. Like last year, you will have a research project for your science class in the second semester. This year is a little bit different, though, because you have to experiment for your research. Once again, do not procrastinate – especially, don't wait until the night before Project Day! This class is challenging, which it should be as a KAMSC class, but it is much less overwhelming if you do a little bit each night!



The next class to think about for Sophomore Year is CS class with Mr. Houtrouw! This class is unlike any other class you have ever experienced (unless you've taken APCS at ATYP, of course). It will stretch your mind and challenge you in different ways! Mr. Houtrouw is a very unique teacher and he requires a lot from his students. If you do not understand a topic, you need to ask Mr. H. This class is very challenging and VERY fast-

paced, and sadly, many students can start to fall behind. So whether it's a computer math topic, a computer program, or you've been sick for a few days, always communicate with your classmates and Mr. Houtrouw FREQUENTLY. This class is going to be filled with new topics of which you've never even heard and the most important piece of advice I can give is not to be afraid to ask questions and open your mind! (A little piece of personal advice is to take the opportunities presented to you by Mr. H.! I went to one programming competition and a CS camp at Michigan Tech and they were both awesome experiences!)

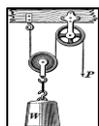
Finally, we are on to math class! The majority of the grade will have Math 2 with Mr. Milka, although there are a lot of students who will be in Math 3, Calculus, etc. I was a Math 2 student, so I only really have advice for that class. And my advice for that class is simple: 1.) Do your homework EVERY NIGHT and check it before class EVERY MORNING. 2.) Study! You won't fully understand the topics well enough for tests and quizzes without studying your notes and homework at home! Mr. Milka's class is very engaging and fun, and it is possible to achieve a very good grade in the class if you stay disciplined about homework and studying!



I would also like to share some advice on life outside of the classroom. Stay involved in your school's extracurriculars! Although KAMSC may seem overwhelming at times, it all pays off in the end and activities at KAMSC and at your sending school are going to make Sophomore year a lot more fun than just sitting at home by yourself every night! So get involved in sports, clubs, theater, student government, speech – whatever makes you happy! Going to KAMSC and being an over-achiever doesn't mean just getting good grades; it's about achieving a balance in your personal life, school life, and activity life that is best for you!

Sophomore Year might seem a bit daunting, but if you take it one day at a time, it will be fun, inspiring, and crazy!! Chemistry, CS, and Math are just three classes in your busy schedule for this year and if you stay diligent about studying, homework, and being active in your classes, it will all go perfectly well! If any of you Sophomores would like any more advice, feel free to ask any of us Juniors or Seniors you see in the halls or contact us via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc! We would love to help make your Sophomore Year the best one yet!

How to Survive Junior Year



Genevieve Sertic

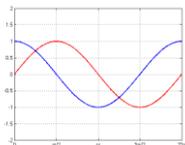
Advice

You're halfway through high school and you should be feeling pretty good!

But maybe you aren't. Maybe you've heard stories about Junior Year. Some call it the hardest year at KAMSC. Standardized tests, advanced classes, and more prominent roles in your extracurriculars ... it's true that it can be overwhelming. During your Junior Year, you may find what free time you had shrinking as the year wears on. But, as always, benefits come with the drawbacks. You have more freedom in your class choices. You can make more of a difference with your positions in your extracurriculars. Junior Year may be difficult, but it can also be exhilarating with all the new possibilities.

Junior Year allows you to choose from a variety of classes for your elective. In any class, it's important to stay organized and make sure you ask your questions sooner rather than later. In many of these upper-level classes, it's easy to get behind on understanding material as the subject matter builds on itself. Make good use of Open Lab if you can!

Many Juniors will have Mr. Cardwell as their Precalculus teacher this year. He'll help you connect the subject matter to real-life applications



every step of the way, and visualizing how the math is used in turn helps the abstract concepts become more understandable. Mr. Cardwell will also help you make your Junior Year smoother with some valuable tips on standardized testing and organization. And believe me, you'll want to listen. For those of you who don't have Precalculus this year, I've heard from my classmates that there is no replacement for getting a lot of practice in and always asking questions.

Everyone takes Physics in Junior Year, and the reputation of the class and the difficult subject

matter can be daunting. Physics is challenging, but Mr. Sinclair's lectures make it fascinating even if the subject itself isn't your thing (and keep an open mind – you might find you love it!). Don't be afraid to dive headfirst into the material and give the problem sets your best shot. Always attempt a problem before asking for help so Mr. Sinclair can see your thought pattern and help you find a different approach. At the beginning of the year, it



will take time to work through most problems, but it will be worth it later when you're solving even higher-level problems like they're simple addition. I found it helpful to have a notecard for each topic (Harmonic Motion, Forces, and so on) and write down all the equations covered in class on that topic. It's helpful for the harder homework problems, and convenient for memorizing each equation. You'll still want to know them in the context of your notes, though. One of the best ways to study for tests is to pull out all your previous tests and quizzes on the subject and redo every problem that gave you trouble, even the ones you got right. Go into Open Lab and ask Mr. Sinclair for help if you don't know how to do one.

Junior Year isn't just about classes, though. Schedule the SAT and/or ACT early in the year to help take some of the pressure off at year's end (although SAT Subject tests may be better to take in May or June). Make sure you can commit some time to your extracurriculars, and try to choose ones you love. Don't overburden yourself with too many. In my opinion, the most important part of Junior Year is finding something about which you're passionate, whether it's through your classes or extracurriculars. Think about what would make you *happy* doing for a living. That will help you know what kind of classes you want to take, what colleges would best suit you, and how you can contribute to society. Good luck with your Junior Year! Give your best to everything you do, and you'll have a great one!

How to Survive Senior Year



Raoul Wadhwa

Alumnus Advice

You are finally a Senior! Congratulations on this milestone

achieved, but I hope you are ready for another challenging year at KAMSC.

Despite what most students might lead you to believe, Senior Year is not to be taken lightly. While the course load is usually slightly lighter than Junior Year, college and scholarship applications more than make up for the decrease in homework.

The months of September and October will likely be spent completing the Common App, followed by a month filling out the Supplements for each college. Be sure to narrow down the list of colleges to which you are applying. Your parsimony will be rewarded in the number of essays you save writing!



As I'm sure you have heard hundreds of times by now, try not to leave college applications for the last minute; the same applies to asking teachers for letters of recommendation. Many teachers receive dozens of requests for letters of recommendation, and as a result, asking them to write you one at the last minute can be a major inconvenience. The Common App allows online submission of letters of recommendation; however, if any of your colleges require the letter to be mailed, be sure to provide a stamped, addressed envelope when you make a request from a teacher.

If you manage your time well, November should be considerably easier than the first two months of the semester. All that is left now is to review your

application, proofread your essays, and make sure your teachers have submitted your letters of recommendation. At this point, you should also start looking at scholarship applications.

Generally, the time to start filling out scholarship applications is from December onwards; however, there are several scholarships that are due before that. Make sure you don't miss out on free money! You might think you have earned some time to rest – you almost have.



Along with the arrival of January come semester exams; don't let senioritis grab an early victim. No matter what others say, grades from senior year do matter a lot, especially first semester.

Second semester of senior year will be relatively easy. There might still be a couple of scholarship applications left over, but overall this is a transition time to get ready to leave high school. Despite how happy you might be that you're done with KAMSC, you will probably miss it and your high school. Don't forget to finish strong.

Good luck!



First-Year Survey

84

Genevieve Sertic, Humza Mirza, and Dhara Patel

Survey

We greeted the incoming ninth graders at KAMSC Orientation on August 26th with a survey to find out a bit more about how they think. We've tabulated the results below!

Which subject at KAMSC are you most looking forward to learning more about?

Science: 22 Math: 24 Computer Science: 29
(Looks like you've got a pretty even spread of interests. That's a good thing, because you'll be getting a taste of all of them throughout your time here at KAMSC!)



What is your preferred operating system?

Windows: 43 Mac: 26 Linux: 1 Android: 5
(You'll get a taste of both Windows and Mac computers at KAMSC, and Mr. Houtrouw will give you information on Linux your Sophomore year.)

What is your favorite Sci-Fi television series?

Dr. Who: 30 *Fringe*: 2 *Star Trek*: 20 *Eureka*: 1 *Falling Skies*: 3 *Defiance*: 1
Others: None (5), *Star Wars* (3), *Big Bang Theory*, *Merlin*, *Game of Thrones*, *Warehouse 13*, *Battlestar Galactica 1978*, *Mystery Science Theatre 3000*, *WALL·E*
(Our incoming class consists of quite a few *Doctor Who* fans! We have some *Doctor Who* artwork from



one of our First-Years in this issue, so check it out! We're glad to see some Trekkies; your knowledge will serve you well in Mr. Milka's class, which most of you will take your Sophomore year.)

What is your favorite musical genre?

Rock: 20 Pop: 26 Jazz: 3 Rap: 12
Others: Alternative (5), Country (5), Classical (2), R&B (2), Dubstep (2), Punk (2), K-Pop, 60's to 80's Pop, 80's Rock
(This year's incoming class has a variety of musical interests. If music's your thing, make sure to check out this issue's Music Reviews!)

If you were part of a computer, what part would you be?

Sound chip: 17 Heat sink: 2 Monitor: 30 The CPU: 20
Others: The mouse, GPU
(Visuals, sound, and processing power are important in a computer, but so is what stops it from overheating - the heat sink! Mr. Cardwell will tell you all about it in Information Technology and even let you take one apart! We'll try not to spoil anything else.)

What's your favorite robot?

WALL'E: 26

R2-D2: 36

DJ Roomba: 3

GLaDOS: 9

Others: C3PO, the Terminator, Hal from *Space Odyssey*

(We hope those of you who chose R2-D2 also like the rest of *Star Wars*; it's a good thing to like in Mr. Sinclair's Physics class, which you'll be taking your Junior Year. And your love for WALL'E hopefully translates into love for the environment! Think about joining KAMSC's Earthlings! A quick plug for *Parks and Recreation* and *Portal*, the home titles of the last two robots – both are highly recommended for a good laugh!)



What is your favorite biome?

Grassland: 9

Rainforest: 47

Tundra: 11

Desert: 6

Others: Ocean, Jungle

(Although the rainforest had a decisive victory here, Mr. Chopp may be able to help other biomes win you over as you learn more about their climate and inhabitants in Biology.)

What is your favorite language?

English: 60

HTML: 2

C++: 0

Gaelic: 5

Java: 5

Others: French, BASIC, African Clicking Language, British English, Tagalog, Pig Latin

(A large majority of the incoming class would take English over a programming language? It may be easier to talk in English, but

computer languages have some pretty impressive capabilities. Keep an open mind, and by the time you've been through your first computer science class, you'll be talking in while loops and if statements.)

What's your favorite conic section?

Circle: 28

Ellipse: 13

Parabola: 21

Hyperbola: 11

Others: I don't like any of them!

(Circles have many interesting geometric properties that many of you will discover in Mrs. Kalnins' class, but you'll come to know and love all conic sections by Precalculus, if not sooner.)

How did you feel when you found out you got into KAMSC?

Overjoyed: 43

Invigorated: 11

Anticipatory: 17

Incredulous: 6

Others: Surprised, Called it, Scared, About to pass out!

(An easy victory for overjoyed! All these are rational reactions, but most of all, you should be happy to be here! KAMSC will not only provide classes and teachers of the highest caliber, but it is an inspiring community, and we're happy to welcome KAMSC's First-Years into it!)



Master of the CodeWarriors

Interview with Mr. Houtrouw



Dhara Patel

Interview

If you've ever noticed KAMSC students wearing black t-shirts with the word "CodeWarrior" plastered on the front, you probably know they've earned them by completing the first chapter of USACO (United States of America Computing Olympiad). However, they couldn't have achieved this feat without Mr. Houtrouw's help. Everyone knows Mr. Houtrouw for his enthusiasm and dedication for computer science. It's been 17 years since he started working for KAMSC and we all hope he stays for many more, instilling countless of people with a love and interest in computer science.

Q: What were you like in high school and did you play any sports?

A: I was a bit of an introvert. I moved from San Francisco, CA to Richland, WA when I was in high school. The culture was really different and I didn't know anyone. I took a lot of math and science classes. I lettered in cross-country and track, so my friends were all distance runners. I used to organize trips to run out-of-town road races. That helped solidify my leadership role on the CC team.

Q: Describe yourself using five words or phrases.

A: Laid back, analytical, Christian, competitive, perpetual lifelong learner.

Q: If you could go back in time, which period/era would you choose to go to and why?

A: I know this sounds lame, but I have to say I am content with the era in which I am living. Can you picture going back to a time without digital and cellular technologies?

Q: Which item do you possess that you cherish the most?

A: Assuming family doesn't count in this answer, I have a Bible on which I have used a color-coded marking system from cover to cover. I had another one like it that I had spent a ton of time on and I lost it and had to start all over. I don't want to lose the second one. Even though the print is now too small for my aging eyes. I value it in part because of the work I put into it, and because I know where to find things and what side of the page they are on. I can't think of any other material possession I would have a harder time parting with.

Q: What are your top three favorite books?

A: First one is a no-brainer—the Bible. I have so many translations and Bibles in multiple foreign languages. Everything else is a tie for distant second.

Q: If Hollywood producers wanted to make a movie of your life, whom would you like to be in the starring role?

A: Tom Hanks in his 3rd best actor Oscar performance! (And no he would NOT be reprising his Forrest Gump role.)

Q: What is the most romantic thing you have done for your wife?

A: It's a long story, but it has to do with everything that went into the night I proposed to her. Let's just say there were several elements of surprise, including leaving her in downtown Detroit by the old county fairgrounds while I drove off in the snow without her. She was scared to death. I still laugh every time I remember the rearview image of her chasing my '77 Chevy Nova, but thankfully that wasn't how the evening ended. It also later included a surprise proposal over one of the local radio stations. She said yes anyway.

Q: *If you could race any KAMSC teacher, who would it be?*

A: Been there, done that. Raced Mr. Alsehri to the top of the stairs after a fire drill. I won, but I kinda cheated a little because I wouldn't let him pass. Mr. Chopp is now the guy to beat.

Q: *What is one thing you would change about KAMSC if you could?*

A: So much has already changed for the better about KAMSC in the 16 years I have been here. I would like to establish stronger ties with Michigan's universities, particularly their Computer Science and Engineering Departments. I want them to recognize what amazing students we have, and I want them to actively recruit them, knowing how well prepared they are. I would also like to see more companies come after our kids for internships before and after they graduate. I think it would be good if students could take ATYP AP CS over at WMU when our AP CS class is too full, and not have to take it as a fourth class. We live in a time where there is an ever-increasing need for more students to take computer science courses and prepare themselves for STEM jobs. [Editorial note: It is not possible to change the class at this time, but KAMSC will continue to look at modifying the curriculum in the future.]

Q: *Which place would you like to travel to next?*

A: Me personally or me and the CS team? I recently found out about a contest hosted by Hewlett-Packard in a few cities. I was thinking about arranging a trip to Palo Alto, CA next spring for senior CodeWarriors who might want to visit Stanford and have fun competing at the same time. Just an idea at this point. For me personally, having already been to Africa, Central and South America, all but 3 US states, Israel, Jordan, Egypt and a few other places, the next stop on my bucket list is . . . TURKEY! Peru (Machu Picchu, Nazca, etc.) would be a close second, Hawaii third.

Q: *If you were given one million dollars in cash, what would you spend the money on?*

A: I would love to figure out a way to keep the government from taking most of it! If you consider what happens to most folks who win the lottery, I guess I would have to say that I would pay off a few debts (our Prius, my kids' college) and give the rest to my favorite charities.

Q: *If you were given the opportunity to be a teenager once more, what would you do differently?*

A: Tough, tough question! I look at all these KAMSC kids today and you guys seem to have your lives figured out already. I was not like that. I think I would try to reach out and be more of a friend to people rather than worry about who was going to be a friend to me.

Q: *Please complete the following sentence: I _____ teaching at KAMSC because...*

A: I love teaching at KAMSC because we have the best students on the planet!

Q: *Why or what gave you the idea to hand out the CodeWarrior t-shirts to students who have completed chapter 1 of USACO?*

A: A number of years ago I found myself needing something that could serve as a sort of "varsity letter" for our CS Teams kids. About that time I came into a donation from Metrowerks of several of these shirts and I knew just what to do with them. I had a cross-country coach that made us work hard to reach various milestones if we wanted eligibility for certain shirts (all of which are still in my possession today). Actually, there's more to earning those Blood-Sweat-&-Code shirts than just finishing the first USACO Training Pages chapter. The students also have to make significant recognizable contributions to KAMSC Computer Teams. In other words, working through those problems should allow the student to demonstrate how their problem solving skillset is growing, coupled with a commitment to me and to their KAMSC teammates. So if you see someone wearing one, you know they had to work for it!

I would like to thank Mr. Houtrouw for answering these questions!

Cricket Update: Calling all Cricketers!



Humza Mirza

Sports

Have you ever wanted to participate in a club sport alongside some of your best friends? Want to have fun learning a new sport? Returning to KAMSC and can't wait to join the state champion KAMSC cricket team? Look no further; KAMSC offers numerous activities including a sport that no other school has to offer.

Even if you've never participated in a sport before, KAMSC's cricket team is a great way to get involved, stay active, and have fun. With an annual state championship cricket match and numerous practices throughout the year, cricket poses as the perfect sport that everyone can enjoy. From learning how to bowl, to showing off your newly trained "googly", cricketers of



all levels are welcomed to join. The typical school year consists of various practices that are held by the captains either in a local park or during open lab. Captains will strive to offer many

meets in an effort to try and fit everyone's schedules, though it is understandable to miss a few practices. After a few months of learning about cricket, the rules, and how to bowl your first "fast bowl", teams will be more than ready

to face one another at the State Championship. Traditionally, there are 8 teams for KAMSC that go through slight modifications throughout the year. With a team containing 11 active players and a few alternates, there is a team for each grade level divided by gender. Don't be shy in joining the team. Practices are a great way to meet new people and hone your skills. Tell everyone you know about the team and sign up with your friends. Practices are a blast, especially if you bring your friends along.

Still not sold into joining the team? Stop by Mr. Sinclair's room and sign up; a team captain will surely convince you to join the team. The team is a great learning experience offering a plethora of skills, including leadership, organization, and a great opportunity to keep in shape. Players of every skill level are welcomed. Don't feel intimidated about joining the team. In fact, most of the current players on the cricket teams started off without even knowing that cricket is a sport. By the end of the school year you'll be more than ready to face off against your friends at the annual cricket match. Last season, the final match consisted of a mix of juniors and seniors with very few underclass students. First-Years and Sophomores, don't be shy signing up; you'll certainly enjoy yourselves.

An informational meeting will be held soon during open lab so stay tuned for updates! Remember to sign up by Mr. Sinclair's room or send an email to kamsc84steps@yahoo.com with your name, grade, gender, and "KAMSC Cricket" as the subject. See you at the next practice!

Dear Katherine

Do you have issues? A secret that's burning you up inside?
Send your questions to kamsc84steps@yahoo.com to get
them answered anonymously!



by Katherine Wu

*Dear Katherine,
I can't stop watching Netflix! It's so
addicting, and all of my favorite TV shows
are on it. I spend all day watching movies
and TV, and I never get anything done.
Can you help me?*

-Cinemaddict

Dear Cinemaddict,
I completely understand; Netflix's Instant-
Streaming technology is practically a drug. I
would advise you not to start any new television
series since those can be quite extensive and take
up much more of your time. If you really need a
fix, maybe let yourself watch a movie as a reward
after finishing something you've been struggling
to accomplish.

*Dear Katherine,
People are already asking each other to
prom, and the school year has barely even
started. What if everyone pairs up early,
and I don't get asked?*

-PROMisses

Dear PROMisses,
People make prom out to be a much bigger deal
than it actually is. It's unreasonable for anyone to

be asking each other to prom as of now. Don't
worry about what they are doing; you have plenty
of time to find a date, or there's always the option
of going stag. You may have more fun going with
your friends instead of a date anyway.

*Dear Katherine,
Everyone at KAMSC seems to want to
become a doctor or an engineer or a
professor, but all I want to do when I grow
up is drive a dump truck and be a garbage
man! Is that wrong of me?*

-Dump Truck Destiny

Dear Dump Truck Destiny,
There's nothing wrong with wanting to be
something different. If those are your aspirations,
don't worry about what other people want to do
with their lives. The thing about going to KAMSC is
that it really prepares you for a career in math and
science, but really you can take whatever path you
choose. Just remember to stay open-minded about
other options; hardly anyone knows what they
want to do with their life in high school. If you
have it figured out, then more power to you!

MOVIE REVIEWS



Miles Pruitt

Film

MAN OF STEEL (2013)

A GREAT FILM, VERY ACTION – PACKED WITH A LOT OF TWISTS, AND THE ICONIC 30 MINUTE LONG ENDING ACTION SEQUENCE WAS VERY INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING. LOVED THE FILM.

****** 5 STARS*

DESPICABLE ME 2 (2013)

VERY GOOD MOVIE, THE MINIONS ARE SO FUNNY AND CUTE! SO FLUFFY I WANT TO DIE!

***** 4 STARS*

WORLD WAR Z (2013)

HORRIBLE CGI AND SPECIAL EFFECTS, CLICHÉS AND BAD PLOTLINE MAKES THIS MOVIE A FAILURE.

*** 2 STARS*



MONSTERS UNIVERSITY (2013)

VERY WELL MADE MOVIE. BLENDED NICELY WITH THE BACKGROUND PLOT OF MONSTERS INC. (2001). LOVED THE MOVIE AND CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT OUT ON BLU – RAY AND DVD.

***** 4 STARS*

THE LONE RANGER (2013)

TWO WORDS TO DESCRIBE THIS FILM: VERY BAD. HORRIBLE ACTING, PLOTLINE AND SPECIAL EFFECTS.

** 1 STAR*

Student Senate News



Sam Peters, KSS President

Student Senate

Welcome to the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center Student Senate, or KAMSC Student Senate for short, or KSS for even shorter. If you have been wanting to join KSS but haven't for some reason, I would encourage you to at least come to the first meeting. Even if you haven't thought of joining KSS, come anyway and test it out! KSS holds a series of events for the students' enjoyment, and the more people who are in the Senate, the better we can cater to the students' wishes as a whole.

The three main events that are planned by KSS are the Class Clash, the dance afterward, and the KAMSC Semi-formal. There are also occasions that don't need as much planning such as the talent show, food drive, and other events that aren't certain yet. Many suggestions, such as a

snowball fight, sledding party, Rubik's cube championship, ping pong championship, and euchre championship have been brought up during these meetings. Certainly feel free to tell your ideas at the meetings, or place them in the suggestion box. We are always looking for new ideas!



2013-2014 Student Senate

President: Sam Peters
Vice President: Tom Sandell
Treasurer: Michael Elluru
Secretary: Ally Peirce

Senior Rep.: Cara Knasel
Junior Rep.: Colby Hanely
Sophomore Rep.: Jori Gelbaugh
First-Year Rep.: To be elected

84 Steps Senate Reporter:
Humza Khan



Top First-Year Fears



Aayushi Priya

Medicine

You keep getting these official looking envelopes from the Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center through the mail. You've gone through this long process of tests and filling out forms—and now, you're finally here. You might be lost, and wondering if your decision was the right one. Or you might have had older siblings go through this, yet you're still not confident.

You know what they call you? A typical First-Year student at KAMSC with the FYF virus.

Many first-years come into KAMSC with the First-Year Fears virus (abbreviated FYF); therefore it's completely normal. It simply means that it's your first year and you are concerned about the upcoming year at KAMSC. Your family members should not worry, as this virus enters the body system and leaves within a few weeks (once you've settled at KAMSC).

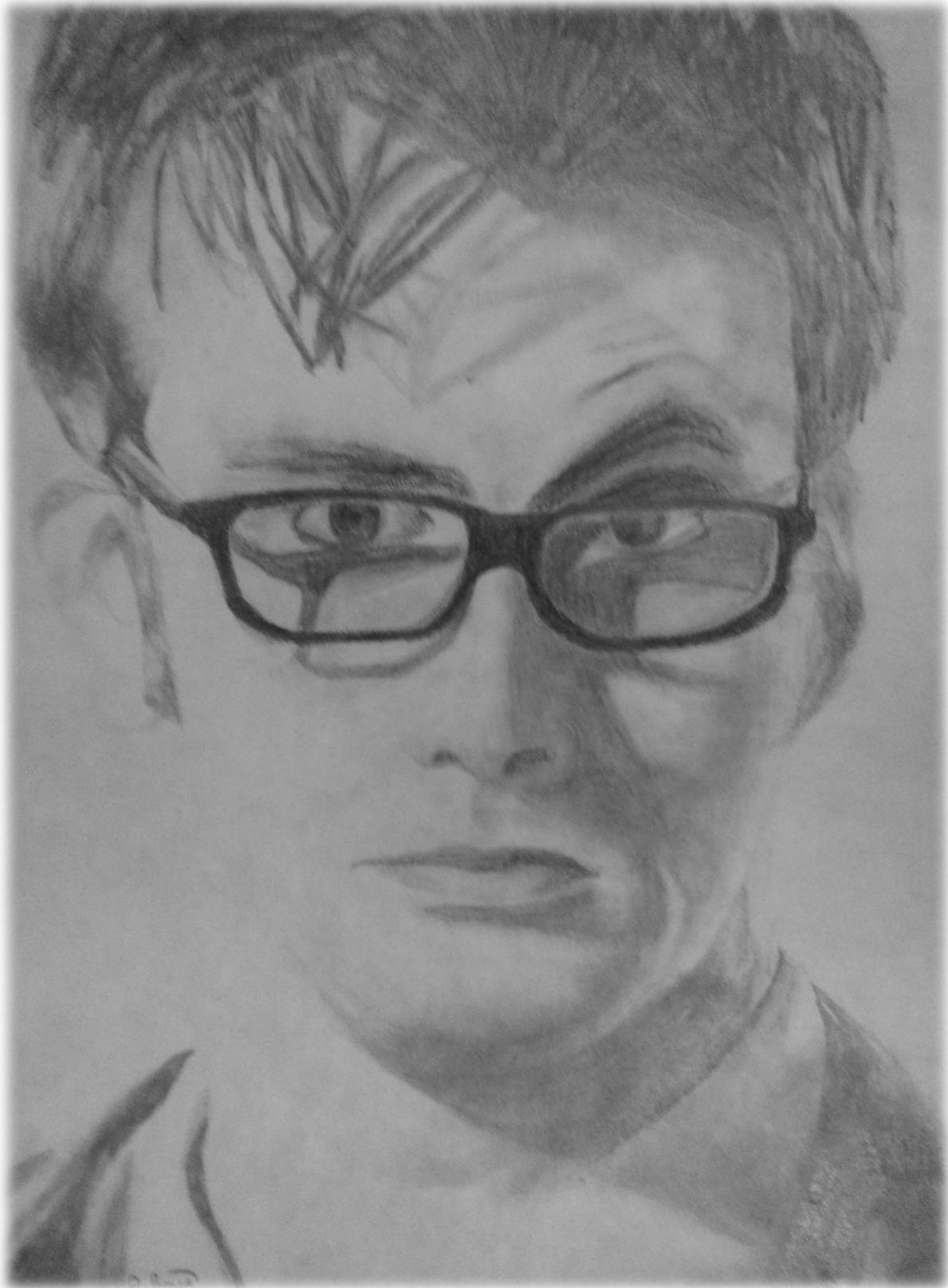
Several common symptoms of being infected by the FYF virus would include you thinking, wondering, and saying things such as...

- KAMSC is too much work. I won't be able to do anything else.
- Maybe in a parallel universe I could climb all of those stairs every day (perhaps the one with Rose Tyler), but it is not going to happen in this one.
- I won't fit in.
- Research projects will be impossible; I don't even understand the titles on most of them.
- Am I in Ravenclaw or Slytherin? I need to know in order to do well at KAMSC.
- Everyone's going to be too smart for me.
- Dissecting fetal pigs will be the death of me.
- Are the teachers going to be unreasonable?
- I'll have to cut out all of my extracurricular activities for this.
- Something about a nurture stick...
- I'm scared that the zombie apocalypse will take place at KAMSC and I will be stuck on the fourth floor. If zombies block stairs and elevators, how will I get down from there?

If you have any of the above fears about KAMSC, you probably have the FYF virus. For those who want to be healthy, talk to upperclassmen about your worries. They'll make you feel better and separate fact from fiction. In a few weeks, you will be healed and fear-free.

Once you're mended, you might feel a little nauseous due to your excitement. Furthermore, KAMSC will have a special place in your heart. When this occurs, you're entirely treated and taken care of.

This also means that it's time you start loving KAMSC!!! 😊



**For all of you Whovians out there, here is a drawing of our tenth doctor!
David Tennant from *Doctor Who*, drawn by Aayushi Priya**

Horrorscopes



Katherine Wu

Astrology

Aries (March 21-April 19)

A frugal friend of yours will invite you to a shoddy magic show. You'll be chosen as a volunteer from the audience. In a poor attempt at magic, you'll accidentally be sawed in half.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)



On a trip to Europe in the semi-distant future, you will visit a historic landmark. You will try to Instagram a picture of the attraction, but your camera will die.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Walking down the street one day you will come across a lucky penny. Unfortunately, by picking up a dirty penny off the street you will contract the highly contagious skin disease 'scabies'.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You will receive a false positive on a Biology test. Confused, you will seek a second opinion.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

One day, your mom will pack you a Lunchables, but you'll open it to discover the pouch that generally contains a Butterfingers is filled with broccoli.



Virgo (August 23-Sept. 22)

A big time movie producer will call you to congratulate you on winning a fairly prominent role in an upcoming feature film. You'll brag about it to all of your friends to discover that the movie is a remake of *Twilight*.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

On a scorching hot day, you'll step onto black pavement so hot that it'll immediately melt the soles of your sneakers, which will also melt and adhere to your feet. You'll be stuck in the position for hours while every single ambulance that tries to reach you will be impeded by the melting of their tires on the pavement.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

While dissecting an animal during a lab, your animal will suddenly resurrect and leap off of your table and scurry away. Your teacher will not believe your excuse; you'll fail the lab.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

For Halloween you'll dress up as a deer. While trick-or-treating, you'll take a shortcut through your neighborhood woods. Too bad you won't realize that it's deer hunting season, and a silly redneck will accidentally shoot you and eat you. Bon appétit.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Following misleading advice from your horoscope, you'll invest all of your money just before a dramatic stock market crash. Serves you right for believing in that mumbo jumbo.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You will fall into a vat of genetic mutation gel that gives people superpowers. Alas, your superpower will be the ability to smell sewage from miles away, and you will be tormented for the rest of your life with the smell of excrement.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

You will decide to propose to your significant other using the clichéd ring-in-champagne method. Your unobservant intended will choke on the ring, forcing you to perform the Heimlich maneuver. You'll accidentally shatter all of their ribs and they will never speak to you again.

Orion (Feb 29)

Since presumably you are only 3-4 years old, you will be starting preschool this year. During naptime, a mean little kid will crush a juice box on your pants making it appear as though you've wet your pants, and it will be extremely embarrassing as well as sticky.

Greetings, Earthlings



Genevieve Sertic

Environment

Do you want to positively impact our local environment? Do you want to keep KAMSC green? Consider joining Earthlings, KAMSC's Environmental Club! Earthlings seeks to promote sustainability in different ways.

A major Earthlings initiative is recycling. Each KAMSC classroom houses a recycling bin from which Earthlings sorts and collects for recycling on at least a monthly basis. Paper, cardboard, rinsed pop cans, glass, and plastics are prime candidates for the bins.



In addition, Earthlings maintains a garden area along Pearl Street near student parking. Last year, Earthlings applied for and received a generous grant from Michigan State University's Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs). This grant funded a large quantity of native plants for our KAMSC garden including wild clematis, prairie phlox, black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, and blue wood aster. These native plants attract butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, and moths and



bloom at staggered times during the year. The increased biodiversity provides a hands-on learning station for KAMSC's science programs, especially for younger children during the summer camps. Earthlings maintains this garden in the fall, spring, and throughout the summer.

Earthlings hosts environmentally-friendly activities throughout the year. We plan on again sponsoring a clothing drive, holding an Earth Day campaign, and representing at Portage's Greenathon this year.

Our first Earthlings meeting of the year will be at 6pm on September 25th in Ms. Hach's classroom, Room #418. Check out our website, kamscearthlings.weebly.com, for more information, or email kamscearthlings@yahoo.com!



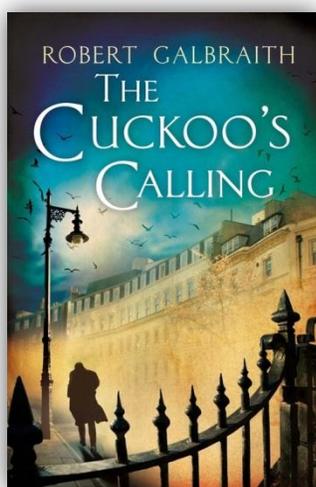
Book Reviews



Kitu Komya

Literature

Nothing can better occupy the free time of KAMSC students than a good read. Compiled below are suggestions that will bind readers to an escape so different than their own reality that they will live among the characters of the novel. This edition's theme comprises fictitious author names, also known as authors' pseudonyms. You may be surprised that what you had formerly thought to be genuine is a total hoax!



Title: The Cuckoo's Calling

Author: J.K. Rowling (pseudonym: Robert Galbraith)

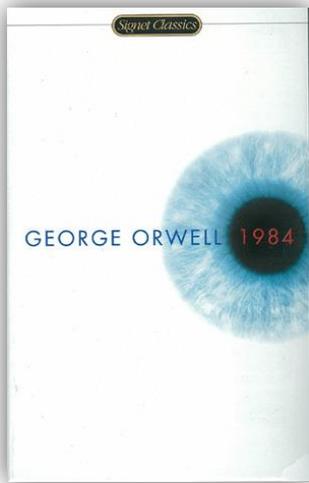
Genre: Crime Fiction

First published under the name "Robert Galbraith," who is affectionately known to the public as the reputable J.K. Rowling, this book charms readers with a remarkable plot and most mesmerizing characterization yet again.

After the death of the beloved Lula Landry, a model who dies from a fall, her adopted brother, John Bristow, doubts the allegations of suicide are true, and hires private investigator Cormoran Strike to look into the matter. Strike sets up interviews with multimillionaires and rock-star boyfriends, entering a world full of enticement, pleasure, and delusion.

Strike, a wounded war veteran with a troubled past, damaged love life, and financial woes, is beautifully characterized as a most original character to the crime fiction genre. All together, the entire characterization is almost tangible; each character radiates a certain charismatic yet humble ambiance that travels with the readers.

An effective plot that keeps its readers turning each page with fervent enthusiasm, The Cuckoo's Calling subsides all predictability. Quirky, yet an exhilarating read, the novel promises an adventure through the most intriguing characters and beguiling ideology. Rowling has confirmed a sequel to be published sometime in 2014, so aficionados of mystery should stay alert!



Title: 1984

Author: Eric Arthur Blair (pseudonym: George Orwell)

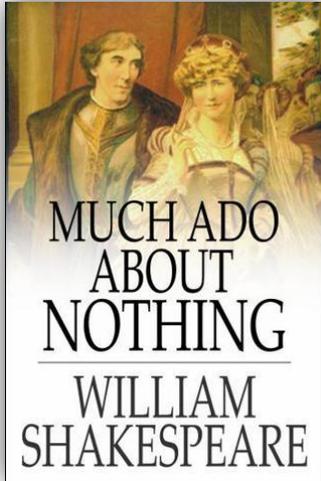
Genre: Dystopian Fiction

Published in 1949, Orwell's book entails a horrific futuristic society of 1984 in which everyone must follow Big Brother's strict guidelines. Literally tracking everyone at any moment through numerous telescreens and hidden microphones, Big Brother's control is not to be taken lightly.

Big Brother rewrites history and restricts personal documented records of the past, such as photographs and newspapers, in order for the masses to solely rely on Big Brother's historical account (which always changes to align with Big Brother's predicaments); his central slogans, "War is Peace," "Freedom is Slavery," and "Ignorance is Strength" confound all ingenuity; the slightest hostile facial twitch against the party can be reason for arrest and physical torture; anyone objecting to the party's rules will be taken into custody and be entirely removed from historical existence afterward; and war must be fought against the other nations, Eastasia and Eurasia, for no apparent reason.

Winston Smith, an ordinary man, opposes the principles of Big Brother. Illegally, he buys a diary in which he documents history and confesses all of his "thoughtcrimes" against the party. Winston's animosity does not stop here, however; he enters into a despicable relationship with Julia, a most rebellious act, and also joins a secret society with O'Brien that plots against Big Brother. When the party learns of these defiant undertakings, superiors physically torture Winston until his mind is conditioned to finally believe that "2+2=5" and that the Party is most noble.

1984's haunting vision compels its readers to dig within their own ideas of what is "right." A powerful journey took through Winston, a man holding similar thoughts with today's society, 1984's readers question their own government, privileges, society, and morals, drawing unnerving parallels to what is and what could be.



Title: Much Ado About Nothing

Author: Anthony Zadow (pseudonym: William Shakespeare)

Genre: Romantic Comedic Play

Shakespeare has enchanted his readers for generations with his timeless plays and poems. Much Ado About Nothing does not fall short of that expectation. A play replete with bitter sarcasm, clever retorts, and dramatic, yet comical, foreplay, the play's exploration will forever be engraved within the minds of its readers.

The action-filled play is set in Messina Sicily, Italy, where soldiers return home to nobleman Leonato, his brother, Antonio, playful niece, Beatrice, and daughter, Hero. Soldiers Claudio and Benedick reunite with Hero and Beatrice, but not in the most orthodox manner. Whereas Claudio falls in love with Hero, Benedick and Beatrice resume their witty insults at each other, a most unforgettable facet of the play.

Claudio and Hero decide to marry; meanwhile, their friends plot to trick Benedick and Beatrice into falling in love, which proves successful! However, while this secret relationship continues, a question of fidelity rises to the occasion between Claudio and Hero, who has been accused of adultery. To protect Hero, she is kept hidden away by her friends, while all the while declared as dead to shed some innocence on her name. Leonato punishes Claudio by forcing him to exonerate Hero's name and to marry a niece who supposedly looks similar to dead Hero. However, Claudio has been tricked again when he discovers that his bride is actually Hero – living and breathing! The play concludes merrily with a double marriage between Claudio and Hero and Benedick and Beatrice.

Shakespeare sensibly crafts his characters with sophistication, yet also with a friendly grace. The acrimonious rivalry between Benedick and Beatrice and the dramatic turn of events all make the read a most memorable one.

An everlasting favorite read for those who pay attention to its crafty language painted in each line, Much Ado About Nothing will enthrall readers into its world of joviality.

Technology News



Chang Yang

Technology

Instant Wi-Fi

Nowadays, books and libraries are passed over in favor of cell phones—because who needs to flip through a dictionary when they can just ask Siri? The Internet has made instant information possible, letting you Google something or go on Facebook...as long as you have a good connection. For those times when you're not getting a signal, Chamtech has developed a new concept—Wi-Fi in a can. Inside the spray can is a liquid containing millions of nano-capacitors, which can be sprayed on any surface to create or boost the wireless connection in that area. This means that you no longer have to suffer at your grandma's house or pause to wait for YouTube videos.



Laser Keyboard

As the school year passes by, you'll run through piles of notebooks, handfuls of erasers, boxes of pencils—but the one thing that's



always in stock is homework. Especially essays. With the mountain of papers assigned to you each week, other tasks become annoying because they take time away from finishing that five-page essay. Like dinner. And sleep. You've tried typing on your iPhone but it keeps auto-correcting everything. This is where the company *Celluon* comes through for desperate students trying to squeeze in homework time, all the time. Its newest creation, the Magic Cube (inaccurate but it sounds better than "Magic Rectangular Prism"), is at first a block the weight and size of a bar of soap. But at the touch of a button it projects a fully-interactive laser image of a keyboard. All you need is a flat surface to project upon and a Bluetooth connection, and you can type anywhere—in a restaurant, at school the day your paper's due, etc. The Magic Cube even comes in 7 different colors so you can look cool while trying to finish tomorrow's lab report on fetal pigs. Savvy.

Music Reviews: Best of the Best



Humza Mirza

Music

Everyone can relate to having a song that just speaks to them. With so many genres available, it's often hard to fall in love with a single artist. Below are a few selected tracks worth checking out in various genres to make that search a little bit easier.

Classical: Mozart's *Requiem* gives orchestral buffs and chorus divas what they've been waiting for without forgetting the band kids.

Country: Florida Georgia Line's *Cruise* is a great song for country fanatics and pop lovers alike. Plus, the lyrics are pretty easy to make fun of if you're secretly in love with the genre.



Dubstep: If you'd like to hear what a cyborg sounds like ripping apart the space time continuum, check out Going Quantum's *Liquid Dubstep Mix + Monstercat Mix* available for free on iTunes.

Easy Listening: Passenger's *Let Her Go* offers a light rock with a rich melody and chorus that makes it perfect for your personal soundtrack music.

House: Monstercat's *Best of House Music Vol. 1* gives the great song selection Monstercat is known for while providing the house synths club goers love.

Indie: Foster the People's *Houdini* is a great track that will make you reminisce of Maroon 5's older albums.

Jazz: Daichi Ace Hasemi's *Relaxation II* is a soothing jazz song with light percussion and a defiant sax lead giving jazz audiophiles their fix.

Oldies: Frank Sinatra's *Fly Me to the Moon* will leave you feeling good and loving his baritone lead voice.



Pop: Lady Gaga's *Applause* off her new album Art Pop is guaranteed to hit the radios whether you like her little monsters or not, so get listening!

Rap: Classified and David Myles' *Inner Ninja* is a refreshing take on rap with a lovely chorus line that will have you singing this song up and down the hallways.

Rock: *Miss Jackson* by Panic! at the Disco is a new single by the band that is guaranteed to capture the PATD and FOB audience.

Check out the Playlist on YouTube:

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbHnzaNTyG7_rSIZTjYb0-AHi2qZmYymh

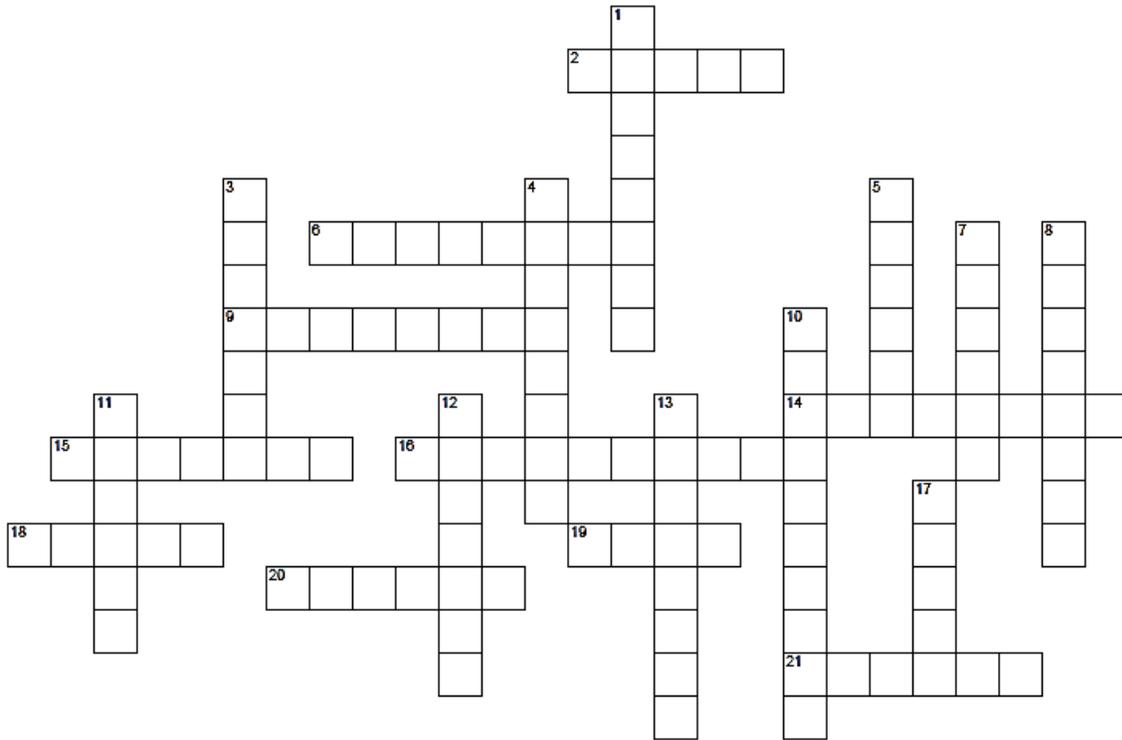
Crossword Challenge



Genevieve Sertic

Puzzles

Win a prize by being the first student in your grade to correctly complete the puzzle below! Submit a legible scan or picture, along with your name and grade level, to kamsc84steps@yahoo.com with the word "Challenge" in the subject line. Happy puzzling!



NOTE: Honorifics (Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr., etc.) are omitted in the answers for clarity in the puzzle.

ACROSS

- 2 KAMSC Student Advocate
- 6 Shows you how to disassemble a computer
- 9 Administrative Assistant
- 14 Only instructor on Dutton side
- 15 New Chemistry instructor
- 16 Environmental Club
- 18 Takes First-Years on Bog Trip
- 19 Trains service dogs
- 20 Head of Research Team
- 21 KAMSC Student Government

DOWN

- 1 Provides computer tech support
- 3 KAMSC sport
- 4 Line the upper walls in the Commons
- 5 KAMSC Office's Secretary
- 7 Summer Program Facilitator
- 8 T-shirts hang from his ceiling
- 10 Competition between grades
- 11 Director; voice of WKAMSC
- 12 Math League coordinator
- 13 Wears a black lab coat
- 17 Hosts "Function or No Function"



The *84 Steps* Team

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Sam Peters

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