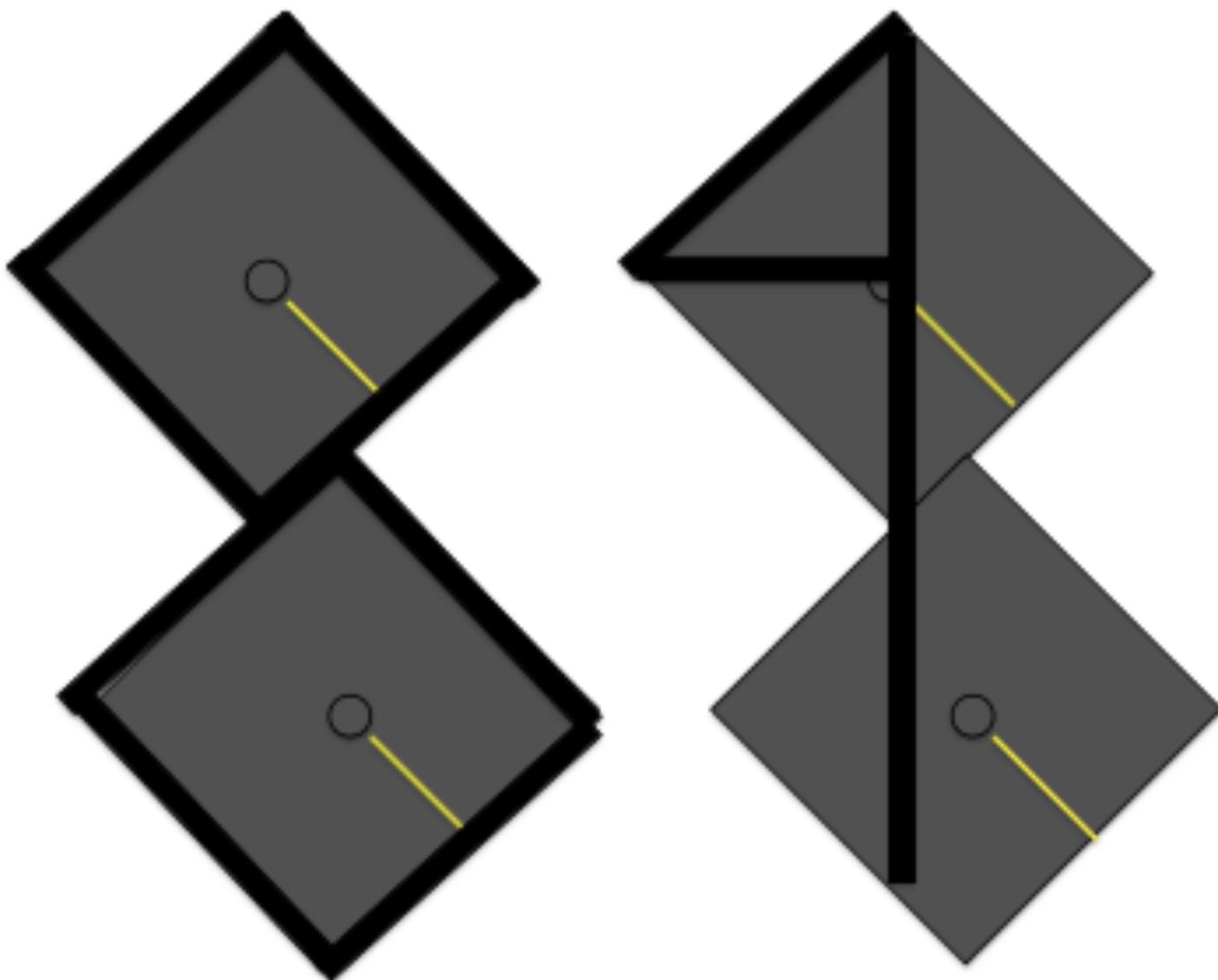


# KAMSC'S



## STEPS

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# *Letter from the Editors*

Dear KAMSC Students,

I'm sure everybody has been extremely busy for these past couple of weeks with AP/IB testing, final exams, and research projects, so please give yourself a study break and relax with the graduation edition of 84 Steps! As seniors, we are both extremely excited to graduate high school and take the next step in our educational path by attending college, but it's a little bittersweet because this is the last edition of the student newspaper for the 2016-17 school year and the last edition we will ever write for our loyal fan base ☹️. Inside, we hope you will find some laughs, some information, and a little bit of sadness as we celebrate the accomplishments of the KAMSC seniors.

There's only a couple more weeks left of school, but that doesn't mean we should get complacent. Keep up on your homework, study for finals, present your research boards well, and finish the year out strong! We're almost there!

Your Editors,  
Lily Kitagawa and Andrew Backer



# Letter to the Seniors



**Zoha  
Aqeel**

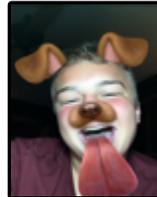
After what I'm sure has felt like an endless, stressful, and busy year, the day you've been long awaiting is *just* about here: graduation. Only a few years ago, you were anxious to attend the getting-to-know-you ninth grade mixer, and standing as a confused, timid, and brilliant first student in Mr. Chopp's Biology room completely unaware of what was to come. The sleepless nights from pending homework, exam cramming study sessions, and of course development of many close-knit friendships resulting from the common struggle of being a KAMSC kid. At that time it felt like a span of forever, every day filled with one thing or the other — ranging from a lab practical, KAMSC dance, or hours of binge watching at Sci-Fi Film Fest. Now, time is simply counting your fingers, only a few days standing between you and the commencement of impending opportunities. This relevant chapter of your life will begin to diverge to a set of complete new experiences and possibilities—KAMSC forever lingering as the dearest memory.

It's pretty much impossible to avoid the cliché of describing how your mentorship and guidance has provided a stellar example for other students to follow, so I'll try to keep it short and simple. After having shared so many memories with the seniors, I know I'm speaking for most students when I say it's going to be difficult to say goodbye to close friends and peers. Although we will miss you here at KAMSC, we wish the best of luck to you in your future ventures, and know you will achieve great success.

As you pave your way through college, I hope you find yourself appreciating the skills in the “tool box” you've created and filled at KAMSC. Occasionally, applying these skills in different situations, not only academically but also with areas such as communication, time-management, and adaptability. Thank you for setting the precedent you have, know that you have left large shoes to fill, and good luck next year!



# SENIORITIS TOP 10



Andrew  
Backer

I've heard a lot of juniors (and even sophomores) claim that they have senioritis because they don't feel like doing their homework. This blatant appropriation of senior culture must end at once! In order to combat these false sickness claims, here is a list of ten symptoms of senioritis. Please contact a medical professional *only* if you have experienced 8 (eight) of these symptoms personally. Otherwise, leave the complaining to those of us who are actually infected. Thanks.



1. Showing up late to your first hour on a Monday with a cup of coffee, wearing sweatpants and a shirt that clearly hasn't been washed.
2. Finishing your homework for a class in the four minutes it takes between you sitting at your desk and your teacher beginning class.
3. Turning in assignments a week late.
4. Actually, just never finishing your homework at all (exclusive to serious cases).
5. Looking at your grades and seeing actual three-letter words: BAD, DAB, FAD, to name a few.
6. Using the phrase "I don't care" excessively.
7. Giving up on writing a list even though you clearly stated there should be three more entries.

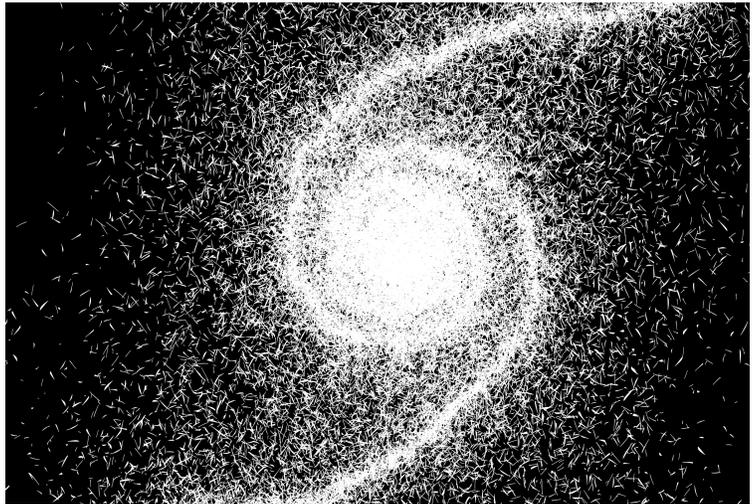
Disclaimer: KAMSC students are some of the most motivated people on the planet, and can easily combat senioritis through use of their great work ethics and intellectual gifts. Everyone is capable of finishing the year out strong!



**Evan  
Backer**

# Guardians of the Galaxy Review

The newest addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) is an extension to Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 1, which debuted in 2014. The first movie follows five unexpected friends, ranging from normal humans to a tall, talking tree with a very limited vocabulary. The team works together in order to stop a despicable villain from destroying a planet.



These characters return in the new film, this time attempting to unravel the mysteries that are in Peter Quill's (aka Starlord's) ancestry. This takes them in a long journey across the galaxy, avoiding various different enemies, all while listening to what I personally believe is one of the better soundtracks that a movie has to offer. I would definitely recommend this movie to anybody who is looking for lots of action, with a little mystery and comedy mixed in, or to someone who is looking for some classic 80's music.

# Things Every College First Year Student Needs



Xing-xing Nordmoe ('16)

## 1. Backup Phone Charger:

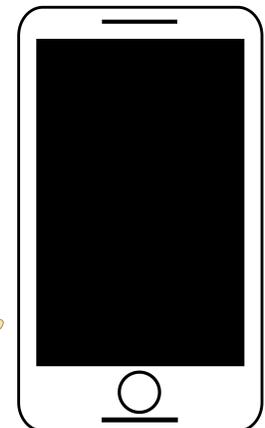
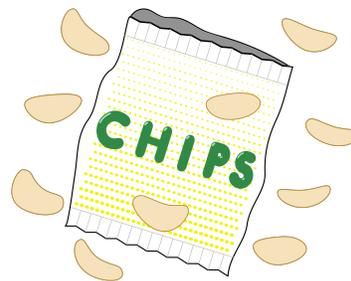
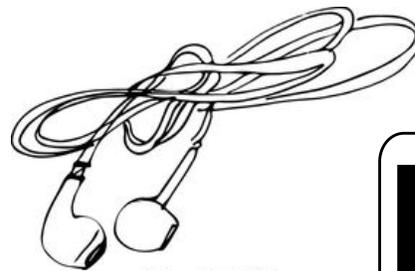
Phone chargers are a necessity, and most college students are too lazy or too broke to go out and buy one for themselves so unfortunately, tons of phone chargers get stolen... so stock up during the summer!

## 2. Backup Headphones:

Like phone chargers, headphones get stolen pretty frequently too. So even if it means picking up a cheap pair at Meijer before you head off for college, I would recommend bringing an extra pair in case you have a roommate who steals your stuff or you accidentally leave them in a classroom or study table (because I assure you, if you leave those anywhere, someone will take them).

## 3. Lots of Snacks:

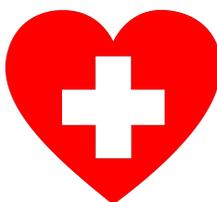
No matter how great your dining halls are at whichever school you choose to attend, they will close at some point, and you will be hungry. Snacks are always a great way to keep awake late at night or a great time saver when you are in between classes and don't have time to stop at a dining hall for food, so definitely buy tons of grab-and-go snacks while you can this summer (and make your parents pay for them while you still can!)



**4. Card-Holding Phone Sticker:** These aren't super common for any other age group other than college students, but almost every person in college I know has one of these on their phone case. It is a great way to easily access your most important cards (your ID, your housing key, and your credit card) and maybe carry around some small cash in case of emergencies.

**5. A Roll of Quarters:**

In college, quarters are worth a lot more than just 25 cents because everyone needs quarters for laundry. Most universities have quarter operated machines and unless you plan on bringing enough clean underwear for a whole semester, bring a roll of quarters... don't fall into the typical first year student trap and find yourself asking around within the first week!

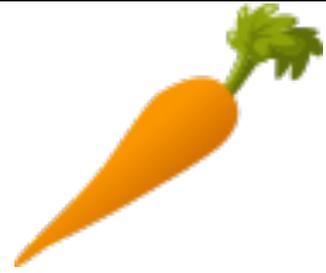


**6. First Aid Kit:**

This was something I forgot about when I was packing but quickly realized I needed. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, but having a couple band aids somewhere you can easily access them and some disinfectant spray and maybe some Ibuprofen for when you get sick never hurts.

**7. A Good Reusable Water Bottle:** I made the mistake of going through 100+ disposable water bottles in my first semester, but after I invested in a good water bottle, I was able to take advantage of the handy water bottle refill stations all around campus. This seems trivial but tons of people in college depend solely on disposable water bottles... do some good for the planet and buy a nice reusable one!

**8. A Good Thermos:** Going along with the previous item, having a good thermos is really nifty especially for all you coffee drinkers out there! Some cafes on campus I know give discounts for people who bring their own mugs (super eco-friendly) so it is a really good investment.



**9. A Couple Reusable Containers:** You will sneak food out of the dining hall at some point, regardless of what you think now, it will happen. So, just make it easier for yourself and bring a couple of containers. It is really helpful especially when you want a midnight study snack, to just grab some food from the dining hall to keep in your room so you don't have to waste time later by going back out to the dining hall.



**10. A Shower Caddy and Shower Shoes:** Most first year students are put in communal bathrooms which usually means disgusting bathrooms to be shared with about 50 other people in your hall. You will probably want to minimize time spent in these grungy holes of disgust so have a shower caddy in which you can efficiently put all your shower accessories so that you can go in and out quickly. Also, the floor will almost certainly be nastier than the floor of a school bus so have a cheap pair of shower shoes you are willing to toss after the year is over (trust me, you will not want to keep those).

**11. Command Disposable Wall Hooks:** This is kind of optional, but they ended up being really useful. They save space and some dorms do not have any hooks, so just pick up some before you leave for college, just in case!

**12. Wipes:** Having some disinfecting wipes around is really handy for spills or anytime you want to stay healthy when the flu is going around (which happens at least twice a semester).

**13. Umbrella:** Another important thing I totally forgot about until I really needed it... depending on where you go to school there will probably be a total of 10 days in the year that you actually need this, but when it is pouring and you are the only one with an umbrella, you will be glad you brought it.

**14. Power Strip:**

Most dorm rooms don't have too many outlets available, so I would recommend getting a power strip so you can plug your computer charger, your phone charger, your bedside light, and whatever else you might have into one outlet.

**15. Decorations for Your Computer:** You might be the kind of person who hates stickers, or who doesn't want to put stickers on your computer, but college is a big place with a lot of people. This is not totally necessary but I would recommend putting a couple stickers on your computer or buying a computer case that is distinctive. Everyone in college has a computer (or just about everyone) and I guarantee that there will be plenty of people wherever you go who have the same computer as you. I was told at orientation that computers are the most commonly stolen item in college, so get some stickers to decorate your computer so that there is something that differentiates your computer from everyone else's. They can also be a good conversation starter!

# A REDical iPhone



Daniel  
Calco

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Apple re-released the iPhone 7, but with an alternate color scheme than expected. Normally, Apple's colors are metallic dulls or neutral shiny coatings. However, with this newly released color breaks all of the norms, which seems to be becoming a habit of Apple as of late, just like when the seven broke boundaries by removing the headphone jack. This new color is of course, the red iPhone.



Both the original iPhone 7 and the Plus can be purchased in the red coating, but only for a limited time. There's only one catch to this: the phones are exactly functionally the same as the current iPhone sevens. This means that there is no reason to upgrade one's current phone except for a color change. However, money from upgrading isn't the reason

why Apple is doing this promotion. Instead, it's a noble cause: HIV and AIDS prevention. Each purchase donates part of the profit to the Global Fund to fight AIDS project, which is much more than an honorable cause.

Apple has been a strong supporter of the Global Fund to fight AIDS since it's humble beginning in 2006. Since then, apple has donated \$130 million dollars to them, and this number is only expected to increase over time with this new offer.

Alongside this, the iPhone SE is also receiving an upgrade, quietly being shoved off to the side: the storage capacity has been completely double from 16GB to 32GB, and 64GB to 128GB. Even with this double in capacity, it'll still only cost you \$399! Unfortunately, this means that anybody who previously purchased the iPhone SE with 16GB or 64GB may be feeling a bit ripped off right now...

So, should you go and buy the new red iPhone 7? Probably not unless you either don't currently own an iPhone or you want to upgrade from an older model. While the red sheen is visually appetizing, it's important to note that you'll also probably have a case adorning your phone too, meaning you won't be seeing the color often. If you don't qualify for either of those circumstances, it doesn't mean you can't help fight HIV/AIDS! The Global Fund to fight AIDS is always looking for donations, and it doesn't always have to be the \$750 that a new iPhone costs.



**The Global Fund**  
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



**Xing-xing  
Nordmoe ('16)**

# *Advice to Graduating Seniors*

Graduating seniors, first of all, congrats on making it to the end! Everything in the last month of high school goes by so fast, and I don't know much about senior year, but I do know what I wish I had known in my last year of high school before leaving for college. So, even though I am sure you all know the advice I am about to give, I will give it anyway...

First off, don't forget to cherish everything that you have now. Yes, this is cliché, but it is really important. College is completely different, as you very well know (but don't quite fully understand yet). You are all by yourself, and have new friends and are without parents, which brings a lot of new responsibilities and freedoms. For now, make sure to tell your friends you love them and that you appreciate them before you all go your separate ways. Make sure to thank your teachers for all they've done for you, especially the ones who wrote you stellar recommendation letters for you to get in the places you did. Most importantly, tell your parents you love them. One thing I didn't think about enough was the fact that going to college was a big adjustment for my whole family, most of all my parents. Your parents will miss you a lot and will probably call/text you a lot in the beginning to make sure you're okay. Yes, it is annoying sometimes but let them know how much you appreciate them before you leave them!



I am sure you are very aware that most college students are broke 110% of the time... well, that is true! So, make the most of your summer! Unless you are planning on getting a job during school or getting some kind of allowance from your parents during the school year, find a job this summer! Summer jobs aren't the greatest but if

you save up during the summer, I can't tell you how happy you will be that you did when school is in session. You don't realize how much money you go through until you are broke but I somehow managed to spend \$50 on bubble tea alone in my first week of college, so having spending money handy really helps.



Be open to try new things. College is the time in your life when you have the opportunity to totally recreate yourself as a person if you want.



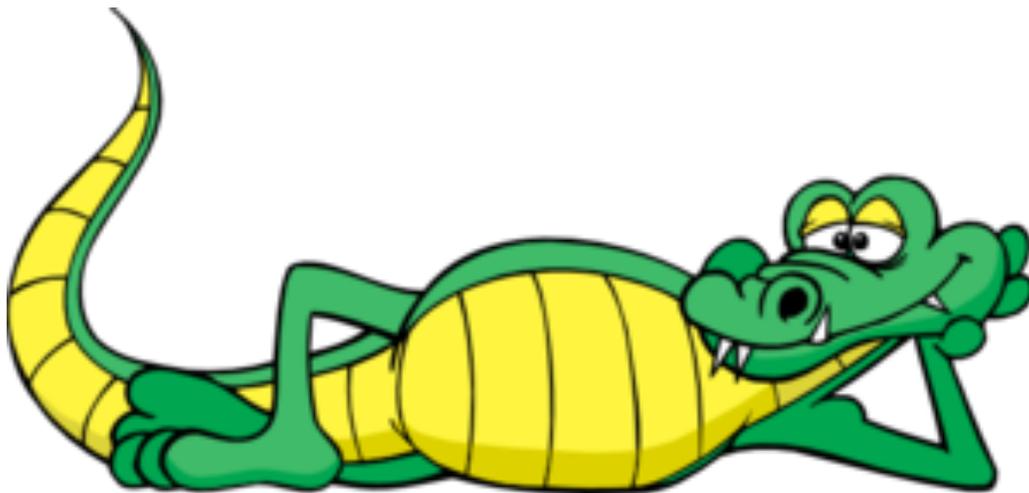
No matter where you go, you can be whoever you want to be when you get to college. No one will know who you were as a kid or what your reputation was in high school so go out there and try new things! Joining clubs is probably one of the best ways to meet people, so find something that sounds interesting to you and go at least to the informational meeting at the beginning of the semester. If you hate it, you can always drop out! During

my first year, I learned how to barista, and that was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I would have never known that I enjoyed baristaing so much had I not tried it, so if it sounds interesting to you, check it out! You never know what can happen!

Make the most of your last year of high school, appreciate your life as you know it because it will never be the same. One thing I regret about high school is not appreciating what I had enough: I don't think I appreciated my home school enough, I don't think I appreciated what my high school had to offer enough, and I don't think I showed my friends how much I appreciated them enough. Go and support your school sports teams, tell your friends how great they are, and take advantage of all the senior events your school has to offer because you will remember those special moments. Embrace the last year you have at home, hang out with your friends and go through the nerves of getting ready for

college together. Everyone is feeling relatively the same things in preparing for moving out, so what better way to go through it than going through it together with your friends?

This is probably the most predictable point, but make sure to have a lot of fun. After all the stress of applying to college and then waiting to hear back from colleges and then having to decide which school to go to, now is the time to relax and get hyped for the next four years of your life! Go out and buy tons of college apparel and chill out... AP testing is over and final exams are almost done, so enjoy the time you have before any more stress comes into your life. The summer before I went to college was the first summer I had in 6 years that I didn't have any summer homework due the first day of school, so embrace that! Most first year classes don't assign homework over the summer (you should probably check on that but you likely won't have anything due the first day) so go to the beach, shop for a new college closet, and do your best to not start gaining the "freshman fifteen" during the summer. Find some time to workout so you can look and feel your best when school comes around, but make your last summer a memorable one... make memories you will keep for a long time!



Congratulations again on making it to the end, what an accomplishment! There will be many bigger accomplishments in your life to come, but this is the first major stepping stone, so be proud of yourself for making it this far! Have a great summer, spend time with those you love, and have a great first year of college!



Ava  
Wood

# How RuPaul's Drag Race Got Me Into College

RuPaul's Drag Race is a reality television show in which drag queens—men dressed as women—compete to become America's Next Drag Superstar. RuPaul, arguably one of the most famous and well-established drag queens in *herstory*, serves as both the Tim Gunn and Heidi Klum of the show, helping the queens out in the workroom and giving them critiques on the runway. An avid fan of the show, I didn't realize that the show was teaching me valuable lessons until I began to work on my college applications.

One of Rupaul's most famous quotes is, "We're all born naked and the rest is drag." To some extent, this quote applies to everyone, not just drag queens. The clothes that you choose to wear on a daily basis are a reflection of how you want the rest of the world to view you. We all put on acts - whether they be conscious or subconscious - in order to change our identities. Similarly, in a college application, you are able to paint yourself however you like in order to present yourself to the admissions office. Yet, drag isn't just about presentation; it's also about taking risks, showing personality, and breaking stereotypes. Here are a few tips on how you can use the four principles from Rupaul's Drag Race, Charisma, Uniqueness, Nerve, and Talent, to improve your college application.

## Charisma

Imagine being an admissions officer. You would be forced to read through endless application essays about people's aspirations, identities, and tragedies—it would basically be like sitting through an episode of *Untucked*. In all seriousness, though, being an admissions officer might be kind of boring. If you can take a common



A picture of the author, Ava Wood, with Jade Sotomayor, an original cast member of RuPaul's Drag Race Season 1. Jade currently does shows at the Hamburger Mary's in Chicago.

story and put a spin on it using comedy, you've helped your application immensely by making it memorable. If you are looking for a way to spice up your common app essay, try adding some comedy.



**Bianca Del Rio's quick wit made her an instant fan favorite in Season 6.**



**Some of the other queens made fun of Sharon Needles' style, but her uniqueness helped her win many challenges, including the Rupocalypse challenge, pictured above.**

### **Uniqueness**

The applicant pools for some of the schools that you will be applying to will have students that have taken the same classes, gotten the same grades, and participated in the same extracurriculars as you. How will you make yourself stand out? Think about the things that make you truly unique. Maybe your aspirations were influenced by a specific childhood memory. Maybe there is a special part of your identity that makes you feel like an outsider at school. Or maybe there is a hobby that you enjoy that not even your friends know about. Whatever it is, make sure that you don't just write what you think the admissions officers want to hear. Try to craft something that is authentic and represents your unique personality. On the other hand, the subject matter of your essay does not have to be too special if you can find a unique way to present it. Try experimenting with other formats - maybe a duller topic will be much more exciting as a poem or short story. The way that you tell a story can sometimes be just as important as the story itself.

### **Nerve**

It is common to feel uncomfortable bragging about yourself, but the more you brag about yourself in your college application, the better. Believe in yourself and make sure that you don't sell yourself short. Highlight all of your accomplishments; the college admissions boards won't know anything that you don't tell them. Challenge yourself. Colleges like to see that you have the nerve to do what it takes to get into their school. This means taking the hardest classes that are available to you. Don't

be afraid to take a hard class just because you think that you might get a B. Rigor looks better than a high GPA and easy classes.



**Many of Violet's fellow queens mistook her unwavering confidence as arrogance, but her belief in herself helped her win the competition.**



**At first, Rolaskatox underestimated Jinkx, but her Snatch Game performance showed that she had real talent, and that she posed a threat.**

## **Talent**

Essays are great for demonstrating writing talent, but if you want to go into a STEM field, you will have to prove yourself with numbers. At the end of the day, a test score isn't going to make or break your application. However, you should still definitely try your best. Many people recommend taking both the ACT and SAT to see which one you do better on, although I only took the SAT. From personal experience, I recommend taking the SAT subject tests, which are only an hour long, but allow you to show your expertise in a variety of subjects not covered on the SAT, like math II, chemistry, biology, physics, and more. Some schools, like Brown University, Harvard, and MIT require the subject tests, so make sure to check if the schools that you are interested in require them. If not, most schools will still consider your scores if you choose to send them in.

## *Things I Learned at KAMSC I Actually Used in College*



**Xing-xing  
Nordmoe ('16)**

1. How much I can actually procrastinate: it is a fact of life that everyone procrastinates, but KAMSC helped me figure out how much I could procrastinate before actually needing to buckle down and start projects. I had several major research projects that I needed to write during my first year at the University of Michigan and after being in KAMSC, I knew how to space out the work and when I could slack off, but also when I really needed to focus.
2. How to be a good presenter: It was surprising to me but lots of people coming out of high school do not know what characteristics make up a good presentation. I used tons of skills I attained in KAMSC, even going back to our autobiographical presentations ninth grade in Mr. Cardwell's class. Things like speaking loudly and slowly or making sure there's sufficient contrast on your slides seem trivial to me (thanks to KAMSC), but a lot of people don't think about that.
3. How to ask for help: the biggest trap first year students in college fall into, especially at a big university like the one I am attending, is not asking for help when they need it. In big lectures of 300+ people, it can sometimes be intimidating to go up to the professor to ask for help. Fortunately, after being in KAMSC, I never felt afraid to ask professors for help when I needed it; KAMSC made me always feel comfortable asking for help, usually because other people usually have the same questions I do.
4. How to research: In my experience, some of the people I encountered had done research for major companies already, but the majority of the first year students had never done a formal research paper before. As a first year student in college, having a good idea of how to even start a research paper and how to format one sets you apart. Not needing to worry about how to write a research paper was really



helpful because it meant that I could focus purely on the information I was researching.

5. How to survive on little sleep and still function (sort of): KAMSC definitely was a struggle, especially trying to cram for exams or get a project done the night before it was due, but at least I figured out early what it would take to get myself through nights like that. Not everyone can pull an all nighter, and though this is not good behavior nor should never be a habit, it was a useful skill to bring with me to college.
6. How to manage my time: because I was a first year student (in college), signing up for classes was nothing short of a nightmare. I didn't get anything near the schedule I wanted initially, and I ended up with lots of small pockets of time that most people wouldn't think could be used. Fortunately, in KAMSC I learned to make use of the smaller chunks of time I had because those are way more common than bigger blocks of time. I was able to use even the small 15 minute blocks to fit in a bit of studying here and there so that I was always using my time efficiently.
7. Not to sweat the small stuff: as cliché as it sounds, you realize in KAMSC that even if you fail a couple quizzes, things usually turn out okay. In college, that happens more than in high school... a lot of my friends who weren't used to getting anything less than A's on their assignments freaked out the first time they got lower-than-expected grades, but at the end of the day, everyone gets a degree, so there isn't much you really need to be concerned about. (You'll soon learn the saying "Cs get degrees!") ((Cs do get degrees, but, of course, always try your best.))
8. There are lots of smart people in this world, so use that to your advantage: I remember the first year of KAMSC everyone was hyper-competitive and the fact that there were smarter people



than you was a huge realization. In college, it is like that except to a greater degree. Lots of first year students come in and are extremely competitive and then get disappointed by scoring under the mean in their first exam or not doing as well as they would have liked on their first paper, but fortunately, KAMSC taught me to appreciate those who are smarter than I am... make sure you're in their lab group or placed on the same research team as they are!

9. To make use of office hours: KAMSC teachers do a great job of making themselves available outside school hours, and the same is true in college. In college, I think it is twice as important to go in and get to know the professors personally and ask for help when needed. Lots of students don't go in for office hours because it is inconvenient, but the benefits definitely outweigh the cost of finding the time to go in. You will need to have a good relationship with at least some of your professors so they can write you recommendation letters for future jobs.
10. How to balance a social life with being academically focused: There are many more distractions in college, parties as well as academic clubs to join (just to name a few), but KAMSC helped me to gauge how many things I could be a part of while still being successful in school. I figured out in high school how much time I needed to set aside for myself to study and how many things I could handle being a part of, as well as how to manage hanging out with friends to stay sane. In college, it is crucial to make for yourself a support system of at least a couple tight friends to get you through the late nights and hard times, and KAMSC helped me to figure out how to balance spending time with my friends and when I needed to focus more on my studies.





Ava  
Wood

## Why Aren't There More Black People at KAMSC?

At first, I just thought that Ms. Joyce was a control freak.

It was my sophomore year, and I was planning on carpooling with some of my friends to go see Neil DeGrasse Tyson speak at Grand Valley State University. However, upon arrival at the KAMSC parking lot, Ms. Joyce revealed that she had already created carpool groups for the trip. I wasn't in the mood to argue, so I climbed into the car that I had been assigned to. Once we were on the highway, Ms. Joyce made an attempt to break the silence.

"So, have you figured out what you all have in common yet?" she asked.

We looked amongst each other, but the awkward silence persisted. Finally, she gave it away.

"You're all black," she explained.

My first thought was, "Ms. Joyce is even more of a control freak than I thought!". My second thought was, "Wow, all of the Black people from KAMSC can fit into one car."

It turned out that Ms. Joyce had put us all in one car to tell us about a summer program that she wanted us to apply for that targeted Black students. Afterwards, I didn't remember to apply for the summer program, but my realization of the lack of diversity at KAMSC stuck with me.

It's an odd experience to attend Loy Norrix High School, where there are large Black and Hispanic populations, and then to come to KAMSC, where representation from these groups is extremely

low. Yes, KAMSC draws students from different places than Loy Norrix does; the Portage schools have much smaller Black and Hispanic populations compared to their Kalamazoo counterparts. Yet, even with this taken into account, the amount of Black and Hispanic representation at KAMSC is still abnormally low. For instance, out of the fifteen students from Kalamazoo Public Schools in KAMSC's senior class, only two students are partially Black, and none of them are Hispanic.

KAMSC's lack of Black and Hispanic representation within its student body is not unique. In fact, it is part of a much larger social problem in STEM and the education system itself. The racial disparities that are so clear at KAMSC are apparent in the medical field as a whole. According to the latest data from the US Census Bureau, 17.4 percent of the American population is Hispanic and 13.2 percent is Black. Meanwhile, of students entering medical school between the 2013-14 academic year and the 2015-16 academic year, only 9.8 percent have been Hispanic, and 7.5 percent have been Black, according to the latest data from AAMC, which runs the MCAT, the standardized test that aspiring physicians must take to get into med school.

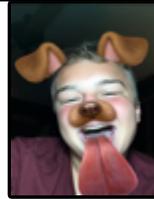
KAMSC's lack of Black and Hispanic representation and the lack of representation for these populations in STEM fields as a whole are more than just statistics; the lack of representation within STEM fields has real consequences. According to an article written for Scientific American by Dr. Kenneth Gibbs Jr., there are three main reasons that Black/Hispanic representation in STEM fields is important. First of all, diversity is a crucial part of modern scientific excellence. In the classroom, students tend to learn about singular geniuses that

shaped scientific thought, such as Isaac Newton or Galileo. However, in real life, most research is done in teams, where the diverse backgrounds of the team members may lead to different problem solving strategies and more robust solutions. Secondly, lack of representation represents a loss of talent. Gibbs says, “There is no evidence that the ability to develop into a scientist differs across our socially constructed lines of identity (i.e., race/ethnicity, gender, etc.).” There are many students that have the potential to make great scientists, but based on their circumstances, their potential is never realized. Finally, Gibbs argues that enhancing representation is key to long-term economic growth and global competitiveness. America cannot cultivate a competitive STEM workforce if it does not utilize all of the potential of its students.

Lack of representation of Black and Hispanic populations at KAMSC is a problem, but it is only a small example of a much larger problem occurring throughout the United States as a whole. Solving this problem will require massive educational reform; year-round school and affordable college will help even the playing field. Although we do not have the power to institute such changes ourselves, we all have a responsibility to understand the problems that plague our school. By paying attention to the problems within our community, we are able to set an initiative for social change.



# Graduation Word Search



Andrew  
Backer

Q E N W G E O D O L C J I H F T B E D N  
 B Z E Q B U R K A X H S T Y I N T U K N  
 Y K C I T Y Q S D R C L C U O R C H T J  
 S R M E M S T L P H A O L I I E U J A A  
 M Y S P O D K R O K Q R T Q R Z G H D N  
 U V C F A A L L A C Y A T E N X E C L M  
 N J J Y N C A H A P U N M Y J R U V T X  
 C X G B H R P Z Y D D O X G Y L U L W H  
 O D G Z S R N S A T N A J X T P L H B W  
 L R I H C K C R E Y I F R L U U I Z G J  
 E C I Z D V G O G N X S L G K U H J A R  
 V P R E O Z K C L O I G R D F I H X T G  
 S G C B N J F M K L W O O E G S P Y E S  
 J M G O R T X J K B E N R H V X A C R D  
 A V O P S N A O L S V G S I Y I S T E X  
 A S C H L R E T X J J C E U T S N L N E  
 H L K R Y O O O I F H R I E Q I T U T X  
 F F O I N Y V M U O X I K T V I S F D L  
 J B L V J W M K O W N I C S U Y R Y B S  
 V R G D U S H L N I R O I N E S V G N E

CAP  
 CEREMONY  
 COLLEGE  
 DEBT  
 GOWN

GRAD PARTY  
 GRADUATION  
 HIGH SCHOOL  
 LAST DAY  
 LOANS

ORIENTATION  
 SCHOLARSHIPS  
 SENIOR  
 SENIORITY  
 UNIVERSITY

# **THE 84 STEPS TEAM**

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