

COMET CHRONICLES

JANUARY 2024



Comet Chronicles

What We're All About... YOU!

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Welcome to another exciting edition of the Comet Chronicles! These pages are dedicated to our students. This edition, in particular, showcases our school spirit! Between pep rallies and SPIRIT WEEK, the students' dedication, energy, and love for our school shines through in all their efforts.

Please take the time to look at all the new artists, designers, athletes, authors, and other students that this edition was able to showcase.

We welcome hearing from all the students about what you would like to include in the Comet Chronicles. Get in touch with any Chronicles student staff member listed below or by e-mailing the paper's advisors: grogg@fallsburgcsd.net or kmeyer@fallsburgcsd.net. If you attend a school event and take pictures, why not send them to us to review for publication? Want us to cover an upcoming dance, fundraiser, or other event? Just let us know! Thank you for supporting the Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School Paper, the Comet Chronicles!

Comet Chronicles Team

Geovanna Pineda, Isaac Hernandez Martinez, Erli Garcia, Robert Perrera, Alisha Tremper, Abigail Toledo, Catherine Pena, Cecelia Norris-Yanes, Vivian Ordonez Cabrera, Rachel Montenegro Sandoval, Nadiushka Rosa Gonzalez, Nick Storms

Co-advisors: Goranka Rogg, Kristen Meyer

Special thanks to Matt McReil and all the students and staff that contributed to this edition!



Front Cover Artist: Emily Sanchez
Back Cover Artist: Isabelle Batista

2022-2023 SGA Representatives



SGA Officers

President: Catherine Pena
Vice President: Ariana Gonzales
Secretary: Adira Greer-Padilla
Treasurer: Nancy Martinez
Chief Justice: Alexandra Ruiz
(Advisers: Elisa Baum & Danielle Hartman)



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Treasurer: Emily Perna

Reps: Genesis Rivera, Nadiushka Rosa Gonzalez, Jaeden Espinoza, Adam Mednick, Mia Irlbacher, Rugiatu Sesay, Alexandra Ruiz, Semaj-zae Potter, Jordan Batista, Charlotte Stiengart, Angelina Levner, Meredith Anderman, Tianna Jones, & Savannah Doty

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Secretary: Jaecob Espinoza
Treasurer: Angelina Alvarado

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Vice President - Emina Cenovic
Secretary - Alison Granados-Fuentes
Treasurer - Jordyn Cerone
Reps: Robert Perrera, Xavier Young
(Advisors: Randi Cecchini & Jennifer Varner)

8th Grade - Class of 2028

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Vice President: Stephon Harris
Secretary: Amhara Gillmer
Treasurer: Gianna Colombo-Gonzales

(Advisors: Maria Range)

7th Grade - Class of 2029

President: Xander McCarthy
Vice President: Aileen Rodriguez
Secretary: Ariella Irby
Treasurer: Katherine Juarez Cadena

Reps: Samuel Vega

(Advisors: Elisa Baum & Ashely Taggart)



Name: _____

Date: _____

WINTER

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

WINTER

SLEET

SLUSH

SHOVEL

SNOWMAN

FLAKES

FREEZING

NIPPY

HOCKEY

BOOTS

FROSTY

GLOVES

COCOA

COLD

FROSTBITTEN

MUG

IGLOO

FLANNEL

HAT

HOT

SNOW

EARMUFFS

AVALANCHE

WHITE

JANUARY

SCARF

HEART

BOBSLED

MELT

LAYERS

COZY

BLUSTERY

WARM

The Comet Chronicles is proud to welcome back Ms. Lames!

Geovanna Pineda

My first question is, what inspired you to become a teacher? And how long have you been teaching for?

Ms. Lames

So when I came to this country, when I was in my native country, I didn't have any idea of what I really wanted to do. I did know that I liked drawing. And I thought at one point that I wanted to be a fashion designer. And that, as I think it was in my junior year of high school, and I arrived in ninth grade here, so my junior year of high school I had already had for two years, the same history teacher, and it was in a, ENL class, so not bilingual, like I'm teaching now. But it was a classroom where everybody that was coming from a different country arrived. And because it was in the city, it was Queens, New York. So there were a lot of different languages being spoken. So she was able to teach in English because she was teaching students that English was their new language. And so she helped me a lot. And I also saw how she had the power to be impactful. And being a good influence and just reaching, you know, a larger audience, especially like somebody like me that just came to this country. The way she taught the way she was, and how charming she was, I just felt very connected to her. She led me to love, specifically US history, and American history, so that I went on to college, and majored in American History and education. Because I remember that I wanted to, you know, do the same thing, and specifically teach English as a new language, but with history, because that was my main interest.



Geovanna Pineda

Since you said that you are not native to this country, I wanted to know, if you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Ms. Lames

So actually, traveling is a passion of mine. And I again, when I came here I was becoming older, that's when my eyes opened up more. And that's part of the reason why I like history, because I felt like even just, you know, when we talk about American history. You go to the different events, it involves so many other countries, and this country has such an influence over other countries. So then it got me interested in other countries. So that's basically why I feel like I work, not just because I love it, but also because I do want to work to be able to travel everywhere. So I if I have to pick just one place. I haven't been to India, so I love to go to India, and I love Indian food. And I actually have like, I love to plan itineraries in my head. So that's my goal to go to India.

Geovanna Pineda

So if you could share a memorable experience, or teaching that has impacted you?

Ms. Lames

By my fifth year teaching, I was in the city, and I was teaching in the Bronx. And my principal nominated me for an award. That was like, it says, just a city award. It was called The Big Apple Awards. Basically, it goes through an interview. So the City Education Department goes into your school interviews, your students, interviews me, and watches you teach, and then they go through the process of selection. And so, in 2014, I won that award. And that was like a big highlight.

Geovanna Pineda

So where were you before you came to Fallsburg?

Ms. Lames

So before, right before I was in Francis Lewis High School in Queens, New York, before that, I was in the Bronx, in a middle school. And then before that, I was in a IV charter school in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Geovanna Pineda

What's one skill you always wanted to learn, but never had the chance to?

Ms. Lames

Learn multiple, like more than just Spanish and English, learn more languages

Geovanna Pineda

As an educator, what do you find most rewarding in teaching?

Ms. Lames

So, why I love teaching is because every day is different. So I find that very rewarding, that every day you come in, and you don't know. But usually, I know what I'm going to teach but I feel like it's much more than presenting, speaking is much more about the interactions with each student. And I don't know if whether it is like, you know, giving a student advice that hopefully helps, or whether it is like somebody's having a bad day, and you're making a joke that makes them smile, like something that, never knowing what to expect is very rewarding for me, because I cannot see myself ever working in an office.

Geovanna Pineda

What advice would you give to students who want to pursue a career in education?

Ms. Lames

So I would definitely get started early and to try to be as you know, focused and determined, as soon as you can, as soon as you decide that that's going to be your path. Just basically do and follow the steps that you took to get a certification and enter the profession as soon as you can. So actually I started teaching as soon as I graduated, just with my bachelor's. And as I was working, I was able to find other requirements like the masters that you have to do, but I think that's the first thing that I could have ever done, just start early, because then you start gaining more experience and learning more and starting your life early. And this is like a very good, rewarding career that is very stable.

Geovanna Pineda

What was your favorite memory from your own time as being a student?

Ms.Lames

I don't have a specific memory that I can point to. But I do think that the only thing that's coming up right now is when I was able to, for the first time, read an entire book in English. I don't remember what year it was or what book it was. I just remember the feeling. I think I have an idea which book it was, I just remember the feeling of , "oh, wow, like, I understood this!" So it was kind of the first time that I felt that I learned.

Geovanna Pineda

And if you could be any character in a book or TV show, what would it be?

Ms. Lames

In history, Theodore Roosevelt. That's my favorite person.

Geovanna Pineda

And for our final question, what advice would you give to students to help them succeed academically?

Ms. Lames

The one advice that I will give, is, I think the most important, well a big problem, at least for the population I teach, which is the newcomers to this country. I want to say delay gratification, because that's too much, but the idea of like, you're sacrificing these years now to study, finish school, get a high school diploma, to be able to, like reap the benefits later. So, I feel, the idea of working and getting paid right now is a big thing and a lot of students lives and if they could just see past that and like, be able to invest future right now, in their academics and finishing school, if I can help them see that the benefits are far greater if you finish high school and after that, I mean, it all depends what you want to do beyond high school, but I feel like you know, just that high school diploma is so helpful to have and necessary for any other career paths you can take.



Geovanna Pineda (left) & Ms. Lames (right)

Fallsburg is proud to welcome Mr. McRell our new Public Relations Specialist to the Fallsburg Family

Robbie: How long have you been working at Fallsburg Highschool?

McRell: Since March of 2023, so less than a year.

Robbie: What do you like to do in your free time?

McRell: I'm a big sports fan and big on New York Giants. I like to watch as many sports games as I can. Every now and then I like to read a good book and trying to get into Stephen King's "It." I'm also trying to get into some autobiographies. Otherwise, I just like to have fun and hang out with my friends.

Robbie: What drew you to Fallsburg?

McRell: So I'm native to this area, I grew up in Livingston Manor, actually. I got laid off from my last job and I was looking for something different, and this was something that I was particularly interested in. I ended up moving back to the area to take up the opportunity.

Robbie: Do you have any advice for the student body here?

McRell: Of course! Follow your interests, you'd be surprised at where life takes you. If you really wait it out, work hard, and take opportunities, you'd be surprised that there will be a job out there that'll be interesting to you and you'll never work a day in your life, as the saying goes.

Robbie: What is your purpose here at Fallsburg?

McRell: There's a bunch of different titles, but mainly it's public information officer, or PR specialist. Essentially, I take the photos of any school events, take care of the social media pages, I also write articles on the website too and manage a bunch of other things on there.

Robbie: When did you decide to pursue this career?

McRell: When I was looking for a job, I've always had an interest in Media communication, this was something that I was interested in since I was an English major in college.



Robbie: Did you have to go to college to get this job?

McReil: Well, yes, it is a requirement to get a job in public relations. I didn't know the exact thing I wanted to do initially.

Robbie: How has your time at Fallsburg been so far?

McReil: Great! It's a different environment than what I'm used to from my high school. It's a lot more inclusive, more attentive to cultural differences, law, more accepting of others, and just a very friendly environment that I'm loving here.

Robbie: To any people who like to get a job at like a school, would you give any advice for them to get a job at a school or teaching or something?

McReil: well I mean well I mean I'm not a teacher obviously but you know just get your good grades in school go to college and you know keep at it don't give up.

Robbie: you said you had a job before Fallsburg was it doing the same thing and if so how do you like Fallsburg compared to it?

McReil: so I actually was working for a political campaign before this and then I worked for something that was called a political action committee so it's not like working for a candidate but more like working for an organization that has something for a certain issue and I did that for about a year then they laid me off when the elections were over. Obviously I was looking for a job but actually I prefer this a lot better then politics is very stressful and I get to have more creative freedom and a little bit more independence and I can take initiative whenever I can just follow whatever story I think is necessary so I definitely like this one better.

Robbie: All right so how long have you had this job?

Mort: I was hired here in Fallsburg in July.

Robbie: What do you like to do in your free time?

Mort: I like anything involving the outdoors so fishing, hiking camping ,skiing, kayaking all that stuff.

Robbie: What drew you to Fallsburg?

Mort: So, I worked as an ENL teacher for 16 years in the city and on Long Island as well as upstate. I love working with people who are learning English, people with the drive to better themselves and become bilingual. After teaching for a while I decided I wanted to take the next step and move into administration. I didn't want to work in a school without any ENL population because that's my wheelhouse, that's my passion. Fallsburg embraces a wide variety of culture and has a sizeable Spanish Speaking population. As a former educator, it was a perfect fit for me and I really loved

when I came here to interview for the position. You can tell that the Board of Education, along with other administrators, are very supportive and I knew in my interview that it was a perfect fit for me and all others involved.

Robbie: Do you have any advice to give to the student body here?

Mort: Just keep working hard, there's a lot of obstacles in life that will happen here and there but if you keep working hard then good things will happen.

Robbie: What do you do in your profession?

Mort: You mean as the assistant principal?

Robbie: Yeah.

Mort: So, I do a lot of different things, a big part of what I do is working with teachers as far as observing teachers giving them feedback on their teaching practice helping them be the best they can be and giving them support and also on the student end mostly with students I'm working on discipline as far as as handling behaviors and applying consequences and then I'm involved in a bunch of other meetings and day-to-day concerns in the school you know, school leadership meeting, building safety concerns, little bit of everything here it helps me do my job better it helps me feel like whatever challenges might happen we can handle them.

The Fallsburg family is proud to welcome Mr. Mort our newest assistant principle



Robbie: When did you decide to become an administrator?

Mort: It was actually during Covid I had a little bit of extra time and a lot of the colleges were opening up online programs. Becoming an administrator was always something that was in the back of my mind but if I were to have to go to night school and go to school the traditional way. I have a new baby at home. It would have been too much for me but for the fact that Covid kind of opened doors for online instruction, all the sudden it made sense to me and so I jumped in and I started the program in 2020.

Robbie: How has your time at Fallsburg been so far?

Mort: I really enjoy it. The students are great, the staff is great, my admin team I love, I like I said before they are very supportive, from the central office, Dr Katz, Dr. Sharkey is super supportive of Mrs. Bruestle and Mr Nilsen as well helping me get started because this is my first admin job.

Robbie: How much college did you have to do for this job?

Mort: Quite a bit, so I did my undergrad which I majored in Latin American history then I did my masters to get my teaching degree down at city college and the certificate to get being from an administrator here in New York state, it's not another Masters, it's a post-secondary certificate but the amount of classes and workload is very similar to a master's degree like I said before it was on an online course but it was it took me two, two and a half years.

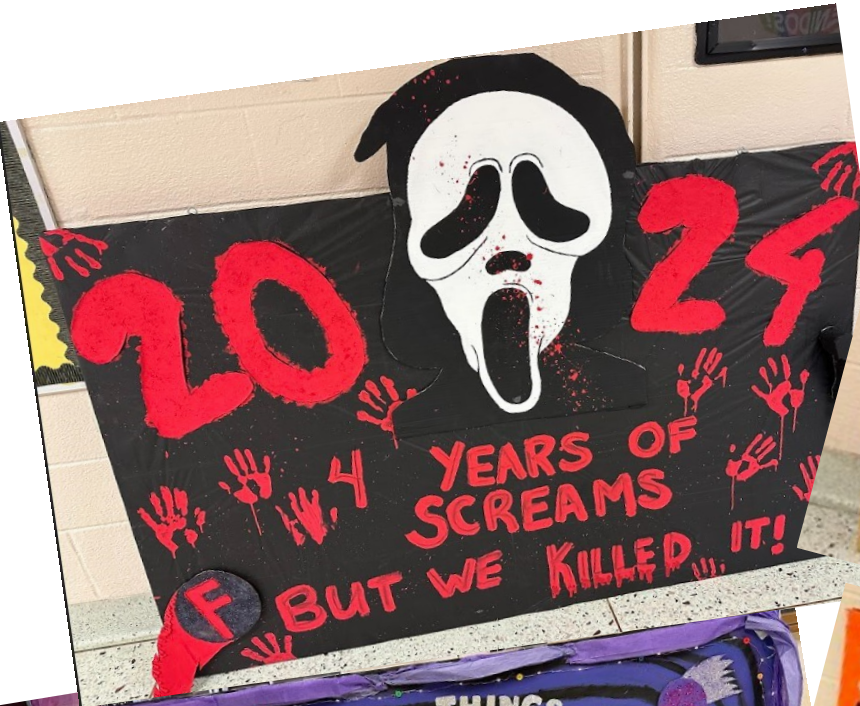
Robbie: Do you have any advice for people who would like to take a job in teaching or a similar field?

Mort: Yes, it's important to find a good fit it is big advice I would have for anyone. Jobs in their nature are hard, so you'll have good days and bad days but if you have a good team around you that you're comfortable with your fellow peers and colleagues that makes the days go by really well. I think that's a really important thing for everyone to consider.

Robbie: How do you feel about Fallsburg as a school compared to some of your past jobs?

Mort: So it's not without its issues, people still get into fights, people still struggle academically. There's things going on that are going to be happening anywhere but as I was saying before the team here is great and having such a support from the main office and from outside of there it helps me do my job better it helps me feel like whatever challenges might happen we can handle them.

SPIRIT WEEK!





Battle of the Classes





Battle of the Classes





Battle of the Classes





SPORTS

During the 2023-2024 Fall Sports Season, our school had very hardworking, successful teams that showed dedication, determination, and hard work. I speak for all of us when I say they did an outstanding job when it came to representing our school.

The Fallsburg Football team had a great 5-3 season record, beating rival schools Tri-Valley, Ellenville, and Eldred. They went to compete at The Section 9 Playoffs and made it all the way to semi-finals. Due to questionable calls and debated results, they suffered a devastating 22-20 loss against Sullivan West High School.

The Fallsburg Boys Soccer team also had a great season. Having a 7-7-1 record beating rival teams Liberty, Tri-Valley, Ellenville, Chester, Webutuck, and O'Neill. They went on to be Division Champions when they defeated O'Neill away. They qualified for Section 9 Playoffs.

The Fallsburg Girls Volleyball Team had a great season this year with a 7-11 record and qualifying for Section 9 Playoffs.

During this Winter Season many teams also did well including the Girls Indoor Track Team, winning Division for a 2nd time in a row, beating Division rivals O'Neill, Onteora, Sullivan West and others.

Congratulations to our dedicated coaching staff and athletes!!



Pictured: JV/Varsity Cheerleading, Varsity Football, JV/Varsity Volleyball, Modified/Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Girls Soccer.





Go Modified Athletes!!

Modified Girls Volleyball, Girls Soccer, and Football.

SULLIVAN 180

In late September, Sullivan 180 hosted the Empowering a Healthier Generation celebration (EHG) at Bethel Woods to create a culture of health and wellness and youth empowerment. Many Sullivan County public schools were invited to participate in the program to promote the wellness goals of the school districts. Denise Frangi-pane, the CEO of Sullivan 180, opened up the ceremony by representing the history of those before us: The Indigenous Tribe of the Lenape people, and the significance of the turtle representing Mother Earth, health, and happiness. The EHG competition was sponsored by Sullivan 180, and offered several Turtle Awards and two grants of \$75,000 and \$50,000 to the schools that participated in the competition. Fallsburg was represented by Mrs. Amanda Stevens and Mrs. Strassburg, they spoke about our district's wellness initiatives and activities from gardening, to walking classrooms, trails, and yoga, to name a few. Fallsburg High School won two Turtle Awards, the Zufall Family Foundation of \$500 and the Cornell

Cooperative Extension of \$500. The BCES was the second-place winner of the EHG competition, winning a grant of \$50,000. The outcomes of our district's wellness efforts are noticeable and have paid off with higher test scores, improvement in active learning skills, a boost in motivation, and reduced stress, creating stronger bonds with students,

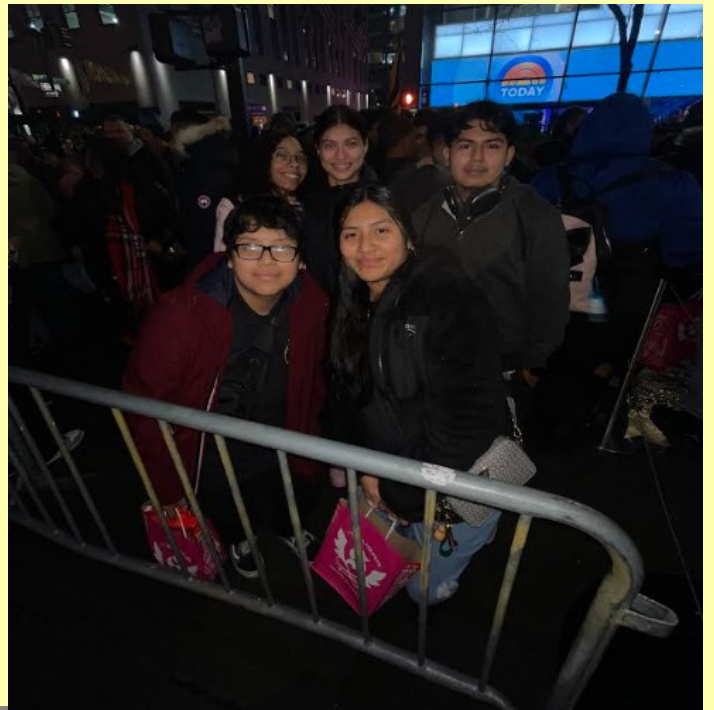


SULLIVAN 180



MBK Brooklyn Field Trip

In early December, the MBK club took a trip down to Brooklyn to visit many sites, including the Brooklyn Library sponsoring the Jay-Z exhibit, learning about the artist and his impact on the music industry and the free resources the public library has to offer. They took a tour of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, connecting people with the world of agriculture and plants as well as teaching students about environmental conservation. To end the night, students visited Manhattan to view the Rockefeller Christmas tree and have dinner at Dallas BBQ in Times Square.





MBK Brooklyn Field Trip



Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers

On November 8th, 2023 TSTT took a trip to SUNY New Paltz for a college tour around the campus. Students met with the college's advisors and teachers speaking to them about the many opportunities and programs that SUNY New Paltz has to offer. Throughout the day, students visited the campus buildings, dorms, halls and got to have a feel for college life





Artist: Kyleigh Avery



Artist: Karrine Bennett



Artist: Karrine Bennett



Artist: Bintou Darboe



Artist: Karrine Bennett

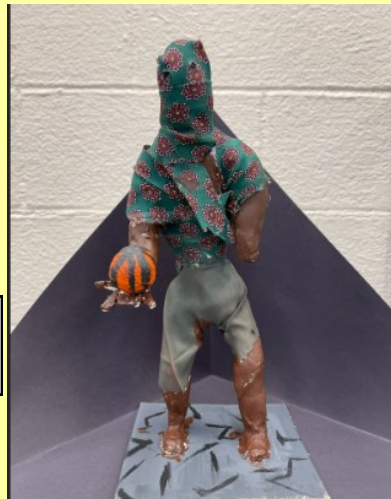


Artist: Karrine Bennett

Amazing Artists



Artist: Zoey Ketcham



Artist: Grant King



Artist: Jozyr McNeil

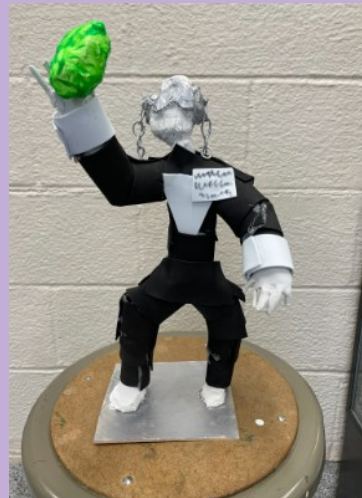


Artist: Jonnis Vernezos

Amazing Artists



Artist: Anngleena Bruno



Artist: Brandon Fierro



Artist: Blanca Flores



Artist: Arrow Odell Schreier

Amazing Artists



Artist: Ashleigh Fuentes



Artist: Kyleigh Avery



Artist: Abigail Toledo



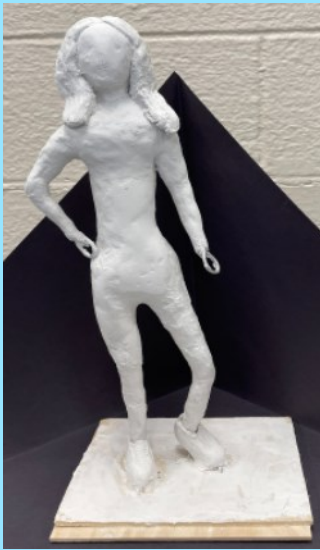
Artist: Xavier Curry



Artist: Reggie Lopez



Artist: Kairo Junior



Artist: Lillian Betancourt



Artist: Aryani Pacheco



Artist: Jenilee Donald

Amazing Artists



Artist: Alexander Figueroa

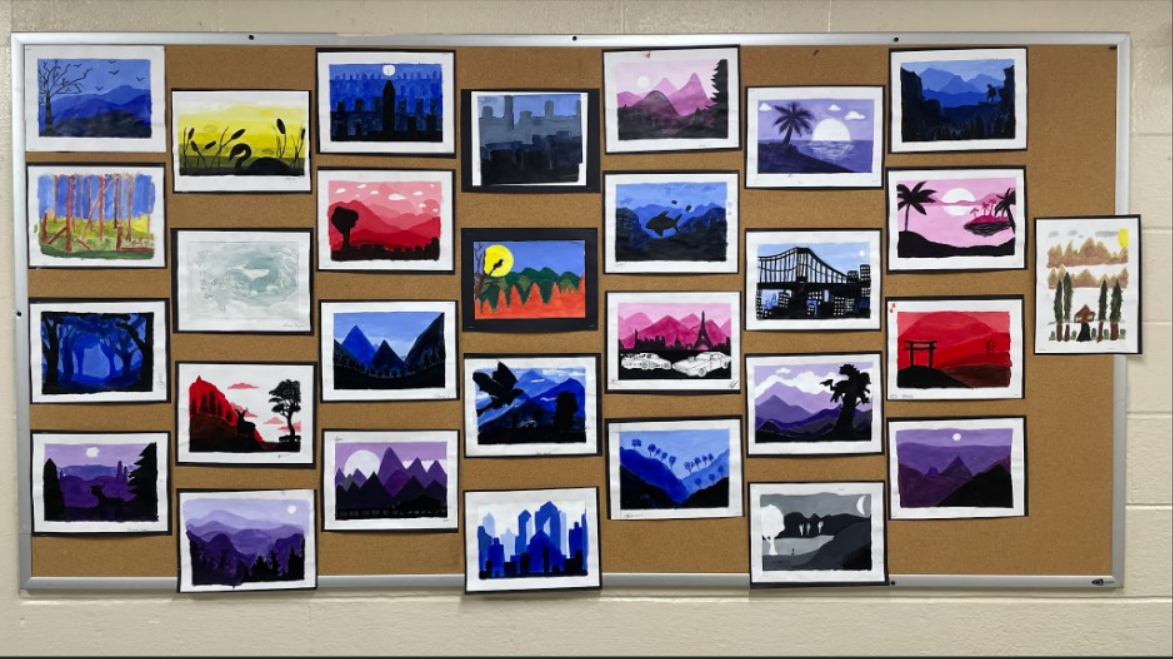


Artist: Anastacia Ladd



Artist: Lidia Hernandez

Amazing Artists



Art 1 completed Monochromatic Atmospheric Perspective Landscapes



Students in Art 1 set up objects in interesting ways to create still life pieces using charcoal to practice their observational and drawing skills.

Fallsburgh Jr/Sr High School Drama Club Presents



HIGH SCHOOL
EDITION

BASED ON A SCREENPLAY BY
JONATHAN LYNN
WRITTEN BY
SANDY RUSTIN

DIRECTED BY
AMANNI SITZ



MARCH 22ND, 23RD, & 24TH 2024

FRIDAY & SATURDAY @ 7PM SUNDAY MATINEE @ 2PM

TICKETS ARE \$7.00 EACH (AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR)

Got a Clue?

Who's in the play this year!

ANDREW BENSIMON - WADSWORTH

JOSLYN (ARROW) ODELL SCHREIER - YVETTE

CHLOE DOOLITTLE - YVETTE (UNDERSTUDY), BACKUP COP

MIYA ENNIST - MRS. PEACOCK

JALYSA POINTDEXTER - SCARLETT

YELIANA (ROBIN) MALDONADO NAVERRETE - MRS. WHITE

CECELIA NORRIS-YANES - COLONEL MUSTARD

LUKE ESPOSITO - PROFESSOR PLUM

BELLA MUSCLA - MR. GREEN

MARIA NARDI - SINGING TELEGRAM GIRL

SANAYA AQUIL - COOK

HAYDEN-MARIE HERRERA - MR.BODDY/AUX SCARLETT

ELISHEVA (ELI) SUDRANSKI - BACKUP COP

JACK BENSIMON - CHIEF OF POLICE

SARAH BLUME - MOTORIST

EASTON PUGH - AUX MUSTARD/

NAHOMY CASTRO MORENO - UNEXPECTED COP

EVANGELINE CAPICCHIONI - BACKUP COP

STAGE CREW :

ELISHEVA (ELI) SUDRANSKI

ALYSSA FLORENCE

DANIELLE (SILVEN) OLSEN

