

The Column

SENIOR EDITOR

VOLUME I ISSUE V whsad.org WHSAD'S EXCLUSIVE NEWSPAPER Editor-in-Chief: ANTONIO PEREZ

My Life at WHSAD Written by: Melina Jorge



It's taken me some time to write this because I never knew where to start. Speaking about this school and the best four years of my life is so hard to talk about because I don't want to leave anything out. The Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design has changed me for the better, and I am forever grateful. I have accomplished and learned so much that I don't believe would be possible if I went to another school.

Teen Time With Melina came to life because of me and the support of WHSAD, I've gained the knowledge of architecture and design because of the incredible teachers, I am more aware of the world around me due to the dedication of the educators in my school. WHSAD has made me the independent, outgoing, strong, full of life, and courageous girl I always dreamt of being. If someone were to tell me as a freshman that I would be on honor roll every marking period all the way up to senior year I would never believe that, if I were told as a freshman that I would do the announcements in the morning for the school every day and later branch off into my own little announcement segment I would just stop listening, and if someone were to tell me that I would have 100% attendance every day from freshman year to senior year I would've believed it to be impossible. The joy that the school gives me every day makes me want to come every day and do things before, during, and after school. I recycle twice a week in the school as a step to help save the world and I help with lesson plans from a student perspective to give the students a better understanding of what should be done.

In the fall, I will be attending Hunter College with an undeclared major for the time being. Because of WHSAD I've gained so many interests that deciding on a major right now just wouldn't feel right to me. WHSAD has guided me to decide on what I want my future to be and has helped me understand that I don't need to have one profession for the rest of my life and that studying one thing doesn't necessarily mean I'm stuck for life. There's a whole world ahead of me and I know that there is more to life than just high school, but this specific high school will be the reason for all of my success in the future. I could never repay the Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design for all it's done for me and there are so many people I would love to thank. Leaving this school is going to be so hard for me, but I know that WHSAD is always going to be a part of me and I couldn't be more grateful. With that being said, WHSAD, it's been so real and I thank each and every one of you for making these four years something I will never forget.

Thoughts from the Valedictorian Written by: Tyler Ng



You've made it. Our four years of high school is finally coming to an end. Rejoice, for we have made it thus far. We are about to reap the benefits of an endeavor that took years to fulfill. Be proud of yourself, as enduring the hard work of high school and embracing yourself for college is no easy feat. As we count down our final days of high school, a burning question may be lingering in the back of your mind: now what comes next? With these next few upcoming years, we approach an important and pivotal point in our lives. We meet the crossroads where we are presented with important decisions and choices that we have to make. I know this may seem scary and stressful. I am pretty nervous myself and not too sure what to expect.

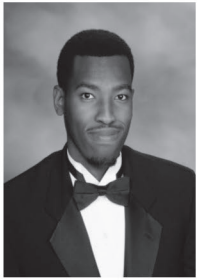
What I do know, however, is that these next few years are an opportunity for us to discover and develop ourselves. It is a time for us to step outside of our comfort zones to allow us to come across meaningful moments and encounters that may be impactful throughout the rest of our lives. We'll go through ups and downs only to develop ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually. What will happen is anybody's guess, but it is good to keep an open mind for what may lie ahead? The real journey has only just begun, as we start a new chapter of our lives. I wish you all luck and hope for the best for all of us.

Seniors of the Year (Class of 2019)

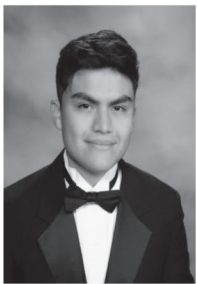
Written by: **Jessica Juarez & Antonio Perez**



Dariel Paulino: "What I'll miss the most of being a student at WHSAD are the bonds formed, and the relationships built. The trust between each other to solve the challenges we faced and still have a good time doing it. The trust didn't just stay between students but also teachers which makes the experience even greater than it already was."



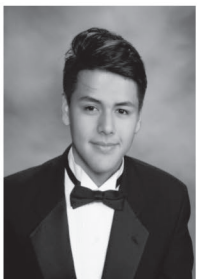
Jared Jackson: "As a freshman coming into this school, I didn't really expect much: not for myself or from the school. But that all changed once I got more comfortable in the school and did things like joining the track team and going to school events. This school has changed me as a person, and the thing I miss the most is the people. The people I've met, from the students to the staff, have benefited me more than some will now. And I'm grateful for that."



Yael Tirado: "The accomplishments I'm most proud of is getting through high school with decent grades. My biggest strengths are critical thinking, getting things done at the moment and making sure they're done as best as possible. My biggest challenge has been concentrating, a big problem is procrastination and breaking that bad habit has been my biggest challenge. I motivate people and myself by showing the positive side of things through any situation. When I have pressure, I do breathing exercises to calm myself down and try to get through the situation."



Dulce Reyes: "Throughout high school I have achieved many accomplishments but there's really only one that I'm most proud of and unfortunately it didn't happen while in high school. My proudest accomplishment was learning a different language within a year. In all honesty, I don't remember it being that bad but I'm still proud of myself for being able to learn it so quickly. Onto the next question! When it comes to dealing with pressure, I'm terrible at it. I tend to feel really overwhelmed, and most times I feel pretty helpless. However, when I think about my goals and how everything will pay off at the end, I feel much better."



Justin Pazmino: "I'm proud of graduating high school and going to college. My biggest strengths are math and science. My biggest challenge is keeping my grades up. I motivate people by getting them confident and pushing them towards their goals. Anything that keeps me interested will motivate me to continue it. I deal with pressure by going blank for a second and take things slow. I manage my time by either having it written down on my phone, what time I do what or I remember what to do and figure the time in my head. I make sure I have finished the assignment or will be done by deadline."



Nayarit Gomez: "Managing time as a senior is something very important. Personally, I find it in my best interest to put school first, no matter what other opportunity comes forward. I meet deadlines by starting all my work as soon as possible and attending office hours if needed, to finish. I motivate people

by always encouraging them to do what's in their best interest and supporting them to reach for something they're passionate about. After graduation, I'm intended to work through the summer, enjoy my time before starting college, and prepare myself for the new chapter. In the fall, I will be attending the St. Francis College School of Nursing."



Reginald Huggins: "Getting ready for the next steps of my life is the most exhilarating thing I have experienced so far. For the next five years, I'm going to Howard University to study architecture and I'm ready for the next chapter of my life. Leaving WHSAD will be bittersweet as I will leave the rest of my friends that have become a family and the teachers that have become my support system for the past 4 years. While I am leaving WHSAD will never be forgotten and will always be a part of my life."



Chamonte Greenfield: "Why would I miss WHSAD? WHSAD has been one of the best things that's ever happened to me. The staff and faculty have been like a second family to me. I never thought I would be staying at school late hours to help and work. Throughout my four years, I've truly bonded with my friends. The community of everyone here has shaped me to who I am today. I am proud to say that I came to WHSAD."



Luis Gomez: "The accomplishments I am most proud of would be starting my clothing brand *@neverendingclothes* on Instagram which was something I been wanting to start before because I have created multiple designs but had to work on my college portfolio which distracted me. The distraction was worth it because I was able to get accepted to my top school, which was the Fashion Institute of Technology, which is another accomplishment for me. Also, my biggest strengths would be being time managed, being creative, and persistent when it comes to completing anything. My biggest challenge was being able to talk about my art pieces because most of the time I feel like it's already self-explanatory but at the same time it isn't as big as one my challenges which was being in a SkillsUSA Competition because I've never really competed to a win first place for one of my designs which requires me talk about the details added in it."



Lucero Martinez: "Applying for colleges, deciding what to major in deciding which college to attend, applying for financial aid, and preparing for the next steps of my career success hasn't been easy. I had to make many decisions and put a lot of effort to make sure I got everything done on time in order to attend college for the Fall. With the help of my guidance counselor and the college coaches/advisors, I was able to get all of this done. So for the next two years, I will be attending Guttman CC in Manhattan to study business administration then transfer to a four-year college to get my bachelor's degree. I know that I will do well in college because I received a lot of help in WHSAD and gave me many opportunities to prepare me for college."



Arthur Cambridge: "Throughout the last 4 years of high school I have changed a lot as a person. High school was challenging at many points, but in the end it was very rewarding. The experiences I've had here and the things I've learned I will remember for the rest my life."

Q & A with E & A

Written by: **Errin Mickels, Ariana Lowery, & Se'Lahh White**



Q: How do I balance school and work?

A: Life can be hard, but our tips will help. Everyone wants to work and make money while also getting a great education. One way to do this by planning first and acting second. Plan your schedule. Even though it takes time like planning your time during school and when going to tutoring

hours. It can also be difficult as well because you have to make sure you're keeping up with and are not slacking with both. If you see yourself slacking, you either keep pushing or cut out the job. You have all your life to work don't stress it. But if you are acquiring personals where you need both then **DON'T STOP YOUR HUSTLE!** The main thing to do is to make sure that you're ready for hard work. Here's a huge tip that will benefit you when trying this. Make sure to practice time management and invest in a planner both will benefit for the near future.



Q: Should I join a sport?

A: Joining a high school sports team can be a great or not so great decision depending on your character because joining a sport comes with many benefits and drawbacks. There are many pros to joining a sport: consistent exercise, meeting new

people, having a new circle of friends, being a part of a team, competing against other schools, and so on. If you are someone who can manage their grades and classes and is willing to put the work into being a team player, then joining a sport may be for you. On the other hand, a sport is a huge commitment to make. It requires you to go to practice every week, eat healthier, and work as hard as you can all while maintaining your coursework. If you are someone who is not willing to invest a large amount of their time to a sport, handle the pressure of winning, and delegate your time so you are able to play and keep on track with your studies, then joining a sport may not be the right decision for you. It all depends on how hard you're willing to go to make this work. If you are still unsure about the choice to join a sport, talk to the coach of your desired sport or someone who is on the team. This will allow you to get an insight into whether you are truly cut out for the job.

Interview with Mr. Codio

Written by: **Antonio Perez**

Q: Everyone who knows you knows that you care very much about your students. Why is it that you believe so heavily in pushing your students to succeed?



A: The main reason why I push the students, I strive to push them to succeed, is because a lot of times adulthood is a process and I feel that because I am an adult, and I've been through certain processes that they have not yet achieved or accomplished. And with the certain experience that I have, I feel that it is my duty/job, to give them all, and push them to all the different opportunities. Because a lot of times it will save them time in college to figure

out what they want to do in the future, and what they don't want to do in the future. So, one of my main things is to open up their eyes and open up their minds to say, you know what I've experienced this major, I've experienced that, even understanding basic business etiquette. I push them as if they were in a firm, or in college, so that they know how it is to have that responsibility, and that you're not treated like a child anymore, but like a young adult. You're responsible, you're responsible for your time management, you're responsible for waking up on time, you're responsible for messing up and there are no excuses. Therefore, one of the key things I tell my students is that you can not make excuses for yourself in terms of coming into class. Take it. Because at the end of the day if you aren't responsible for yourself, you're going to keep making excuses and excuses. Which at the end of the day is just going to be trouble for yourself in the future. I push these kids because I've experienced it and I see how the real world is, and they're still growing and I want to make sure that they are ready before they leave my class. Or that they heard it, when I tell them, punctuality, when I tell them, wake up on time, when I tell them, finish your work before because the due date is not the day you do the work. So you have time to look over, time to review, and time to clean up your mistakes.

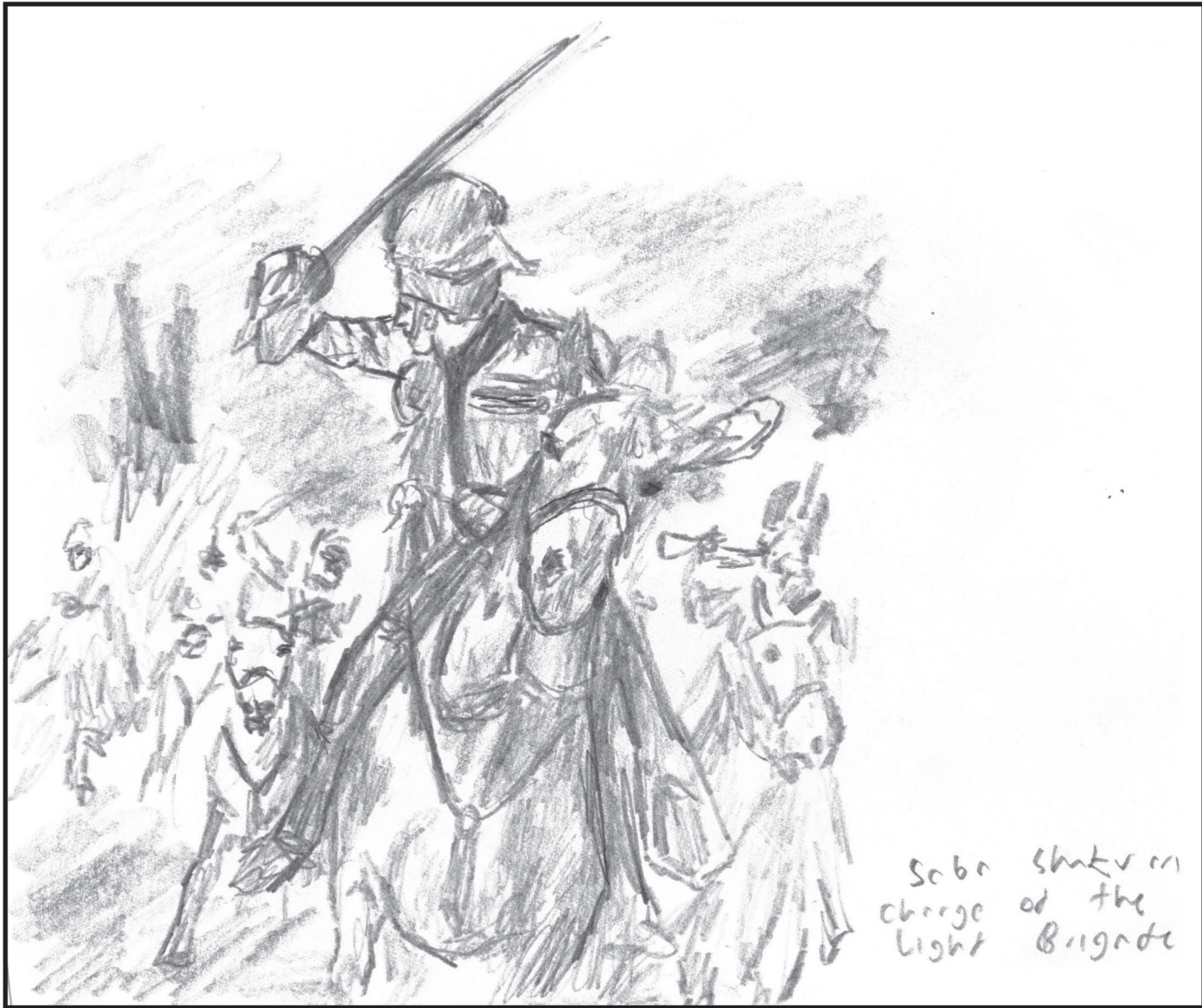
Q: How is it that you believe you can have a positive impact on your students through your lessons/teachings?

A: I talk to my students before my lesson because I want to make sure that they understand what they are doing. As well as, why they are learning it. I try to put real world practice within my lesson like, what you are learning and where is it going to impact you in life/what is it related to in the real world. Because my class is an architecture class, I feel that everybody needs to know the basic concepts of a building structure, even with interior designs and layout space. I try to gear it towards them and their realm and I have students helping me out to make sure that they underrated and that they can relate to certain issues. Because a lot of times, when their parents are purchasing a home or purchasing furniture, there are basic skill sets that they need to know. For example, if they're going out to purchase a bed they need to know that the bed needs to fit nice inside the room. Or that a couch needs to fit into the door, so that when they purchase it, they understand those basic concepts. I strive to gear my lessons towards real world practice.

Q: What is one major takeaway that you would like your students to take home with them at the end of the day?

A: No excuses. One thing that one of my mentors said, which I don't believe 100% is that excuses are tools of the incompetent which build monuments of nothing, those who specialize in them seldom accomplish nothing. I believe what he was trying to tell me in terms of if we keep making excuses for ourselves, it's going to be hard for us to accomplish something or certain things in life. You may accomplish certain things but certain things wouldn't be accomplished if we told ourselves let me not make excuses for not getting the job done, let me get the job done, let me not make excuses for not waking up on time, let me wake up on time, let me not make excuses and tell the professor that I don't have time for this exam, or I don't have time for this report, let me get the report done. The fewer excuses I could make for myself, the more I could see myself achieving my goals on time, and reliable One of the things that we need to understand is that we need to be reliable for ourselves and then for others, if we cannot work on time management, waking up, pushing ourselves to our potential, then we cannot and will not reach a certain goal or point in life.

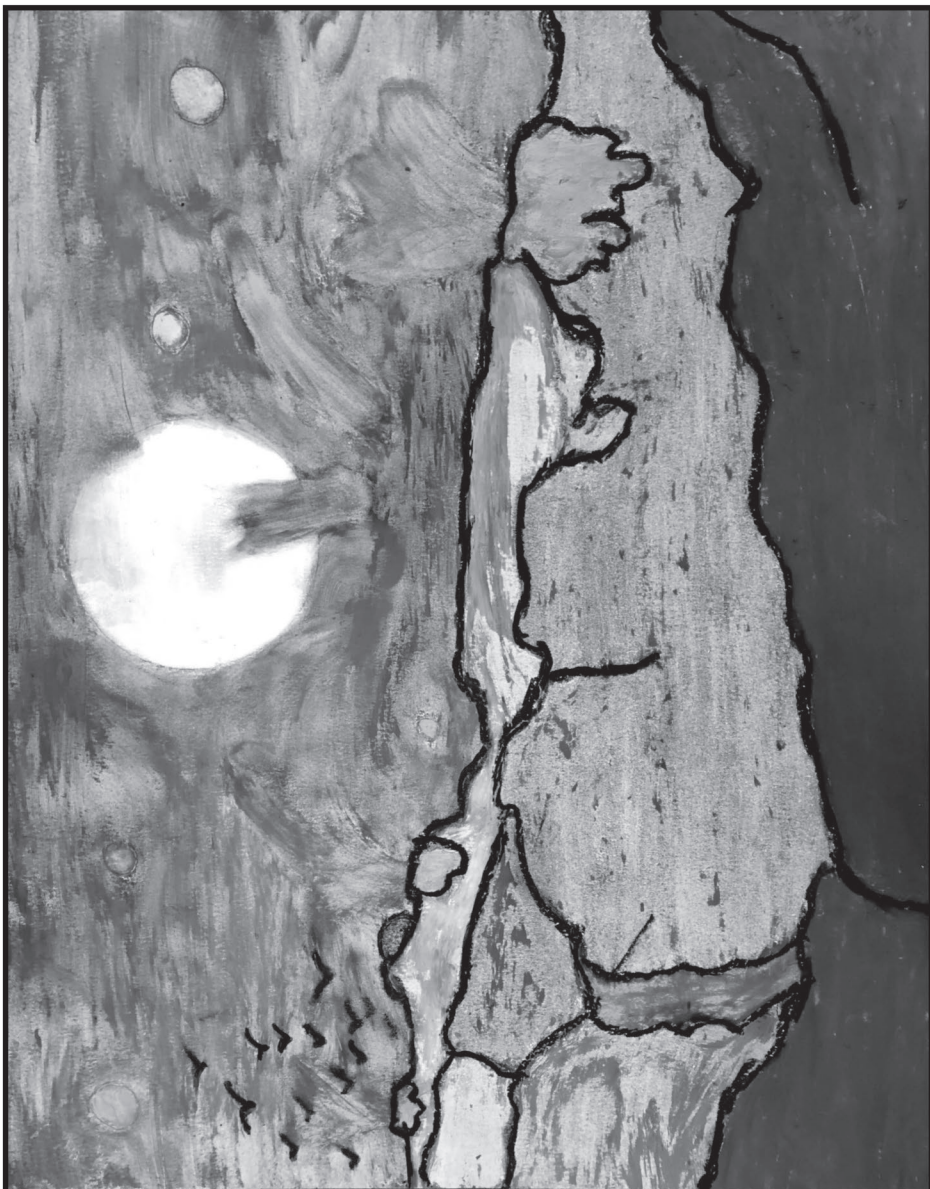
STUDENT SUBMISSIONS



“Charge of the Light Brigade” Saba Shukvani

“The Grand Canyon and the Glow of Distant Galaxies”

Antonio Perez



“M O B” Anthony Ramzey

