

# SLOHS EXPRESSIONS

NOVEMBER 2024 | FILM FEATURE | SAN LUIS OBISPO HIGH SCHOOL



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The horror genre is timeless and here to stay. Graphic courtesy of junior Vyolet Burrus.

## Horror Movies Are a Staple of the Film Industry

FEATURE EDITOR VYOLET BURRUS

Students at San Luis Obispo High School enjoy a variety of films ranging across many genres, but many are especially drawn to the thrill of horror movies, craving the adrenaline rush and intensity that the films induce.

"I like to watch them because it's very different from our reality, it's something that doesn't happen [at the same degree] in the real world," said junior Ruby Gonzalez Torres.

The horror genre is beloved by many, with timeless and iconic films like "Psycho" (1960), "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre" (1974), and "The Shining" (1980), being able to terrify the audience despite limited resources and technology. It's original films like these that have left an impact on the horror industry.

"You have to watch originals like 'Nightmare on Elm Street,' and [anything] Stephen King, the originals of King are amazing and they're the best films," said freshman Sophia Kuang.

Classic horror films, even the lesser-known ones, are loved because of their simplicity. Unlike newer movies, older horror movies are authentic and pure thriller movies that, while lacking more sophisticated techniques, are still able to evoke a unique thrill.

"I really like the older film 'Arachnophobia' because I think spiders are really disturbing. Just having all those spiders crawling on the house and stuff is really scary. I like [movies] with good monster designs...[movies where] everything just makes your skin crawl when you watch it," said junior Bridger Jensen.

These older films paved the way for newer horror films, redefining the movie industry with never-before-seen concepts.

However, many argue that the horror industry is becoming polluted with poor sequels and remakes, with original and well-produced ideas being hard to come by. Some remakes have certainly been disappointing, but fortunately there have been well-made additions in the past few years,

like the two-part remake of the original "It" film (1990) which features a horrifying clown that preys on the children of Derry, Maine.

Aside from sequels, well-produced original films have also been produced in the past few years, with psychological horror movies like "Us" (2019) and "Get Out" (2017) impacting the industry with their thrilling plotlines. The acting in these newer films is on par with that of older films, with actors creating intense scenes that leave the audience on the edge of their seats while also providing socio-political commentary at times.

"The acting [in 'Get Out'] is some of the best I've seen in horror movies. Unlike many other thrillers, the acting makes the characters feel real, which makes the situations they're experiencing much more intense and investing," said junior Bob Meyers.

Older movies may be loved for their simplistic effects and timelessness, but newer horror movies are valued because they utilize gory imagery and advanced technology to create a terrifying plotline for viewers.

"The practical effects [in classic movies] are honestly a lot more disturbing than modern movies with CGI, but I do think modern movies with CGI have a lot more of an opportunity to make things more disturbing," said Jensen.

Ultimately, new movies have great potential to affect the horror genre in a positive manner with modern technology and skilled actors, but the classic movies cannot be overlooked. Without these staples of films, horror films would simply not be as popular as they are today.

"When you get into a horror movie and experience it, there's something really exciting about the adrenaline rush you get from scary moments... it's interesting to experience these phenomenons of horror," said Jensen.

Old or new, there's always something to be enjoyed when watching horror. Spooky season may be over, Tigers, but horror films can be loved year-round.

Sources: [variety.com](http://variety.com), [nyfa.edu](http://nyfa.edu)

# How Soon is Too Soon to Deck the Halls?

REPORTER MALLORY CUSHING

The 2024 winter season officially starts on December 21, but that doesn't mean that San Luis Obispo High School students can't celebrate the holiday season any earlier! Are U.S. citizens forgetting Thanksgiving and skipping straight to Christmas?

Most families all around the world have that one family member, the Grinch, who refuses to listen to Christmas music before Thanksgiving. And that same family has another person itching to deck the halls. But what is the perfect time to put up that mistletoe?

"One year, I tried to put up Christmas decorations before Thanksgiving, but my mom got mad at me and said it was too early. I think the perfect time is literally the day after Thanksgiving," said freshman Luca Bellisario.

Of those who decorate for Christmas, 34 percent of Americans put up decorations before Thanksgiving, while 18 percent plan to wait for the first days of December.

"My family starts to put up Christmas decorations at the beginning of December.

A German tradition my family and I have is every year we get an Advent Calendar. We open it up and get chocolate and fun stuff like that every morning, for 24 days," said senior Tim Seefried.

51 percent of Americans agree that the opportune time for Christmas decorating is the first week of December.

"My family starts decorating for Christmas the day after Thanksgiving. In December, we have a family tradition where we always go on a hike to the Christmas tree on Madonna Mountain," said junior Ella Waddell.

Many Americans believe that Christmas loses its charm when retail stores offer Christmas decorations too early in the year. A theory known as "Christmas Creep", the practice of stocking retail shelves with Christmas decorations before November, is used by retailers around the world to increase profit and give the early bird shoppers a head start. Many consumers are not a fan of Christmas Creep or a life-size Santa singing to them while shopping in September.

Ultimately, SLOHS believe that Christmas should be saved for the chiller months; I guess I'll have to take down my inflatable reindeer!

Sources: [todayshomeowner.com](http://todayshomeowner.com), [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)

# What are Tigers Gobbling up this Thanksgiving?

REPORTER GABRIELLE NEER

It is estimated that roughly 50 million pumpkin pies are eaten on Thanksgiving every year. San Luis Obispo High School students are looking forward to delicious foods to see on the table this Thanksgiving.

"I'm looking forward to eating mashed potatoes," said freshman Quinzie Stowe.

Thanksgiving is not complete without potatoes to tie it all together. This dish goes along with any meal and is able to be found at any table. There are countless ways to enjoy this dish and each family prepares it differently.

"The potato dish is a new one. It's like a cheesy potato thing and it's really good," said freshman Ella Buchanan.

Mashed potatoes are a fan favorite because they are often enjoyed on Thanksgiving and can be a regular meal.

"Mashed Potatoes are the best thing to happen to Thanksgiving because you can add anything to them or put them on top of foods,"

said sophomore Isabella Nunez.

During Thanksgiving everyone's plate looks different and everyone loads their plate with their favorite foods, some even avoid stuffing like the plague.

"I do not like stuffing that much. Although it's a huge part of Thanksgiving it's kind of weird," said Stowe.

Cranberry sauce is hit-or-miss with its jelly-like consistency and bitter taste; it's hard to pair it with other foods on the table. Many people avoid mixing it with other foods while other people avoid the sauce altogether.

"For cranberry sauce, it depends on what you put it on. I think it's pretty good, but if you put it on something like mashed potatoes it is disgusting," said Stowe.

Many people hate the fruity flavor of cranberry sauce and don't like mixing it with other savory dishes.

"[Cranberry sauce] is too sweet to go with other things for dinner. It should be saved for dessert," said Buchanan.

Thanksgiving is not complete without a good, juicy turkey to tie it together, but many prefer to skip the turkey altogether.

"Turkey is alright. I love it in sandwiches but I think it's a little overrated," said Stowe.

The turkey is the centerpiece of Thanksgiving and it could make or break the entire meal. Its dry nature can turn people away from the idea of turkey.

"My hot take on popular Thanksgiving food is that turkey sucks as it is dry and bland," said Nunez.

Sharing food with the people you love is the best way to bond with family and loved ones. Making memories and eating delicious food is worth all the hassle that comes with laboring away in the kitchen.

Tigers, this Thanksgiving, make sure to enjoy time with loved ones and count blessings, but most importantly, save room for dessert.

Source: [grubamericana.com](http://grubamericana.com)

# Meet New SLOHS Dance Teacher Mandi Mettler

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR BOB MYERS

San Luis Obispo High School has two brand new dance elective classes available. The class is taught by a new teacher and former cheerleader for the L.A. Rams, Mandi Mettler, who *Expressions* decided to interview in order to get to know her a bit better.

**Expressions:** What classes do you teach at SLOHS?

**SLOHS Dance Teacher Mandi Mettler:** I currently teach Dance I and Dance II, and I'll be joining Mrs. Eben for the school musical in Trimester II—I'm so pumped about that! Dance I is for beginners with little to no experience. Dance II is more advanced—students had to audition or prove prior experience to join. It goes beyond just learning steps; it's about preparing them for possible choreography careers, pushing them to step outside their comfort zones, and giving them the chance to collaborate.

**Expressions:** Why should people take dance?

**Mettler:** In my classes, I love incorporating yoga, meditation, and mindfulness because I believe dancers aren't just athletes—they're artists. I take a holistic approach that nurtures the body, mind, and soul. Dance is an amazing way to earn P.E. or elective credits while moving your body and fueling your spirit. I always tell my students that dance class is a time to "get out of your head and into your heart." My goal is to empower my students so they feel both challenged and supported.

**Expressions:** When did you get involved in dance yourself?

**Mettler:** I've been dancing since I was nine at a studio in Arroyo Grande, and because my family couldn't afford lessons, I cleaned the studio in exchange for classes. Eventually, I became the first Hip-Hop teacher and a founding member of Dellos Performing Arts Center's company. Dance was, and still is, my therapy—a safe space to express myself freely. In high school, I was on the cheer team. After high school, I moved to L.A. and trained with top choreographers at studios like Millennium, Debbie Reynolds, and Edge. I was lucky enough to work with Kenny Ortega, who choreographed all of the "High School Musical" movies and much more. I've danced for artists like Rihanna, Carrie Underwood, and Craig David. I've also shared the stage with Lenny Kravitz, Vanilla Ice, and more. My time on professional dance teams was incredible. I absolutely loved being part of professional dance teams they were the perfect blend of my passion for sports, charity work, and, of course, dancing. It wasn't just about performing; it was about the incredible sisterhood we built. We traveled the world together, from China to London, and even had the honor of representing our teams at the NFL Draft in Chicago. Being a part of these teams gave us the chance to support various charities and participate in commu-

nity outreach as ambassadors, which was so rewarding. It was physically and mentally challenging, but the payoff was huge. I grew so much as a dancer and as a person, pushing past my limits and gaining confidence in ways I never imagined.

**Expressions:** When and why did you start teaching dance?

**Mettler:** Unfortunately, I tore my hamstring completely off the bone while auditioning for another season with the Rams. It was devastating and completely changed my life. But it brought me back home and led me to teaching, which I'm so thankful for. Honestly, being here at SLOHS is way better than performing at the Super Bowl. Teaching high school dance wasn't part of my original plan. When I got the opportunity to teach dance at SLOHS, I knew I had to jump on it. Teaching and dancing are my two biggest passions, so I feel incredibly lucky to do both full-time. I can't wait to bring all my passion, knowledge, and dance industry experience to the next generation of dancers. My goal is to empower students to not just pursue professional dance careers but to embrace dance throughout their lives. Dance is a universal language that provides countless physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits.

Mettler hopes to create a program at SLOHS that builds a supportive community while helping students grow.



From jumbotron to SLOHS. Photo courtesy of Mettler.

# Are Cheerleaders the People You See on Screen?



**The wonderful SLOHS cheerleaders cheered at every home football game this season! Photo courtesy of freshman Cadence Flickinger.**

REPORTER CADENCE FLICKINGER

For decades cheerleaders have been portrayed in the media as mean girls, but do those at San Luis Obispo High School fit the stereotype?

In all the famous high school movies and T.V. shows like “Bring it On” and “Sabrina the Teenage Witch,” cheerleaders are made out as the villains in the story. They’re shallow, self-obsessed, and love to put others down.

Nowadays, students don’t tend to marginalize others as much as in these older pieces of media. But one prior judgment that still lingers at SLOHS is the cheerleader trope

“Some people probably joined because of the image of cheerleaders, or part of the reason, but there’s no requirement to act like that,” said freshman Jalilah Mitchell.

Since the negative idea of being a cheerleader is so popular it can influence those who want to partake in the sport negatively.

“It was one of the main reasons I didn’t become a cheerleader at first. But personally it’s actually not like that. Being a cheerleader, I’m trying to somewhat break that stereotype,” said senior Maeve Siems.

In the 2021-2022 school year, around 144 thousand high school students participated in cheerleading programs. Over a ten year survey period, data showed a 45 percent increase in participation. This may in part be because of the lesser portrayed stereotypes in the media; thought they were still hiding in student’s minds.

The kindness shown by many of the cheerleaders around campus proves that first impressions aren’t everything. The SLOHS ASB president, someone who dedicates a lot of their time to make the school a better place, senior Linda Aguirre Rojas is also very involved in the cheerleading program.

“I knew going into it people would think certain things about me and about the team in general. There are lots of conceptions about the team even at our school. But the way we showcase our skills at halftimes and rallies is a better representation of the team and how we work,” said Aguirre Rojas.

If cheerleaders are unfairly stereotyped, maybe students should have a look at their preempted opinions about other groups as well.

Source: *statista.com*

## Does School Affect Student Mental Health?

PEOPLE & CULTURE AND HEALTH & SPORTS EDITOR TALIA GARRETT

As San Luis Obispo High School students finish settling into the new school year, there are many mixed feelings and emotions, resulting in academic burnout. The school year can be upsetting for some students due to the long stretch of daily school work and high expectations, so how can the school help?

“The highest burnout category that students reported was academic burnout, and so that goes to show that school can be a lot of pressure on students,” said senior Wellness Club president Lana Goodman.

The school year is prone to causing anxiety due to the unfamiliar and uncomfortable situations students are pushed into daily. This can also lead to great habits and workplace skills. After all, school is setting students up for a bright future.

“I think that the school year one hundred percent affects your mental health because you are pushed to talk to more people and be put in new

positions. I also think people can affect other people’s mental health both positively and negatively” said an anonymous sophomore.

The school year helps bring students out of their comfort zones daily. Things like presentations, tests, and sometimes just the act of asking for help can cause anxiety for students.

Although academics can be a stressor for students, getting involved with the school greatly impacts students’ school year. School is not only a place to learn, but it’s a safe place for plenty of students.

“The opportunities for connection and how different events and activities are aimed at trying to bring students together, whether that’s rallies, or whether that’s club rush. I think those aspects of the school really benefit school students’ well-being,” said SEL counselor Austin Miller.

At some point, 75 percent of students have had severe anxiety, with thirty percent having

extreme anxiety over the last 14 days. But, can this problem be solved with the help of counselors?

“The stress of the school work can affect students’ mental health, but the school also has a lot of resources and people that can help,” said freshman Willa Scott.

Often, students do not realize the support system that they have access to. The school provides many resources, like the Wellness Center.

“We are really lucky that we have so many good resources available for students at the school. For example, this Wellness Center is nice; not too many schools have that. We’re fortunate to have those resources. School does impact mental health, but both for better and for worse,” said Goodman.

The school year can be a particularly rough time for students’ mental health but don’t forget to acknowledge the resources available.

Source: *crossrivertherapy*

## Students Welcome Fantasy Basketball Season

REPORTER NATHAN SENNETT

Plenty of students at San Luis Obispo High School are basketball fans. When students are ready to do something fun and enjoyable with their friends, a good idea is watching fantasy basketball.

“Students are planning some of the players that they are going to cheer on this year for the upcoming season. Using websites to learn more about the players or strategizing ways to get them to become winners this year.

“I’m going to get Bronny James and win,” said Sophomore Aiden Robles Loyd.

Many people have certain players they stick by, such as Bronny James because he is LeBron James’ son, or rooting for someone who can help their team win a championship and lead them to victory.

“I’m going to manage my team well and I want to try to get good trades early on. I’ll also keep up to date on free agencies and injured reserved slots,” said sophomore Jonas Morstead.

Overall, playing fantasy basketball takes a lot of patience and time, having to look at free agency can get your team better. Waiting for the right moment to take your chance and grab that player you have been waiting

for is a big factor of it.

In the leagues that fans are in there is a button that people can click to vote on the trade. The system is called ‘Vetoe’, and it allows you to stop the process or agree on the trade that has been posted to the whole league.

Trading can also take lots of time. Waiting for players to look into the trade and decide if it’s good enough to accept it.

“I don’t know much about fantasy basketball. But I’m guessing it might be a bit harder to play” said sophomore Josiah Gies.

Not every student knows much about fantasy basketball and how the app works, meaning that there’s more to learn about the game. It is less popular, with 32 percent of people playing fantasy basketball and 62.5 million dollars playing fantasy basketball. 68 billion dollars are made from fantasy apps such as football, basketball, and even baseball from leagues.

Basketball has shocked students with the attention it has gained over the years. Now that it’s coming back more people are willing to watch and play fantasy and watch the NBA. Make sure to play Fantasy Basketball and have fun finding information about the game, Tigers.

Sources: *fsga.org statista.com*

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# New Marvel Release “Deadpool and Wolverine” Has Resurrected the MCU from the Grave



Wonderful media promotion led to much success for the new film. Photo collage courtesy of freshman Cadence Flickinger.

REPORTER CADENCE FLICKINGER

Many students at San Luis Obispo High School can agree for the past five years the Marvel Cinematic Universe has taken a turn for the worse. After the Infinity Saga ended, viewers haven't been fond of this new era's plot.

Movies such as “Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness” (2022) and “Ant Man and The Wasp: Quantumania” (2023) received negative press from viewers and critics alike. But for the first time since “Endgame” (2019), the MCU got a giant hit. “Deadpool and Wolverine” (2024) became the highest grossing R-rated movie of all time this summer. It was a risk that definitely paid off.

“Deadpool and Wolverine’ is definitely my favorite Marvel movie that I’ve seen. It’s funny and it’s just really fun to watch. Most Marvel movies are more serious than it,” said freshman

Loujain Chafroud.

The new film followed Deadpool on a journey to save his reality after he discovers it will be erased for existence. He discovers he needs to find a version of Wolverine to save his universe; the two then have to find a way to stop two villains along the way. Inevitably leading them to friendship.

But what made the film so anticipated and successful? It was done in part by the fact fans have been begging to see the two characters together for years.

Being a real life dynamic duo, Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds and Australian actor Hugh Jackman starring in a movie together is sure to draw a crowd.

“These are two actors that have been known for their comedic genius, of course it’s going to revive the MCU,” said freshman Irelynn Zurbach.

While “Deadpool and Wolverine” has developed its own dedicated fanbase, the newer Marvel movies have their fans too.

“I know there’s been a lot of criticism for the multiverse movies, but I’ve actually really enjoyed them. Every show and movie is a little bit different from the last one,” said SLOHS Digital Media Teacher Zach Roper.

Overall the comedy, great plot, and big names is what brought “Deadpool and Wolverine” \$1.14 billion globally at the box office.

It’s set to debut on streaming sometime before the end of the year; no doubt this will bring the buzz back to the film once more.

With Marvel regaining old lovers and bringing in some new ones, there may still be hope for the MCU yet.

So in a way, Deadpool really is Marvel Jesus.

Source: [digitalspy.com](https://digitalspy.com)

## SLOHS Movie Buffs Should Take Film Studies



Film class students study a broad range of films. Photo courtesy of English teacher Scott Nairne.

REPORTER MALLORY CUSHING

A class all about movies is a dream for most San Luis Obispo High School Tigers. Not only do students get to watch movies, but they dig deep into the storytelling, visual techniques, and acting that goes on behind the scenes.

English teacher Sholeh Prochello’s Film Studies class, a class for juniors and seniors, is an English Language Arts class that allows students to dig deeper into films. Then, they take time to analyze scenes and converse them with group members.

“I love that we get to learn about different variations of film and different categories, such as the music in film and what makes certain films intriguing different people. Kids should enroll in Film Studies because they get a chance to have a variety of movies shown to them, and possibly movies that they’ve never seen before,” said senior Samantha Gomez.

Activities in Film Studies range from movie trailer bingo to faux movie adaptations. All activities designed to introduce students to analyzing movies by focusing on storytelling, visual techniques, and character/acting.

“We learn a lot about the history of movies, how they are created, and the thought process behind them. The best movie I’ve watched in Film Studies is probably ‘Psycho,’” said junior Koa Avery.

Film Studies analyzes a wide range of movie genres, from thrillers to popular pics, students study the behind the scene production and writing of films.

“A normal day [in Film Studies] could go anywhere. We do days where we just watch movies and we do days where we analyze all the different parts of film, which is awesome. My favorite movie we’ve watched is Singing in the Rain,” said senior Nolan Evers.

Recently, Film Studies had a unit focused on the use of sound in movies, so after learning about diegetic and non-diegetic sound, they watched a scene from “Mad Max Fury Road” and identified the different types of sounds present.

“Students should sign up for film studies because they’ll get to watch, discuss, and analyze a ton of movies that people deem as ‘must watch’ movies. We just recently watched ‘Psycho’ and ‘Jaws,’” said Film Studies teacher Prochello.

Enrolling in the Film Studies elective, will count for extra English credits added on top of students forty credits required to graduate high school. It will also stand out to college admissions during the college application process.

Whether students want to grow their knowledge of movies, or be enthralled in some movie making magic, Prochello’s Film Studies class is for them!

# Is “Joker: Folie a Deux” a Noteworthy Sequel? “Wicked” Is Coming to Theaters This Month!

REPORTER JOEY BERNARDO

Every year, there are movies that intrigue the San Luis Obispo High School community. One such movie is “Joker: Folie a Deux,” which was one of the most hyped up movie releases this year. It was released on October 4, a date which many fans of the previous movie were looking forward to.

The movie features an all-star cast, such as actors Joaquin Phoenix, Lady Gaga, and Brendan Gleeson, among others.

Considering the cast and the great success of the series’ last installment, “Joker,” expectations were high for this new addition to the series.

“I really enjoyed the first movie, so I was definitely looking forward to seeing the sequel,” said junior Xavier Lara.

The 2019 movie was generally well-received, with many praising the story and the acting, especially Phoenix’s performance, who reprised his role in the sequel.

The original “Joker” centers around the titular character, as his failed acting career causes him to drift slowly into madness and isolation.

The new movie’s story centers around the Joker, waiting for his sentence at the Arkham Hospital. Specifically it focuses on the suffering the Joker faces during his time at the hospital, along with his new

relationship with Harley Quinn.

Unlike the 2019 movie, “Folie a Deux” features many musical elements, with characters breaking into song often.

Although the cast and effects were good, “Folie a Deux” unfortunately did not receive the same amount of fanfare as “Joker”.

“There are zero likeable characters here,” said New Times critic Glen Starkey.

Many critics appreciated the performance of Phoenix and Gaga, but the main issues were the lack of direction and poor script. Critics also questioned the decision of making the movie a musical.

Review sites have given it average to below-average ratings, with the movie having a thirty three percent on Rotten Tomatoes and has a 5.2 star rating out of ten on IMDb.

Many critics noted that the movie seemingly went out of its way to anger fans of the first movie, since “Folie a Deux” seems to abandon many elements of what made the first “Joker” so great.

So is it worth it to see “Joker: Folie a Deux”? For Tigers who are into musicals and DC, then perhaps. If not, this movie is likely worth a skip.

Sources: [rottentomatoes.com](http://rottentomatoes.com), [imdb.com](http://imdb.com), [thebulwark.com](http://thebulwark.com), [newtimes.com](http://newtimes.com)

PEOPLE & CULTURE AND HEALTH & SPORTS EDITOR TALIA GARRETT

As November begins, San Luis Obispo High School students wait for the new “Wicked” movie to be released. Thanksgiving break is just around the corner, and with that comes the film’s debut.

“Wicked”’s big arrival is on November 22, starring actress, singer, and songwriters Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo.

“I like the casting of Elphaba. I don’t know how to feel about Ariana Grande at this point. I think that there’s a lot of better choices out there that would match Cynthia Erivo’s talent and quality,” said performing arts teacher Noelle Eben.

“Wicked” is the fifth longest-running musical currently playing in the West End of Broadway. It has played over five thousand performances in the West End so far.

“I absolutely adore the musical of ‘Wicked,’ it’s a classic. I’m super excited that [‘Wicked’] is becoming a movie because it’ll open it up to a different demographic, and it’ll be more accessible to watch. It will just be another fun take on classic musical,” said sophomore Tessa Roos.

This musical is a classic in the theatre industry. Transforming it into a movie will bring in new audiences.

The release of “Wicked” has students excited to watch it, but the majority of fans are particular about how accurate it is compared to both the book and the musical.

“[Wicked] is one of the most popular shows and has been on Broadway since 2003. It is Broadway’s second-highest-grossing musical of all time, which is a huge deal. I think that most ‘Wicked’ fans are excited about the idea of the movie being a musical. However, it is only good if they do it right, and Broadway fans are very picky about that kind of thing,” said junior Jude Biggers.

Overall, students particularly have mixed feelings about the transition from a musical to a movie. Although, “Wicked” itself is a very successful musical so it is likely to have mostly positive feedback.

“I think [turning ‘Wicked’ into a movie] is a good idea if it’s done well because I think it gives musicals a little more exposure to a larger population and theater. I think anything that encourages people to gain an interest in theater is important, so I approve,” said Eben.

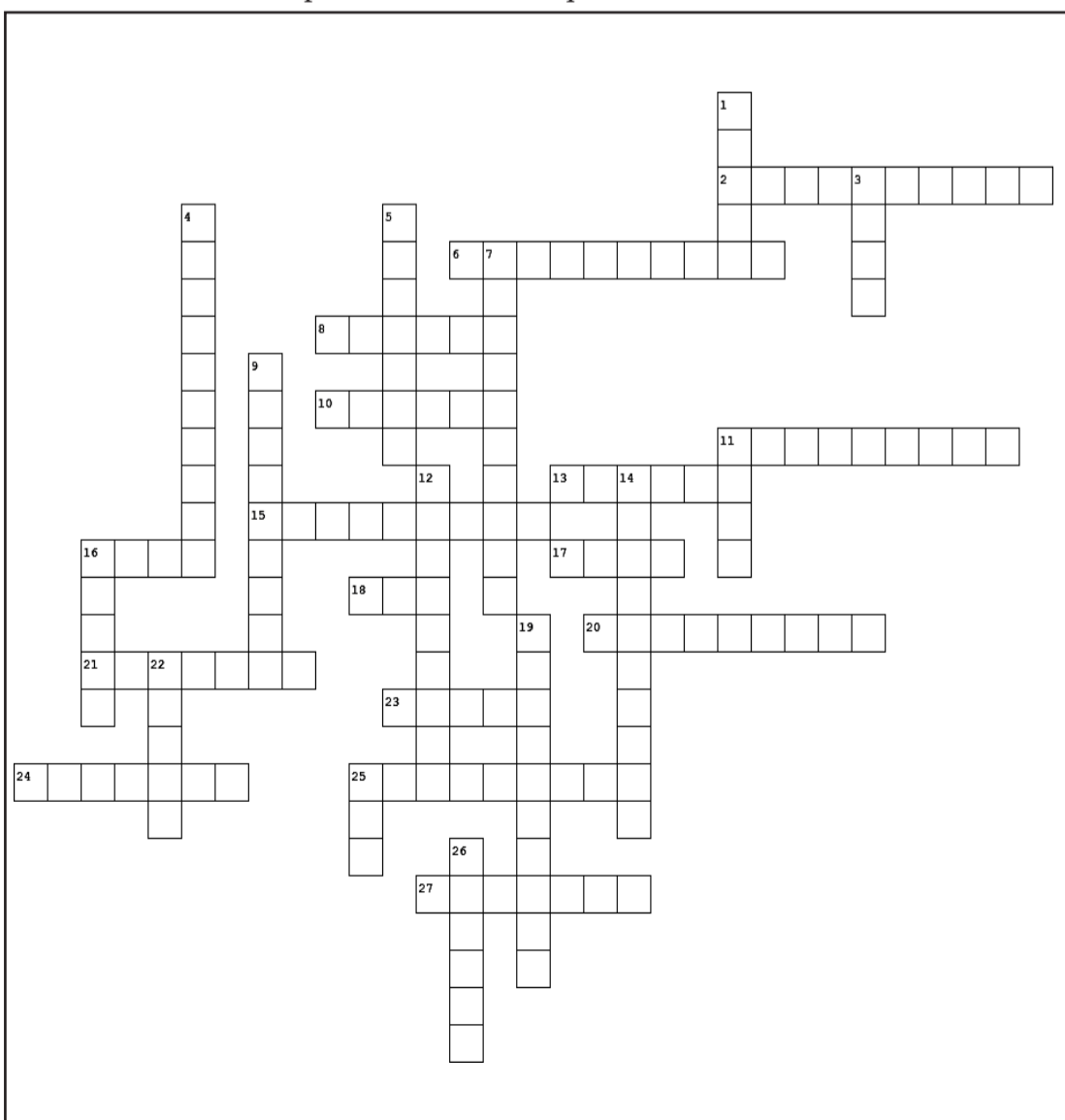
“Wicked” the musical still holds outstanding statistics. Hopefully the movie will live up to fans’ expectations.

Sources: [londontheatredirect.com](http://londontheatredirect.com), [cornellsun.com](http://cornellsun.com)

## Film Through the Ages: A Movie Crossword

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR BOB MEYERS

The crossword is back again from last year, and this time with the theme of Film Through the Ages, to match the feature of this edition. The first three people to complete this crossword fully and turn it in to English teacher Scott Nairne in room 203 during fifth period will win a prize! The crossword is a fair bit trickier than last year’s, but the answers will be posted on the [slohsexpressions.com](http://slohsexpressions.com) website tomorrow.



### Across

- 1970s Robert De Niro movie with the famous line “You talking to me?”
- The series of drawings during movie production that show how a scene will pan out
- Highest grossing movie of all time, made in the 2000s
- Studio responsible for popular animated 2000s movies such as “Ponyo” or “Spirited Away”
- Director Alfred \_\_\_\_\_, nicknamed “Master of Suspense”
- Actor Al \_\_\_\_\_ who played Michael Corleone in 1970s movie “The Godfather”
- \_\_\_\_\_ Western, a genre of low-budget cowboy movies that were primarily filmed in Europe
- 1970s movie about a killer shark off the coast of Long Island
- 1940s movie “Citizen \_\_\_\_\_”, sometimes considered the greatest movie of all time
- What Jenny Curran famously tells the main character to do in the 1990s movie “Forrest Gump”
- The first rule about it is you can’t talk about it in this 1990s movie of the same name.
- 2010s Avengers movie that grossed nearly 2.8 Billion Dollars, more than any other Avengers movie
- “Modern \_\_\_\_\_”, a 1930s movie made by Charlie Chaplin
- A genre of movies where characters routinely break into song and dance
- “\_\_\_\_\_ Willie,” a 1920s short film produced by Walt Disney Studios, their first ever production
- Actor Sean \_\_\_\_\_, who was the first to play James Bond in the 1960s movie “Dr. No”

### Down

- What kills the Wicked Witch of the West in the 1930s movie “The Wizard of Oz”
- Actor Johnny \_\_\_\_\_ who played Jack Sparrow on the 2000s and 2010s movie franchise “Pirates of the Caribbean”
- 1990s movie that famously opens with “As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to be a gangster”
- Famous 1990s romance movie about an ocean liner of the same name
- The \_\_\_\_\_, the titular antagonist in this 1980s movie who says “I’ll be back”
- Movie studio that created 1970s Sci-Fi classic “Star Wars”
- Where E.T. wanted to phone in the 1980s movie “E.T.”
- Name of the demonic clown in both 1980s and 2010s movie “It”
- The kind of editing that makes sure a cup is in the same place in 2 shots of the same scene, for example
- 2010s movie with the iconic scene of the main character dancing down a flight of stairs in clown make-up
- 1940s movie starring Humphrey Bogart with the famous quote “Here’s Looking At You, Kid”
- \_\_\_\_\_ angle, a type of movie shot that creates a feeling of unease by tilting the screen
- Sound Effects, abbreviated
- “Here’s \_\_\_\_\_!”, a famous line in the 1980s Horror movie “The Shining”

Source: [shortlist.com](http://shortlist.com)

# Midwest Princess Chappell Roan is Now Taking the World By Storm With Her New Album

FEATURE EDITOR VYOLET BURRUS

Pop artist Chappell Roan has been rising in popularity since the release of her latest album, "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess" in late 2023. Many San Luis Obispo High School students have come to enjoy the album's catchy pop songs, strongly relating to Roan's music.

"I [listen to Roan] because her music is very emotionally impactful. The lyrics, the writing, the music, it hits," said sophomore Gianna Marchetti.

With this release, her fanbase has grown from three million followers on Spotify to 45.5 million followers in roughly a year.

Roan has been making music since 2014, but only recently have her songs gained popularity. Her journey to fame hasn't been easy though. In 2020, a few years after producing her first album, she was released from Atlantic Records because she wasn't popular nor profitable.

Despite these obstacles, the release of her new album has allowed Roan to find her fanbase and build an impressive following.

"I like her mostly because of her music, but also because she's not afraid to speak her mind and set boundaries as an artist," said junior Emily Lopez.

Roan's perseverance over the course of a decade has led to strong personal awakenings for her as well as the development of her true identity as an artist, allowing her to release her best work yet: "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess."

Compared to her past albums, which are slightly darker and full of angst, her new album is more peppy and energetic while being unabashedly Roan. Her most popular songs include "Pink Pony Club" and "HOT TO GO" which can be seen as energetic party songs, encouraging fans to be confident in who they are while embracing their identity. This theme can be found in many other songs of hers as well.

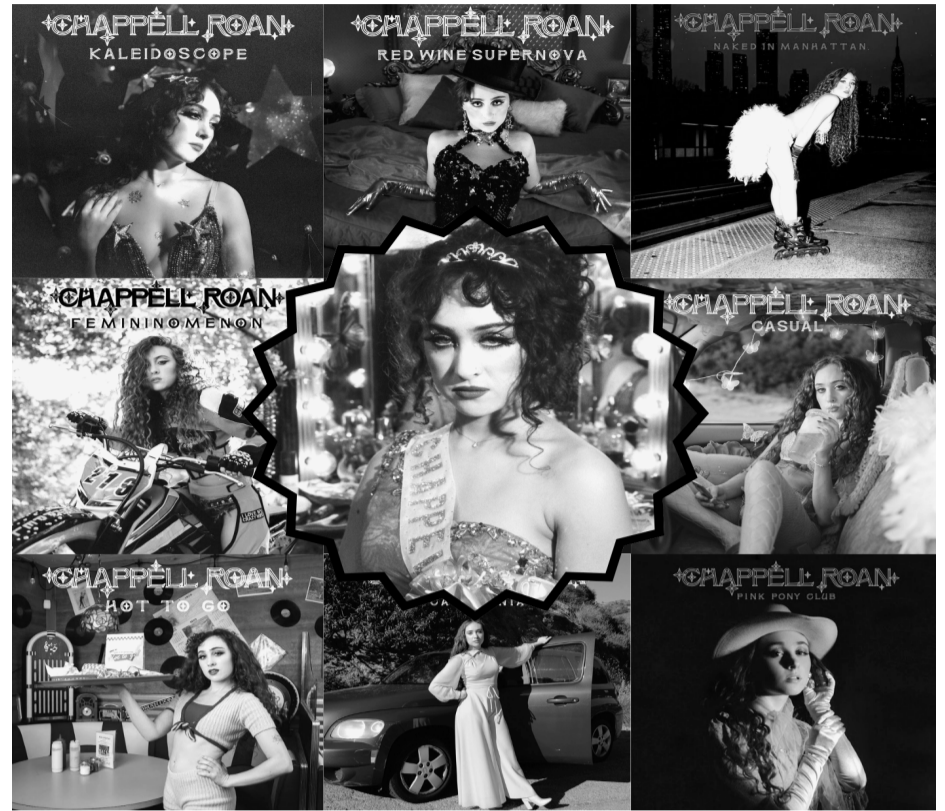
"Femininomenon [is great] because it really exhibits unapologetic femininity in a way I don't think many songs do...The way that this song shows femininity is in a way that isn't necessarily comfortable for our patriarchal society," said junior Charly Elston.

Other works are slower and softer, songs like "California" and "Coffee" allowing her fans to see a more vulnerable side of her. "Casual" in particular is about her struggles wanting more in a "casual" relationship but trying to appear unbothered by how she's treated.

"I love 'Casual' because it has an incredible build up. I like how it calls out this person in a dramatic way and the way it makes me feel angry at hypocrisy, while still building my indignance and making me feel a confident sort of anger," said Elston.

Roan's fans are drawn to her because of her incredibly catchy yet also very honest music. She isn't afraid to get messy in her music, allowing her fans to relate to these universal experiences. She has also grown a large queer fanbase considering most of her songs speak to her own experiences as a queer woman.

"Her work is just so amazing, especially [because] it moves multiple people in this generation. If you were to just look at the lyrics and just



Pop singer Chappell Roan has built a large following during this year. Graphic courtesy of junior Vyolet Burrus.

read them, they would not make sense, but when you listen to them with music and her voice, it's so yay," said Marchetti.

Roan has also garnered a reputation for her extravagant outfits, which fans can see not only in her music videos but at her performances.. These outfits are over-the-top and glamorous, similar to a drag persona, with each look bringing a particular song to life.

"I love [her costumes] so much. Her costume design person is so talented, and [I love] just seeing her crazy ideas come to life," said Marchetti.

Whether it's because of her music, her personality, or her flashy outfits, Roan is making waves in the music industry.

"She's a great artist to listen to because she takes societally taboo topics and pushes the envelope of what women are typically allowed to say in their music. She is blatantly queer and creates music for people to enjoy and feel confidence in themselves and their identities," said Elston.

Roan is an incredible artist sure to produce great music in the years to come, students should definitely check out her work!

Sources: [time.com](https://www.time.com), [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com)

## What TV Shows Should SLOHS Students Watch Before They Graduate?

REPORTER MALLORY CUSHING

Before graduation time in June, and adulthood kicks in, San Luis Obispo High School seniors and underclassmen need to grab some friends and popcorn and get ready to binge some of the best TV shows of all time.

Imagine you had every streaming platform and every TV show available to you at your fingertips; what show are you picking to watch?

"Students should watch 'Outer Banks' before they graduate because it's trendy, but my favorite TV show is a murder mystery called 'The Perfect Couple,'" said junior Ella Stoller.

The popular TV show "Outer Banks," also known as 'OBX,' was so popular that Netflix renewed the show for its fourth season even before the third season came out. "OBX" is a hit teen TV show starring actors Madelyn Cline and Chase Stokes. It captures a group of pogs who are called on an enthralling adventure to find missing treasures from long ago.

"I think students should watch

'The Office,' it's my favorite TV show and it's super funny," said sophomore Cole Bramer.

In 2020, during the pandemic, "The Office," was the most watched show of the year. Americans cumulatively streamed more than fifty-seven billion minutes of "The Office," well surpassing any other TV show.

"I love 'Friends.' Students should watch it because it's really funny and fun to watch," said freshman Addy Hopple.

For the week of October 30 to November 5, 2023, "Friends" was the top-ranked TV show among American viewers, after tragic news of series star Matthew Perry's death. "Friends" is a comedic American sit-com that is many Americans go-to comfort show.

Whether you prefer rebel teens, office shenanigans, or best friends exploring life together, your fellow classmates have you covered with these recommendations for must watch TV shows; so find a comfy spot on your couch and get to bingeing Tigers!

Sources: [imdb.com](https://www.imdb.com), [variety.com](https://www.variety.com)

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## From Pop to Punk: SLOHS Students' Fan Favorite Genres



From left to right, the Beatles, Eminem, Motley Crue, and Pink Floyd have been some of the most popular artists in pop, rap, metal, and rock respectively. Collage by junior Joey Bernardo.

REPORTER JOEY BERNARDO

Music is an influential artform in many people's lives, including students of San Luis Obispo High School. From rap, to reggae, and so on, SLOHS students have a variety of music genres that they would consider their favorite.

"I like rock from the 1970s; bands like Pink Floyd, Motley Crue, etc. I like the effects of the guitars a lot," said junior Ethan Haendler.

Generally, the most popular genres of music are: rap, rock, pop, metal, and EDM. As such, many SLOHS students enjoy at least one of these.

"I like rap a lot, artists like Eminem and KSI are my personal favorites. I like the rhythm and style of the genre," said junior Thomas Valle-Gearhart.

This makes sense, as across the country, these genres are easily the most popular.

Around 48 percent of Americans would consider rock to be their favorite music genre. This is followed up by 33 percent by pop and coun-

try, and thirty percent for rap.

Although popular genres make up the majority of people's favorites, there are some more obscure types of music that SLOHS students enjoy.

"I like nu metal personally, since I personally have nostalgia for the genre. It combines elements of metal and rap in a really interesting way," said SLOHS graduate Jordenn Valle-Gearhart.

Although subgenres aren't nearly as popular as rock, rap, etc., they are still a notable part of the music scene. Genres like punk, psychedelic, indie, and funk, are all examples of music that have cult followings, including members of SLOHS.

No matter what genre you listen to, whether popular or not, it is an important part of our lives. What we listen to helps define us and build who we are as people.

Sources: *statista.com*, *blog.novocore.com*, *business.yougov.org*

## How Geek Culture Has Recently Gone From Niche to Norm

OPINION EDITOR SAGE MEEKS

What was once niche, or at least "geeky," is now at the forefront of mainstream culture in San Luis Obispo High School and the world. Superheroes rule at the box office, fantasy series scores among the most viewed in streaming platforms, and video games are not for kids; they are a global phenomenon. Geek culture, previously relegated to the fringes, seems nowadays to be part of everyday common life.

The term "geek" used to carry negative connotations, referring to one who was uniquely obsessed with niche hobbies such as comic books, fantasy novels, video games, or even tabletop role-playing games like Dungeons & Dragons. Such interests were dismissed by the mainstream as trivial and childish.

"I just recently watched 'Scott Pilgrim vs. the World', I haven't read the comic yet but I really enjoyed the adaptation," said senior Luisa Nunez.

But things changed drastically over the last couple of decades. The rise of the internet and the tech boom helped propel niche interests into the mainstream as visibility of fandoms online began to grow. Geeks of all types found communities through forums, social media, and conventions-like Comic-Con-that evolved from a small comic book fan base into a huge pop culture event attended by Hollywood stars.

At the beginning of the millennium, films like "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy and the "Harry Potter" series introduced mainstream audiences to fantasy and magical worlds in ways that had never been done before. Meanwhile, comic book movies like "X-Men" and "Spider-Man" opened up the avenue for superhero movies to start taking over Hollywood.

That all changed with the release of the Marvel Cinematic Universe in 2008 with "Iron Man." What began as a series of films targeted toward fans of comic books grew into a cultural phenomenon in which interconnected storylines and characters appealed to the general audiences. The MCU has now grown to be among the most successful movie franchises of all time, pulling in billions of dollars at the box office.

Gone are the days when a penchant for comics, sci-fi, or video games relegated one to the status of outsider looking in. Geek culture has made its way into the mainstream, shaping the course of the future in entertainment and giving fans a voice in what's next. Whether you're cheering for the latest superhero blockbuster, binge-watching a fantasy series, or immersing yourself in the depth of a video game world, geek culture is here to stay-and more powerful than ever.

## The Harsh Truth About Treatment of Modern K-pop Stars

REPORTER RAY MOFFITT

Around the world, music is perceived in many ways, and at San Luis Obispo High School students have many different tastes in music genres, such as Country, rock, jazz, and most importantly, K-pop.

K-pop is a Korean genre of pop often used to describe "idol music" made by artists trained by entertainment companies to become pop music stars. K-pop includes upbeat pop, dance music, and ballads. It can incorporate a variety of influences, including reggae, HipHop, Salsa, and other types of music.

K-pop groups and soloists all have to be a part of a company to debut, but before debuting they have to go through tough training to prove that they are somehow better than everyone in the room.

"They have to dance and sing and practice and work for so long and only get about maybe five to six hours of rest until they have to do it all over again the next day," said junior Emily Bernal.

The trainee process lasts anywhere ranging from mere months to entire years, and usually involves vocal, dance, and language classes that are taken while living together with other trainees, who sometimes attend school at the same time. However, some trainees drop out of school to focus on their careers.

The way people view K-pop comes mostly from media and communication.

"I read an article about them not being paid well, overworking them, and crazy unhealthy diets they have to go through," said English teacher Brian Moss.

This can lead to many misconceptions of the truth. In most media, K-pop idols are shown as being heavily overworked, with crazy diets and being forced to overwork their bodies to become better K-pop idols and fit in the very extreme Korean beauty standards.

"It is definitely unfair that the companies put their workers on strict diets and I do not feel that it is fair to put anybody on a diet if they don't want to," said an anonymous freshman.

Becoming a K-pop star can be tough, with the change in life styles it is a hard career and that shouldn't be forgotten.

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## Why Do Most Video Game Adaptation Suck?

EDITOR SAGE MEEKS

Video game adaptations aren't anything new, but the perception is changing, especially among students at San Luis Obispo High School. "Super Mario Bros.," released in 1993, was notoriously a flop receiving a lousy rating of 29 percent on Rotten Tomatoes for being the very first major video game adaptation in history. Over the years, though, opinions have gradually changed with adaptations like "Detective Pikachu" 2019 receiving critical acclaim, as the movie received a solid 79 percent viewer rating.

"Video game adaptations can be alright I guess, they just have to be done right and a lot of them aren't," said senior Izayah Crespo Johnson.

Movie studios are only now beginning to understand what can make a good video game adaptation. Games such as Super Mario Bros. are objective games, where the character's purpose is to reach certain levels or some final destination. Such games are tougher to translate into movies because much deeper narrative structure is missing in them.

On the other hand, games similar in nature to "The Last of Us" have a high degree of emotional depth in gameplay, with long term goals and intricate character development resulting in a almost perfect opportunity for cinematic adaptation, given that strong narratives self support strongly in adaptation to cinematic media for gripping, immersive storytelling.

"I saw 'The Last of Us' and it absolutely smacked, I hope it's not 'The Last of It'," said senior Levi Ammerman.

Improvement in class for recent adaptations isn't just about the choice of game. Since the 1990s, video games have grown from relative obscurity to a mainstream source of entertainment with budgets to match. These have facilitated better quality across productions: more impressive special effects, larger casts, and more polished scripts.

The larger the budget of the film, more wide ranging audiences can be enticed even those unfamiliar with the original game to help appeal to both the most dedicated fans and more casual movie viewers.

Video game adaptations are getting better and more popular make sure to go check some out!

## Fans Are Going Too Far

REPORTER GABRIELLE NEER

Sixteen percent of U.S. adults say that they are "somewhat" influenced by celebrity promoted products. This also includes teenagers, some of which are San Luis Obispo High School students.

Singer Chappell Roan is one of many celebrities that have recently been thrust into the spotlight and acquired an insanely large fanbase. This new kind of positive attention has attracted much unwanted attention, causing her to make a TikTok calling out her fans. This has also prompted other celebrities to reach out privately in support. This should be taken as a wakeup call for fans that they have taken it too far.

"Celebrities are people and it's not really their job to interact with fans, they just make music," said freshman Grace Tuttle.

Admiration can easily become obsession when fans go out of their way to harass celebrities. Any sort of attention from a celebrity could mean the world for a fan but it could be dehumanizing for celebrities to be treated without respect.

"Everyone has boundaries and them being famous doesn't make it any different," said Tuttle.

Some students believe that celebrities should expect all kinds of fan behavior, especially since Roan has a massive influence over her fans and has received all kinds of attention.

"I think that it's important to set boundaries but it might be helpful if she would give grace about that," said freshman Zandora Stanley.

Fans took issue with how Roan called them out on social media. They say how she needs media training without realizing who is really at fault here.

Media training is a temporary solution to a long term problem. It would only be a band aid solution and wouldn't stop anyone from the obsessive behavior.

"Fans are fans and they're gonna do whatever they want," said senior Madison Neer.

If anyone else had these experiences, their voices would be heard. Just because they profit from these kinds of fans doesn't mean they should not set clear boundaries. This kind of idolization and pressure can make anyone burnt out

One post will not change the toxic behavior of all fans with their favorite celebrities but it does encourage more stars to talk about their experience with fans.

## Take Three Years of a Foreign Language!



**Common symbols of the Roman Empire and Spain are the Roman colosseum and Spanish castles. Photo collage courtesy of junior Joseph Bernardo.**

REPORTER JOEY BERNARDO

San Luis Obispo High School offers a variety of courses that engage student learning. There's a set of classes that have to do with foreign languages; Latin, Spanish, and American Sign Language (ASL).

Students are required to take at least two years of either class, with many students stopping there. But there are many advantages by going the extra mile by doing either Latin III, Spanish III or ASL III.

"Universities of California will look out for students taking three years of a language instead of two," said counselor Kerry Ingles.

An important aspect of taking a third year of foreign language is being able to understand the language better. Many countries around the world have Spanish as their primary language, and Latin helps learn other languages in the same family, including: Italian, French, Portuguese etc. By mastering these languages, more options are available for traveling across the world.

Another positive of taking a third year of either class is being able to interact with a community of wonderful people.

"Latin class is pretty fun especially with a smaller class because you get to know people a lot better and the environment is very supportive," said junior Vyolet Burrus.

By taking a third course of Spanish or Latin, you become a part of

a dedicated and welcoming class.

Colleges especially favor students who take three years of a foreign language class. As part of the A-G courses, more competitive colleges will keep an eye out if a student decides to stick with whatever language they are taking. Students looking to enter more selective colleges will definitely want to take advantage of doing a third year of Spanish or Latin.

Although there are many upsides to taking another year of a foreign language, some students are turned away by the fear of difficulty.

"I didn't want to take Spanish III since I thought it would be too hard," said junior Julien Sheetz.

Despite this, the teachers of these classes make sure that their class does well and understands the language. It may seem difficult to take these classes, but if students could do two years, they can definitely do three.

It's also important to mention that ASL is also a foreign language. Most UCs accept it for A-G credit, alongside Spanish and Latin.

Tigers, whether you are going to college, traveling abroad, or simply want a fun class experience, definitely consider taking another year of these languages!

Sources: [ucop.edu](http://ucop.edu), [ofschools.org](http://ofschools.org), [rom.uga.edu](http://rom.uga.edu)

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