

the avonews

“beware of monotony; it’s the mother of all the deadly sins.”

- edith wharton



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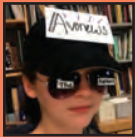
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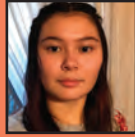
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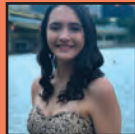
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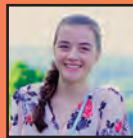
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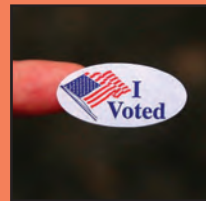
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photo from the Verge



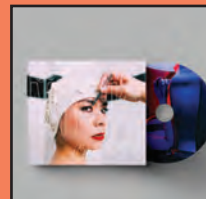
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photo by saira muchow



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photo from LATF USA



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fall sports pg 14

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front cover: top left to bottom right

-cheerleader claire chao (photo by caitie bellotti)

-new lgi room (photo by langley turcsanyi)
-kat goetz, the winner of Disney spirit day (photo by ally yovetich)

-homecoming court and queen, caitie bellotti (photo by saira muchow)

“are all the changes making school better or worse for you?”

photos and interviews by journalism 1



“I like the new schedule. I like not having the same class every day.” -elizabeth shields ‘22

“I would say the changes are making it better and worse I like the flexibility and college feel. It’s harder to stay in touch with teachers and stay on task with school work.” -mara bett ‘20



“I think they are making it better because it is making some things easier. Because I have more time to do homework. -nathan hardiman ‘22

“I love it, I have so much more free time! There’s a lot more freedom and we have time to actually do things, we get stuff done.” -lorin hollis ‘19



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the iphone invasion

At this point, it is hard for many people to keep up with how many iPhones are out. We no longer only hear of the iPhone 5, 6, and 7, or even the iPhone 5C, 6S-- not when there are even more phones circulating with names that seem even more diverse. The XS, XR, and XS Max are out, indicating that Apple has strayed away from the use of standard numbers to name different generations of their products. While the way that these new products are branded is completely different, their actual features, to many people, are not.

Some of the main highlights of the newest generation of iPhones are the upgrades in the camera and screen quality, battery life, facial recognition, audio, charging, and storage capacity. Apple manufacturers label these as "significant advances" from the X. The XS Max has an improved screen, which is the largest screen an iPhone has ever had. Part of these new phones that makes Apple especially proud is the A12 bionic chip. With a greatly improved neural engine, it is said to be the most powerful chip that any type of smartphone has ever had. "With a more advanced dual camera system and neural engine, iPhone is again taking us to a new era of photography, where even more capable sensors are combined with lenses, chips, and advanced software, delivering Smart HDR across your photos, creating images like never before." While there is a slew of improved qualities that all three phones have, there are not any new, groundbreaking features. They are all just adjustments; there is not an anything entirely new about these phones, which is disappointing to many Apple users, but for some, these improvements make all the difference.

The main difference between the XS and XS Max is size, while the main difference between the XS and the XR is the screen display and the variety of colors that it comes in, which "offers more choice to more people." In terms of price, the XR is the cheapest, at \$749, while the XS Max is the most expensive out of the three, being \$1,099. The XS is a not so happy median, since it is still just under one thousand dollars. All of these prices represent the 64 GB iPhones, which is the lowest amount of storage that they are sold with. The prices only go up from there. Many people, in-

cluding students of our own, find these prices to be ridiculous for how few new and exciting changes come with the new phone.

Julia Ciarimboli, a senior at Avonworth, is fed up with how much Apple is charging for their new products. There were some features that caught her eye, but many did not. She states, "I don't really care about face ID, but a phone with wireless charging and better audio would be nice. I am not very into photography though, so I do not care too much about the new portrait mode. I would consider upgrading to one of the newer iPhones if they weren't so expensive."

Even non-Apple users are annoyed with the release of the iPhone XR, XS, and XS Max. Nothing about an iPhone appeals to Lucas McDonald, a senior and owner of a Google Pixel. "Apple customers are paying more for the brand than for the features, and the cost is way too high for what it is worth. Samsung's user interface is much friendlier."



photo by isabel thompson

The newest line of iPhones has not received as much support as previous generations, and the consensus of many Avonworth students is that they are too expensive, have unnecessary improvements, and either do not seem too different from the iPhones they already have, or do not seem better than the other brands of phones that they possess. Years ago, the fingerprint scanner, new camera, and new array of colors had the entire country excited to be spending their money on a new phone, but this time around, updated audio and screen quality, better portrait mode, and slightly longer battery life just do not have them hooked.

many new changes make school new for everybody

Avonworth High School has undergone countless changes over the last 4 years, whether it was something as minuscule as taking away the bells or something as drastic as switching to a block schedule. Although some changes have been nothing but beneficial, like the Lopes Lounge, some students find the changes hard to adjust to. It can be argued that changing to a block schedule for some juniors and seniors can be the most difficult because they have already become well adjusted to 45 minute periods, but there are still many benefits to the students.

For upperclassmen who have already completed most of their requirements, many students are able to manipulate their free periods and leave school early. Because most upperclassmen can drive themselves, it makes this incredibly accessible. "I've never felt happier leaving school early," says senior Hayden Robinson. "I personally like the block schedule. I have a lot of time to get my work done and more free time after school." Even those who do not have early release have high praises about the drastic change, junior Luke Wagner says, "I think its very helpful for my AP classes and classes like Physics, where we have more allotted time for debate, developing work, and more involved labs."

Unfortunately, underclassmen are not as ahead in their requirements, thus their schedules being entirely full, so they are unable to leave early. This isn't necessarily seen as a loss, due to the fact that 9th and 10th graders see other benefits to the new schedule. "I like the every other day scheduling," says sophomore Mike Frank. "I don't really mind the longer classes." Mrs. Dwulit, who has been working with the school executives on this since it blossomed as an idea, commented on

how she was "impressed" with how well it was going. "I think it is working surprisingly well," Dwulit says. "I think students and teachers are finding awesome ways to use the time."

"I think students and teachers are finding awesome ways to use the time..."

In addition to the block schedule was a built-in 40-minute free period, 'Lopes LEAD.' This period is an open campus period where students can attend club meetings and wander the hallways. Some electives are set during this period, most of them being a gym class. Chorus and band students do not have this same luxury, their classes taking place during this time. "I don't have LEAD, because I have band," says senior Jake Sommers. "I wish I did, but I think it's really good for students because no one is as focused in the morning and gives everyone time to relax before school." This has not gone unnoticed, Dwulit saying "LEAD time has been an amazing thing but then we have this group of students who don't have access to it every day." Although a solution for the band and chorus kids is in the works, there's a chance that a change won't affect seniors who will be moving on after their final year here. "I, personally, think that not having LEAD time is stressful due to the fact that band and chorus kids don't have the luxury of going to meetings and communicating with teachers, like all of the other students do," says senior Kierstin Kocher, the Avonworth Band Drum Major and Student Council president, who's meetings also take place during LEAD.



photo by isabel thompson



photo by langley turcsanyi

“It’s really annoying. I wish I could go to meetings whenever I wanted to.” In addition to that, Dwulit hasn’t been the only one who was surprised by the success of LEAD time. “I have been pleasantly surprised by the low number of tardies this year. With the free time during LEAD time I really expected there to be more, not less, tardies than previous years” Alice Cahill, school secretary commented. The addition of LEAD time also benefits by allowing for later arrival, which decreases the number of tardies and late students.

By far, one of the most influential and costly changes that students came back to was the addition of the Large Group Instruction room. The LGI was an ongoing development to the school last year and caused a lot of varying issues, like cold rooms, cancellations due to the fact that the classrooms pressing up against the construction were exposed to the frigid winter temperatures, and loud disrupting construction noises. When students came back to school, they were exposed to several meetings in the new LGI room discussing safety and college. “We have really seen some great benefits of the Learning Lab. The 10th-grade Integrated class now has a learning space that is appropriate for the class. The enrollment is now around 50 students and a traditional classroom would not work for the style of learning that is utilized in the class,” says Superintendent Thomas Ralston. “We can accommodate both the middle and high school staff in the space for trainings and such.” Dwulit also has high praises for the room, saying “The LGI is working extremely well. Every week more people are using it. Every week more people are using it. I wish we had a few of them,” she commented.



photo by jessie mellon

“I think the LGI is inspiring, but we can’t stop there. It’s not all about spaces.”

“I think the LGI is inspiring, but we can’t stop there. It’s not all about spaces.”

Students think a little differently, sophomore Noah Osborne not having the best of luck on getting in the space, saying “Teacher meetings are always in there,” and sophomore Mike Frank giving it high praises by saying “It’s pretty cool. Very technologically advanced, I like it.” Senior Marion Haney says that it has its highs and lows, saying “[The LGI] costs too much to be not open to students and it seems like it’s not used very often,” but redeeming the room by saying “but it is nice and cold.”

A change that resulted in many sour responses last year was the lack of bells that dismissed periods. This was a result of the middle school and high school being on different schedules, thus the bells were removed entirely to avoid confusion. Many students were not open to the bell changes, while others didn’t notice, or even care. “I love it. I think that without the bells it was so unorganized and teachers would keep us longer and we’d be late to our other classes,” says senior Megan Robibaro, while senior Kierstin Kocher says “I don’t find it any different.” The changes, whether they are unnoticed or not, were the most drastic of the small changes made so far. Both students and teachers had to make massive adjustments to their schedules. “I am so impressed with the students and teachers,” says Dwulit.



photo by jessie mellon

school life

right: homecoming court at the pep rally
photo by camryn root



below: band during the halftime show
photo by saira muchow



below: homecoming queen, caitie bellotti, and her parents
photo by camryn root



right: football players watching as the game unfolds
photo by caitie bellotti



andrew ott dancing at homecoming
photo by david binley

right: part of the homecoming court
photo by camryn root



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avonworth excitement about midterm elections

As the midterm elections draw near, some Avonworth students are preparing to vote in their first election. In a poll emailed to seniors, 100% of students who responded said that they will be voting. When asked why, one student responded with, "Our country is at a clear historical crossroads with the President's rhetoric and the future-altering actions of congress; this is the best way for me to change the course of history." It is evident that, although few students will be able to vote, the ones who will be passionate about making an impact on the future of our country.

Even students who cannot vote for the midterm elections are ready to exercise their civic duty in the years to come. By the next presidential election in 2020, all current Seniors and Juniors at Avonworth High School will be able to cast a vote for their presidential nominee of choice and begin their journey as active American citizens.

Even though many adults see Generation Z kids as politically apathetic and, in some cases, unpatriotic, that does not mean we are not aware of current issues, or are too confused to take a stance. In the heat of this debate, younger generations will take a key role in the future of our divisive nation. This election has drawn a lot of attention with many people

predicting that it could lead to Democrats taking over the House of Representatives, which is currently held by the Republicans. Due to the current state of politics in America, a myriad of protests have begun surrounding several different issues, such as the Kavanaugh appointment and a general dislike of Donald Trump among Democrats. This has caused a surge in the determination of the political left, who have become more determined than ever to take back power in the country.

Voting is a civic duty that every American should feel entitled to adhere to. A small inconvenience on one's day demonstrates a voter's interest in politics and helps them bring the change that they wish to see in the country. When people choose not to vote, they essentially throw away a major part of their voice in politics, which should never happen, regardless of which party they vote for.

This national issue will always be relevant to Avonworth and everyone in the school as it allows them to make their opinions heard and impacts our future as Americans; therefore, as students approach their 18th birthdays, they should consider registering to vote in order to continue influencing the constantly unfolding story of America.



photo by isabel thompson



Photo from Twitter



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maya's culture corner

We're coming up upon crisp leaves, drinking tea, sitting inside weather, and I'm delighted-- mainly because it's the perfect time to indulge in new books, music, and movies. Here, I'll share my recent favorites in each of these category. If compelled, check them out for an enriching, enjoyable sitting-inside season this year!

Book: *The Carrying*, Ada Limon
Grief, house keys, heritage, a drink, unborn child, love-- what can we carry around with us? That's what Ada Limon's fifth collection of poetry "The Carrying" asks.

From poems about love, infertility, and immigration to those about raising her boyfriend's dead ex-girlfriend's cats, Limon reflects authentically upon the big things in life just as much as the little ones. Limon's tone in "The Carrying" remains conversational, inviting in even those



photo from Amazon

who avoid poetry for all its confusing verbiage. Limon's wonderings, sometimes entirely conscious, sometimes still written out of their dream-state, are more personal than in her previous four collections. Yet they don't throw pity parties or call in the apocalypse. Instead, they're amused with themselves, shining from the page with a sense of self-awareness.

Music: "Be the Cowboy", Mitski
After three critically-acclaimed albums and a world tour opening for Lorde, Mitski is back. Her fourth album, *Be The Cowboy*, dissects loneliness. Sometimes loneliness is a teenage girl, like in "Me and My Husband" which day-dreams that "we're sticking together" and in "Why Didn't You Stop Me?" which laments "I know I ended it, but why didn't you chase after me?" Sometimes loneliness is the desire to

be desired ("Nobody," "Remember My Name," "Pink In The Night," and "Washing Machine Heart.") At first, every song will sound similar. I know. But after a couple listens, the vocal, lyrical, and musical qualities which make each track so distinct, and Mitski so distinct from other singer-songwriters, will become evident. Hailed as the future of indie rock, Mitski combines an 80's sound, 90's female vocal power, with her raw talent and poetic ability to stand out in the genre.

Movie: *A Star Is Born* (2018) dir. Bradley Cooper

Gaga joins the ranks of Hollywood icons Gaynor, Garland, and Streisand in the third re-make of the 1937 film, *A Star Is Born*. Every time, the plot remains the same: a talented, ambitious young girl falls for a troubled superstar then gains success through him as his own health and fame begin to fade. However, this version, written, directed, and starring Bradley Cooper, shines in its own right. Cooper plays Jackson Maine, country-rock star, with a convincing Southern drawl and surprisingly impressive vocals. Gaga portrays his love interest and eventual wife, Ally, a talented singer-songwriter with sequins, wide eyes, and drag-bar beginnings which recalls parallels to Gaga's own career. What begins as a tender love story deepens into something darker, though, as one character struggles with alcoholism and addiction. The culmination of this issue makes for a devastating final scene-- one that made me, and the dozen others in my showing, openly cry. Earning one of the highest first weekends for a drama or musical, be prepared for emotions perfectly formulated and in cosmic proportions.



photo from Variety

senior editorial: “life in the bubble”

As October comes to an end, the usual fall events are starting up in our little bubble known as Avonworth High School.

The fall sports teams are heading to the playoffs. Similar to years past, the majority of the Avonworth teams are going to be playing in the playoffs.

The first grading period of the school year is closing on October 29. This date brings some students a great deal of stress as they work to get their final grades up before the end of the term.

In order to relieve some of this stress, the ‘Lopes Lounge is open for business, serving everyone’s favorite fall drinks. Specifically for the fall season, they introduced a whole selection of pumpkin spice products, the perfect way to relax during a week of stress.

While normal school events continue on, Avonworth has gone through some major changes this year. Students now have more free time than ever with the introduction of LEAD time, open mods, and double mods. While these changes are exciting, there have been some mixed reviews about the new schedule and the challenges it creates. However, it seems as though most people are taking the new agenda in their stride.

One of the most unique aspects of Avonworth that has been a constant for as long as any current students can remember is our size. While some schools have grades with over a thousand people, the class of 2019 has only 127. There are many positive and negative consequences of this. Many students enjoy our small school because of the close-knit community that formed and the fact that they know everyone in the school. On the other hand, this means that a large portion of the student body has had no need to branch out and make new friends, meaning that, in reality, our size has led people to stick with the same friend group for years, rarely venturing outside to form new connections.

Another part of the collective Avonworth identity is being told almost constantly how wonderful we are.

Whether it be about a good grade on a test, a well-crafted project, or a strong debate, students rarely need to look far for praise. While this can obviously help build self-esteem in students and encourage them to continue their hard work, this mindset can be damaging.

Many seniors were surprised when this portion of the bubble was finally broken by the twelfth grade teachers, who stated that, although we have been told that we are talented, brilliant, incredible, amazing, show-stopping, and spectacular geniuses, there are others out there who are just as good and better than we are. This frank reminder proved useful as the deadline for early application for many colleges drew near, while students came to terms with the likelihood of getting accepted to their dream colleges and learned to think more realistically about themselves and their place in the world.



photo by isabel thompson

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new female football player

hadley holcomb '20 | staff writer

For the first time in its history, the Avonworth football team has a female team member. Sophomore Adrianna Giusto has joined the boys and contributed to their winning record while battling through injuries.

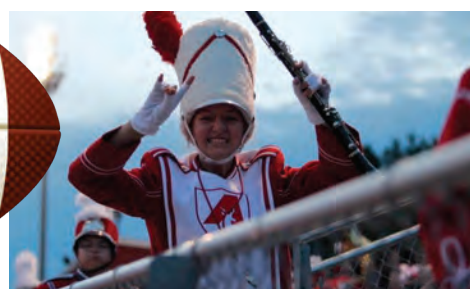
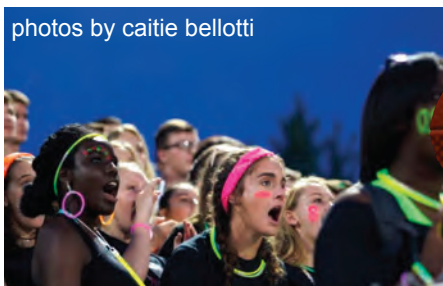
Coach Johncour said that although other teams they have played against have had female players, Avonworth itself has never had a female on the team. “She had talked to me a couple times, and I wasn’t sure if she was serious because it is a big decision. She had seen me last spring and started to come to workouts in the middle of the offseason. Then she came over this summer, and the original thoughts were, ‘Okay. We are going to have to figure out some things, but we are glad to have her.’”

So what motivates a girl to play on a boys football team? “My family is a big football fan, and I always heard my dad talking about it, so I was like ‘oh that sounds fun’, so I decided to do it.” said Guisto.

Once the reality of practice and gameday settled in, Guisto found her place. “At first it did because I always thought that I wasn’t like a part of the team or like ‘fitting in’, but now that I’m getting used to how it works, it’s not as bad.”

As a regular face at football games, the fans are very enthusiastic about her. Freshman, Hannah Palmer stated, “I think that’s really cool, it’s like female empowerment!” Junior, Krista Wright added, “I was shocked, like you usually don’t see girls on a football team. So initially, I was excited because you know, this is a big change from the past couple years. I am really excited to see how to year goes with her on the team.”

photos by caitie bellotti



band culture is fan culture

brianna nowka '19 and jessie mellon | staff writers

Instead of rushing out of the fan section to buy stereotypical fatty football game food, you’ll find senior Mason Herzig standing on the bleachers in the student section, watching the Avonworth Marching Band’s 80’s themed halftime show. In addition to enjoying the music selection and props, Herzig says, “I have many friends that participate in the marching band, and I enjoy supporting what they do.” With students in the fan section watching and supporting them, marching band members have acknowledged the new changes and appreciate the cheers. Sophomore band member Liana Simmons comments, “I think it gives the marching band the confidence needed to put on a great performance. This makes our hard work not for nothing, [and] makes them [band members] feel like the band is important.” From students to coaches to players, there has been a new more noticeable appreciation for our marching band.

This year, the band and fan section have focused on working together to keep our football team’s spirits up. Senior Marching Band member Brianna Nowka remarks on the improvements and changes between the band-student interactions: “It shows a lot of school pride, that we enjoy the stuff, and we are working together to pump up the football players and get excited.” This year, Lukas Helsel wrote the piece “When Mom’s Not Home” for the whole band to play, helping to involve the students, every band member, and more. Mason Herzig had more to say on this matter: “Lukas leading the song with the fan section[during a game] got us all excited and pumped up. Band interacting closely with the student section really connects us as a community..”

In the end, band director Mr. Guess comments on the new interactions between the band and students: “Feels like that’s the way it should be, a true community. Band involved with band and students involved with the band. How it should have always been!”

fall sports update: back in WPIALs

So far this school year, the Eyes of Avonworth have enjoyed viewing the successes of our Fall Sports Teams. The outlier among them has been proven to be this year's Boys Varsity Soccer Team. With an undefeated record of 16-0-1, the boys are section champions, as well as worthy contenders in the WPIAL Playoffs as the 1st seed in class A. Junior Captain, Lucas Schriefer, talked about how, "Our record so far puts us at the top of the leaderboards and we're looking forward to the playoffs." Leading goal scorers include Sam Guzzo, Captain Jason Novosel, and Tyler Bryan. Other standout players this year are Captain Jonah Brandt, Center Defensemen; Schriefer, the Center/Defensive Midfielder; and Aymeric Verdier; Outside-Mid/Forward. The entire team has become a force to be reckoned with as they begin their playoff run.

The Girls Varsity Soccer Team has also enjoyed success in Class 2A with a record of 12-4-2. The lady lopes clinched 2nd place in their section, and advanced to the quarterfinals of the WPIAL playoffs. This year, the team has been locked down from the back with Senior Jessica Lamperski and Sophomore Joey Skillen; as well in the middle by Seniors Abby Wert and Chloe Cropper, and Junior Kate Francis. Many of the girls' goal scoring opportunities have been finished through both Abby and her sister, Freshman Ava Wert. The Girls Varsity Team, led by Senior Captains, Wert, Cropper, and Lamperski, are playing as a well-knit group and they are all excited about entering the playoffs and of their success this year.



photo by avonworth athletics

Dominance at Lenzner Field continues, as the Varsity Football Team is collecting their share of victories. With a record of 7-2-0 and one game left in the regular season, Senior Captain, Patrick Gannon, states about the team: "I believe we have a talented group of guys who can beat any team in 2A, and has the ability to win a WPIAL championship." Led by Gannon and Captains: Turner Grau, Derek Johncour, and Ryan Felter, the team has been explosive and exciting to watch. The boys will play for the section title against Shady Side Academy on Friday October 26.

Switching courses, the Boys and Girls Cross Country teams have been running through their competition. The efforts of captains: Emily Tyler, Camryn Root, and Jacob Noethiger, have been improving their teams each week as they continue to compete against other schools as well as their teammates. The Girls Team has been led by Juniors Anna Igims, Lauren Pflueger, and Natalie Marshall; and Freshmen Lindsey Hartle, Maggie Colenbrander, and Taea Schriefer. The Boys Team leads with Junior Luke Wagner; Sophomores Jackson Habala, Eli Kauer, and Mike Frank; and Freshmen David Kujawinski and Luke Woodfill. Noethiger commented on the boys: "This year we have a strong 5 guys and we're ready to make a statement at WPIALs. I think if we push ourselves, we have a chance to make the trip out to States."

Turning to the gym, this year's Girls Volleyball Team secured a playoff spot once again. Gaining contributions from Seniors Emily Ferketic, Marion Haney and Olivia Scrabis; Juniors Makenna Gavin, Kat Goetz, and Alexie Auth; and Freshman Abbi Holjes (who stepped up as a varsity setter), the girls are looking to make a run for the WPIAL title. The girls have an overall record of 7-9-0. The captains, Ferketic and Haney, have brought the team together and improved throughout the season, giving the girls a chance to compete in the WPIAL playoffs.

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The crisping of fall leaves each year tells me that some sort of change has occurred in the fundamental existence of the world around us. As the wind cools and the LGI becomes a bigger part of student life, the institutional changes that affect student life become more and more prominent. But this has not decreased the school spirit that has defined the new era of the Avonworth student body. If anything, this has created a greater bond between our classes that didn't exist pre-breakfast cart.

On the day of the Senior picnic, despite my overwhelming feeling of dread that my college application deadlines were soon approaching, I felt a sense of relief in sitting, eating burgers made by Mr. Cario, and reflecting on each and every wild shift that I have lived through all my years at Avonworth. This year, the way that our school day is approached changed completely and the new "mod" schedule, although initially causing some groans and begrudging eyerolls, has for the most part, seamlessly integrated itself into student life.

Our fall sports teams have dominated their sections and our fan culture at football games has, arguably, never been more vibrant. The band is growing and becoming an integral part of the Friday night game experience and this is in part due to the new, yet old direction that the band is taking with their set, covering hit 80's jams and involving the crowd in the performance. This has initiated a new age of Avonworth, one that, for once, I am actually excited to be apart of.

As quoted by my literary idol on our front page, "Beware of monotony; it is the mother of all the deadly sins." This quote not only sounds poetically ominous, but is a message to us students to embrace this wave of change with welcome arms, and avoid the comatose as we shuffle from mod C to D.

The fall season comes, the summer's hard work begins to wither, and the monotony of school begins to set in with the depression of the weather. But, this school year, I have challenged myself to look at fall and the coming of new academic endeavors not as the death of past experiences, but as a moderately-satisfied middle age woman's seasonal pinterest board, filled with leaf garlands and pumpkin spiced dreams of coming change.

