



- Many more stories online at [tritonvoice.co](http://tritonvoice.co)
- Get news by on *Twitter*, *Facebook* & *Instagram* **TritonVoice**
- Read the print version online at [tritonschools.org/high](http://tritonschools.org/high)



# RITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

April 12, 2019

## From *Full House* to the Big House

Lori Loughlin & daughter Olivia Jade caught in school for cash scandal

### NEWS ANALYSIS

By Kelly Sharkey  
Staff Writer

We all know and grew to love Aunt Becky from the show, *Full House*, but actress Lori Loughlin, who plays Aunt Becky on the show, was caught in a huge scandal last month for paying \$500,000 to admissions department of the University of Southern Californian in order for her daughter, Olivia Jade, to go to the college.

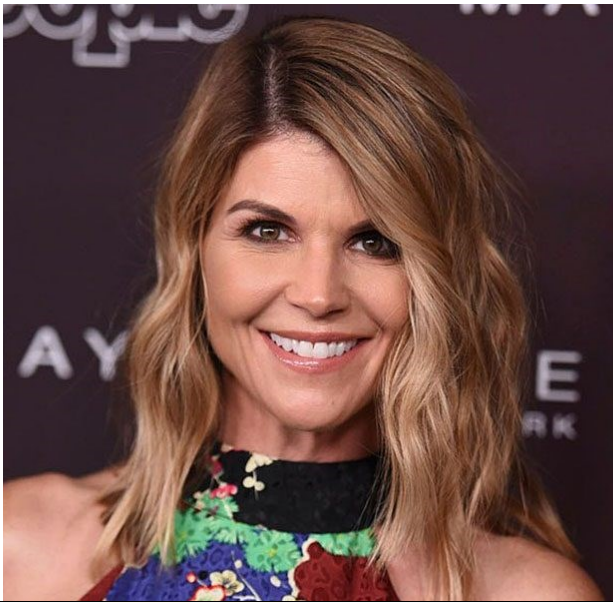
Loughlin and her husband, J. Mossimo Giannulli, wanted their daughter to go to the University of Southern California, and pose as a student athlete. They bribed the admissions department of the college to let their daughter go there and be on the "row team," even though she has never rowed in her life, according to attorneys.

Jade's parents were both arrested and were released on \$1 million dollar bond and appeared in Federal Court in Boston March 29 for a preliminary hearing.

It's shocking to see how big this scandal got, and the fact that Jade, didn't even want to go to USC for the actual school work — she only wanted to go so she could party according to videos she has made for Youtube — makes it more shocking. Jade says she never knew her parents went through with payments, and she's saying she never even wanted to go to college and wanted to work on being a social media influencer instead. She has said publically now that her parents ruined her status, and that her social media platform is in shambles.

Triton junior Katherine Quigley reacted to the scandal. "Honestly if I had that much money I would put my kid into Harvard," said Quigley.

Fellow Triton junior Michelle Bradenese has also followed the scandal. "It really shows how much rich people



*Full House* and *Fuller House* actress Lori Loughlin was one of 50 parents charged in unlawful pay schemes to get their children into colleges despite not qualifying (Creative Commons Image).

can take advantage of the system," said Bradenese.

Loughlin isn't the only famous actress who took part in this scandal. Felicity Huffman, famous for her role on *Desperate Housewives*, also allegedly paid \$15,000 for her child to get into college.

"Even if I had that much money I wouldn't bribe the college administration because, it's just wrong and you could get caught," said Bradenese.

It's strange to think that one of our favorite childhood actresses could be caught in such a scandal like this. With Loughlin's court date coming up, she could even face jail time. The Hallmark Channel has officially cut ties with Loughlin. As for Jade, she has been losing sponsors, and now her social media platform is being affected by the scandal. It's crazy to think how money has that much power, and how those with power can use it to get to where they want in life. Kids who apply to these colleges

**See HOUSE on page 2**

## MCAS Gone Digital

Freshmen and Sophomores undergo New MCAS format

By Madi Butler  
Staff Writer

This year, students in grades three to 10 are taking a standardized test that recently had a face lift.

The well known MCAS test has been brought into the 21st Century, not just by what questions are being asked, but by now going online. Students have begun using school Chromebooks in order to take the tests.

Standardized testing is updated every so often to change with the times. As a result, the curriculum for classrooms also changes. The state Department of Education released a statement about why it is important to change the MCAS.

"In Massachusetts, we set high learning standards-what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level and in each subject," the department stated. "Then, educators create classroom lessons and select textbooks and other resources to provide

each child the best education possible."

Even though the Department of Education thinks that these tests show what we know, many students disagree.

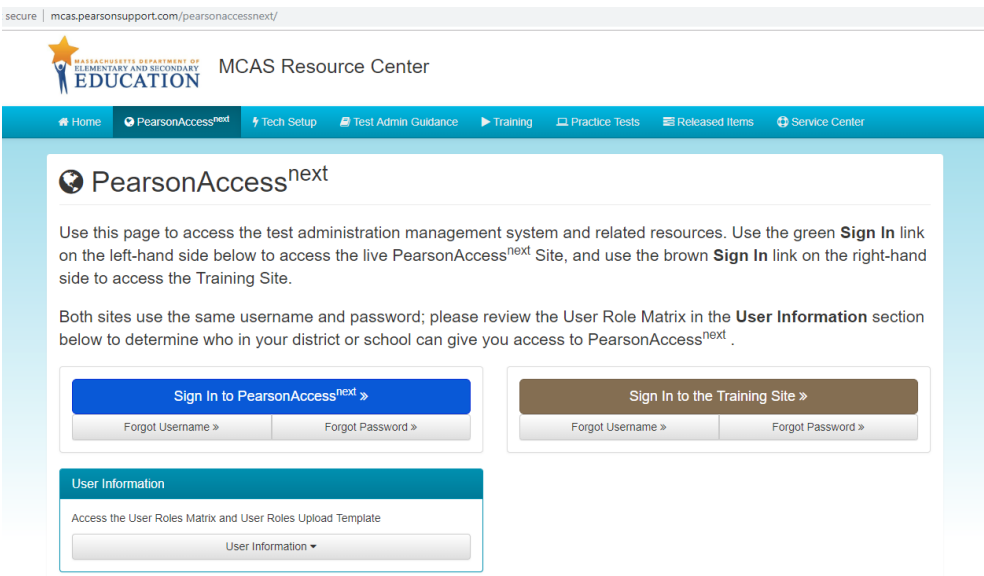
"I do not think that any standardized test shows what students know," said senior Emma Leahy. "Numerous students get test anxiety, which hinders their ability to perform their best. Memorizing and reciting facts is no test of intelligence, tests like MCAS cannot measure a student's worth."

The government spends \$1.7 billion a year on standardized testing. About 20-25 hours are spent taking standardized testing each school year. But that does not include any preparations students take.

Some students take extra classes and they also will be given homework in their regular classes for tests, especially if the test reflect directly on the school, for example MCAS.

But often the standards for school curriculum changes and as a result, a new test

**See MCAS on page 2**



The new MCAS, MCAS 2.0, went live last month for the first time for 10th graders. The test was taken for the English section completely online. Math will be the next subject tested online for sophomores, followed by science testing for freshmen (Pearson Image).

## Heard in the Halls

A Student Slang Guide to In- and Out-of-Class Language

By Bridget Tucker & Kaylyn Pesaturo  
Staff Writers

In the English hallway, one student whispered "Can you tell I forged this?"

Leaving through the tunnel at dismissal, another student declared, "On dogs, if one more person asks me why I wasn't at practice I am going to cough my Ebola down their throat."

In the foreign language hallway, a student exclaimed "Dude, I'm not trying to force it, but she was definitely checking you out."

Heard in the Halls has always been a beloved tradition in *Triton Voice*. Just the whispers one would hear in the hallways, the most inexplicable part of a conversation that students or staff have unfortunately walked into. However, *Triton Voice* has expanded its horizons to classrooms and other schools too.

"Yeah no, I've never heard the term 'sus bus'," says Ipswich High School junior Kylie Smith. "Pretty sure that's just a Triton thing. That being said, 'sketchin' has definitely made its way to my school."

This begs the question, why is Triton slang so unique? And why is it so well known and so widely accepted? "On dogs. On dogs is the most said saying," says Triton sophomore Nora Marks. "It's like, it means no lie. No cap. I think it's someone swearing on their dogs that

**See HALLS on page 2**



Juniors Abbie Magee and Anthony Ostrander share a hallway secret (Ethan Tougas photo).

## A Day of District Arts

The story of a day dedicated to Triton's arts programs

By Glory Trelfa  
Staff Writer

Students approaching their teachers the day before to collect work they'll miss. Band members double-checking their instruments and getting that one tricky section just right. Chorus kids saving their voices to give it their all. Drama students perfecting the choreography and re-reading their lines. Winter guard members making sure they know when to get flags and when to switch to sabers. Throughout Triton's schools, all of these things can only mean one thing: The District Arts Festival.

Triton High School hosts an annual event known as the District Arts Festival, a day dedicated to each aspect of the performing arts that Triton has to offer, and consisting of performances from each of the arts as well as fun events such as karaoke and a pizza dinner. While all of the events take place at the high school, band and chorus members from the elementary schools (Salisbury, Newbury, and Rowley's Pine Grove) and those from the middle school are welcome to join.

**See ARTS on page 2**

Triton Regional School District is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, disability, or any other factor as defined and required by state and federal laws.

# The Ethics of Genetically Engineering Animals Studies Prove the Immorality of the Process of Gene Changes

By Karoline Jacobs  
Staff Writer

There is a question of ethics when it comes to genetically engineering animals. The problem is that the rights of the animals are being violated in this process and are only benefiting humans. Along with that, the general welfare of these animals is in question.

Scientists use biotechnology to alter the characteristics of a particular breed of animal. Yet, the genetic engineering of animals is violating their rights because they involve altering animals for human benefits as if the animals were nothing more than human property. This is unethical because this treats animals as property and modify certain characteristics to make them benefit for us. Although they are only animals, they still have rights.

In one study, a pig was injected with a hormone to make it grow faster however, the results were unfortunate. The pig ended up bow legged, cross-eyed, arthritic, and had a dysfunctional immune system that made them more prone to developing pneumonia. This pig was normal until scientists wanted to make it grow faster. They did it out of the benefits of humans and not the actual animal that they were testing on.

During the process of modifying animals, there needs to be a large number of them required for testing. This is a question of ethics because many of the embryos that undergo genetic engineering procedures do not survive, and of those that do survive only a small proportion carry the genetic alteration of interest. This means that large numbers of animals are produced to obtain genetically engineered animals that are of scientific value, and this contradicts any efforts to minimize animal use. The percentage of the animals that carry the desired modification are only 1 percent to 30 percent. The amount of animal lives lost in this process to acquire a desired trait, is immeasurable and



unethical.

Some may argue that genetically engineering animals has a positive effect and can be beneficial. Studies say that genetically engineered animals can improve human health by producing novel replacement proteins, drugs, vaccines and tissues for the treatment and prevention of human disease. Studies also show that animals that are genetically engineered have improved food production capabilities, enabling them to meet the global demand for more efficient, higher quality, and lower-cost sources of food. The *New York Times* stated that genetically engineered animals will require stricter regulations. "It is expected that each type of modified animal will require a separate approval, with the F.D.A. evaluating the human health effects of the food, the effects on the animal's health and environmental effects." This could be changed with the implementation of regulations, making genetic engineering more ethical

Studies like this make it seem like genetic engineering is an ethical thing to do. But unethical consequences remain. I believe that it is not ethical to genetically engineer animals because the animals have rights that are being violated and their general welfare is being threatened by these gene alterations.

## MCAS from page 1

needs to be created. In addition to the MCAS 2.0 tests, juniors and seniors need to take the SAT's in order to get into most colleges. All these tests can leave kids stressed and anxious, according to the Nation Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), which also reports that one in five kids, ages 13-18, suffer from a mental illness.

The *Triton Voice* asked students if they think tests and class loads cause most of their stress and anxiety.

"Yeah, I think though there are many things that stress me out at school. Classes and tests are the main cause," said senior Olivia Valley.

Senior Gillian Nichols agreed.

"Most of the time, especially before the end of the quarter, the teacher will give us lots of tests and projects within a week, so it is really stressful trying to get it done all at once. Usually, I get more stressed from busy work because it's not stuff I have to do that's beneficial for the class it's just stuff I have to do.

However, some people feel that at this point, the test doesn't affect them as much, that it has just become another part school.

"Personally, I don't like standardized tests," said sophomore Sammie Marinello. "We already have to take so many tests throughout the year that supposedly it

'proves what we know' so I don't understand the point of MCAS. I don't mind it too much though because it doesn't stress me out anymore. It just feels like one more test I have to take."

This year's MCAS 2.0 is already underway. Thursday March 21st was the first day of practice for the sophomores. They could also practice at home by going to the MCAS website. On the following Tuesday and Wednesday, March 26 and 27, the full English portion of the test was taken by all Triton 10th graders.

A few seniors were shocked to hear that the MCAS is now on computers.

"Personally, I am someone who writes all over their tests," Leahy said. "There were notes in the margins on every MCAS and SAT test that I have ever taken. It may not be a proven fact that writing down what you know before testing helps your score improve, but I think this technique helped me score higher. Making the test be on computers is an added obstacle for the student. The disconnect between your brain and the screen is highlighted."

After this year, the Department of Education will be able to see if they should join the 21st Century and use all of the technology to test students, or return to the classic pencil and paper.

"I am willing to bet that the next round of test scores will be lower," Leahy said.



Junior Marcella Hubbard-Brucher passing out Triton Arts string bags to elementary students in the high school auditorium. More photos at [tritonvoice.co](http://tritonvoice.co) (**Trelfa photos**).

## ARTS from page 1

"I was much less stressed having done it [once] before knowing what to expect because it is a pretty substantial undertaking to put on a festival of that size," said middle school band and music teacher, Todd Roberts.

The day began around 8 a.m. As students from the high school started setting up approximately 200 chairs and 150 music stands for the combined number of band students, another 150 or so chairs for spectators on the floor of the gymnasium, and risers for the combined number of singers. After this, students from each of the elementary schools began to arrive. Everyone was crowded into the auditorium where a few songs from this year's musical, *Spamalot*, were shown. Afterward, students from each of the arts programs broke into groups for practices. These were followed up by more preparation, an hour-long concert dedicated solely to the more exclusive programs (jazz band, women's choir, men's choir, select choir, etc.), and an hour or so of karaoke. Next was a pizza dinner which was said to cost about \$1,100 for all of the students, chaperones, and faculty that helped with the event.

At the end of the Festival, there were two and a half hours worth of performances that family and friends were invited to watch. First, the winter percussionists performed, followed shortly after by the winter guard. This took place in the middle school gym. Next, the elementary schools performed together in the high school gym. Next was the middle schoolers, then high schoolers. To wrap it up, every singer sang together, then every band member played together for two final pieces.

Program coordinator and high school band and music teacher Susan Densmore has been a part of each and every Festival since it began ten years ago in 2009. She

said she believes it's a wonderful opportunity for every performer in the district.

"We want to give the younger kids a great experience, and open their eyes to all the possibilities of their future in the district's program," stated Densmore. "Getting a chance to see some of the musical, see the upper level groups, and work with students that have been where they are and grew into leadership often inspires them to realize that they, too, can do this."

The upper level groups are often made up of the some similar students. Although each group is said to be beneficial to younger students and fun for the people involved, performing during the Festival can turn out to be especially draining. One of these students is sophomore Anthony Mariniello.

"I'm in jazz band, concert band, singers (chorus), jazz choir, men's choir, winter percussion, and I work as part of the stage crew for the musical so I had a very busy day," stated Mariniello. "At one point in the day I was literally supposed to be in two places at once! It was insane but I love what I do."

The District Arts Festival is a day Triton dedicates to the fine arts of the district. It lasts an entire school day and then some - this year it was approximately 15 hours long - and can turn up tiring for some. The day is seen as important for those who care so much for the programs Triton has to offer that aren't academic.

"It is [...] a chance for parents and families to see where their kids can go, or, in the case of older students, realize just how far they have grown through their work in the arts," Densmore said.



## HOUSE from page 1

who are perfect students and clearly deserved to get in, didn't get in. But to many of us, it's clear that when you have money, you're automatically at an advantage and you can get everything that you want even though what your doing is not earned. For Loughlin, she and her whole family now have to pay the consequences.

## HALLS from page 1

what they're about to say is 100 percent true."

*Triton Voice* decided to keep an ear open to see if the student body says wackier things in or outside of class.

Passing by the drama room, a student yelled "I love how violent Ancient Roman and like, Greek history is. Aphrodite would kill a b\*tch for looking at her the wrong way."

Typing away in the media lab, "John Travolta is still so charming. Like he was hot in Grease, and now he's aged like fine wine."

Grabbing water in the library, there was: "You're sketchin' way too much for only fourth period."

"There doesn't seem to be much difference between kids' language in and out of class," says senior Maggie Oliver. "If anything, I've heard more kids swear out of class than in class. As weird as some of the things you hear inside of class are, I feel like people filter themselves. Unless it's the drama room."

## More Favorite Quotes

"I don't really wanna go to prom, I just wanna remind everyone how much prettier I am than them."  
— *History Hallway*

"Let me know how I have an 80 when I've been asleep in his class the past 2 quarters."  
— *Cafeteria*

"She's so cute, I just wanna put her in my pocket."  
— *English Hallway*

"No, no, Kanye is definitely not a Gryffindor, he's got the mind of a Ravenclaw."  
— *Math Hallway*

"Is there any difference between our president and the burnt lasagna my mom made last night?"  
— *Cafeteria*

