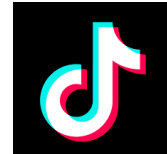




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EDITORIAL EDITION



Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

December 17, 2021

We've Got Opinions...

Half-Day Disagreement

Students and Staff Wish for Friday Half-days Again

By Channing Marengi
Staff Writer

The first Friday of every month used to be dedicated to half days. The school day would get out at 10:44 AM allowing students to have a long weekend. This allowed teachers to have their professional development days once a month. Triton sent out a form within the last year that allowed students, parents, and teachers to vote on whether or not to keep half days on the first Fridays of every month or change it to a new day. The vote was then cast to change the half days to every other Monday.

The every other Monday schedule was added in, releasing students at 12:44 rather than 10:44. The calendar for the 2021-2022 year shows that every other Monday would give teachers the professional development they need. The schedule for this included five 38-minute classes and one 60-minute class. Lunch is served in order for it to be considered a "full day of school" even though students get out 90 minutes earlier. The Google form survey was sent out through email asking if there was any input on changing the half days from Friday to any other day that was listed. The list included Mondays, Wednesdays, or to keep Fridays. This allowed the Triton Community to vote on what they would prefer.

In the *New York Times*, schools in New York talk about half days and their needs for teachers and students. In the article "Half-Days Fill Final Stretch," Kate Taylor describes half days in the article as "... long standing

traditions. Principals and teachers said they were necessary, allowing teachers and administrators time for tasks like finishing report cards, looking over data to determine who needs to go to summer school, and compiling student records". After our school day ends on our dedicated half-days, meetings, and grading for tests, papers, and worksheets are to be done during this given time. Some teachers at Triton would agree that it would be more useful if they were given more time to get the professional development done. Richard Dube says "there isn't enough time to get everything done, we get out at 12:44 and it gives us such little time to accomplish what we need to accomplish". Adam Lothrop would agree but from a different standpoint; "with having them so frequently departments plan meetings, that end up getting off-topic." Students here at Triton would also agree that the Monday half-days are not well-liked. It doesn't give them the time to have a long weekend.

The majority of the voters voted on Mondays, because who wouldn't want a Monday half day. The Monday half days are every other week that allows an early release more frequently than one Friday at the beginning of the month. However, teachers and students here at Triton disagree with this change. Most have a negative feeling and a dislike for the schedule that has not taken place and want the Fridays to still be our half days. Although the majority voted for the change it still left the rest of the school wanting a switch back to the normal 10:44 release.

Monday 90 minute release schedule

Time	Period
7:42-8:20 (38 min)	A
8:25-9:03 (38 min)	B
9:08-9:46 (38 min)	C
9:51-10:29 (38 min)	F
10:34-11:34 (60 min)	D
11:39-12:43 (61 min) 36 min d/25 min in	E
1st L 11:39-12:04 C (12:07-12:43) C (11:39-12:15) 2nd L 12:18-12:43	
Drop Period Rotation	G

*The ordering of the periods would be dependent on the day of the week.

The new schedule for every other Monday 90-minute release (Marengi photo).

Fridays to still be our half days. Although the majority voted for the change it still left the rest of the school wanting a switch back to the normal 10:44 release.

HS Bathrooms Need Help

By Maddy Jacques
Staff Writer

The Triton student bathrooms are disgusting and need to be fixed now. Students have been vandalizing the bathrooms and the problem is just getting worse. If the bathrooms were repaired and looked nicer, students would be less likely to deface them. Some of the work that needs to be done includes repairing the toilets so they don't leak, fixing all the cracked dirty tiles, putting up some new stall doors, and painting over the cracked, defaced walls.

Walking into a bathroom, you would want to see working sinks and toilets, stall doors that actually close all the way, and overall, you would want it to be clean. If you walk into a bathroom at Triton, however, you will see cracking floor tiles, missing and broken sinks, and writing all over the walls and stall doors. One of the stall doors in the girls' bathroom doesn't even close all the way, which means no privacy while trying to use the toilet. The boys' bathroom also has sinks missing and writing all over the walls and stall doors. Students throw trash into the toilets, clogging them. There have even been multiple incidents of students using the toilet paper to create a fort-type structure over the stalls.

The problem is that the bathroom isn't being taken care of by students because they recognize how gross and damaged it already is and think they're not making it any better by leaving trash in there. Students would take care of the bathrooms more if they didn't look as bad, and this is backed up by a concept known as The Broken Window Theory. According to *Britanica.com*, The Broken Window Theory states that visible signs of crime or civil disorder creates an urban environment and encourages further crime. For example, in 1992, New York City, under the direction of commissioner William Bratton, implemented the Broken Window Theory by cleaning up the streets. They cracked down on panhandling, disorderly behavior, public drinking, street prostitution, and littering. When Bratton resigned in 1996, felonies were down 40 percent in New York, and the homicide rate was halved. If Triton implemented the theory into the school and fixed the bathrooms, vandalism could decrease.

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Online Options Necessary for Students

By Dylan Merrill
Staff Writer

During the peak of the pandemic, the world worked hard to keep schooling as normal as possible. This was a struggle, especially for students and teachers who tried to maintain a normal school life while in lockdown. Online schooling proved to be effective for many members of the Triton community, so much so that many students opted to stay online when things moved back to in-person learning. Having this option is beneficial to many students' mental health, and being able to participate in classes online is a good way for kids to take a mental health day without falling behind on their assignments.

Remote learning reduces social anxiety and may help students feel more confident in their interactions with their teachers. In an article written by Arizona State University titled "Can Students with Social Anxiety Benefit from Online School?" They stated: "Education is not one size fits all." There are alternatives to traditional school whether a child is struggling academically, physically, or mentally. For students who experience social anxiety, an online school may be a viable option." Schools need to accommodate different needs if they want every student to have an optimized learning experience. Additionally, as the world is still in a pandemic, with new variations of the coro-

navirus and the unpredictable COVID-19 numbers, online learning is still a necessity for us in the future.

Not only are family members in the community falling sick, but the economic problems that came with the global shutdown have left many students with more responsibilities. Students may need to work, or care for family members so their parents can work. According to a *New York Times* article, "The increased flexibility of online learning has been especially important when students need to balance burdens like jobs or, right now, to care for themselves or relatives who have fallen ill." Students who have to care for a family member would benefit by being able to be at home with them, whether that is a younger sibling or

someone who is sick. It is easy to take a break during an online class, so a student could have their family member in the room with them, or they could check on them during or between classes.

For some students, a conventional classroom is not how they learn best.

Many kids benefit from a more flexible schedule even when not faced with a pandemic. According to the American Psychological Association, students are more motivated when they have options, and "In a recent study, researchers

found that 18% of parents pointed to greater flexibility in a child's schedule or way of learning as the biggest benefit or positive outcome related to remote learning." Students perform better when they are happier, and some students are happy-

er to be at home, in a comfortable environment. As long as the student is doing well in their classes, they should have a flexible schedule if that is what they need.

Critics of online schooling might argue that students need to be exposed to the social aspect of schools, and that staying home to learn is not healthy for a child. Students interacting with other students is an excellent way for them to form social skills and make friends, and it forms some life-long friendships. On the other side of things, tending to students online is an additional burden for teachers, who already have a full day's worth of classes to teach.

However, by the time students reach high school, they have mostly developed the ability to make friends and interact socially. The same social interactions can happen outside of school. Additionally, students are more connected than ever with the use of social media and the ability to text and Snapchat each other to stay in touch. At the end of the day, school is about the student learning, and if a child prefers online learning and learns better that way, they should be able to have remote options for their classes. Teachers at Triton work hard teaching their regular classes, but if we as a school want to take mental health seriously, students need to have options. Those options could be

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Looking Local

Local Businesses Struggling to Survive

Emma Campbell
Staff Writer

Shopping has been made so easy nowa-days, you can just click a few buttons on your phone get your desired item a few days later. Shopping is a great mode of entertainment but businesses in this day in age have been struggling. With the big corporate fashion industries taking over, local businesses are getting a decreasing amount of sales. It is easier to just order from a big and well-known store online than a local business that you have to drive to. To solve this recurring issue, many are deciding to shop local this holiday season.

In the US, according to a *Zenbuisness* article in “Why Small Businesses Fail,” 20 percent of local business startups fail in the first year, and by year 10 only 33 percent of local businesses survive. Think about your shopping this past month. How many of your purchases have been from local businesses and how many from big businesses? This holiday season everyone should plan to buy at least one thing for each person on your list from a local business. It will be challenging but great for our local businesses.

Big businesses are more popular because they typically have more to offer and a much bigger following. Celebrities also endorse these companies and commercials promote them so it seems like a great idea to buy from them.

In addition to Black Friday shopping, a new way to buy has been introduced; Small Business Saturday. “It’s not about quality. It’s about quantity. Small business is really about quality. It’s about connection,” said Tom Rogan, a small



Abraham’s Bagels: a popular local business in Newburyport MA (Abraham’s photo).

business owner in the *MetroWest Daily News*. Small businesses have a deeper meaning and purpose. These are people who have risked it all to start their own business in something they are passionate about and they hope that you will see that. Small Business Saturday occurs on the Saturday right after Black Friday and it’s a whole day to encourage people to shop locally, even though Small Business Saturday has already occurred this year you can still celebrate it on your own time by buying locally.

Some might argue that buying locally is typically more expensive, but this may be because not enough people buy from small businesses. The more people who buy from the local businesses, the lower the prices become because they will be making more money and reducing their prices for the appeal. Some local businesses have higher prices because without them the business would be very unlikely to survive if they don’t bring in enough income. So I challenge you to buy at least one thing this holiday season for each of the people on your list from a local business. Support something bigger than yourself this holiday.

Cable VS Streaming

The Future of TV is Here Today

By David Pugh & Cooper Campbell
Staff Writers

The days of channel surfing are over. Rather than paying over \$100 a month for channels you won’t even watch, now you can only pay for what you want.

Streaming services are the modern option: they give you immediate access to the shows you want to watch for much cheaper than cable TV.

Overall streaming is the cheaper option compared to cable TV. The cheapest streaming services start at only \$7 bucks a month and they feature more than just TV shows.

Services such as Disney+, Hulu, Netflix, HBO and more offer the TV shows you love as well as movies and documentaries. Disney+ provides members with any movie or TV show from almost any Disney property.

With streaming, you aren’t stuck to your TV, you can watch shows or movies on your phone, computer, and even your gaming console. This allows you to watch anywhere you want. You can watch them on planes, trains, automobiles, or any other place you can think of.

Have no cell service? Just download your shows and movies. You will get more out of a streaming membership because you can watch it in any place you can think of rather than cable TV only being available at home.

Streaming has brought a new way to watch shows and movies. Today, people are pushed into the idea of the binge. With shows being released all at once people are getting hooked and watching the whole series.

The excitement of watching your show every Friday night is gone. Now,



companies such as Netflix and Amazon TV release the whole season all at once. People now have to be careful about not spoiling shows for others who have held back from binging the whole series. The schedule people lose isn’t what most people have cable for. Live sports is a big factor. Shows like NESN and sports channels don’t have streaming platforms and are only on cable. As well as local and live news.

Streaming is able to be flexible and adapt to these quick fixes. Disney+ is bringing back the weekly episodes format with shows such as *The Mandalorian* and *Falcon and The Winter Soldier*. There are many services that offer live sports. ESPN+ for example, offers NHL, MLB, College sports, golf, soccer, and more. You can even bundle ESPN+ with Disney+ and Hulu for only \$14 a month. You don’t even need cable for local weather.

Most news channels have apps and you can get weather alerts sent straight to your phone. If it wasn’t for live sports and the local news, cable tv would be dead. Now, streaming is the modern and better option than simple cable. Streaming allows for more shows, movies, and sports all at a cheap cost than a cable.

Discovering Rising Gas Prices

By John Serino
Staff Writer

On November 29, I had the experience of filling up my gas tank for the first time, and when the total came out to \$45, I was shocked. That was about a quarter of the money left in my account, and now I know what my parents were talking about when they would drive to the gas station that’s a few miles further down the road because it’s thirteen cents cheaper there. Recently, I’ve seen articles popping up in the media about how gas prices are going higher and higher, and they aren’t slowing down. I wanted to know how this is affecting the economy besides transportation.

An article by the *New York Times*, reported that one man “paid \$50 to fill up his Jeep and estimated the gas would last him just two days. He said he had stopped driving to go fishing in nearby Benicia to avoid using too much gas, and would do all his Christmas shopping online this year.” This shows me how many people are going to resort to online shopping with the holidays coming

around, and will instead shop on websites like Amazon for their gifts. This could have a major impact on brick and mortar stores like Walmart, Target, and others because of their lesser prominence in the online retail market.



Photo: Al Seib, *LA Times*, 10 22 2021.

I have also heard that it’s just a result of the pandemic and recent inflation, and that the prices will lower soon just as they rose. However, while it does seem like the prices are slowly lowering back down to their original rates, with new COVID-19 variants being spotted, if we aren’t careful with the handling of it we could be right back in a worse situation soon.

Rising gas prices may not be an issue in certain locations, but it is a rising issue in most of the country, with certain areas getting as high as \$5 a gallon. This can easily make filling up a tank \$60 or more. This made me think about how this will affect people with lower amounts of disposable income, and in turn force them into taking cheaper routes, like public transportation or ride-sharing apps like Uber or Lyft instead of using the car they usually rely on.

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teachers simply opening up a zoom call while they teach, or hiring additional teachers to accommodate remote students.

The case for remote schooling options is a strong one, and one that should be considered by Triton, and all high schools that want to provide flexibility and mental health options for their students. While some may believe that in-person learning is the healthiest and most effective method, if a student is both happier and more successful in their classes online, there is no reason that they shouldn’t have that option.

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Not only is the bathroom an eyesore, some students don't feel safe using the bathrooms the way they are, so they wait until they get home to use the bathroom. This can be dangerous. Studies show that holding in urine for long periods of time can do all kinds of damage to your body. It can cause urinary tract infections, increase the risk of kidney disease, or even cause your bladder to burst which could be deadly (According to geisinger.org). Students should have a safe, clean bathroom to use throughout the school day so they aren't forced to wait until they're home.

The renovations that need to take place in the bathroom would be expensive and time consuming. The school may not see this as a priority because of the cost, but students need to feel comfortable going to the bathroom throughout the school day. If the bathrooms are fixed up, students would start taking better care of them which would reduce the number of small repairs that are already needed every now and then, and will save money in the long run. The bathrooms need to be fixed now before they get so bad that it becomes an even bigger issue that can't be avoided.

