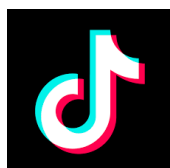
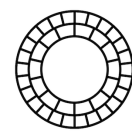




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# RITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

November 10, 2022

## French Students Take in Triton

### Exchange Students Speak to Brief American High School Experience

By Aiden Szymanski & Cam Neary  
Staff Writers

Twenty-two French exchange students took in the American high school experience from October 17-28, visiting Harvard and MIT, the State House in Boston, historic Salem, and more to further acclimate themselves to American culture as a part of Triton's French immersion program.

One French exchange student, Roxane, was surprised by the food, clothing, and the way classrooms operate at THS.

"Everything is different, it's so, so different," Roxane said when asked about some of the major differences between school in America and school in France. "First of all, the food here doesn't make any sense. In France you have bigger meals and more choices. The way people dress — nobody wears pajama pants, nobody wears Crocs, nobody wears leggings. And the classes, [the students] don't move, the teachers move, and also I feel like here you are really close to your teachers and in France, not so much."

Another French exchange student, Ethan, noticed the difference in school difficulty between France and the United States. "French school is a little bit more difficult than the USA school," said Ethan.

Roxane and Ethan immersed themselves with American culture outside of school as well.

"The (Boston) Duck Tour was nice," said Roxane. "I liked the MIT museum because we just walked

around like we wanted to. The free-time was nice"

Ethan spent time with Colin Pearson, who housed him during his time in America, and experienced American sports as well. "I shadowed Colin during class, and I played sports with the Triton school," Ethan said.

While in the area, the French students were able to visit some land marks that are of more significance to New Englanders. Doctor (Doc) Adam Lothrop chaperoned the trip to the Massachusetts State House.

"We got a whole tour of the State House," said Lothrop. "We were able to kind of let them run around and grab coffee. They were very excited to go to Dunkin Donuts."

Ordinarily, in a non-pandemic world, the French exchange program occurs every two years at Triton. In October, the French students come to Triton and experience life as U.S. high school students. Then, in May, the Vikings head to France and experience life as French students.

For junior Elise Blanchet and senior Colin Pearson, who hosted Roxane and Ethan respectively, their time with the French students was special, and the two of them enjoyed that time.

"I'm just really happy to have made a friend as good as Roxane," Blanchet said in a recent interview.

"They've become part of our life in the past two weeks. It's going to be really hard to say goodbye, and I'm really excited to see them again in April."

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## Fight Club Finished

By Shea McLaughlin  
Staff Writer

A so-called "fight club" involving a group of Triton students was discovered on October 19 and has led to different levels of punishment for those involved. The fights were staged both in the Triton boy's bathrooms as well as outside of school, where students of different ages would bring boxing gloves to fight, record, or just watch matches between students.

Triton's administration took action immediately after finding out about the incidents. Principal Patrick Kelley started meeting with the parents of the students and the students involved. Kelley also sent out a mass email to all teachers, administrators, students, and parents in the Triton School District informing the public and asking for any information about the issue.

"The simple fact of fighting on school grounds, whether you're looking to harm someone else or fight for fun, regardless of what it is, it's dangerous," said Kelley in a recent interview.

The process of the ongoing investigation involves collecting any and all names of students involved, whether they were the ones fighting, recording, or simply watching. Videos and pictures have been collected as well as information from teachers in nearby classrooms.

Kelley would not say what direct action is being taken against the students individually, but repercussions involving cutting back bathroom access are being discussed.

Some students may have noticed Mr. Chris Lamothe, the athletic director's assistant, standing outside the male bathrooms. This is because Kelley wants more eyes in more places. Assistant Principal Joseph Celia said that within the two weeks Lamothe has been present, they've noticed nearly a 70 percent decrease in inappropriate behavior in the bathrooms.

Students who use the male bathrooms may also face another change as it's still being decided if one of the bathrooms will be

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Triton students and French students pose together on a field trip (courtesy photo).

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## SEL Attracting National Attention

### Social Emotional Learning Comes Into the Spotlight as Mixed Opinions Circulate

By Katharine Price & Sadie Clifford  
Staff Writers

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is a widely used school curriculum. But recently, some parents have begun to fight against it, questioning whether SEL should remain.

Social Emotional Learning is all about broadening students' horizons past the core subjects like English and Math, proponents say. It teaches students communication, how to identify and understand what they're feeling, and how to create and achieve their goals. THS Assistant Principal Joseph Celia, a former school adjustment counselor, has experience when it comes to working with SEL.

"(SEL) is an opportunity for us as educators to look at the whole child," Celia said. "Not just what they're maybe doing academically but where they are in relation to how they feel about themselves, how they feel about others, and if they are they emotionally in a good place as far as regulating

their behaviors and their emotions."

However, some parents have been fighting against the curriculum, standing by the opinion that SEL should instead be taught by parents.

### SEL in the Spotlight

Nationally, SEL has become one of the most controversial topics regarding education. SEL in a school environment has shown improved classroom behavior, an increased ability to manage stress and depression, and overall better attitudes towards the school environment and the people around them, advocates say. However, some parents have formed their own opinion on how SEL is being presented in schools. While some believe that being able to connect with a student and help them with something more than just academics is a powerful ability that could definitely help the mental stamina of most kids, others are skeptical this learning technique is a good use of a school's time when teachers should be teaching core subjects

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At the recent THS Wellness Fair, student and parent volunteers assisted kids as they came together and focus on their mental and physical health (Karrah Briley photo).

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# Ousted Down South

## After Strong Season, Vikes Lose to Apponequet

By Luke O'Leary  
Staff Writer

With the opposing teams having a better record and home field advantage, what chances did Triton football have going into the playoffs?

This question was answered when Triton football took on Apponequet on Friday, November 4. Leading up to the game, Triton had experienced a great season by earning a record of 5-3. The Vikings also had also won three games in a row which was giving them momentum on their performance.

"I think it's a great match up actually. Two teams playing seniors who are trying to make history for their programs," said Head Coach Eric Burgos in an interview prior to Friday's game. "Should be a fun matchup and a fun game."

Quarterback Max Ciaramitaro is one of the leading Quarterbacks in the CAL in passing yards and had a positive message going into the game. "I prepare for every game like I have to play the best football of my life," said Ciaramitaro.

Senior Josh Rodriguez has had a big impact as one of the linebackers for Triton and talked about the defense going into the game. "The defense had a good week at practice and Max is making a huge impact on the defense that teams aren't ready for. The defense is getting stronger and stronger every game and I don't think that will be any different going into the playoffs. We have a great defensive coordinator and many stars on the defensive side of the ball who will be making plays



all night." Said Linebacker Josh Rodriguez.

Triton hadn't had a start season like the one they were experiencing since 2016. The Vikings put in countless hours preparing themselves for this game. However, after winning three games in a row, the Vikings playoff run came to an end against Apponequet, which stopped Triton 41-13 during their quarterfinal matchup. It was a long ride home for Triton, which had to travel an hour and 45 minutes to Apponequet.

Unfortunately, Triton football's playoff run is over, but they still have consolation matchups that will be scheduled soon as well as the annual Thanksgiving Day matchup against Pentucket.

others such as staff members, and control their behavior.

SEL has different curriculums constructed around its central idea, to give students time to focus on their communication, behavioral, and emotional abilities. Some of these education plans are only for elementary schooling or pre-school. These curriculums completely disregard the years after, including the most important years of a child's life - middle school, which Clifford argues is a changing point in teens' lives when SEL could play a major part in how they mature.

From the most recent research, 27 states have adopted K-12 Social Emotional Learning curriculums and all 50 states have adopted Pre-K SEL competencies.

### Understanding is Key

Karen Christian, a guidance counselor at Triton High School, believes that a lot of the parent controversy revolving around SEL comes from the name itself. The word 'emotional' can have many different reactions from different people. "I think there is a stigma around emotional stuff, unfortunately there are some people that feel like - people shouldn't show emotion, (and) that it is not okay to have emotions," Christian said.

Christian goes on to say that having this belief towards emotions can limit people's resources, or even worsen their situation when people are trying to help them.

Some parents argue that teachers aren't meant to teach students about SEL, but that they should leave it to a licensed professional, in other words a therapist, or themselves.

Tru Heinze, a second year student at a Clinical Doctorate program, is also familiar with the works of SEL and how it incorporates into students' daily lives. "It's not about making it an additional thing for kids to learn, it's about bringing it into daily instruction," Heinze said. Heinze unfamiliar with SEL should be given time to understand it, whether that includes talking with them, showing them, or answering questions. "If adults can have these feelings, kids can too," Heinze said.

Erik Champy THS guidance counselor says SEL is like having tools in a tool box.

"We can never have too many tools in the toolbox," said Champy. "And by providing students with more tools to ensure greater successes, I don't see how that could be a bad thing."

# A New Tradition?

## Senior Class Hosts Tailgate on Senior Night

By Connor Houlihan  
Staff Writer

Two Fridays ago, the senior class set out to try a new type of event: a tailgate. For the first time, parents, students, and teachers alike laughed, played Spike Ball, and grabbed food from friends and family.

Triton seniors orchestrated the tailgate before a senior night football match-up against Hamilton-Wenham, to help raise money for their class. This new kind of fundraiser might lead the way for a new Triton home game tradition, while creating new memories and fun. It might allow the senior class to fill their pockets deep for future senior trips.

Class advisor and history teacher Jillian Lewis says she is looking forward to the next tailgate. "I think it was successful and I think that (fellow class advisor) Mr. Haley and I have talked about the potential of it becoming an annual thing for at least senior night, if not more than that," said Lewis "And we would like to see it get bigger and bigger so more people and more families throughout the district will come to support and have fun."

As students pulled up to the tailgate, people quickly realized that this was an event that everyone was partaking in. Music, fires, and food, created the perfect combination of a great time. Other class

Haley explained how he was "really surprised and appreciative of how the students came together to bring their grills, to bring Triton-themed decor, and Triton-themed food items. I thought it was really cool to see that happen."

After the fires died and the food ran out, the Triton community led the way to the stadium to go and support the Triton football team's senior night. Triton took the W, leading the game by 20 for a final score of 35 to 15, a fitting end for the football seniors.

Lewis said that additional tailgates might be held for other sports, including hockey.

"I think we could do it for other sports too," she said. "It seems like football is the big driving force, because it's just one of those community gathers. But we definitely could consider doing it for other big sports and big games, if there is interest in us doing that."

Senior, Jack Hathaway, was the designated mascot two Fridays ago. Wearing the Triton Viking suit, Hathaway led the charge onto the field to kick off the football game. "It was good," said Hathaway. "Everyone had fun. Compared to all the other fundraisers this one ranks high up. There has definitely been success but this is definitely one of the best ones."



A group of Vikings Football fans meet for the Triton Tailgate (Houlihan photo).

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In a broad study, principals said they wanted to see more training and guidance on SEL to better everyone's understanding of what SEL is versus what it is perceived to be. The principals said that it is highly important for schools to guide students into developing better cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and social skills. This is what SEL introduces to schools as a whole. Once SEL research has been further explored and explained, parents can help be a part of the program and extend it to be something they do at home, the study said. Data has shown that by extending SEL in the students' home lives, their progress is more efficient.

### Experts Weigh In

Delaware state Education Secretary Susan Bunting said, "SEL is strategically placed as a universal strategy to build resilience, cultivate protective factors, like strong relationships with peers and adults, and reduce stigma around mental health help-seeking."

Sarah Clifford, a local Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA), has been working with SEL during the entirety of her career, working with special education students, staff, and administrations to bring SEL to life. As a part of her job, Clifford provides training to staff within multiple school districts pertaining to SEL.

"It sounds like it can be easy to do, but it's not easy to do," Clifford says. "There is a lot of research that goes into SEL, and training sessions too." Clifford said in an interview that a key detail in her training is the Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) method used in schools as a part of SEL. There are three systems to this support method.

The first tier is centered around school values and what in the school is being used to enforce students to be good people. The second tier is about giving certain students, who need it, the time to help with academics and or social connections.

The second tier goes into a more personal focus on students themselves.

The last tier is for students who have emotional/behavioral issues. This tier uses a lot more time and focus on the student and their needs, more than the second tier, and makes sure that SEL can be included to give the students the abilities to express and understand their emotions, communicate with

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Pearson noted the challenges that came with communication: "I loved it. It was kind of crazy, just being able to talk to somebody that didn't speak my language at all, and have to [pay attention to] what he said on his face more than what he was actually saying in words."

Triton French teacher and exchange organizer Regina Symonds was openly appreciative of the opportunity to continue the French exchange student program. To Symonds, the program offers a unique, authentic experience for Triton students to immerse themselves in French culture.

"There's nothing like it," Symonds said. "It's really a full-spirited exchange. I think it's added a little flavor to our high school experience in general, and I am so grateful for having the opportunity of having some real authentic learning experiences happening. It's the kind of stuff you don't learn in textbooks, and I'm grateful for all of the friendships that have developed and will probably continue."

Symonds was also impressed with both the students and teachers of Triton, specifically how they welcomed the French students into the school and their lives and made the most of the opportunity.

"I'm so grateful for our students," she said. "I'm so proud of how well they have represented the school and the community, and just opened themselves up to sharing with the French kids. It has certainly made my job a lot easier, and also our teachers have all jumped in to chaperone and support us in the administration as well."

## FIGHTS from page 1

closed so it's easier to monitor and prevent something like the fight club from happening again.

Another option being considered is reducing the number of students in the bathroom at once. According to Celia a sign will be posted outside the boys restrooms stating that only five students may enter at a time.

Other steps administrators are taking involve gathering funds to recondition the bathrooms. Their goal is to make them look nicer so students don't feel the need to gather. Celia describes the bathroom situation as the "Broken Window Model."

"If you have a dilapidated building or a dilapidated place in a building, trouble will gravitate to that spot," said Celia, "So if we clean up the bathrooms, that may have a ripple effect on what we hope is more positive behavior."

The students involved won't be facing any legal consequences. Because of the changes to the juvenile laws a few years ago, Kelley said that there is less legal action that can be taken against the minors fighting on school grounds.

"If this same incident had happened six years ago the outcome probably would've looked very different," said Kelley

However the police are aware of other fights that have taken place outside of school. Triton is not the only victim to this incident as fights have occurred behind Salisbury Elementary, and at a park in Rowley. Kelley also spoke to the principal of Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, New Hampshire, after hearing something similar was going to take place there.

Even before the club started, the male restrooms were a hot spot for illicit activities among groups of students. Vaping and smoking plagued both the upstairs and downstairs bathrooms. Additionally, stall doors have been ripped off, locks broken, urinals used as trash cans, and more. "We do believe that the state of the bathrooms are in such distress that it's not a welcoming environment, so we want to fix up the bathrooms so that we can take pride in our school," said Celia.