



# TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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## Streaming Service Showdown Should you Use Spotify or Apple Music?

By Kyle Hoggard & Andy Robinson  
Staff Writers

As consumers began to receive their 'Spotify Wrapped' and 'Apple Replay' notices from 2023, a debate sparked up once again: Which media source is superior?

The question is up for parley: Does one service provide more of a benefit? Arguments continuously kick off in the media over the individual user interface, the recent controversy in fair artist pay, or even the rapidly changing pricing details. The *Triton Voice* decided to dive into this concept in an attempt to determine which service comes out on top.

### User Payment Plans

For the individual plans, Apple Music offers a 3-month free trial period and then charges \$10.99 per month. Spotify Premium is the same price. However, users only get a 1-month free trial period. Both services also offer a student plan at \$5.99 and a family plan at \$16.99. The big difference here is Spotify's Duo Plan, which provides Spotify Premium for two people for \$14.99. Apple Music does not have a plan like this. The only exception is that a large portion of students may receive a free subscription to Apple Music, as long as they are enrolled at degree-granting universities. This deal lasts up to 48 months. Both services provide music across all genres, as well as the optional advancement of local file uploading.

### Artist Pay

On average, Spotify, artists are paid \$0.005 per individual stream, on average. 30% of the revenue split goes to Spotify, while 70% goes to the artists. On Apple Music, there is a much more varied range in pay, strictly due to factors surrounding record labels, distribution agreements, and plenty of behind the scenes information revolving around the product being released. The estimated average per artist is barely any higher than Spotify, hitting around \$0.007 per individual stream. While these prices don't feel so significant in difference, the streaming numbers change the math dramatically. In 2022, estimations proved Spotify to have a much larger user count — nearly double that of Apple.

### User Satisfaction

Undoubtedly, Spotify has been said to have a much better and much more simply constructed user interface than Apple Music. Where Apple sees overstuffed collective pages and difficult to access friend features and local file features, Spotify leads in simplicity. Alongside this, Spotify makes plenty of deals



Image Andy Robinson/Adobe Express

with artists to release *Spotify Singles*, in which they gain exclusive content for their service. Apple has their own formation of this promotion strategy, but it has proven to be far less consistent in terms of releases. Apple Music users have the benefit of general listening improvements, with higher quality choices such as lossless or spatial audio. Alongside that, Apple has partnership with Dolby Atmos, allowing for users to gain an immersive 3D audio experience with any listening device that may be paired with the setting. This doesn't necessarily come as the largest advantage—Spotify still provides up to 160kbps in quality. This is only a lower difference of 96kpbs from Apple's average of 256kbps on desktop and 320kbps on mobile. It doesn't end there, however. Spotify's premium offers users to pay to upgrade the quality in which their music is produced from the desktop or mobile app, with the new possibility to match Apple's 320kbps on both desktop and mobile applications.

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## THS Names Interim AD

### McKenna Takes Over for 2024

By Liam Kneeland  
Staff Writer

Triton athletics were put in a tough position when Athletic Director Tim Alberts accepted a new position and left Triton in late November. Principal Patrick Kelly and Mr. Scott Kelly, an IA in the middle school, collaboratively filled the position while searching for a new interim AD.

Now, after a hiring committee composed of students, faculty, and administrators interviewed applicants, it was decided the new hire would be Mr. Joel McKenna. Triton's official new AD started on January 8.

During an interview with the *Triton Voice*, McKenna explained that he started out as a law major at Ohio State University, later realizing that wasn't the path for him. His family had primarily studied in the educational field, which brought McKenna closer to that career. After college, he began at Tewksbury High, working with students in alternative education and that's what he did for 12 years, whilst coaching wrestling at Wilmington High and lacrosse at Tewksbury.

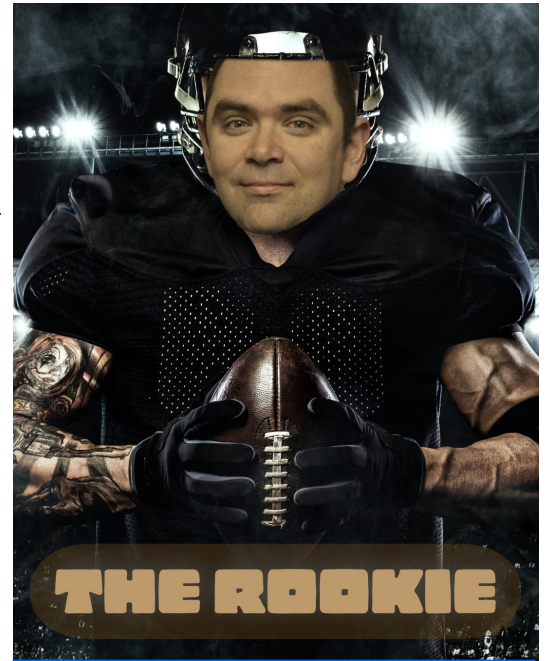


Image of new Athletic Director Joel McKenna made with Adobe Express by Liam Kneeland

Coaching these sports gave him a connection to his students, and he encouraged them to join any sports teams because he knew the benefits that playing a sport can give you, like gaining leadership and passion.

Later working with Wilmington High, he discovered his love

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## Chronically Absent: Why Students Don't Like Coming to School

### EDITORIAL/OPINION

By Ryan Snow, Staff Writer

Here at Triton High School, there has been a huge controversy with students skipping classes, spending too much time sleeping in, or other reasons that make them tardy. There is an immense problem of students not wanting to get out of bed and come to school.

Students who *do* wake up and come to school every day and don't miss a day of school? I don't know how they can do it.

The majority of students here at Triton have at been absent from school more than once this year. And about 50 percent of students have missed more than four days, according to student attendance records. Students have been losing motivation to get up in the morning and make it to school; being absent from school has become a real problem for students and teachers.

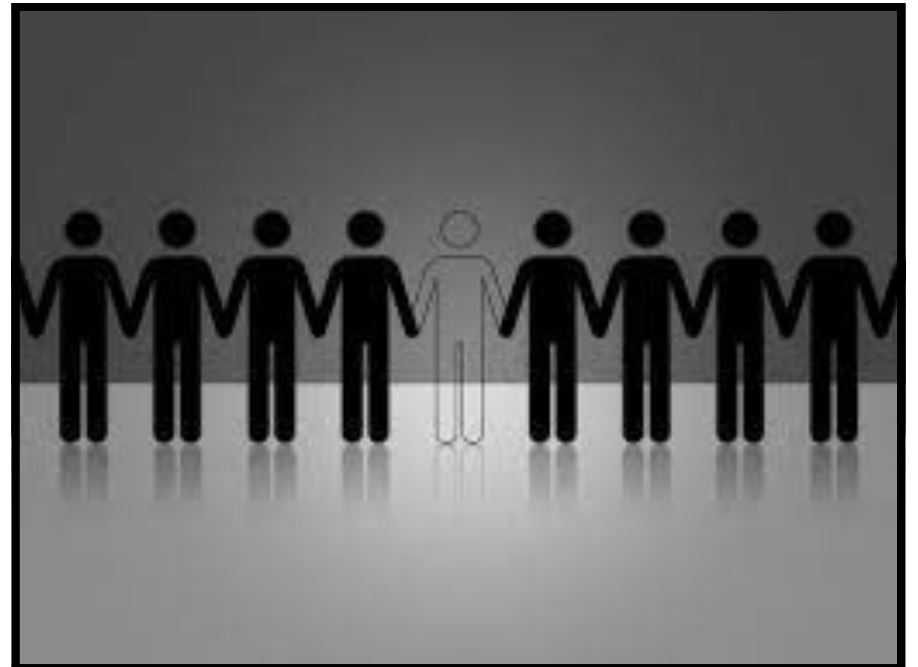
Some teachers make plans and base their class on discussions and talking in class, but when half of the class is not present, how are they supposed to be able to teach their class to the best ability?

According to Bryan Doucette, two of the leading factors in students not having the motivation to come to school is the teaching staff and the school itself. Some students say that their teachers disrespect them, and their principals are not being nice and not caring about what the students feel or think about them. Principals and teachers who are not nice to their students make them do things they are uncomfortable with, such as calling on them for answers if their hands are not up, making them present in front of the class, not allowing them to go to their academic support rooms when they want — all these are all reasons leading to students being absent from school.

But the school administration doesn't seem to want to listen to those factors. They seem to think that students simply don't want to go because they don't like school. Obviously, yes, they don't like school, but a higher percentage of students don't want to come because of the environment they are put into.

Teachers and administrators think that the only issue going on is that students just don't

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This image shows that there is always at least one person missing just like at school (Snow/Adobe Express Image)

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# Men's Volleyball Spiking up Interest



Adobe Express/Murphy Image

## EDITORIAL/OPINION

By Hudson Murphy  
Staff Writer

Walking into the gym with your team on your side, you hear the sounds of feet stomping in the bleachers, ready to cheer you on to win it for your grade in a game of volleyball. Spirit Week and Homecoming are the only chances that the Triton men can actually play volleyball at a high level with a true team and be fueled to win. With the rise in popularity when the Homecoming game of volleyball rolls around as well as how much hype surrounds the activity, some are imagining having that every day as a varsity volleyball player.

Volleyball is actually the fifth most popular sport in the world, right behind tennis according to "The World Atlas," not only for women but also for men. Some guys are scared to say that they like volleyball because it is seen in triton as a "girls" sport. However, volleyball is one of the best sports to highlight teamwork and sportsmanship with everyone bringing out the best in each other and no one being the main star of the team. Everyone has an opportunity for greatness due to the fact that each player rotates into each position on the court.

The USA Volleyball Association states that volleyball helps to foster skills like leadership, teamwork and respect. One of the great aspects of volleyball is that it is very easy to learn. Once you learn the three most basic skills: passing, serving, and hitting, you can be good at the game. If you come from any other sport, those skills will make you good at volleyball, especially if that sport involves a lot of training for jumping and stamina.

New Athletic Director Joel McKenna said that starting a boys volleyball team would be based on interest, including how many boys would be looking to play. Only North Reading has a boys varsity volleyball team along the North Shore. However, one thing that we can do is to start a club, which would mean that we could practice the basic skills and have fun learning to play this amazing sport. And in the future, this might be something the district could run as a varsity sport.

If you are interested in playing volleyball let me know I really want to get this thing started.

want to go, so they punish them with detention or Saturday school because of something the administration is doing. However, that is something that can be changed.

For example, on January 10, we had a huge rainstorm that brought flooding to the area and downed trees, creating an overall terrible weather conditions for students to travel to school. Multiple buses could not pick up their students until later in the morning because of how bad the weather was. Multiple students had car troubles because of the weather, and I had an issue because I almost crashed on my way to school.

The superintendent, principals, and our school's administration needs to think a lot more about the situations they are putting their students into and change their way of doing things to make it so students would like to come to school and have the motivation to get up and go.

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for organizing and directing tournaments. Some things that he liked doing were bringing in vendors, getting t-shirts to sell, making sure they had refs, and securing facilities. Doing this made him want to explore new job opportunities that would give him hands-on experience with the sports teams and the other business side of it. When he saw an opening at Triton he jumped at the opportunity. And so far, his time has been positive.

He has particularly been impressed with "the feedback that I've gotten about the families and the support and on how awesome the kids are," said McKenna. "That combined with the personal history made it kind of a no brainer when I found out there was an open spot."

As the search for a new AD was going on, Principal Patrick Kelley and Mr. Scott Kelley subbed in. They worked as temporary AD while they were on the hunt for a new Athletic Director. Principal Kelly said he made sure there was a seamless transition from fall to winter sports.

"We were working with coaches to make sure that everyone had exactly what was needed," said Principal Kelley. "We each took different games to help support our student-athletes and took on various administrative and long-range planning tasks."

During the hiring process, junior Emma Penniman interviewed as a student member of the selection committee. "He (McKenna) stood out like no other candidate as he had implemented a lot of helpful programs at his past job and he came up with some new ideas to implement into Triton," said Penniman.

# "2024ThePlot" May be New Year's Trend

By Reaghan DeLisi & Marvens Pierre- Jules, Staff Writers

Picture this: Your parents tell you that you are not allowed to hang out with your friends, but you decide to sneak out and do it anyway...FOR THE PLOT.

What does this phrase mean? With the beginning of the new year, there are many trends that are already all over the internet. One of them is the "2024theplot" trend which has become well known due to the social media app, TikTok.

When asked what are you doing for the plot in 2024, senior Annie Webb knew right away what we were talking about.

"I am going to buy things and do stuff that I was told not to, for the plot this year," explained Webb. Her friend, senior Zoe Rivera added, "This year I will be shopping and spending money for the plot."

Junior Rowan Cole had a different take on what she will do. "This year I will be more upfront and confrontational with people if I need to."

The "2024ThePlot" trend has become known on TikTok. You may have heard the saying, "Do it for the plot!" The idea behind the trend is that you are the "main character" of your life and enhance your life by doing things you wouldn't usually do. "2024ThePlot" has become the new "Y.O.L.O." (you only live once) for the Gen Z generation. Doing something "for the plot" of your life allows you to tell people you went out of your comfort zone and did something interesting.

English teacher Ms. Erin Dempsey said, "I kind of feel like this trend can be motivating because sometimes when I want to say no to things for no reason, I feel like if you have the vibe that you want to do it for the story then that could entice you to say yes instead of no. So I feel like this could be motivating to make you do something you wouldn't normally want to do."

On the other hand senior Gia Sico said, "I think the "2024ThePlot" trend is silly. It's just another play on words and it's not different from any other year. I think people's actions will remain relatively the same because people do things for the plot every day so it is not that exciting."

The "2024ThePlot" trend could become confrontational when it comes to people doing something before fully thinking it out. Many people have mixed feelings about this new trend and think it could spark some bad habits or negative outcomes.



Adobe Express/DeLisi/Pierre-Jules

# Cinematic Slumber?

## Are movie theaters going out of style?

By Hunter Barrington, Staff Writer

The year 2023 was full of a lot of stinkers and smash hits in the movie theater. Some were known by all and others hidden away. How do they stack up against each other? Which should you watch?

Major blockbusters came out this year, including *Barbie*, *Oppenheimer*, and others that tried to live up to the same hype, such as *The Flash*, which bombed at the box office. But do the numbers really reflect the quality of the movies?

"It doesn't reflect the quality as much as it reflects the marketing / reach of the marketing," said senior David Collin. "Like *Spiderverse* (*Spider-Man: Across the Spider Verse*) performed below expectations in the box office but is known as one of the best animated movies to date."

The climate of movie theaters and the movies that succeed in them have changed so much in the last year. Comic book movies have seen a dramatic fall from grace, once dominating theaters but now being relegated to "popcorn flicks" and slammed by popular directors such as Martin Scorsese. The movies themselves haven't changed much, but the audience perception certainly has. It seems the classic big-name blockbuster is back in the center stage with movies like *Barbie* absolutely blowing away the box office this past year.

Since the pandemic, movie theaters have been through many weird phases. When the pandemic started, the climate of theaters was in a unique spot. The only movies that were turning any big profit were franchise hits such as the incredibly popular "Marvel Cinematic Universe" or *Star Wars*. However not all movies in this category did as well. For instance, Marvel's rival, DC Comics, struggled to bring its characters to the same quality on the big screen as their chief competitor and the box office results reflected that. After the biggest year yet for these movies — 2019 — bringing us smash hits such as *Spider-Man: Far From Home* and *Avengers: Endgame*, which became the highest-grossing film of all time for a short period in 2020. It was a year that changed cinematic landscape.

The COVID-19 pandemic rocked the world in so many ways and the world of movies was no exception. During this period, almost no movies were being made causing the movie making machines like Disney to slow down. The movies that were already made and just about ready to go, were put out but also onto streaming platforms due to most people not going out into the theater. This dramatically reduced the box office returns for several years. Even since then, people are back out into the theaters but that hasn't gone away.

Many people just sit back and wait for certain movies like the Marvel movies or other popcorn flicks to release on a streaming platform like "Netflix" or "Disney+" so they can watch it from the comfort of their own home.

"At home I can just be comfortable by myself and do it whenever," said senior CJ Tirone.

This has caused a same but different climate in theaters to resurface so to speak. Before the boom of comic book movies arguably beginning ironically enough with *Batman Begins* back in 2005, blockbusters went by a very different look. They would usually be made by a big name director, for example, Steven Spielberg and be something brand new. A story that's huge and one you don't forget. Recently, since the "re-opening" of the world, comic book movies haven't done great at theaters. Some are calling it "Superhero Fatigue".

With the only exception being *Spider-Man: No Way Home* the big comic book movies haven't come close to reaching the height they did before the pandemic. The biggest movies of last year was the war between Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*, a drama detailing the life and diving inside the mind of the man who built the atom bomb and Greta Gerwig's *Barbie*, a comedy based off of the incredibly popular toy line of the same name. Both of which made a giant profit with *Barbie* being the most profitable movie of the year. It seems like this is the future of the cinema landscape; going back to movies you just have to sit down and watch to enjoy. Not ones where you have to watch five more before it.

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### Overall Consensus

So, what should users take from this information? The individual pricing ranges the same, but Spotify offers much more variety in what users may wish to purchase, while Apple offers longer trials and deals for students. Apple pays artists only a small amount more, but Spotify sees a much larger user count, weighing the issue to an even. Spotify users gain the benefit of a better UI with a more simplistic sound range, while Apple users have an — often said to be overcrowded — service that leaves the benefit of better audio quality. Therefore, it comes down to the preference of the user. Both streaming services offer quite similar value, with all familiar and exclusive features considered.

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK**

LOOK OUT FOR THE TRITON VOICE FOR THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

Answer: **FedUp**

? IF FEDEX AND UPS MERGE, WHAT WOULD THEY CALL IT? ?