



Doubling Up The Story Twins At Triton Share Feelings About Their Lives As Pairs

By Gennes Packer & Cassidy Beebe
Staff Writers

The Hights, the Richards, the Saurises, and the McDonalds. What do all of these people have in common? They're twins. There are a number of twins here at Triton, but what sets them apart from not only the other sets of twins, but also each other?

The Richards

Junior identical twins Taylor and Abby Richard, 16, share similar beliefs about how they view their sister bond. They are identical and often get confused as the same person. This can become frustrating when they attempt to define their own individualities, still wanting to remain sisters, just not identical twins. They share everything: from looks, to gifts, friends, life experiences, a car, and more.

"I don't know what it's like to not be a twin but there are definitely things I dislike about it, like the amount of sharing we do," said Abby. "Being compared to one another constantly feeling like you're a package deal rather than one individual."

No matter what, they are still each other's closest friend. Growing up, they experienced similar activities, dressed in matching styles, and were each other's shoulder to cry on. As they got older and started to explore more styles, they also began to show everyone how different they can be. They remain close but don't always want to constantly be compared to the other.

The McDonalds

Junior fraternal twins Cam and Riley McDonald, 17, are a contrasting pair but still very close. They said it is difficult to imagine what life would be if they weren't born as twins. Being a close pair, they are always interested in what the other has to say.

"Being a twin definitely has its ups and downs," said Riley. "I'd say it definitely is great to always have someone there for you."

They grew up in a house where their parents made sure to highlight their individualities, enhancing the fact that they each have different talents that they can show off.

"She is better than me in a lot of ways, and I am better than her in some, yet still people like to compare our differences," said Cam.

No matter what, people tend to enjoy pointing out similarities or differences between twins. Cam and Riley are very close and agree that they enjoy being twins, being there for each other, regardless of their similarities and differences.

The Hights

Senior identical twins William and Jonathan Hight, 18, live in parallel worlds. Having a twin, for them, is like having a constant friend, though it doesn't feel the same as a regular friendship. "It's like trying to live your own life, but there's another version of you that kind of gets in the way," said Will.

When they were younger they would play tricks on family, friends, and teachers. When they got older and began to exhibit slightly different physical traits, they began to have different passions. William runs track for Triton all seasons, while Jonathan does not play sports. During the winter when they go to the mountains together,

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Above, Riley (left) and Cam (right) McDonald at age 2. (McDonald Photo). Below, Jonathan (left) and William (right) Hight at age 5 (Hight Photo).



The AP Dilemma

A Smart Choice or a Risky Gamble?

By Adeline Stapleton, Riley McIsaac & Sophie Stanley, Staff Writers

In their junior year of high school, students begin thinking about their futures. They begin to have more choice in their classes and, more importantly, their class levels. Yet there's a fine line between challenging and overloading one's work schedule.

So the question remains: are Advanced Placement classes, classes considered to be college-level, worth it, or are they just an added stress?

Triton junior Jason Merrill sees no point in taking Aps.

"I don't need to take any AP classes," said Merrill. "I'm not going to college. I only have homework like one night a week."

History teacher Ms. Jillian Lewis explains that AP classes are not designed for every student: "It depends on what their goals are," said Lewis, who teaches CP-level and AP-level classes. "In some cases, it's not worth the stress."

Triton offers a variety of college prep, honors, and AP classes. Some students and teachers believe AP and honors classes are the key to college. Others say that the increased stress is not worth their time. The workload increases greatly and the speed of the class is much greater in AP and honors classes compared to CP courses. The higher level classes also cover topics more in depth so students are prepared for the comprehensive AP tests.

"I took AP Micro and AP Calc," said senior Adam White. "I took calc because I wanted to go into engineering, and I took micro for a higher GPA, but I think I could've gone without micro." When asked if White felt stressed taking AP classes, he said. "Even if an AP test is months away, you still are always working towards it, and it can be stressful."

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A Dramatic Glimpse Into the Past Watching *Terezin*, Students Learn the Violent Ways of the Holocaust

By Sadie Deveau & Nancy Arias
Staff Writers

Presented in Triton's auditorium on Thursday, March 13th for freshmen and sophomores was the play *Terezin*.

A violent, yet sad depiction of life inside the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp during WWII, *Terezin* came to the stage with the help of history teacher Mr. Chad Richard to educate students about the Holocaust, about the lives of those in concentration camps during the Holocaust, and to show what they endured.

The play was a presentation of the violence, bullying, starvation, language, and the unwavering voices of what happened at the time, with the actors portraying emotions from anger to sadness to hope.

The Play

Set over the course of a single day and night, the play shows the lives of six Jewish children who live under Nazi rule and

struggle to live and keep the hope of one day returning to their lives, even in the face of war and oppression. In their strict and isolated lives, the children keep together to find comfort from one another, except for one of the main characters, Corinna, who, fearing the Nazis, instead turns on them for the chance of survival.

As the story progresses, it is revealed that the Red Cross is soon to visit and inspect the camp's living conditions, so they are expected to perform and act like it is a "humane ghetto" that they live in, while hiding the harsh reality and horrors that constantly gnaw at them. The play is a portrait of brutality and an inside view to the lives of those who suffered in the camps.

Bringing *Terezin* to Triton

Mr. Chad Richard made it possible for the actors of *Terezin* to perform this beautiful play before students at Triton.

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(Photo of the *Terezin* play at Triton High School taken by Nancy Arias).

OPINION: Drug Testing in Sports

Athletes Should Expect to be Checked for Illicit Substances

By Sophia Chapman, Staff Writer

The American track and field athlete Marion Jones competed in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. There, she won three medals, one in the 100-meter, one in the 200-meter, and one in the 4x400-meter relay, but not one of those medals was she able to take home.

Jones was caught using performance-enhancing drugs, specifically THG (an anabolic steroid). As a result, Jones was stripped of all her medals from the 2000 Olympics and sentenced to six months in prison.

Although many of us will never make it to the Olympics, many of us participate in high school sports. While many believe that drug testing should not take place as it is an invasion of privacy, drug-testing should play a role in higher level sports.

In the *New York Times* article, "Ten Supreme Court Cases Every Teen Should Know," there is a case based on student Athletes and Drug Testing. According to the article, in the case of the Vernonia School District v Acton (1995), the writer shares the bottom line: schools can require drug testing.

In the article, it states that James Acton, a 12-year-old student at the Washington Grade School in Oregon was suspended from sports for the season due to his parents refusing to let him be tested because there was no evidence of such substances. His parents sued the school district, arguing that mandatory drug testing without any suspicion of such activity constituted an unreasonable search under the fourth amendment.

The Supreme court ruled in favor of the school as a way to keep school campuses safe and keep the athletes away from drugs. The court displayed that all students surrender privacy rights while at school and must follow school rules.

Most high school kids display signs of becoming addicted to prescribed drugs. Although this would come up as a flag in the sports-drug testing, prescribed drugs would get a pass. Students with written prescriptions could be separated so they wouldn't get flagged among the other students.

The Student Activities Drug Testing Policy adopted by the Tecumseh, Oklahoma School district is a policy



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that requires all students 7th-12th to consent to a urine test for substances in order to participate in any extracurricular activity. This practice has been applied in different ways such as only competitive extracurricular activities which faced heavy backlash when the students' parents brought this action up, alleging that the policy violates the Fourth Amendment. The court upheld the suspicion-less drug testing of school athletes.

Though some students and parents might say that requiring students to provide a urine sample is an invasion of privacy among student athletes, the question becomes, should the parents be able to override it?

When you go to school your parents are still in charge of you and your decisions. Although in this case the school had higher authority. For someone with a well-rounded unsuspecting kid, the question is, should drug testing be required? If there is no reasonable suspicion the testing should hold off. Drug testing should be required once a student athlete shows signs of using substances.

Although many parents and students feel this way, is it fair to treat every student differently? If you are signing up for a high school sport you should expect to spontaneously be drug tested no matter your situation. If there is no evidence that the student is using drugs or alcohol there won't be any trouble or consequence for the student and all they would be required to do is pee in a cup. This proves the student is not guilty in any suspicious circumstance while keeping all athletes on the right path.

that they started to explore different interests. Josh enjoys theater, being a part of Triton's drama club throughout high school, and is even attending college for drama in New York. On the contrary, Alex is on the football and track and field teams, and he will plans to play football in college.

No matter the different paths their lives have taken, they are still very similar and very close. Josh shares that rather than a "built-in-best friend" it is more like "twins by chance, best friends by choice."

They say they have always chosen to be close, always knowing that they would have each other to fall back on when things got tough.

Production

The set of the production seemed more comfortable than what it may have been like in the real Terezin. It was set in one of the rooms where people were imprisoned. In this room there was a bunk bed with blankets, mattresses, then there was what seemed to be two stretchers on the floor with small blankets over them. There was one bed for each prisoner, but in reality, research reveals these rooms were crowded and the beds were shared by multiple people.

Barracks in the camps were often unsanitary, rats swarmed the rooms, there were lice, and disease ran rampant, adding to the bad conditions.

The clothes too, seemed to be accurate to what people actually wore in these camps. The actors wore ripped tights, sweaters, pants, and skirts. Other prisoners wore blue and white striped uniforms.

Thoughts

The *Triton Voice* wondered what students who saw the play thought of it. Many said it was a chance to be entertained but also learn.

"I was there because it was the Holocaust," said Destiny Torres, a Triton freshman, when asked if she was excited to see *Terezin*.

She and many others were excited for this play when they heard about it, getting out of class to learn from and watch this special show. From the start, students poured in quickly to the auditorium, trying to find good seats by their friends and peers to enjoy this time.

Before the play began, Swulowitz talked to the audience, giving warnings of violence for anyone sensitive. Though the many portrayals of brutality were shown throughout, many students actually did not think it was too bad at all.

"I think it had violent scenes but it wasn't necessarily all violent," said student Kiley Jones.



By Peighton Hertigan & Ava Johnson
Viking Voice Podcasters

In the latest episode of Peighton Hertigan and Ava Johnson's *Viking Voices* podcast, we get into course registrations for the upcoming school year and invited guests share their thoughts on their favorite and least favorite classes here at Triton High School. Hosts Peighton and Ava dive into which courses are most beneficial for students, either going the college route or not, while also figuring out which classes students enjoyed most.

This week, we talked to seniors Lucas Tinkham and Lukas Rainsford, as well as junior Genaro Carrillo and freshmen Josh Monteiro and Max Pasquini. We got the seniors' input on how it felt not to have to pick course recommendations and what classes the underclassmen should enroll in. We spoke with juniors to see if junior year was really as scary as it was said to be and the freshmen helped us understand the changes in leaving middle school and now entering their sophomore year.

--This podcast and many others can be found on the *Triton Voice* news website, tritonvoice.co. Look for the Viking Voices Logo!



By Rowan Cole & Maddie January
Viking Voice Podcasters

As the weather slowly but surely starts to warm up, Triton's spring sport athletes are gearing up for their seasons. From the crack of the bat on the baseball field to the sprints on the track, our teams are ready to show what they have to offer.

In this episode, hosts Maddie January, a senior softball outfielder, and Rowan Cole, a senior athletic captain, welcome guests senior baseball catcher Josh Hersey, and doubles tennis player Sophia Chapman as well as junior lacrosse defenseman Michael Taylor, lacrosse forward Alexa Lawrence, and track thrower London Cole to see what their upcoming season might look like.

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Will prefers to ski while Jonathan snowboards. Jonathan also has learned to play the guitar and piano.

They agree that as twins, one of the bad parts is when people try to compare every aspect of their lives. But they maintain their own identities by not making each other their whole personality and enjoying the different activities that each enjoys.

The Saurises

Senior fraternal twins Josh and Alex Sauris, 17, who most are shocked to find are related, are similar in many cases. Growing up, the Saurises mother would dress them in matching outfits and sign them up for the same sports and activities. It wasn't until they got older

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"I had contacts with people involved in the play, and I had seen the play before it was really impactful," said Richard. "I wanted to try to get it to Triton. I worked with (theater director) Mrs. (Natalie) Safley and (Principal) Mr. (Patrick) Kelley to secure the visit. Because it is an intimate play I wanted it to be for a smaller audience, so we focused on freshmen, (most had just read the Holocaust book *Night*), Crimes Against Humanity students, theater students, and AP History students."

Reporters from the *Triton Voice* attended the performance and learned that *Terezin* is based on real events. Writer of the play, Anna Smulowitz, has personal connections to it. At the end of the play, Smulowitz talked to the audience, telling everyone what pushed her to write: her mother, who was in a concentration camp, as well as the millions who died.

The character Corinna was based on her mother, who turned to the sides of the Nazis for a chance at survival. She had been promised she wouldn't be sent to die and she could stay at *Terezin*. Smulowitz has great feelings for those who had to deal with her mother, yet her fear for survival was what drove her to do what she did.

Many events from the play took place in real life, including a letter that was written and read at the end of the production. That letter and its contents were written by a boy and explained what really went on in these camps. He hid the note, hoping one day someone would find it and bring to light what they really went through. Smulowitz felt she could do that by incorporating a note found in *Terezin* into the play as a way to remember those who died and recognize they were real people who had lives and only wanted to go back home.

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The *Triton Voice* interviewed some AP teachers and received their opinions on why students should, or should not, take AP classes. We also interviewed students who signed up for AP classes and some who didn't sign up. Hearing opinions about AP is beneficial to students while we are currently in the timeline of signing up for next year's courses.

"They can be really hard and I couldn't keep up with the workload," said senior Luke Sullivan. "It's great if you are capable of doing it, and it looks good for colleges, but a good grade in a CP class looks better than a bad grade in an AP class."

"I don't see the point because you can still get into a good college without them, and there's no point if you do bad in them because you won't even get the AP credit (at college)," said senior William Hight. At Triton, no matter how well you do on the test, an AP class counts for a higher credit towards a student's GPA.

However, if students do not take the AP test at all, they cannot get the GPA credit.

Students said that deciding to take an AP class is a tough decision because everyone's opinions have some truth to it. It all just comes down to the student, their goals for the future, and if they are willing to put in the extra work.

Senior Vinny Magee takes four AP classes and is dedicated to his academics while also balancing sports.

"It's not bad at all," said Magee. "Math is the same, no work for physics, English is the worst but it's not a lot." Magee said, regarding his workload.

"I feel like it prepares you for your college," said senior Brandon Somaay following Magee's statement.

Mrs. Irene Thompson, who has taught at all levels, had some helpful advice for students who are in the midst of choosing their classes.

"I recommend it (AP classes) for students who are looking for that challenge and are looking to be ahead in college" said Thompson, "They can definitely go without AP classes. They don't need to take AP or a bunch of them. There's an increase in workload and timing so it can feel pretty heavy."