

# TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

April 11, 2025

## Mapping Out Their Futures

Seniors Are Beginning to Make Big Decisions For Next Year

By Gennes Packer & Cassidy Beebe  
Staff Writers

The time has come for the class of 2025 to make their decisions about where the next chapter of their life will take place. Ivy leagues, state universities, private schools, trade schools, or community college, there are many options with myriad deciding factors between them.

At the beginning of senior Jillian Giusto's college journey, she was looking into many different schools from many different states, not sure where she would find the best fit. For years, she had her heart set on San Diego State University, however after touring she could no longer envision herself attending SDSU. After touring four other schools, and applying to three, she could finally picture herself at one of them.

"Making the final decision was relatively easy for me," she said. "I toured the University of Tampa in July, and after that, every school I went to I found myself comparing it to UT."

After applying early decision at the start of the school year, Giusto was accepted into UTampa as a marketing major, and committing fully that same day in December.

While searching for potential colleges, there are many deal breakers students look for. Among them are the university's campus, class sizes, location, majors, minors, and clubs, dorms and dining halls, as well as friends or family who attend or have attended.

For senior Kailyn Flynn, her choice of major and where she will be studying was easy. Flynn is committed to the University of Vermont for environmental science. After taking Triton's environmental science course her junior year, she knew from then on that she wanted to

pursue studies in that field.

"I'm scared I'll see the world burn around us, and I want to try to do something to prevent that," said Flynn. "I'm hopeful that I can help to preserve the earth that has taken care of us for so long."

So far, seven Triton seniors are headed to the University of New Hampshire for college. For seniors Mackenzie Chaisson and Lucas Sullivan, however, UNH has been their top, and only, choice for a university.

Having older siblings who attended UNH, each has received insight about what the campus, education, and lifestyle is all about. Sullivan will be majoring in finance, and also has hopes to try out for their club hockey team. Growing up playing hockey and watching UNH play drove his desire to be a part of the team. He also enjoys how close it is to home, and knows that there will be many of his friends going with him, making the transition a bit easier.

On a similar note, Chaisson had become interested in UNH after visiting her older sister there and falling in love with the campus. Growing up cheering her whole life, she has taken an interest in trying out for the club cheerleading team. She is going into college undecided, but hopes to transfer into one of UNH's College of Life Sciences and Agriculture programs.

Senior Madison January shared her non-negotiables while looking into colleges. She applied to six schools, all within the New England area. Her main focus was that the school had good academics, fun student life, good activities on campus, homey dorms, high graduation rates, a good business school, and reasonable prices. "We'd (January's family) pay more so I could have a better education and enjoy my college years," said January. At the end of the day, January decided

to focus on a school that would give her a solid business education as well as lasting relationships and

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MADDIE JANUARY



UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

MARKETING




HS ACTIVITIES: VARSITY SOFTBALL, JV FIELD HOCKEY, YEARBOOK, DECA, COMMUNITY SERVICE

JILLIAN GIUSTO



UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

MARKETING



HS ACTIVITIES: VARSITY SOFTBALL, DECA, COMMUNITY SERVICE

LUKE SULLIVAN



UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

FINANCE



HS ACTIVITIES: VARSITY HOCKEY, CAPTAIN COUNCIL, COMMUNITY SERVICE, STUDENT COUNCIL, UNITED BASKETBALL, BEST BUDDIES, SPANISH CLUB, CLASS

Triton Instagram images

## Power Outage Leaves Triton in the Dark

By Triton Voice Staff



Student Luke Aham stands in the darkened hallways during a power outage Tuesday morning (Luke Borchers photo).

A power outage on Tuesday morning affected over 4,200 households as well as Triton High and Newbury Elementary Schools. The outage, caused by faulty high-voltage power lines kept students and staff without power, phone, or internet access from 8:05 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The back-up power system for Triton High, which generates minimum "safe passage" lighting and other systems for the school, also broke down due to a battery problem, keeping the school in the dark for an hour.

A National Grid spokesman said two major service lines faulted near their substations, causing the outage.

"Our crews restored power to all affected customers and found that a cable fault that has since been repaired had caused the outage," said Michael Dalo, media & PR specialist for National Grid power company

Superintendent Brian Forget said he was on the brink of sending students home. However, because the outage affected Newbury Elementary and its young students who could potentially be going home to empty homes, he decided to continue the school day.

"I was getting very close," said Forget. But with elementary students, "we have to give plenty of notice. It's very difficult to do a last-minute dismissal, one that isn't planned" for younger students.

At first, National Grid had told the school to expect restored power "in about an hour," said Forget. The more complex issue, however, ended up taking much longer. The additional problem with the high school generator caused additional headaches. The nearly 30-year-old generator didn't kick on due to a problem with the battery. The company that designed and installed the generator had travelled out to service the system, which caused the hour-long power gap, Forget said. Meanwhile, Internet and Wi-Fi systems took even longer to restore, with technicians at the high school "rebuilding whole systems" to get back online, Forget said.

High School Principal Patrick Kelley said he and other staff walked door-to-door in the darkened halls asking students and staff to remain in their first-period classrooms. "We asked for people to stay in their classes until we could make sure the bathrooms were functioning," Kelley said. Once the generators were working and power was restored enough to serve lunch and have bathrooms function, Kelley said the decision was made to continue with the school day.

The outage highlighted the school's heavy reliance on technology and the Internet, frustrating students and staff.

Triton History teacher Chad Richard was teaching his first period class about the Gilded Age, showing photos of the time period. Like many, Richard improvised for the remainder of his classes, remaining productive but allowing for some break time. His thoughts where, "let's get at least something done for about half an hour worth of the period," explained Richard.

Mr. Thomas Horsley faced the outage when he was scheduled to take his Marine Biology classes on a field trip to the Boston Aquarium. However, the trip continued as planned.

"I rolled with the punches and didn't assume the field trip got canceled. I coordinated with the office," said Horsley. "We lost about half an hour from what I had planned but overall the field trip went buttery smooth."

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## Top 5 Triton Student Side Hustles

By Anthony Navaroli  
Staff Writer

High School students are finding new and innovative ways to make money, and these top five side hustles rank among the most popular teenage options.

With mountains of apps, websites, and tools widely available, it's easier than ever for teens to start earning cash on the side. The *Triton Voice* spoke to a few students already trying different hustles to find out which ones are worth the effort.

"I think instead of learning a hustle, you should learn how to handle money," said Amir Alami, a senior who has tried many side gigs.

Whether you're saving up for college, trying to purchase your first car, or just need spending money, side hustles are a smart way to start building up valuable experience and income. These five ideas are beginner-friendly, flexible, and possible for hard-working students.

If you're strong in a subject like math, science, English, etc, tutoring is one of the easiest ways to make money. You can help classmates, younger kids, or even sign up for **online tutoring websites**. It's flexible, reinforces confidence, and looks impressive on a college resume.

"There's always someone in need of teaching," said Tyler Brosch, a THS senior pursuing entrepreneurship.

"Freelance writing is great if you already like Eng-



iStock photo

lish class," said Brosch. Sites like Fiverr and Upwork are good places to start. Publicly, Brosch suggests these, but he said the 'secret sauce' is in "street racing."

Another option is **drop-shipping**, which lets you sell products online without keeping inventory. You create an online store and a supplier ships items for you. It's a job that takes time marketing skills.

Another favorite among THS 18-year-olds is risky **gambling**. "I would recommend gambling at the casino," senior Jayden Torres said. He was up \$490 at one point, though he admits he's failed to break even since. Still, for Torres and others, it's not just about the

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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.



# OUR TAKE: Opinions on Student Rights

## Reject Corporal Punishment

By Luke Sullivan  
Staff Writer

Corporal punishment is a physical punishment that is intended to inflict pain. This may include spanking or being hit with a paddle. Sounds terrible doesn't it? Well this punishment used to be allowed in schools in all 50 states until it was banned from most in the mid-1990's.

However, according to the National Education Association, "(t)wenty-three states either still allow, or haven't officially banned, corporal punishment to discipline children in public schools." In some schools people believe this is a fitting punishment, but the truth is it is unethical.

According to the *EdWeek* article "Supreme Court Declines Case on Corporal Punishment for Student With Autism," a new lawsuit alleges that in 2020, a girl known as S.B. (to protect her identity) was slapped by her special education teacher on two occasions and her special needs paraprofessional once, after the student had emotional outbursts. S.B.'s mother sued, bringing claims under the Fourteenth Amendment as well as federal disabilities laws. A federal district court dismissed all of her claims, stating "the incidents alleged by S.B. fail to shock the conscience for purposes of the substantive component of the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."

Cases like this have been happening for years, and kids are still assaulted in schools today. For example, this punishment is allowed in Louisiana as long as it is not degrading or unnecessarily severe. But think about it: An 11-year-old autistic girl was hit multiple times, and that isn't considered degrading? Corporal punishment should have been completely abolished years ago.

Furthermore, corporal punishment is unjust due to the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments. The Eighth Amendment prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. And as the case above shows an example of corporal punishment, it is clearly cruel. Another example showing just how cruel corporal punishment is, comes from the case *Ingraham V. Wright* (1977). This case was of a 14-year-old boy who was severely paddled by a principal in Florida. This then led to injuries for the boy, but the court ruled in favor of the principal deeming his actions were not unusual or cruel.

Evidence has shown corporal punishment increases children's behavioral problems and has no positive outcomes. According to *Neuroscience News*, a group of researchers from Florida State University conducted an experiment on 149 boys and girls ages 11 to 14. The study found kids who had experienced corporal punishment were more likely to develop anxiety and depression.

Some may argue that corporal punishment produces respect for authority, obedience, and self-discipline. Although this can be true in some cases, it is not the case most of the time. While this punishment may teach some kids a lesson, it also may traumatize others. Others may argue it is a parental choice on how their kids are punished; some prefer their kids to get physically punished.

While it is true that some may view corporal punishment as a quick and effective way to enforce discipline, the evidence proves that it is both ineffective and harmful. Research consistently fails to show any positive outcomes from this punishment. Ultimately, corporal punishment has proven to be cruel and unjust, as it should officially be banned in all 50 states.

Maybe a compromise should be put in place instead choosing between detention, Saturday school, or getting smacked with a paddle ten times. This way a student has a choice in what happens to them rather than being forced on one type of punishment. This would give the kids who don't want to get abused a way out, and would save them from mental illness that could potentially resort to physical discipline.

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money. "There's more than just a cash reward, you're rewarded with the thrill of playing your luck."

"I used to dropship, but it's boring and didn't feel worth it," said Alami. But he recommended TikTok shop as a very easy and beginner-friendly platform.

**Investing in stocks or crypto** can be an additional long-term way to build wealth. However, it's not for everyone, as there are risks.

"In the last two to three weeks, I have lost \$350," says Bradyn Lopes, a THS senior Investor. Platforms such as Robinhood make it easy for beginners to get started. "If you stick to it long enough, stocks will go up," said Lopes. Lopes's highest net positive was \$1,787

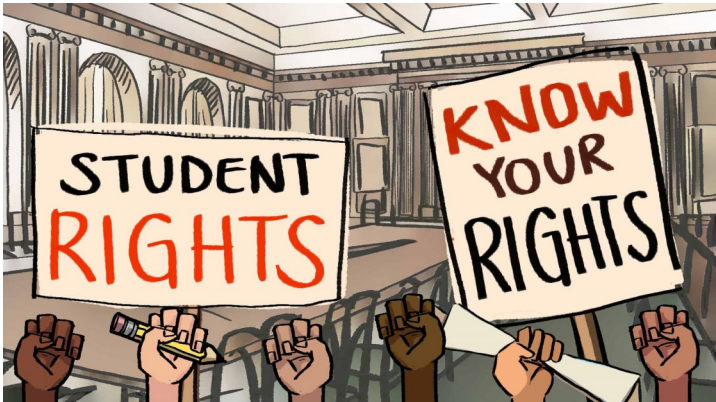
## Support Student Rights to Freedom of Religion

By Sadie Deveau & Nancy Arias  
Staff Writers

Students, no matter what religion they believe in, should be allowed to express themselves without disturbing the learning or peace of others. Religion is a freedom everyone is given, not something that can be or should be taken away, even in a public setting.

This right to worship is guaranteed by the First Amendment, which also grants the freedoms of press, speech, assembly, and petition. The First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," meaning anyone and everyone has the right to practice or express their beliefs freely without interference of the government, which will include school officials and the public.

This also extends to schools and students. Since many schools are a public building they may not sponsor a particular religion, but students can express personal religious beliefs. This means if a student wishes to pray, wear a religious symbol, or discuss religion with others, then they are allowed as long as it is not disturbing the educational process or disturbing



other students' rights.

In 1984, Congress passed the Equal Access Act, requiring public schools to allow religious and political clubs if other interest-clubs were present.

A year later, in 1985, a girl named Bridget appealed to her principal to start a Christian club, but that idea was shut down since it would be "illegal" in a public school where the promotion of religion is seen as a violation of the Establishment Clause. Only private schools are able to influence and subject students towards a specific religion and/or belief.

Bridget challenged her principal, arguing all the way up to the Supreme Court where which ruled in her favor. The court decided that because it wasn't sponsoring the club or forcing it's participation, then allowing students to meet and talk of religion out of their own free will was allowed.

The court also did add that while this club is allowed, they shouldn't be able to be sponsored at schools. These clubs of religion aren't to have any involvement in the curriculum of the school or announce it out to everyone like an invitation as part of the Establishment Act.

In the year 2000, a court case was brought up to the Supreme Court over the Santa Fe prayer (a Christian Prayer) that was held in school by an elected chaplain before football games. Two families of students who were at the game sued the school for allowing this practice, backing it up with the Establishment Clause in which the school permitted prayer

The school had allowed such a display of Christianity due to a new policy that allowed students to hold student-initiated and student-led prayers during games.

It was claimed to be private since it was all done by the students, including the election of the person who led the prayer. This was ruled invalid and a violation of the Establishment clause due to being held at school. meaning it was school-sponsored, intended for the public, and held during big events. Had this prayer been something private in the locker rooms or before the game with only the players then it would have been lawful. This also goes back to the Establishment Act that was violated, looking to separate institutions and property of the government from the people.

The display of one's religion in school could be an offense to those who are of different religions or no religion, possibly making them feel pulled in to participate.

Students who have an issue with others expressing their religion are allowed to say something. This does not mean the person promoting their religion has to stop. They are protected under the First Amendment and as long as they follow the rules, they are not prohibited from talking about/expressing their religion.

on Feb 19, 2025.

A final side hustle that could be recommended is **social media management**. If you're always on social media, why not get paid for it? Many businesses need help with their social profiles, and you can manage accounts, create posts, and engage with followers. "It's about being consistent and knowing what works", said Brosch.

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memories. She is committed to the University of Maine and will be majoring in marketing, hoping to head into sports management.

Seniors interviewed emphasized taking time to think about what matters most to you for your current and future life as the most important things in choosing a college.

## Freedom to Lunch Allow Off-Campus

By Devyn Alantzas  
Staff Writer

Have you ever been stuck in the cafeteria with no good food options on the menu, forced to sit there while there are good and fast restaurants right down the street? An estimated 25 percent of high schools in America allow their students to go off campus during lunch time, according to Open Campus Lunch, an advocacy group. While Triton High School has a closed campus, students often disregard the policy and leave anyway.

According to Eating Disorder Hope, 13 percent of adolescents will develop an eating disorder by the age of 20. Giving students the freedom to eat independently, and choosing whatever food makes them feel good would help manage eating disorders within youth. Often, students won't eat just because others around them aren't, and find it "embarrassing" if they are the only ones eating.

In crowded cafeterias it can be overwhelming for students with social anxiety or body image issues, so eating in a more comfortable environment encourages better eating habits. Other students have nutrition plans or may have restrictive diets, making them have limited options to eat at school. Allowing off-campus eating would give students more flexibility with the food they are eating, reducing restrictive behaviors.

In Massachusetts, all students in secondary school must be scheduled to receive 990 hours of learning. State law explains, "Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in home-room, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student."

For students to meet these criteria, we would have to extend the school day. I know for many, this would be a drag, but adding around ten to fifteen minutes at the end of the day would not make a big difference, especially if it enables students to enjoy that off-campus break during their school day.

The rights of students in this case go back to when the Supreme Court handled a case called "Tinker vs. Des Moines" in which it was argued that students should be able to have free speech and expression in school. The school's claim against the students was that wearing arm-bands that protested against the war in Vietnam could lead to disruption and distractions within the school day. However, this case wasn't just about protest, it was about how students should be treated as individuals with rights at school. This should include being trusted with similar basic freedoms such as choosing where to have lunch. Students have to learn how to be independent and grow on their own, so why not give them the ability to start now?

In the article, "Healthy Eating for Better Learning" by the Cambridge International School the authors write that the, "Nutritional status of teenagers plays a crucial role in their maturity and mental capacity. Eating well allows students to learn better and improve their focus in class. When students don't eat lunch, or do not eat something filling, it can leave them fatigued and confused."

Oftentimes, students need a break and a change in environment to help them mentally rest and reduce burn-out. It also would allow them to socialize in a different setting, which would enhance students' teamwork, confidence, and communication skills, all skills that translate to academic success.

A big issue that prevents many schools from going through with opening up their campuses are the dangers of teen driving. Being able to go out on their own to get food during lunch blocks would enable the students to be independent and have areal-life experience. It would make students work on their decision-making , time management, social skills, and real-world interaction. They would have to figure out where to eat and budget their money, all while giving them a taste of freedom.

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Certain parts of the building were affected more than others, such as English teacher Ms. Erin Dempsey's classroom, which has no windows. "I didn't think it was going to stay out for that long," said Dempsey, who was able to get some light into her room from the hallway and through the door of her adjoining classroom.

Initially, some students were frightened by the outage. "It was actually really scary," said junior Ava Johnson. "I was in the hall with (friends). and all of a sudden the lights shut off and all the doors shut."

Some students were upset that they were not sent home after getting their hopes up. Many took advantage of the outage, using the time to unwind and relax from what would've been a normal, work-filled day of school. Senior Josh Penney fell asleep during the entire 3rd period, he said. Junior Sarah Ewell took up cup pong with classmate London Cole.

Junior Micheal Taylor found it difficult to get work done even after the internet came back. "I think a lot of people were just so out of it we didn't care by last period," Taylor said.