



TRITON VOICE

April Fools Edition

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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Surviving Senior Assassin

Annual Elimination Game Brings Camaraderie, Competition to Senior Events

By Luke Sullivan & Sophia Chapman
Staff Writers

Lucas Tinkham stalked his prey, Jackson McHale, creeping up to his car with a water gun in hand. Tinkham stood tall with a smirk across his face, opening the car door, then squirting McHale on the arm. It was the first kill of this year's game of Senior Assassin.

It all began when Tinkham texted McHale, tricking him into thinking that he had his twin sister, Grace McHale, as his target. After informing Jackson about his "fake" target, Tinkham then snuck into position. Hiding behind Jackson's car, waiting for Grace to come out, Tinkham stayed strapped. Jackson continued to leisurely walk out of his house into his car. After getting in his car, Tinkham jumped into action, pulling open his car door, and eliminating Jackson in his front seat.

"The moment I was eliminated I thought my car door was locked as I was waiting to drive my sister to school," said Jackson McHale. "Then my door was opened and I was shot and out of the game. I was completely surprised and had no words after realizing I was out. Being the first one out really stung.

Senior Assassin is a common game among high school seniors. The game consists of participants signing up, getting a randomized target, then trying to eliminate their target using a water gun. The overall goal is to be the last one standing. Usually, there is a set period, rules and regulations, and different techniques that vary between schools. The game is a fun way for seniors to create memories before walking across the stage and leaving high school behind.

This year, a new rule was proposed: wearing floaties and goggles would result in targets being "safe" from elimination. The game started on April 1st at



Lucas Tinkham secures his first elimination against Jackson McHale (Sullivan Photo).

midnight, and when most Triton students were sleeping, some seniors lay awake waiting to get sent out their target's name. Tinkham said he woke up at 6 a.m. to find and plan the execution of his first target. After eliminating McHale, he eliminated his second target, which he inherited from McHale, later that day. Since then, the game has continued for nearly three weeks. As of press time, [See ASSASSIN on page 2](#)

Committed to College Athletics

Class of 2025 Sports Stars to Compete at College Level

By Tim Clark, Staff Writer

For many students, once the 2:13 bell rings, they go home, do their homework, eat dinner, and go to bed. But for the many student athletes at Triton High, their day is only getting started.

Everyday practices, games, and countless hours working out on their own allows some students to succeed more than others and take their talents to the next level: College. The Triton Class of 2025 is one of the more athletic classes Triton has had in a while. Six of the seniors this year are planning on playing their sport in college, and three of them at the Division One level. Here are their stories:

Jack Lyman - Merrimack College - Track and Field

Lyman is committed to run track at the NCAA Division 1 level for his quick 400m times. Unlike the majority of college athletes, Lyman's first season of track was sophomore year where he ran spring track. After the coaches saw his potential, he decided to quit basketball for winter track and eventually soccer to run all year round. He chose Merrimack for all the benefits that you see at the Division One level. Some of the benefits include weight rooms, training complexes, recovery centers, access to team nutritionists/meal plans, branded team clothing, flights, hotels, and meals covered for away meets, often nationwide, as well as the strong academic programs and being close to home.

"Be patient," is the advice Lyman dispenses to athletes pursuing their passion. "I started as one of the slowest on the team, but by putting in the work, I became one of the fastest in the state."

Josh Hersey - Saint Joseph's College of Maine - Baseball

Hersey, a catcher for Triton's varsity baseball team is also a member of the club squad, "Antonelli 17U black" team. He will continue his baseball career at Saint Joseph's College of Maine. His leadership behind the plate and impressive hitting abilities earned him a spot on the First Team CAL All-Star roster and allowed him to extend his career for another four years. One of the biggest parts of his decision to go to St. Joe's was the beautiful campus and a coaching staff that offered a catching coach with a history of playing in the MLB for the Atlanta Braves.

"I'll miss seeing my friends every day, but I'm excited to meet my new teammates and compete at the college level," said Hersey.

Connor Rumph - Saint Anselm College - Baseball

Rumph, alongside Hersey, is looking to continue his baseball career next year. The infielder committed to play Division II after a great junior season helping Triton to a 12-10 record and making a run in the

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From top, THS seniors Josh Hersey, Kenzie Chaisson, and Jack Lyman will all compete at the college level next year. (courtesy photos).

The Final Countdown

End-Of-The-Year Happenings Begin After April Vacation

By Taylor Richard, Angela Simmons, & Chloe Price
Staff Writers



Class of 2023 Seniors board buses in their caps & gowns (Triton VTV Photo)

"I have never been so excited for a school year to end in my entire life," said junior Alexa Lawrence.

With fewer than 40 school days left – fewer than 30 days for seniors – staff and students are preparing to end the academic year with a bang and welcome the warmer weather.

"I'm so excited, I need summer so bad," said freshman Iris Leahy.

The bustle of the fourth quarter is just beginning with a student favorite, 'Senior Assassin.' The game, which started two weeks ago, consists of participating seniors randomly selected as each other's targets and kept secret through an app called 'Splashin,' the app gives students the opportunity to see their target's location and "assassinate" them using water guns or water bottles.

"I really like [senior assassin], it's such a fun game to end the year with and everyone gets involved so it's wicked fun," said senior Sophia Chapman.

Just two weeks ago was the start of internships for some young adults stepping into the real world.

"I love the internship, it's been so good to see the profession in real time," said senior Rowan Cole about her physical therapy internship at Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport.

Slowly approaching as April carries on is a fan favorite for both students and staff: Spring Break.

"I like spring break, I enjoy the warm weather and spending time with my friends," said junior Colleen Johnson. Friday, April 18th, starts the relaxing and fun week before the final stretch of school, leading up to summer vacation.

Field trips are sprinkled throughout the end of the year, with the big night every high school student looks forward to: prom.

The junior-senior dance this year will be held at Granite Rose in Hampstead, New Hampshire, on Friday, May 9th, and everyone attending is scrambling for dates and dresses that will complete the night of their dreams.

"I'm not prepared for prom," junior Genaro Carrillo says. "I'm working on that. I'm excited."

As students prepare themselves they are also "dropping bags" (spending a lot of money) on the multiple purchases including tickets, hair, nails, shoes and flowers. "Overall Prom is costing me more than \$600," said senior Amelia Hanson.

As the clock strikes midnight on May 10th, 2025, the countdown is officially on for the last month of school, after celebrating Memorial Day Weekend, graduating seniors will begin preparations for the big day.

"I'm really excited to graduate," said student Madison January. Senior week will be held from June 3rd through the 7th and will consist of 5 days of fun where the seniors can just be kids.

May 23rd marks the end of spring sports, and Charlie Molineaux says he's excited because he "wants summer to happen." Kids and coaches for track, tennis, lacrosse and softball will later receive awards and recognition for their hard work throughout the season.

Finally, and probably most importantly is the week of finals, which will take place the week of June 9.

"I like that we have a half day, (but) that's all. I don't do any preparations," said student Lily D'Andrea.

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

Massachusetts Funding: Change How Our Schools Get Money

Dress to Express: Students Have the Right to Individuality


By Harry Pike & Michael Coco
Staff Writers

In Massachusetts, school funding mostly comes from state and local property taxes. The state gives every school a budget based on per-student cost to operate and then provides aid for that budget. Often, schools in wealthier towns get less money from the state and are expected to meet budgets through their town taxes. Triton is in the middle when it comes to wealthy and poor schools. This means it receives less state funding than most other schools so it has to pay more of the budget with property taxes. The lack of state funding for Triton puts the school at a disadvantage. The bottom line is that Triton should receive more state funding to support the school.

Triton receives state funding that makes up 19 percent of its total operating expenditures. Meanwhile, Lawrence High School receives funding that accounts for 80 percent of operating expenses. State funding for Triton has also decreased from 35 percent to 19 percent in the past 20 years, shifting the responsibility more to the towns to locally fund the school. Because Triton has to heavily rely on local funding through the property taxes to fund the school. This results in the budget for the school declining or staying stagnant since state funding has gone down.

Last year, Triton Middle and High School was accepted by the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) to be in its 2025 assessment process for a new school building. It had previously been denied the past two years. As part of the rationale for the new building project, Superintendent Brian Forget said the school can't keep funding "Band-Aid repairs and solutions that do not provide a facility that meets the needs of our students and community." If Triton is given a typical 50 percent grant to build a new school building, it would significantly reduce the burden on local tax payers for such a project. However, the annual budget problems remain.

In 1973, the US Supreme Court heard a case "San Antonio Independent School District et. al v. Rodriguez et. al." In this case parents of students who attended the San Antonio school district challenged the school funding system. Their school funding system was identical to the system we have in Massachusetts now, which means schools primarily collect money from local property taxes. The court eventually ruled that the funding system was not unconstitutional because education is not a fundamental right. This left the local district on the hook for funding schools.



BUDGET INFORMATION SESSIONS

Questions on the Triton budget, the approval timeline, or the ballot override votes expected in Rowley and Newbury? Join school and town officials for any of the following dates for information and Q&A.

WED
APR 16

7:00 pm
Newbury Town Offices
12 Kent Way, Byfield

THURS
APR 17

6:30 pm
Rowley Town Hall
139 Main St, Rowley

TUE
MAY 6

4:00 pm
Virtual via Zoom
(Link to be provided in late April)

Facing an override vote in two of its three towns, Triton will be holding budget information sessions for the public as noted above (TRSD).

The court's ruling in this case has since been examined and debated. The families who took this issue to court did so because they felt that property taxes alone weren't enough to fund their children's education. We think schools such as the San Antonio Independent School District should receive additional funding for the school resources as well as education, in addition to the money they collect from property taxes. Triton falls under the same category as the San Antonio Independent School District and should receive additional funding due to the diminishing amount of money received from the state funding formula.

By Adeline Stapleton, Staff Writer

A school bursting with personality and confidence triumphs in a sea of identical uniforms and indistinguishable faces. Today, people are encouraged to be their true selves and express their diverse attributes more than ever before. Society thrives on individuality and acceptance for one another. Whether it's your religion, culture, opinions, or style, clothing is a blank canvas upon which students can express themselves.

Nationwide, schools are stifling students freedom of expression with dress codes. In some cases, this can be in violation of the First Amendment, which gives citizens the rights of freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition.

The *New York Times* article, "10 Supreme Court Cases Every Teen Should Know," discusses a trial entitled "Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District" covers this issue. In 1965, John and Mary Beth Tinker and their friend Chris Eckhardt wore black armbands to school in protest of the war in Vietnam. After refusing to remove them, as requested by school officials, they were suspended. The teen's parents sued the school district claiming they were violating the First Amendment's freedom of speech protections. After review, the US Supreme Court sided with the students. The ruling stated that as long as an act of expression doesn't interfere with school work or invade the rights of others, it's acceptable. This was a massive step in the right direction. However, this rule is very open to interpretation. What is considered disruptive, and where is the line drawn?

In 2018, an African American high school student Deanna McLeod was told she could not attend her senior prom due to her natural hair, which was styled in an afro. Her hair style was deemed distracting, and was in violation of the school's dress code. This sparked outrage among the community.

Many people rallied together in support of McLeod. Hair is an important part of cultural identity, especially in the black community. As a result of the public protests, the school district was pressured to update its policies to allow diverse hair styles.



John and Mary Beth Tinker, along with their parents, fought a dress code ban all the way to the Supreme Court. The resulting verdict granted greater free speech and expression rights for students in the United States (National Constitution Center image)

Triton Regional School District also has a dress code: students must wear a shirt, pants, and shoes, and have no undergarments showing (visible waist bands or straps allowed), and they're prohibited from wearing anything with violent images, hate speech, pornography, or profanity. Triton passed this dress code because they didn't want students to feel uncomfortable with the restrictions, and wanted them to be able to express themselves. This is the ideal policy because as long as outfits stay appropriate, kids are given the freedom they deserve. Arguably, lewd clothing is the only thing students would actually feel distracted by, as opposed to religious or protesting outfits.

When it comes to opinions, such as political views, school is not the ideal place to discuss them. For example, wearing a pro-Trump shirt could raise many arguments and judgements that would disrupt the school day. However, prohibiting things of this nature would violate student's freedom of speech. They have the right to decide if they're willing to be ridiculed for their views. Unless it gets to a physical point, or bullying, schools should not have the ability to punish or restrict them.

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Rumph plays for Antonelli Club baseball, which gave him more exposure and increased his skill set enough for the next level. He chose Saint Anselm as he felt it checked all his boxes both athletically and academically, a competitive baseball program, great campus environment, and strong support for student-athletes.

"Work hard, always be open to learning, and be a good person and student," Rumph said of his advice to underclassmen. "Your character matters just as much as your skill."

Ava Burl - Bryant University
Track and Field

Burl has been running cross country and track during the fall, winter, and spring through all four years of her high school career. Triton's Prep For Success program over the summers, operated by Triton track coaches, helped her remain consistent throughout the entire year, playing a huge role in her progress. Burl is the second Division One athlete in the 2025 class to come out of the track and field program and is excited to run at the D1 level because of the immense amount of team issued merchandise and gear as well as the exclusive training facilities.

"I'll miss Coach Joseph Colbert the most, he's been a huge support," said Burl. "But I'm excited for independence, new friendships, and all the opportunities ahead."

Aiden Moriarity - Norwich University
Soccer

Moriarity first started playing soccer when he was a little kid for Triton's youth team. Although Moriarity has been playing his whole life, after his sophomore season, he decided to go all in, quitting basketball to run indoor track and starting to play club soccer in the spring. After his junior season, he improved much and started looking at possible college programs he could play for. ID camps are essentially unofficial try-outs where high school athletes are allowed to play to showcase their talents to one or multiple colleges. These camps are one of the main ways Moriarity was able to get exposure and was how he received his offer to play for Norwich. After touring, he decided to commit to play for them next fall.

"For soccer specifically, make a highlight video," he advised future soccer athletes looking to play in college. "Even if a coach sees you in person, they'll still ask for it. For athletics in general, don't get overexcited about the first school. Take your time."

Kenzie Chaisson - University of New Hampshire - Cheerleading

Chaisson plans to cheer for the University of New Hampshire's National Cheerleading Association (NCA) Division 1 competitive cheerleading squad. Her siblings who go to UNH made the decision a no-brainer. Chaisson is excited

for all the new friendships she'll make at UNH with her new teammates as well as staying close with her friends who are also attending.

"Work as hard as you can," Chaisson advised. "Be your best self and don't waste time comparing yourself to others."

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there had been 41 eliminations, with just over half the players remaining.

It was a quick first few days of eliminations. Ashley Sabino has proven to be a sneaky, yet effective assassin thus far, eliminating two people already. First, she stalked Cole Sanders, following his car to Dunkin. Once Cole walked out of the store, she hopped out of the car and not only sprayed Cole but an innocent bystander as well. A few days later, she caught Josh Hersey leaving the gym.

"I plan to do what I have always been doing and just wait for them to come outside," she said.

Mason Colby has risen to the top of the leaderboard with four kills. These eliminations consisted of Sam Imlach at the gym, Bradyn Lopes at a convenience store, and Corbin Allen and Brian Clark in their driveways.

"I just plan to find them going out, nothing too crazy right now. I just got two kills the other day so I'm not really going too hard," said Colby.

Connor Rumph recently obtained his first elimination. He texted Joe Niska asking to go to the gym. Once Niska was walking into the gym, Rumph ran up behind him and sprayed him, to which Niska replied, "I hate you."

"I feel pretty good after eliminating someone even though it was one of my friends. It was nice to see my plan come together," said Rumph.

At the other end of the spectrum, the game has not been so nice. Students, including Alex Pasquini were tricked and betrayed by his friends. His strategy was simple: "go outside and don't get out," he said, but that clearly didn't work out. He was walking to his friend's car to go home, but when he opened the door, Josh Hersey was sitting there waiting for him.

An elimination attempt that took four hours to complete involved the elimination of Ashley Jones. Luke Sullivan, pulled up to her work at Anna Jaques Hospital and parked behind her car, boxing her in. Jones saw this and decided to get a ride home from her coworker instead, which led to a low-speed chase. Sullivan then went back to Anna Jaques and tied a refrigerator to Jones's car, knowing she would have to come back for her car eventually. With the assistance of Tinkham ripping off her floatie, Sullivan shot her.

"It was one of the most embarrassing things to happen to me," said Jones.