

Cougar Chronicles

Standardized Testing

By: Elizabeth Bautista

As students, we are prone to being put down for getting low grades on Standardized Tests, but why should we be shamed for something we have no control over? You can easily give someone a test and expect them to pass, but it isn't as simple as it seems. Studies prove you can't measure someone's intelligence and abilities through a test. Standardized Testing is one of the factors contributing to the amount of stress in students' lives.

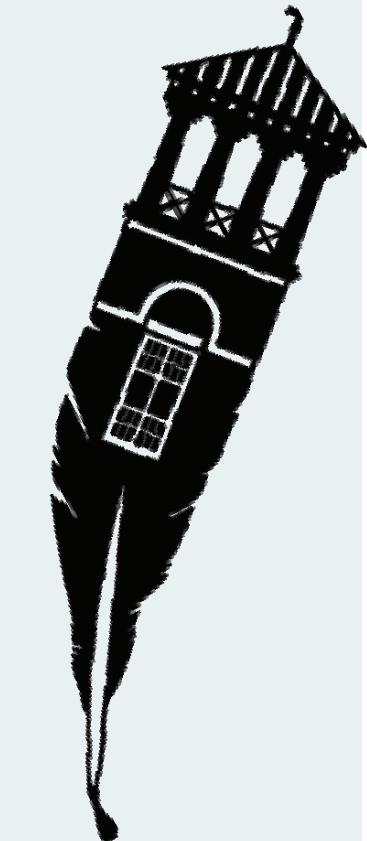
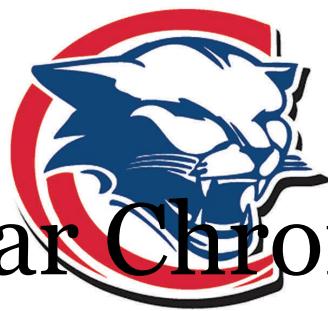
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Upcoming Basketball Season!

By: Ananda Brooks

After a successful season by winning a county game and a state game, the boys' basketball team is looking to build off that momentum for the upcoming season. This season, Coach Mingo and the rest of the basketball team is wishing for positive things to come. Since they had a very...

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Will the Nintendo Switch be the next big thing?

By: Tyshia Alphonse

According to Nintendo, there will be a release for a new game console called the “Nintendo Switch,” as of March 2017. This game console will not only be considered a home unit but a portable unit as well. This electronic device will offer many different control options and games and will have compatibility for memory cards or SD cards.

According to Nintendo, gamers will have the opportunity of easy carrying and handling of the portable device, similar to that of the Nintendo DS released in March of 2006 and the other Nintendo DS models after that. If gamers would like to go out with their Nintendo Switch, all they have to do is “switch” out the docking station that would be located next to a television at home and that’s it. The new console has five buttons, including a joystick.

Add-ons will be available to users when playing games such as Mario Kart or Zelda.
Wanting to play with multiplayers would re-



Standardized Testing (*Continued*)

Students try hard to succeed in life, but how can they succeed when their intelligence is always measured by sometimes unfair testing? Statistics show after the No Child Left Behind Law was passed in 2002, the United States slipped from 18th in the global ranking in math in the Program for International Student Assessment to 31st place in 2009, with a similar drop in science. Teachers will only educate their students on subjects they believe will be on the test, but are they really teaching us important things that we should retain? Not long ago, I personally asked my 8th grade teacher for extra help to pass the PARCC, and his response shocked me. He said, "There's nothing I can do to help because us instructors have no way of knowing



what to expect to be on the test." I've always been a student that likes to do great, and I strive for success. However, it bothers me, and many other students, when I go home and study for a long period of time, but still fail on what is considered to be an important test. Therefore, standardized Testing isn't as effective as most people would believe it to be. As a result, it is affecting the way students' credibility is viewed by themselves and by others.

Upcoming Basketball Season! (*Continued*)

... successful season last year, they are hoping to have an even better one this year. The basketball team has been working very hard to achieve their goal. The members of the team are giving their all. Coach Mingo feels his team will be a tighter unit due to the loss of Rajohn Dixon who graduated last year. He wants his team to be a defensive team. Becoming a defense team will help everyone during the season to strive for the best.

There is one young player on the team who is recognized as the most determined player. Jaden Lampley is a very good student, player, and young man. Lampley is a great scorer, and he spends a lot of time working on his skills. Many people refer to him as a "basketball junkie." Coach Mingo is glad to have Lampley, along with all the other players, on his team. Look out for their first game against Livingston on December 16, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Newark Tech gymnasium. All of their home games will take place at Newark Tech High School. North 13th Tech is supporting the basketball team all the way. We believe that they will have a very successful season.



Meeting the New Teachers

By: Meghan Mathew

For the 2016-2017 school year, many of our students have been introduced to our new staff members and teachers including Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Hebenstreit. These two teachers were both asked the following questions:

Q: What are some new skills you are going to be teaching this school year?

Hebenstreit: This year, I plan on teaching critical reading and writing skills that not only benefit students in history, but also throughout their other classes. I believe that any student who possesses these skills can be successful after they graduate from North 13th Street.

Q: How are you enjoying this school year so far?

Hebenstreit: North 13th Street is an excellent building and I feel lucky to be teaching here. The welcome from fellow staff members, students, and parents was encouraging! I am excited to continue teaching some of my favorite topics as the year progresses.

Q: What are some challenges you think you might face during this school year?

Hebenstreit: One concern for every teacher is standardized testing and preparing students for the rigor of these tests. I think that throughout this school year, it will be a responsibility to realistically address this need in a way that is unique to each student.

Q: How are you enjoying this school year so far?

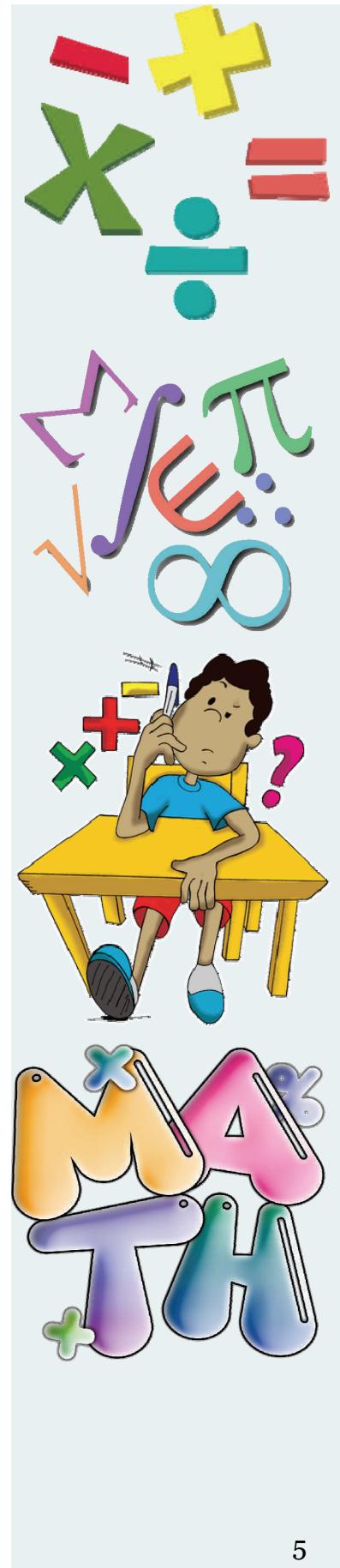
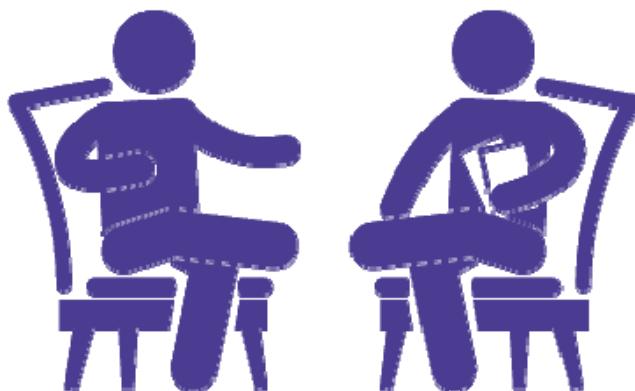
Rodriguez: So far at North 13th Street, I love the cultural background and how the school uses it to come together with the students. I also enjoy how the school uses student's ethnicity to make it a big factor of the school since it is very diverse. The environment is very welcoming and I am very excited to continue teaching here as the year progresses and show my cougar spirit.

Q: What are some challenges you think you might face during this school year?

Rodriguez: A challenge I think I might face that is going to be challenging is preparing my students for PARCC because it's my first year here.

Q: How can you show cougar Spirit?

Rodriguez: I can Show cougar spirit by supporting the clubs hosted in our school, helping any staff members or students, and by showing cougars got CHARACTER.



Cougar's Got Talent

Courtesy of Mrs. Doss, Poetry Club Advisor

CHAIR

By: Katherine Santos



I see a sign filled with socially acceptable “Instagram worthy” drinks just waiting to get my name spelled wrong for the thousand faceless friends of mine.

When I leave that Snapchat filter, I am the girl that the other girls don’t pick on because there is no point.

I’m the girl that guys thrive on because my insecurities make me easy.

People just use me then change.

As if I am a chair.

Something that people use for their own convenience.

Something that people just abuse and write all over.

No one cares about a chair

...

because you can always get another.



I am a poet and my pen is no longer in control by my hand...
My mind takes over and doesn't give me a chance to stand.
Words flow...

Sentences start flying...
Pieces are now dropping...
My paper gets no sense of mercy when it comes to the feeling...
The walls that I drew are now being erased.
Do you know how long it takes to rebuild them again?
Yet it's easy for my pencil to turn over
And make it vanish...
I guess my mind is done with being locked up behind bars,
that it no longer gives me a decision to stop myself.
I can no longer sugar coat it...
I can no longer put a mask to hide behind it...

I am a poet and my pen is no longer in control by my hand...
My mind takes over and doesn't give me a chance to stand.
Words flow...

Sentences start flying...
Pieces are now dropping...
Into place is where I now stand.
Beside myself...
I know I am a poet...

And my pen is no longer controlled by my hand...

THE POET & THE PEN

By: Caitlyn Cathel

