



LIFE

Senior Jimmy Passalacqua spent nine months in Italy as a foreign exchange student last year

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VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME
Tonight at 7 p.m. on North's turf

PSAT TESTING
Saturday, Oct. 19 at 8 a.m. in the Cafeteria

FALL CHOIR CONCERT
Saturday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. in the PAC

LIFETOUCH PICTURE RETAKES
Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 a.m. in the Student Union

ACT TESTING
Saturday, Oct. 26 at 8 a.m. in the Cafeteria

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL GAME
Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gym

END OF FIRST QUARTER
Friday, Nov. 1 after 7th hour

IDEAS
“**BLOOD DOES NOT DEFINE A PARENT; A REAL PARENT IS DEFINED BY THE LOVE THEY HAVE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.**”

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State mandates

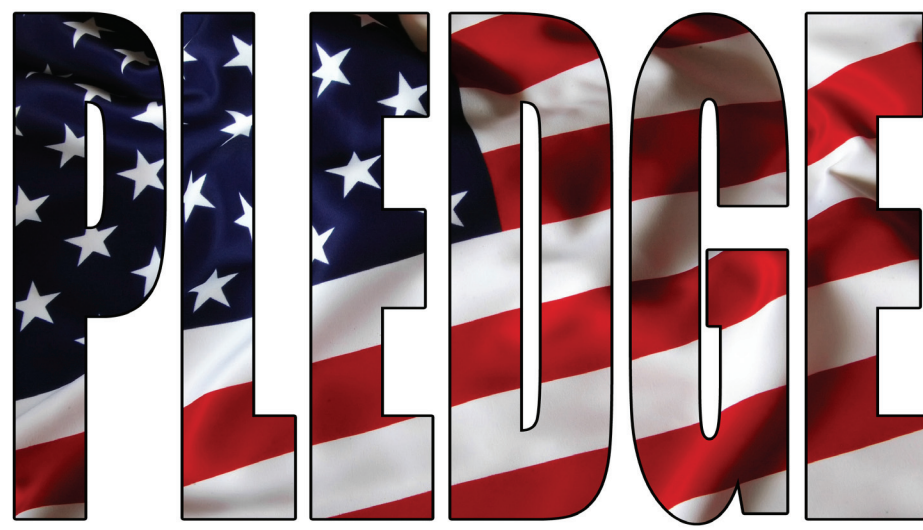


PHOTO CC NODOWS.COM

2011 Senate Bills implemented, enforce an opportunity to recite the pledge in class

By Jennifer Kusch
ASSISTANT EDITOR

With his hand on his chest and his eyes on the American flag, junior Nate Kane reluctantly rises at the sound of the Pledge of Allegiance echoing through his third hour classroom.

“A lot of people are saying that it's good because America, as a country, does so much for us, and saying the Pledge of Allegiance every day is the least we could do to show our gratitude and whatever,” Kane said. “But I feel like it loses its meaning if we're forced to say it. But everyone's saying it every day, it's just gonna have less and less meaning, and people are just gonna be reciting it and not even care, instead of understanding what the words are about.”

Senate Bill 4934 and partnering Bill 637 were proposed in 2011. They make it mandatory for public schools to allow students the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance every day to a flag that must be provided to each classroom. They were codependent; if one did not pass, the other would not be enacted into law. Both approved in 2012, Bill 4934 states that “beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the board of a school district ... shall ensure that an opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States is offered each school day to all public school pupils in each public school it operates.”

Senior Grant Strobl is openly supportive of the new measure.

“I believe that those 15 seconds that it takes to say the pledge is worth it to honor the country that provides us with great educational opportunities, among other things,” Strobl said.

The law also addresses the fact that not all students may want to take the provided time to recite the pledge or agree with the wording of the pledge. It states: “a pupil shall not be compelled, against the pupil's objections or those of the pupil's parent or legal guardian, to recite the pledge of allegiance.” If one does not wish to participate, the school “... shall ensure that a pupil is not subject to any penalty or bully-

ing at school as a result of not reciting the pledge of allegiance.”

History teacher Frank Tymrak supports the new law.

“I served in the U.S. military and am very opened-minded. I really do believe in people's rights. If students don't want to participate, that's fine,” Tymrak said. “I think it emphasizes the types of freedoms we have. If you would like to be involved with it, you can, and if you don't want to, that's fine, too. It exemplifies the type of nation we have, of freedom.”

Assistant Principal David Reed-Nordwall believes the option will help the policy run smoother in the school.

“I think it has to be opt out; there is language in there that some people don't agree with. I think they need to have the permission to quietly reflect their own views. So when you force everyone to do something, generally it causes problems. I think it's fine, what they've chosen to do,” Reed-Nordwall said. “It was this year that we heard that it was actually kind of a ‘we need to have a Pledge of Allegiance’ time and have everyone have the opportunity to participate, especially in high school because it's been decades, and (North students) have never done it.”

The district is currently working on providing each classroom with flags, but availability and cost have prolonged the process. The law states that “the board of a school district shall purchase or possess a United States flag of a size of not less than four feet two inches by eight feet, flag staff, and the necessary appliances for displaying the flag upon the flag staff ...”

The administration recognizes the urgency to get the flags but notices the financial burden it will put on the district.

“We're scrambling to get them. That's what the state doesn't understand, is what it would cost to equip that many classrooms with even a \$10 flag. Let's say they're \$10, and say we have hundreds of classrooms to equip. That's a lot of money,” Reed-Nordwall said. “So first you've got to find the flags, order them. So of course we're going to do it, but it takes time and money. And they don't provide any money for that. They put in the law and say, ‘Go make it work.’ And that's what happens to all the schools – they add these laws, and they're expensive, and even thousands to a district is a lot of money.”

Chinese teacher resigns mid-semester

By Anu Subramaniam & Gowri Yerramalli
WEB MANAGER & INTERN

Chinese teacher Tsen Joslyn has resigned from teaching for personal reasons. As of Monday, Oct. 14, Joslyn will no longer be teaching the Chinese program. Joslyn taught a fifth hour class which had 25 students enrolled in Chinese levels II-IV.

This is not the first major change for the Chinese program. Last year, the district de-

cidated – due to lack of interest among incoming freshmen – that the Chinese program would begin cycling out. The Class of 2016 students, who were in Chinese I last year, were the last ones with the option of registering for the course. The program would continue until they reached Chinese IV, but due to Joslyn's resignation, the program's future is uncertain.

The district is looking for other options to avoid a circumstance where the current students enrolled in the class will lose a semester of credit.

“I feel it is an unfortunate situation, in particular because this is not about the students or the building,” assistant principal David Reed-Nordwall said in an email. “I feel responsible to help students navigate this situation, get the credits they need and move forward.”

Administration has posted the job opening on the website and is searching for a possible

Ask.fm users subject to potential anonymous cyberbullying

By Marie Bourke & Kristen Kaled
WEB CONTENT EDITOR & DESIGN EDITOR

Ask and answer.

“A lot of people will be like, ‘Oh you're ugly’ or ‘You're fat,’” freshman Gabby Mazurek said. “Some people say inappropriate stuff like, ‘Will you have sex with me?’ and stuff like that. Because it's on anonymous, you can't see who it is. I haven't gotten too much of that. Just a lot of hate.”

Ask.fm is a social Q&A website where people can ask users questions on their profiles. Users are anonymous and are not required to have accounts.

According to www.businessinsider.com, half of Ask.fm's 65 million users are under 18.

“There's risks involved in that,” school psychologist Christine Kuhl said. “When people aren't able to be identified, then people tend to say things that they wouldn't say if people knew who they were or they were face to face.”

Similar to Ask.fm, Formspring was a Q&A site with the same purpose. Bullying among users was linked to teen suicides. Formspring's enhancements moved towards non-anonymous questions, and the site saw a steady decline in users. Formspring shut down in 2011.

Ask.fm was created in 2010 and has since become a social media trend. Once users create a profile, they can post their link to Instagram and Twitter. Then, the door is open to all followers. Followers visit the site and ask questions.

“I've been asked a couple inappropriate questions, a bunch of personal questions that I just choose not to answer. Like, ‘Are you a virgin? Why did you have sex with this person?’ And it's like, I've never done that,” junior Olivia Ritchie said. “It's just annoying, and I just don't answer.”

Some kids are not only asked offensive questions but are bullied and called names. These negative comments have even forced some kids to delete their accounts altogether.

“I feel like it really could cut deep because you don't know who's saying that, and it could be somebody you like, it could be somebody you don't know,” freshman Matt Beach said.

Mazurek recognizes the “petty” nature of posts.

“It's not like it really matters. It's just people trying to make themselves feel good,” Mazurek said.

Because of this, Ask.fm is trying to keep their site safe by enhancing their “report controls.” The site's improvements for safety: an abuse reporting button that will be more visible and include categorization of abusive behavior (according to www.theverge.com) and further restrictions of users' anonymity.

“It's a site for just bullying, that's what most people really use it for,” Mazurek said. “No one really asks, ‘Oh what's your favorite color?’”

Contributing: Anu Subramaniam & Billy Moin

ask.fm by the numbers

65 million users started in 2010
marketed to 13-18 year olds

SAFETY TIPS FROM ASK.FM

“Don't respond to questions that are inappropriate or abusive.”

“Anonymity should never be used to ask questions that are mean or hurtful.”

“If you receive a question that makes you uncomfortable for any reason, do not respond to the question, tell a parent, guardian or other trusted adult and block the user who sent it so they can't contact you again.”

ARCTIC STARTUP.COM & ASK.FM
GRAPHIC BY MARIA LIDDANE

replacement. Students were advised to talk to their counselors to determine the best option – dual enrollment, switching classes or online classes – until a replacement is found. However, students who choose online classes through Michigan Virtual High School or dual enrollment through Wayne State University will have to wait until next semester before they are eligible to register.

For now, the class will resemble a tutorial and will be run by a substitute until a teacher can be found.

“I'd rather be learning the language, but I like how I have an extra tutorial,” sophomore Connor Sickmiller said. “It's kind of upsetting to see the class end, though. The Chinese class has been together for many years. It feels like a family.”