

# Halloween costume, cont.

by Cain Azar

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“The funnier, the better,” said junior Mallory Schmoyer “The best costumes are the ones that make someone laugh.”

Students who have an abnormal fashion sense and often play poker could try the new Lady Gaga look. This costume does not specifically require much. Wear a shoe on your head and hats on your feet. Just do not dress like a normal human.

“I prefer politically current costumes, or Harry Potter ones,” said junior Molly Hamill. These costumes may appear tricky, but throwing an interesting one together may prove beneficial.

If one wants to impress his or her friends with their literary knowledge and is not in the mood for Harry Potter, try going as Othello and Desdemona. Another terrific English class coordination would be Piggy and Ralph from *Lord of the*

*Flies*. Just be sure to have one holding a large conch shell and blow into it to scare away children. After all, children are scared of loud noises, especially loud noises emitted from seashells.

If visiting a Spanish teacher’s house, make sure to dress accordingly. The Jamie Gonzales and Don Silvestre pairing should put a heavy load in your trick-or-treat bag and give you your own “Ultimo Secreto.”

For those who watch television and want to impress the neighborhood kids, attempt an Elmo and Cookie Monster pairing. Or, if advanced, try a costume involving the PC and Mac guys. Whatever the choice, one should take the necessary time in developing an idea.

Chances are, no Parkland student will go as any of these costumes, and if worried about lacking originality, stop. Throw on one of these bad boys and maybe when walking around the neighborhood you will not look into your trick-or-treat bag and find a rock.

# Teachers, students clarify term “good student”

by Alex Hess

Teachers at Parkland expect motivation, interest and hard work from their students. They expect to be teaching good students—a term so broad that each individual interprets it differently. However, both teachers and students have at last compiled a good definition of what it means to be a model student.

Every student knows to be prepared

in order to learn the material, especially when taking an honors-level course.

Verenna said that students should be internally motivated for their classes, even if it may not be their favorite subject. He also said if taking an honors class, one should probably be in it because of one’s interest in the subject, although “as long as the class rank system is there, the weighted grade will probably play a big role in it.”

Sophomore Keri Nolt agrees. “I try to get good grades, even if it turns out I do not. I’m striving to get a college scholarship,” she said, “so the weighted grade does have a lot to do with my taking honors classes.”



photo by Alexander Hess

Ms. Volikas’s students complete their work with zeal.

for class, to pay attention and to complete his or her own work, but 9<sup>th</sup> grade honors English teacher Mrs. Solderitch said, “Participation is key in my class.”

“Be involved in what is happening,” she said. “It is always good to raise your hand to answer questions, but for those who do not do that, I will probably call on you anyway.”

Sophomore Lauren Sobczak, who was in Solderitch’s class her freshman year, tries to follow Solderitch’s model of participation. “I try to contribute at least one good idea per class,” she said.

Sophomore Julia Naftulin, who also was in Solderitch’s class as a freshman, said, “A great way to get involved in class is to express opinions on subject matter, as long as it is valid to the lesson.”

Solderitch also says that if a student feels lost, he or she shouldn’t think twice about coming to ask for help.

“Active interest is a good thing,” said Mr. Verenna, an honors and advanced placement chemistry teacher. This means that students should actively ask questions

Ms. Volikas, a history teacher for twelve years, said she expects her students to be motivated and to be competitive. She also agrees with Verenna, a student, especially in an honors or advanced placement class, should be willing to learn for learning’s sake.

“If you are taking an honors level class that you can’t keep up with just for the weighted grade, that is two strikes against you,” said Volikas. “You really should be at that place intellectually.”

In addition, Volikas gives a warning to freshmen coming into her class. “For my ninth graders,” she said, “it is usually a big shock. They are moving from a civics class, which is very discussion and current-events oriented, to a standard history curriculum. So most students have to change the way they study or even that they study at all.”

Naftulin disagrees with Volikas that one should decide what his or her interests are in high school. “You do not have to have a huge interest,” she said. “And you should not have to decide on what you are interested in as a career when you are in high school. That’s what college is for.”

All of these teachers and students agree that the definition of a good student applies equally to those taking an integrated course, a gifted/high potential course, or an advanced placement course. The model student honestly cares about his or her schoolwork, not just the final grade. That can mean volunteering to answer in class, asking for help when needed or realizing that he or she simply is not interested enough in a subject to be taking a high level course.

Good scholarship is a mixture of common sense, interest, competition and participation.



Hello readers!

I am Frankly Frankie and this is the first Frankie column not only of the school year, but ever! I will be providing various useful school tips each issue with a theme, the first being for the newcomers to PHS, the freshman. I know many of you are still struggling with the move to the high school, and I am here to help!

## Remember:

**Get involved!** There are a lot of amazing activities and opportunities offered here at the high school, and they are at your disposal. So many in fact it might be overwhelming, but do not be intimidated. There is a club, sport, event or trip for everyone so there is definitely no excuse for boredom, because groups are always trying to recruit more members. Your high school experience is what you make it; your attitude and actions can be positive or negative but you have the power to decide which they are. Most of you will be here for the next four years, so make the best of it and you might just enjoy yourself!

**Don’t sweat the small stuff.** If you do not make a varsity sports team, there are JV teams and intramurals you could join. If you do not get the lead in the fall play,

there are other parts and other plays and a spring one around the corner. If you fail one academic assessment, it does not mean you will ultimately fail the course, never get into college and become an unproductive member of society. My point is to relax. If you apply yourself to the best of your ability in everything you do and take advantage of all the services provided to you here to assist you, you will succeed and be proud of what you are able to accomplish. Strive for improvement, never perfection! Your parents, teachers and peers will take notice of your efforts. Note: Perfection will forever be an unattainable goal, the pursuit of which will only cause frown lines and gray hair, so attempt with caution.

**Adjustment takes time.** Freshman year is a rough year for most students, but your schedules will fall into place and you will feel more comfortable in the high school before you know it. Teachers and staff are not out to get you, and all upper classmen do not harbor disdain for freshman; that is a cruel myth. Do not fear anyone in the building, because most people here will be kind and helpful in response to your anticipated questions.

# Got the junior year jitters?

by Brandilyn Tebo

*Intense. Grueling.  
Cruel. Vicious.  
Critical. Stressful.*

Each of these words—all equally drenched in negative connotations—can be used to describe what is said to be the worst occurrence ever to plague high school students: Junior Year. It is commonly felt that 11<sup>th</sup> grade is the year to which “it all boils down”. The time when “everyone is watching.” “Do or die.” The year that “really counts.” Not only do juniors have to deal with the everyday stress of classes and extracurriculars with which all other grades are struggling to cope, but they also have PSSAs, SATs, subject tests, license tests, jobs and college hunting.

“Junior year is the year most students really start to look toward life after high school and make plans for their futures, which just adds to the usual stress of schoolwork and other responsibilities,” said junior Fallon Dungan, when asked to impart her feelings on the dreaded year. Her stress is not at all uncommon. It is frequently accepted as a fact that junior year determines the rest of one’s life... not that there is any pressure or anything.

This brings about the question that 25% of Parkland’s student body is currently trying to answer: how to cope with the enormity of junior year. First things first, take a deep breath. Colleges do take every other academic year into consideration—everything is not contingent on one’s

success junior year. Working one’s self into a frenzy will accomplish nothing. Stay cool. Stay calm. Stay focused.

Next: one must listen to their mother. Eating right and sleeping the necessary amount is essential to getting through those trying times in junior year. It is one thing to stay up studying, but it is just not worth it to skip out on sleep to fix your Facebook fetish. But with all of these oh-so-intriguing, taunting technologies, it is quite impossible to prioritize.

Try taking junior, Camille Houferak’s advice. “Even though I don’t want to, I always try to turn off my phone and stay away from Facebook when I have a lot to do. Creeping and texting can always be done after studying is finished.”

However, this is not to say one should never have a break. A study-sesh can last hours, so break it up. Set goals such that once a certain amount is accomplished, it is okay to take a breather. The brain will be refreshed and prepared to take on whatever is next.

“If you have something to look forward to, it’s not so bad. As motivation, you can think of something exciting you can do after, like sports,” suggests David Miller.

Despite all the hype, junior year does not have to be so bad. By managing the little time they have well, juniors can tackle the ominous year without breaking a sweat. If juniors prioritize, stay focused and do not stress the small stuff, they can bring about a much happier set of words, like ...

*Success. Relief.  
Acceptance. Pride.  
Accomplishment.*