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Parkland High School's Odyssey of the Mind teams have recently experienced much success.

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Do you feel students should be allowed to "hang out" at PHS after school hours? Are you tired of 5:30 phone calls in the morning? Check out the Opinion section for these and other views.

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March Madness just cooled down. Look into the mind of The Trumpet's very own sports editor when he was filling out his bracket. Additionally, spring sports just recently began their respective season.

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Reporter Aaron Spikol interviewed students with family in the military. Read on to find out more!

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Entertainment

The talented Ms. Heidecker has been selected to participate in the prestigious Cabaret Conference at Yale University.

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Junioritis: "itis" is not restricted to seniors

By Alex Vratsanos

Nowadays, practically everyone has heard of senioritis: the relaxation, and thus drop in grades, during one's senior year. Plus, nearly every senior has or has had it... and have started becoming infected with it very early in their senior year. One might think that this is a relatively new trend, but even Mr. Ashenfalder admits to getting it "on the first day of my senior year." This makes the senioritis concept basically universal. But while senioritis receives nearly all of the attention, another "itis" has snuck up on some PHS students: junioritis.

Junioritis has two varieties, but both refer to the same timeframe: March through June of one's junior year. The first variety, called junioritis A, or JRA for short, is when students hit the books harder than they ever have before, to prepare for the influx of tests and exams that they face during their last few months as a junior. These tests include the PSSAs, the SAT, the ACT, any SAT Subject Tests that their prospective colleges or universities might require and any AP Exams. The first wave of junioritis A hits in March, when the time for registering for SATs, ACTs, SAT Subject Tests, and AP Exams comes. Even if students do not take any of these, soon after, the PSSAs loom over them, since all Pennsylvania 11th grade students are required to take them. The strongest succeeding waves of junioritis A hit in April with the PSSAs and in May with AP Exams. Waves of junioritis A also come in the weeks prior to when SATs, ACTs and SAT Subject Tests are administered, throughout the March-to-June period. Junior Eugenia Kim admits she will study extensively for her AP Exams and such; thus due to students like her, the fact that the PSSAs are mandated by Pennsylvania law, and the undeniable existence of all the other exams, the existence of junioritis A cannot be denied.

The other variety, junioritis B or JRB, is the exact opposite of junioritis A. It is found in students that blow off preparation for the above tests, and in effect score lower on them. Juniors who only study due to the demands of their parents fall under this category, since they would not do so if their parents did not force them. This failure to prepare for major tests is also a particularly reliable indicator of students who contract senioritis, especially of those who do so early in their senior year. It can be summed up succinctly in the phrase, "Failing to prepare, we prepare to fail." Since it is common knowledge that not every student passes all his or her AP Exams, and that some students do better than others on the SAT and ACT, junioritis B is therefore real- and a serious threat to one's future.

But all juniors- those with junioritis A, junioritis B or neither- feel some pressure to study. It may come from their consciences, their parents, their friends or an assortment of other places. It is the reaction to this pressure, internal and external, that determines the diagnosis- junioritis A or B, or possibly being considered "part of the pack."

One other thing remains constant. Those few months, despite possibly seeming brief, have tremendous power to alter the course of a junior's life. In today's society, making the leap to higher education means likely getting better jobs, making more money and thus living at a higher standard. Since these tests are major factors in college admissions, especially in more competitive colleges, they play a prominent role in deciding which people get the better jobs, have the higher salaries and live higher or lower on the social ladder. Juniors, whether they realize this or not, are strongly recommended to study for these tests, since not studying now, or perhaps, at least to some, being "cool" for these few and fleeting years, may find themselves squashed on the bottom of the social ladder-being, perhaps, "uncool" for the remaining 60 or so years of their lives.

One final note is that not being the smartest person one knows should absolutely never discourage a junior- or any student- from trying one's hardest. Wang Shi Na, who once got a perfect score on the SAT as a teenager, has said that "intelligence isn't nearly as important as good study habits." Her testimony helps to prove that studying now may make an enormous difference, possibly for the rest of one's life.

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