

Feature

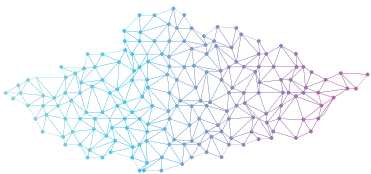
In our rapidly changing world, technology continues to evolve at a breakneck speed. This new technology impacts us in all areas of life, whether it be transportation, energy, or communication.

For SI students, one of the most salient effects has been the rise of AI for homework guidance and writing generation. With the start of the school year, the use of AI has become even more widespread, with unique policies for every class.

The development of technology has also resulted in new regulations. SI's phone policy has been making waves this past month, and teachers have ostensibly gotten better at detecting AI.

In this issue, we wanted to explore the real effects of technology at SI and how they affect both students and teachers.

We hope you enjoy this issue, SI!
- Editors-in-Chief -



Phone Policy Rings in Change at SI

Evelyn Conboy '26, Lucas Liang '26, Jordan Liu '26, Annika Watkins '26
Editors-in-Chief

As the senior class gathered in McCullough Gymnasium for their final convocation, they were met by the normal talks: the Deans spoke about their expectations for behavior, they explained the new year's dress code, and then Mr. Jeff Glosser discussed the year's events and activities.

But, before students dispersed to take their ID photos and hear about Dr. Tasia Davis' "dorm life" experience during her Spanish language immersion, there was one more presentation this year. Ms. Danielle Devencenzi, assistant principal for academics, rose to explain the school's new phone policy.

In her presentation, Ms. Devencenzi displayed a graph showing student feedback on phones in the classroom. The poll appeared to indicate that a large majority of students felt phones were distracting in class.

As skeptical students examined the graph, murmurs and even laughter spread through the crowd. "I didn't believe [the graph] when I first saw it," Pachi Chavez '26 said.

But for Ms. Devencenzi and the school

administration, this student feedback was part of a multiyear process of developing the new phone policy.

"I've been surveying students, asking different questions for the past 6 or 7 years, and we also have data from 'Challenge Success' which partners with Stanford University. We surveyed our whole student body, asking them a comprehensive group of questions about their life and their education, their friendships, their health, everything," Ms. Devencenzi told *Inside SI*. "Looking at that data, and looking at the data we've been collecting here, looking at national data, and using our own observations, that's what helped us to come to this policy."

Indeed, SI's new phone policy comes as states and school districts across the nation are in the midst of restricting phone use on campus.

Last September, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law a bipartisan bill that requires public schools



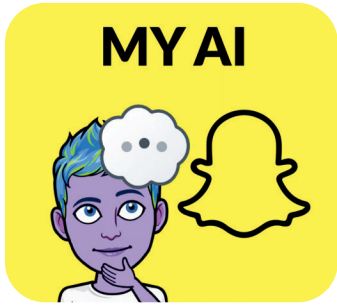
Continued on Page 13: PHONE POLICY

Feature

Can Teachers Really Detect AI?

Finley Wolfgram '28 Contributing Editor

Inside SI challenged teachers to decipher student-written work from a collection of four poems and four paragraphs. Only one poem and one paragraph were written by a student. The three other works in both categories were written by AI chatbots Snapchat AI, ChatGPT, and Gemini. Turn to page 10 to see if you can detect AI usage and see how well our teachers did.



Can you find the real student work?
Test your AI knowledge on p. 10

Continued on Page 10: TEACHERS vs. AI

Affinity

Affinity Groups Thrive At SI

Genevieve Arcenio '27 Managing Editor

Affinity groups provide students with a sense of belonging and a safe space at SI. Members have the opportunity to form connections, understand new perspectives, and share their culture with the school community. They are an important part of SI.

Affinity group members participate in social events such as holiday celebrations as well as discussions about current world issues. Some highlights from last year include the Filipino celebration of Christmas (PASKO), the ALAS showcase, and the BSU showcase.



A performance from the ALAS Showcase, one of the many SI affinity events.

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Skylar Chung '27

Teachers Impress at Back-to-School Night

Managing Editor

On the night of September 4, 2025, SI hosted its annual Back-to-School Night. This is a night for parents to go back in time and experience school life again. BTSN acts as a time of reassurance, parents get to meet with their children’s teachers and ask any questions or pose their concerns. Parents also got to experience SI’s changing environment as we move on with construction. Many Junior’s parents experienced the luxury of staying in one area the whole night. Meanwhile, the parents of the Frosh class

learned the lay of the land and met the amazing teachers their children are interacting with every week. This night creates a bond between parents and Saint Ignatius as they feel more connected to the school having been there themselves. The night started out like any other morning, with prayer led by Principal Levine. The parents then took off to their first period. With the limited time of ten minutes, each teacher gave their spiel about their course overview and how their class operates.

With only five minute passing periods, parents experienced the pressure of running up and down the stairs to get to their next class. This was even more of a challenge for those who were coming from the Village to the third floor in the H building. Aside from the hectic schedule of running around campus, parents also got to see centers of resources for their children. The BEE Office, Magis, Counseling Department, and much more were available for chats and questions.



Dr. Alex Macmillan explains the format of his AP Statistics Class.

Back-to-School Night is arguably one of the most important events of the school year. Parents and teachers gain familiarity, and the school gets to showcase their amazing faculty and staff. As Principal Levine said, “This is one of our favorite nights of the year because we get to show off the best of the best, our teachers.”



Mr. Steve Bluford welcomes parents to the Counseling Center.

Mass of the Holy Spirit Inspires

Managing Editor

Sebastian Huerta '26

On September 5th, SI students gathered at Holy Name of Jesus Church to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Held bi-annually at the beginning and end of the year, SI celebrates the Mass of the Holy Spirit in conjunction with many Jesuit schools around the world. During this mass, we ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, and to guide us in our gifts and passions.

SI students welcomed Fr. John McGarry, S.J., who presided over his first Mass of the Holy Spirit with the SI community.

During the homily, Fr.

McGarry reflected on the values of the SI community, the beginning of the new academic year, and his own perspective as a new member of the SI community.

Reflecting on his homily, Christopher Jeong '27 noted “his homily helped me feel grounded in the new school year, and I appreciated the opportunity to reflect.”

Mass of the Holy Spirit kick started the year with communal reflection, setting an intentional tone for the rest of the school year.



Students listen to Father McGarry’s powerful message.

Tai Morganson '26

Club Fair: Join a New Community

Managing Editor

Hundreds of Wildcats packed into McCullough Gymnasium to join student organizations and clubs on September 9th. Students leaders of competitive, social justice, academic, and nationally-affiliated clubs boasted lurid poster board signs on colorfully clothed folding tables, attracting new members with themed accessories and candy.

The Food Science Club even recruited new members with homemade ice cream! Students huddled around isles of tables scanning unique Q.R. codes, previously

issued by the Student Council’s Club Committee, which redirected students to the club’s ClubHub page. ClubHub is a new organizational software aimed at promoting club efficiency, giving club leaders a central command center from which to recruit new members, send announcements, and take meeting attendance.

The vast variety of student organizations on campus this year, each equipped with new organizational tools, previewed a year of vibrant events, fun competitions, and community service.



The Black Student Union welcomes new affinity members.



Maida Liu '26 invites students to her club.

Alexandra Innes '28

SI Remembers Father Reese at Funeral

Contributing Editor

On Wednesday, August 20, members of the SI community gathered at St. Ignatius Parish Church to celebrate the life and legacy of Fr. Edward Reese, S.J. It was a touching ceremony, which consisted of eulogies from Richard Cobb, S.J., Adria Renee, and Joe Vollert, all of whom were close friends and colleagues of Fr. Reese.

Along with the many SI students and faculty members in attendance sat people from the many communities Fr. Reese impacted throughout his life. People from Loyola High School; Bellarmine College Preparatory; St. Ignatius in Sydney, Australia; Brophy College Preparatory; Loyola Academy; our very own St. Ignatius College Preparatory and Fr. Sauer

Academy; and, of course, the Society of Jesus have all experienced the love and dedication that defined Fr. Reese's life.

The funeral service left many with tears in their eyes and Fr. Reese in their hearts. SI student Finley Wolfram '28 captured the feelings of many in attendance, saying, "I was teary of course, but inspired by the life he lived and the people he surrounded himself with."

To the gathered mourners, the funeral mass served as a reminder to live a life full of compassion and connection to others, just as Fr. Reese so happily did.



Fr. Reese's brother, Fr. Tom Reese, SJ, spoke at the funeral

Michael Cinco '27

The Village: Year Two

Contributing Editor

Do you think the Village is a positive or a negative to the school environment? This is the second year of the Village, containing predominantly the Class of 2027, giving them a quiet learning experience outside of the H Building. V1 through V12 are in close quarters with each other, so throughout the day, students have an easier time getting from class to class with the convenience of not having to go up or down floors. Furthermore, without having phones, the introduction to the Village allows students to be able to use the leftover time they have with their peers, being able to chat with friends or quickly review for a quiz.

Although there are many benefits to the Village, many people feel as though the Village can be a grievance, as it is hard to go to the H from the Village between passing periods.

"I like the Village and the school building but I just dislike passing periods because I have to go in between the two campuses" said Emma Fong '27. Lauren Yu '27 said, "It

feels as if the Village is okay because you can connect with people in your grade and be in a smaller community, but having to go from village to [the H] building can take a really long time."

Other students, such as Alaia Cha '27, feel as though the Village is a great environment. She said, "It's easy to connect with my peers being in close vicinity, and I love how they have air conditioning and



Students gather in The Village in between classes.

heaters. I also feel like when I am in the classrooms that they are bigger inside."

The Sophomores have other opinions. These two students feel as though that the Village is cool, yet is an inconvenience. "I don't like the Village because it isolates you from the rest of the school. I think it's pretty cool for the work but it's a pretty big inconvenience," said Theodore Daley '28. Lucas Pak '28 added, "I would say I like the environment outside of the classroom."

The Senior class seems to agree with the feeling that the Village is hard to navigate, isolating, and unaccessible. "I think that having crutches last year kinda made it hard to go back and forth," said Kristoph Kratz '26. Pablo Garcia Caceres '26 shared, "I think it's cool having the whole class there and having everyone around you, but also I feel like it isolates people from the rest of the classes."

So is the Village an asset to our community or a challenge? Maybe it's both!

Jordan Liu '26

Student Council Introduces Point System

Editor-in-Chief

SI has been known to have a wide variety of events and student activities, and they seem to one-up themselves every year. From Prom at the Exploratorium to The Bruce at Chase Center, SI students have had experiences not many other high schools possess.

To get more SI students to come to these events, the school has rolled out a new point system: the Wildcat Rewards Program. Ms. Michelle Finn, director of student affairs, cited the need for "fun competition between students and classes" as the reason behind the program. Students can accumulate points through the



The point system also applies to students that attend SI Sports Events.

Minga system by attending events like sporting games or dances, climbing a leaderboard displayed on the app. Students can then redeem their points for prizes like gift cards and merchandise. Ms. Finn commented, "Students are actively looking for these events; they want to gain points."

The program is also predicted to highlight events other than just football and dances. The point system promotes Orchestra, Theater Performances, and other sports, just to name a few. The goal is to spotlight lesser-attended events and encourage attendance to expose students to what SI has to offer.

According to Ms. Finn, school events have seen an overall uptick in attendance. She attributes this increase to the implementation of the Wildcats Rewards program in conjunction with growth in the marketing of school events. "The overall goal of student events," she said, "is to make things fun and exciting for the community."



Nashville Night on August 28th.

	Kate Tu Frosh C/O 29	★ 56	
	Gianna Monge Frosh C/O 29	★ 56	
	Sabina Hutchins Frosh C/O 29	★ 56	
	Noah Kirsch-Lopez Sophomores c/o 28	★ 56	
	Tyler Tanabe Frosh C/O 29	★ 51	

Points system leaderboard as of 9/18/2025.

Campus Ministry, Old and New

Elizabeth Foster '27

Contributing Editor

Among the many changes to SI's campus amid construction of the New Learning Center, Campus Ministry has faced one of the most dramatic transformations. Gone is Orradre chapel and the entire Campus Ministry building, where students had long gathered to sing, pray, eat, build community, and wrestle with questions about life and faith. Today, Campus Ministry events take place in the Family Room, Jensen Chapel, the gyms (for school liturgies), and several other locations around campus including the 3rd floor Observation Room.

Many of these events look different too. Monday Morning Ministry now meets in the 3rd floor Observation Room, and Frosh Retreat takes place off-campus in partnership with St. Monica. Yet for many Campus Ministers, the transformation of the physical space and the challenges of the move have only underscored what remains unchanged about Campus Ministry – its community.

Campus Ministry is wherever students are," shared Ms. Kelly Miguens, Director of Campus Ministry. At Break, the Family Room is alive with the clamor of students sharing snacks and study tips, resting on couches, and playing Bananagrams. "It's wherever students want to gather and wrestle with life's questions... where students have a desire to build community. It's not

about the [physical] space."

Campus Min exists as much more than a physical space – the work of its community shapes our Ignatian identity and how we live out values, like Cura Personalis and living with and for others at SI. For many students, Campus Ministry shapes the formation of their spirituality and leadership through programs like Insignis. Insignis leader Gabby Blas '26 said, "I love being in Campus Ministry because I can get involved in doing things around the school.. The adults are really good support systems."

The support systems that Campus Ministry provides are especially important to many students' experiences at SI; whether they join the community through Insignis, Music Ministry, participating in retreats, or simply stopping by the Family Room, they always find someone in Campus Min ready to listen and help.

Ms. Miguens noted that a benefit of Campus Min's new location in the Student Center is its visibility. Campus Min is an integral part of SI, and being located at the heart of campus physically demonstrates how all students are welcome to its community. Ms. Miguens shared that her hope for Campus Min is that "each and every student feels like they can walk into our offices ... and feel safe and welcome enough to be in this space."



Liturgy in the former Orradre Chapel in 2023



Monday Morning Liturgy celebration in 2025

Rhythm and Precision: SI's Dance and Drill Team

Farrah Almajdalani '27

Managing Editor

"We lose our voices from hyping each other up so often," said Sam Yost '27 when asked to describe the upbeat and spirited atmosphere of the Dance and Drill team. That type of spirit was on full display when SI's very own Dance and Drill team took the field at one of the first football games of the school year, instantly raising the crowd's excitement and energy.

Madison Dela Rama '27, who attended the most recent football game, shared, "Dance and Drill's performances are always so much fun to watch! The crowd's cheers combine with their music, so it really shows the best of SI's community at that moment."

What many may not realize is that the intricate choreography showcased at these school-wide events is created by student

leaders from the team itself.

Behind the smiles and sharp movements are countless hours of practice, creativity, and courage, as members prepare to perform in front of a sea of both familiar and unfamiliar faces.

For the dancers, these moments are more than routines—they're the result of teamwork, trust, and the willingness to push through challenges together.

Tali Makstman '27, a Varsity member of Dance and Drill who also serves as JV co-captain, described her choreography process and her hopes for the year: "With dance choreography, you compile moves you know to create a routine to the song."

For me, there's a lot of trial and error. It's complex because you have to make sure the moves flow, match the beat, and stay

interesting to watch. I'm most looking forward to the competition season and football games this year. Overall, I feel like our team works really well together, and I hope we impress the judges at competitions!"

Dance and Drill's impact goes beyond halftime entertainment—it's a source of pride and connection for SI students. Every performance is a reminder of the talent within the community and the way school spirit can come alive when students support one another.

So, at the next home football game, make sure to keep your eyes on the field for Dance and Drill's performance—you might just be cheering on choreography created by your very own classmates.



The Dance and Drill Team lights up the crowd at Friday Night Lights.



Digital art is a new form of art in the modern era. Compared to traditional art forms like oil pastel and watercolor, digital art makes it easier to draw anywhere at any time.

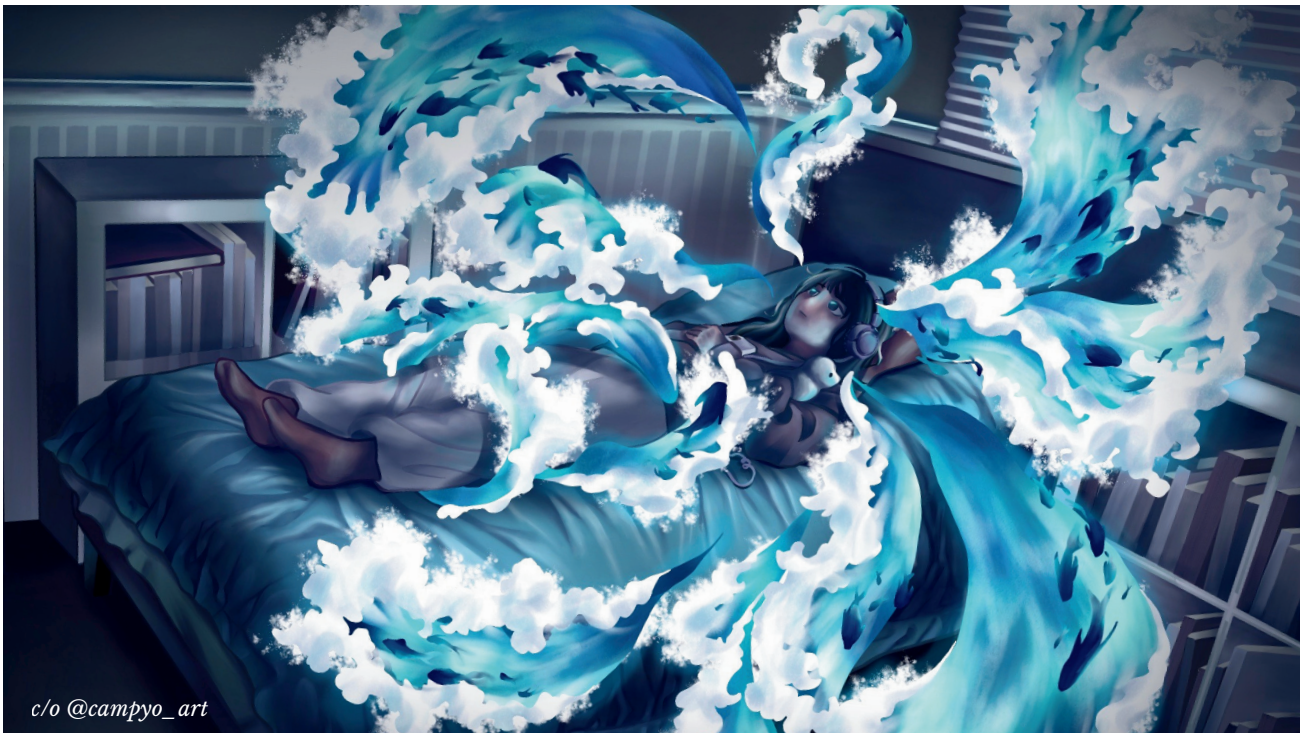
Instead of a canvas and brushes, digital artists use applications on devices that allow them to erase and update art pieces easily. The apps are so intelligent that they can even translate different pressures of a stylus into different kinds of brush strokes.

Since middle school, Camille Pyo '26 has been posting both digital and traditional artwork to her social media art accounts. She uses “digital and traditional for different things.”

Pyo said that digital art programs such as Procreate allow her to “edit the visibility of layers” making it “easier to execute certain concepts, especially if they're pretty abstract.” She also likes digital art because it’s more flexible and “more reversible” compared to traditional art.

“On the flip side,” she explained, “traditional mediums have a very unique look to them.” Watercolor and personalized cards “for my family and friends” are ways that she utilizes traditional art for a look that digital can’t replicate.

On the topic of social media and digital art, she said that many art accounts consistently post one specific style of art. She commented that many artists, behind the scenes of their art accounts, don’t “just make only that kind of art...They had to do all of the figure drawing at live model classes. They had to do everything you learn in Ms. Wolf’s class.”



“Sound Waves” by Cami Pyo '26 highlights how she enjoys ambient ocean music and relaxing to the sound of rolling waves.

Digital and traditional artists master several art forms and build up their skill sets in hopes of one day becoming viral on social media, as Pyo pointed out. But these artists also strive to be featured in brick and mortar art galleries. For digital artists, there may be more physical spaces to feature their artwork coming soon.

Recently, in New York City, a new digital art gallery was opened by Adam Heft Berninger. The gallery, called Heft Gallery, is meant to showcase fresh and new art that uses “algorithms, artificial intelligence, handwritten instructions and rules” and more. In many of the pieces shown, artists

use technology to fuse photographs with their own drawings, or to manipulate an image to convey a specific message.

The gallery displays a mix of screens and canvases with digital art on its walls. Berninger, previously a creative technologist, strives to find the intersection between art and the ever present use of technology in the modern world.

Digital art may be the future, merging technology and art together, but there will always be a place for traditional art in online and in-person art spaces.

If you are interested in seeing Pyo’s artwork, check out her Instagram page [@campyo_art](#).

SI Students: the Next Generation of Climate Leaders

On September 9, CBS News Bay Area interviewed SI senior Ari Bushler '26 about his climate initiative Powering Tomorrow.

Co-founded by Ari and his brother (former SI student Jacob Bushler '25), Powering Tomorrow educates its students by utilizing highly interactive and competitive activities to demonstrate renewable energy’s positive effects. One activity found in their self-developed curriculum includes an experiment involving models of water wheels and generators.

Powering Tomorrow offers free 6-week intensive climate workshops to San Francisco middle and elementary schools. Their workshops rely entirely on student volunteers. To date, Powering Tomorrow has already reached over 25 elementary and middle schools such as the Fr. Sauer Academy, A.P. Giannini, and Commodore Sloat.

In their interview, Ari Bushler '26 shared that, “at the



Jacob '25 and Ari Bushler '26 sit for an interview with CBS News Bay Area



Ari Bushler '26 helps a student with his experiment.

least, we want students to leave the program with a positive association with green energy.”

Observing a climate crisis in the Bay Area, the Bushler siblings founded this non-profit as a means to address this growing issue. Jacob Bushler cited seeing an orange sky in 2022 as a glaring call to climate action.

“We want students to leave the program with a positive association with green energy. – Ari Bushler '26

Any SI students passionate about climate education and literacy can get involved with Powering Tomorrow by signing up through their website [poweringtomorrow.org](#). In a statement shared with *Inside SI*, the Bushler siblings stated that they “are committed to inspiring the next generation of climate and green energy leaders.”

SI Reacts to Charlie Kirk’s Death

McCann O’Brien ’26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Charlie Kirk, a political commentator and founder of the conservative political organization Turning Point USA, was shot and killed on September 10, 2025, while on his debate tour at Utah Valley University. Kirk, who is survived by his wife Erika and two children, had become a voice for young conservatives across the nation due to his presence on social media and at school campuses.

The news of Kirk’s death spread quickly through SI on the afternoon of the 10th, as information about the shooting proliferated rapidly on social media. Kirk was an influential figure for many SI students, as many had watched viral clips of his debates on platforms like TikTok.

His organization has chapters at many schools across the nation, and has an affiliate club at SI called Club America. According to Turning Point’s website, the goal of these chapters is to “empower each high school[er] in becoming freedom-loving activists within their community by sharing their beliefs through grassroots activism, and organizing exciting events,” which includes registering people 16 and up to vote.

Twenty-two year-old Utah native Tyler Robinson has been charged with seven counts, including aggravated murder, which

carries the possibility of the death penalty. The alleged killer made inscriptions on the bullets that may point towards his motive,



Charlie Kirk speaking at an event in Arizona in 2021.

“You don’t just shoot somebody because you don’t agree with them. Violence doesn’t solve anything. – Xavier Mendoza ’27

but nothing has been confirmed yet as of publication time.

Students were very affected by Kirk’s death. Pablo Gracias ’26 said, “I think it’s shocking that political violence has come this far. People are killed for having differing opinions.”

In a similar vein, Xavier Mendoza ’27 stated, “You don’t just shoot somebody because you don’t agree with them. Violence doesn’t solve anything.”

The president of SI’s chapter of Club America, Alexander Salentine ’26, said, “The passing of Charlie was tragic and horrifying, not just for the conservative movement and TPUSA, but for America.”

Samantha Lundquist ’26 shared, “I think his death cannot be justified by the fact that some people do not agree with his viewpoints. Gun violence is the major issue here.” The issue of gun violence in America has become top of mind for some SI students in the wake of Kirk’s death. Ellie Lee ’26 said, “Gun violence is devastating. I hope that this is a wakeup call to everybody to work on better gun control laws, so something like this doesn’t happen again.”

Should the Pentagon Get a New Name?

Lyla Shaver ’27

Contributing Editor



The Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, is the headquarters of the U.S. military.

On September 5th, President Donald Trump signed an executive order renaming the Department of Defense, also known by the shape of its headquarters as the Pentagon, to the Department of War. Supporters call the move honest, and believe the new name better represents its current role. Critics, however, peg the rebrand as unnecessary and pricey.

Trump’s order does not officially rename the department, but the new name will act as a secondary title. A full rename would require Congress’ approval. As a result, the rebrand is largely symbolic.

Created in 1789, the department was originally titled the Department of War, and was separate from the Navy after its creation in 1798. In 1947, the former Department of War was split up and

merged with the Navy in the creation of the National Military Establishment. Just two years later, the National Military Establishment was renamed to its current name, the Department of Defense. The reason for this change was likely due to post-WWII influences and also because the acronym NME sounded too much like the word “enemy.”

Supporters of Trump’s rebrand assert that the name promotes American strength and better reflects the role of the department in the world. They argue that the recent military strikes against Iran and the deadly attack on a suspected Venezuelan vessel carrying drugs suggest that the “Department of War” may be a more fitting name.

In contrast, critics call the rebrand unnecessary and expensive. The cost of changing signage to include the department’s new secondary title is estimated to be in the billions of dollars. Furthermore, critics argue that the new title will send the wrong message, portraying America as a war-hungry country to the rest of the world.

Christopher Jeong ’27 asserted, “Trump’s rebranding of the Department of Defense to War demonstrates the beginnings of a grim future. These changes work to undermine the US’s policy to try and keep peace, and sharply increase the likelihood of the United States going to war, whether for better or worse.”

Heather Yee '27

Managing Editor

Matcha Shortage Hits SI Students



c/o Air Culinare Worldwide

Low tea farm yields have led to a global shortage of matcha.

As demand out runs supply, matcha powder for the popular drink has been increasingly expensive and difficult to come by. This news arrives as users on social media platforms, including TikTok and Instagram, have been popularizing the drink for its health benefits and natural taste, causing an influx in consumption of the drink throughout the U.S. and around the world.

Matcha powder is made of tencha leaves, which are a type of tea leaf that require meticulous care and cultivation. The leaves are shaded for about a month while they grow, which contributes to the tea’s natural vibrance and complexity. They are tediously ground up in stone mills, where

grinding just forty grams of the powder, the amount in an average tin of matcha, takes one hour.

The two main reasons for the current matcha shortage are global warming and excessive demand. Due to record-high heatwaves throughout Japan, tea farms have yielded fewer successful harvests, while demand has continued to rise. The labor workforce behind matcha harvesting has also grown older, forcing tea farms to search for younger workers, who have become increasingly scarcer.

Furthermore, excessive demand has quickly outpaced the limited matcha supply chains, with social media playing a major role. Influencers promote consumption of

“ceremonial grade” matcha, the variety of highest quality which is known for its bright green color and complex flavor.

Since this variety is composed strictly of first-harvest tencha leaves, there is less of it available on the market compared to the cheaper “culinary grade” matcha, which is made using tencha leaves from later harvests and is known for its more bitter taste. The limited supply coupled with excessive demand has caused matcha prices to soar, especially with the introduction of President Donald Trump’s 15% tariffs on Japan.

Despite a tripling in matcha production between 2010 and 2023, as well as a 25% growth in green tea exports, consumers around the globe have found matcha increasingly expensive and difficult to come by due to Trump’s international tariffs, which have made prices soar for both consumers and businesses alike.

Furthermore, social media users have popularized consumption of matcha in the form of sweet lattes and soft serve, while the tea has been consumed traditionally in Japan solely during sacred tea ceremonies. In these rituals, matcha powder is whisked with hot water and served to guests with wagashi, a Japanese sweet, to balance the tea’s natural bitterness.

Janice Yan ’27, an avid matcha enthusiast, expressed, “The matcha shortage is upsetting many matcha fans, including myself. It’s a huge shame how expensive a tiny can of matcha can be. Especially in today’s economy!” While matcha continues to be a popular beverage enjoyed by many, it’s imperative that we remain mindful of its limited availability and effort that goes into making the tea.



Alexander Salentine '26

Managing Editor

Epstein Case Still Raising Questions

On September 5, the House Oversight Committee released the “missing minute” video footage of Jeffrey Epstein’s cell. Nothing of note happened during the minute, but video from other segments of the tape still raises questions about Epstein’s death.

Earlier in the year, the Trump Administration faced a lot of criticism for its handling of the case of Jeffrey Epstein, a sexual predator and influential man, who was tied to many world leaders. In response, the administration released a full 12-hour video footage of Epstein’s cell on the day he died. Between the hours of 11:59 PM and 12 AM, the video skipped a minute in time. This minute was referred to as “the missing minute,” and it raised a lot of questions surrounding the death of Epstein.

Now we have answers, sort of. The House Oversight Committee released the missing minute on September 5th, which contained the routine surveillance of a passing security guard; nothing new nor

noteworthy. However, when we view the surveillance footage in its entirety, we see that at around 7 PM, Epstein made a phone call from a separate location inside the prison. Phones themselves were banned in the maximum security prison. Further, the text, metadata, and the quality of the “missing minute” video is different from the 12-hour video that omits the minute. Also, there are questions about why this seemingly unimportant piece of film wasn’t released earlier.

Attorney General Pam Bondi previously assured reporters that the jump in a minute was due to a technical glitch common in prison surveillance systems, which contradicts the new evidence.

In addition to the lack of clarity on the surveillance footage, there are other issues with Epstein’s case that remain unresolved. On September 9th, the House Oversight Committee released Epstein’s “birthday book,” compiled for his 50th birthday by his close associate Ghislane

Maxwell. In this book, there are lewd pictures and birthday letters from prominent political figures. Much of this content has yet to be explained, especially since some involves President Trump. The administration fiercely denies that Trump sent any letters or was involved in any way in Epstein’s affairs. Further, the current presidential administration vows to sue for defamation, a course they have already pursued with the Wall Street Journal.

Some people feel that these unanswered questions will still cause problems for Trump in the future. With this video, the files, and the many questions they raise, many wonder if we will ever know the truth about Jeffrey Epstein.

“With this video, the files, and the many questions they raise, many wonder if we will ever know the truth about Jeffrey Epstein.”

Lily Normanly '28

SI Performing Arts Prepares for Shows

Contributing Editor

Performing arts at SI are off to a strong start this year! After holding auditions during the first week of school, students have already jumped into rehearsals for a wide range of performances.

The theater department is rehearsing for the fall play, *Our Town*, by Thornton Wilder, with both the cast and the tech crew working hard on sets, lighting, and sound for the production. It will run November 12th-14th.

Mixed, Chamber, and Treble choirs are busy learning music for their winter concert, themed “Celebrating Light.” Chloe Lim '28 shared that “singing in choir has helped me connect with many students because it is a place to meet people that

have similar passions in music and performing.”

Dance Workshop students are also preparing for the Fall Dance Concert, “The Body Speaks” on November 20th and 21st. Ms. Calalo Berry, the Dance Workshop director and choreographer, gave some insight into how the rehearsal process has been going: “Every year I feel like I get a chance to dive a little deeper into the art making process with the dancers. We get to make even more exciting, connected, and perhaps vulnerable works. In that vulnerability, hopefully we create more meaningful performances.”

Meanwhile, Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Honors Strings are rehearsing for

their upcoming fall concerts in December. Lavanna Maharjan '28, a member of orchestra, spoke on her growth as a musician at SI. “Being in Orchestra has really given me the opportunity to improve my skills, musicianship, and confidence,” she shared.

Across every department, students are enjoying the energy and excitement of being back in rehearsals.

When asked what she is most excited for this year in Dance, Ms. Calalo Berry beamed, “I’ve so appreciated the way the rest of the SI community has shown up for us by attending our shows so respectfully and cheering the dancers on. Thank you, and we can’t wait to share with you what we create!”



The choir started off the new school year with music at the Mass of the Holy Spirit.



Dancers performed Ms. Calalo-Berry’s choreography, showcasing unique talents and creativity.



The violinists strung together a mystical performance at the Spring Pops concert.



Natalie Moran '26 and Tali Makstman '27 prepared to dance at the Performing Arts assembly.



The cast of the “Drowsy Chaperone” sang “Toledo Surprise” to conclude their performance during the 2025 musical.

Mika Cinco '27

The 2025 VMAs Spotlights Iconic Performances

Contributing Editor

The 2025 MTV Video Music Awards was a star-studded event with influencers, fashion icons, popstars, singers, songwriters, and most importantly, fans.

The night started with the MTV red carpet, where celebrities wore patterns and furs. Sabrina Carpenter wore custom Valentino; GloRilla attended wearing plaid Helen Anthony; and Ariana Grande, who was styled by Law Roach, wore polka dot Fendi.

Other celebrities took inspiration from goth aesthetic. Some notable outfits were worn by Rebecca Black, FKA, Nikki Glaser, and Audrey Nuna, Ejae, Rei Ami from KPOP Demon Hunters.

The VMAs attracted around 5.5 million viewers with artists like Lady Gaga stealing the show, earning 12 nominations and winning 4 awards. She then moved to Madison Square Garden to perform her Mayhem Tour, solidifying her as the real “Perfect Celebrity.”

Sabrina Carpenter welcomed Drag Queens onto the stage in support of trans rights during her rendition of her new song “Tears.” Sabrina Carpenter won Album of the Year and Best Pop Artist, while Rosè and Bruno Mars took home Song of the Year with “APT.” Sombr sang “12 to 12” after taking home the Best Alternative Video VMA for “Back to Friends.”

Mariah Carey proved she is the queen of pop, as stated by Arianna Grande, with a couple of her songs after winning her first VMA: the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard, which is awarded to artists whose contributions significantly shaped music videos and pop culture.

Music legend Ricky Martin was honored with the first Latin Icon Award after his high energy performance of “María,” “Pégate,” and most famously, “Livin’ la Vida Loca.”

The Rock the Bells Visionary, a hip hop award, was given to Busta Rhymes. Girl group KATSEYE won many awards for their song “Touch,” including the Push Performance award. KATSEYE’s performance of “Gnarly” cemented them as a force to be reckoned with in the pop space.

Connor Kam '27 felt that the win of “Touch” was well deserved, saying, “I wouldn’t call myself an eyekon (the name for fans of KATSEYE), but I keep up with their music. They first caught my attention with their song “Touch” last year, and since then I’ve had them in my music rotation and listen to them pretty regularly. They’ve been consistently releasing great songs, and each new track is unique and different.”

The VMAs as a whole not only reflect society in music, fashion, and social media but also reflect what people care about in songs and in identity.



Mariah Carey accepted the Vanguard Award.



Janice Yan '27

Taylor Swift’s Engagement Shapes Her Musical Journey

Managing Editor

For years, Taylor Swift has turned breakups into relatable songs and romantic relationships into albums. She has always woven her personal life into her music, transforming heartbreak and happiness into cultural milestones. Now, news of her engagement to Kansas City Chiefs’ star Travis Kelce is sending shockwaves through the media and among her devoted fans.

The timing couldn’t be more poetic: the news of her engagement arrives just as she prepares to release her new album in October, *The Life of a Showgirl*.

Swift’s journey has been long and deeply personal, defined by the highs and lows of love stories that millions of fans relate to as their own. But this engagement marks a true turning point in her life. The woman who once sang “So Long, London” on *The Tortured Poets Department*, which was a painful farewell to a six-year relationship, is now stepping into a new era of stability, joy, and lifelong commitment.

The engagement also reshapes Swift’s public image during a pivotal moment in her career. Fresh off her two year-long Eras Tour, she has



Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce announced their engagement in an Instagram post on August 26, 2025.

not only reclaimed her personal narrative, but also reinvented her musical one. Amy Allred '29 said, both excitedly and a little disappointed, “I think it’s exciting and I’m glad she found someone she’s willing to marry. But there won’t be any good breakup songs from her out there.” Fans can’t help but wonder: if albums like *Reputation* explored resilience and *Lover* celebrated romance, will *The Life of a Showgirl* become the soundtrack of her wedding?

As Swift moves into this new chapter, one thing is certain: music will always be a part of her life, whether during her heartbreaks, relationships, or engagement. Just as her songs have marked each stage of her journey, her upcoming album will no doubt capture the magic of this once-in-a-lifetime moment and invite listeners to fall in love right alongside her.



Jane Pellgrini '28

A New Barbie With a New Image

Contributing Editor

In July, a new Barbie doll was introduced, wearing a glucose monitor and an insulin pump. This Barbie, who has Type 1 Diabetes, a medical condition that affects millions of young girls worldwide, sold out within its first month of release.

Mattel, the creator of Barbie, has long responded to criticism of the stereotypical Barbie: a doll with thin, long legs, a tiny waist, and blonde hair. More diverse and inclusive Barbies have been released over the years, but none have been as popular as the most recent Barbie.

The Type 1 Diabetes Barbie,

originally going for \$25, is now worth hundreds of dollars on online trade marketplaces. The overwhelming popularity of this new Barbie is due to her unique image, which allows children with Type 1 Diabetes to feel represented and included. “It’s so great that they’re being inclusive of all types of people so that young people can see themselves in the toys they play with,” said Charlotte Furey '28.

This version of Barbie not only represents the children who play with her, but also the greater Type 1 Diabetes community that finally has representation in mainstream toys.



c/o USA Today c/o ABC News

Understanding The Real Cost of AI

Lauren Yu '27 and Amanda Oberto '27

Managing Editor and Contributing Editor

It is likely that nearly everyone reading this article has interacted with artificial intelligence in some form. Whether frequent or occasional users, most have probably heard a remark such as, “Did you know AI uses gallons of water for every paragraph it generates?”

For many, this raises a momentary sense of guilt, often followed by resignation. After all, how could one opt out of a technology that has become so deeply embedded in daily life?

The truth is that the AI boom is still a relatively new phenomenon, and its long-term consequences remain uncertain. What is already clear, however, is that the environmental impact of AI is significant and complex.

Zoe McCulloch '27, remarked, “When I'm hearing different things from different sources, I find it difficult to truly know the extent to which AI usage impacts our environment. Obviously it's not good in terms of water issues, but are there more immediate issues of energy usage that we need to address?” While concerns about AI's water consumption are valid, the issue extends well beyond that.

Artificial intelligence requires enormous amounts of energy, relies on rare earth metals, and contributes to the growing problem of electronic waste. Data centers already consume substantial water for cooling, but AI's higher power density requires, “seven or eight times more than regular computing workload,” according to researcher Noman Bashir.

Energy use is equally as troubling of a matter. Much of the electricity powering AI still comes from unsustainable sources like fossil fuels. This is due to the surging



Fossil fuel extraction to power AI can be harmful to the environment

demand for AI, which renewable energy development simply cannot keep up with. Training a single AI model consumes an estimated 1,287 megawatt hours of electricity and produces 552 tons of carbon dioxide, according to UC Berkeley researchers.

With new applications emerging at a rapid pace, the energy spent training previous models is often rendered obsolete. The material behind AI carries additional costs. GPUs, powerful processors used to handle AI workloads, depend on materials extracted through dangerous mining to gather raw materials. Taken together, these factors highlight AI's effects on biodiversity, water resources, and the global climate.

As a fast-growing and largely unregulated industry, AI poses a challenge not only in measuring its environmental footprint but also in controlling it. The technology's benefits may be transformative, but its costs demand closer analysis and urgent solutions.



OpenAI's Texas Data Center

I Think We're Going to Be Friends: SI Students and AI Chatbots

Beatrice Sopko '26

Contributing Editor

With the domination of AI over society (is The Matrix real?!), chatbots, like ChatGPT, have infiltrated almost every student's and staff's life at SI. During school hours, students use AI for research, idea generation, editing, and maybe even the answer to that really hard AP Calculus problem on their homework. But outside of school? Some students are finding other ways to use the “robot.”

Niall McDermott '26 said AI is a source of entertainment, and explained how he uses AI “for fun.” “I make *Hunger Games* stories with my friends. We put in our height, weight, skills, basically just our ‘stats’ into ChatGPT to see who would win the *Hunger Games*,” McDermott said.

“I bounce it off my own ideas . . . I will give it my early ideas, normally bare bones, and then it breaks my points down for me. I had it help me shorten my activity descriptions for my college application. – Lily Chavaree '26

While no SI students have reported using AI for romantic relationships, AI's ability to listen and offer advice/encouragement, along with its confidentiality, parallels the desired traits in a close friend. Some SI students have turned to AI for support or therapy.

Trevor Foss '26 said he does not use AI, but has friends who do. When asked about people using AI for therapy, Foss said, “It's more accessible, in a way, than normal forms of therapy.” According to the National Library of Medicine, in a 2024 study approximately 28% of people have used AI for therapy, but they assert it must be used with caution. Like many new technologies, the research is still in development as to whether LLMs' are beneficial or detrimental for those who may want therapy.

“It's a lot more personal than Google and it's a lot more anonymous than going to a help line,” Foss explained, adding an important nuance.

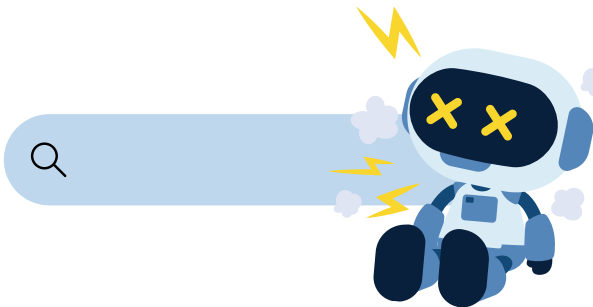
According to Stanford University, 50% of people who may benefit from therapeutic services do not have access to them. However, research from Stanford University shows that biases and failures

within these tools limit Language Learning Models' (LLMs) abilities to replace human professional therapists.

Lily Chavaree '26 said she used AI regularly for college applications. “I bounce it off of my own ideas,” Chavaree said. “I will give it my early ideas, normally bare bones, and then it breaks my points down for me. I had it help me shorten my activity descriptions for my college application.”

Nicholas Shumway '26 said he uses AI rarely; however, he once used AI to create a funny comic. “I like online web comics that are kind of nerdy, kind of science-y. I went to AI and I asked if I could make a version of this style of comic, but about a different topic.”

Overall, AI can be used for much more than just information-gathering, but as it becomes a larger fixture in different aspects of our lives, the question becomes, “When will it be present in everything?”



TEACHERS VS. AI

Continued from Front Page

The use of AI by students for classwork is a gamble: detention, suspension, explosion, or an easy A. But how well can the teachers at SI differentiate the two? Radhika Saha mentioned she would like to know how well teachers can tell the difference between student writing and AI. She said “It matters because seeing the difference shows whether we’re actually learning or just getting good at copying AI.”

Our Wildcats teachers were given four poems and four blurbs to choose from. One of each was written by Chat GPT, Gemini, My AI on Snapchat, and a student. Each is shown below.

Thirty-three teachers responded and tried to identify the true student voice. However, they were challenged! All the teachers had valid reasoning to explain their answers. As shown on the pie-charts below, more than half of the teachers chose the correct poem to be actual student writing.

The AI platforms each fooled one-sixth of the teachers making up the other responses. But what was the give away for AI? Some stated the lack of consistent punctuation in the student writing was a tell-tale sign. Nearly all the rest who correctly identified the student work used Chat GPT to do the work for them. They plugged each poem into the system and asked which was written by a student.



Educators diligently craft lesson plans in the Teacher Workroom on the second floor.

Every teacher who used AI chose correctly. This irony is just a taste of how different generations have found themselves dependent on AI in its own game.

The blurbs written were to be about the morning of a Wildcat. Little original or artistic thought was showcased in these writings. This was to isolate writing style.

The blurbs proved trickier to decipher. The 30% of educators who guessed correctly used punctuation clues or Chat GPT to uncover the student writing. The majority of those who chose Snapchat, thinking that was the student voice, were deceived by its “conversational” tone. Teachers, without knowing, thought Snapchat AI was more human sounding then a human.

The hunch to choose the least sophisticated blurb backfired. Snapchat had some controversial punctuation usage which many teachers called out. The teachers assumed AI would make less mistakes which caused the skewed results. Interestingly, AI could always recognize its own writing when teachers tried to beat the system and use it to tell them which it did not write.

Academic integrity in students and teachers will inevitably waver. Use of AI for better or worse will change our world. The negative impact of AI is up to the individuals and how much we opt for its use over our own thought and creativity.



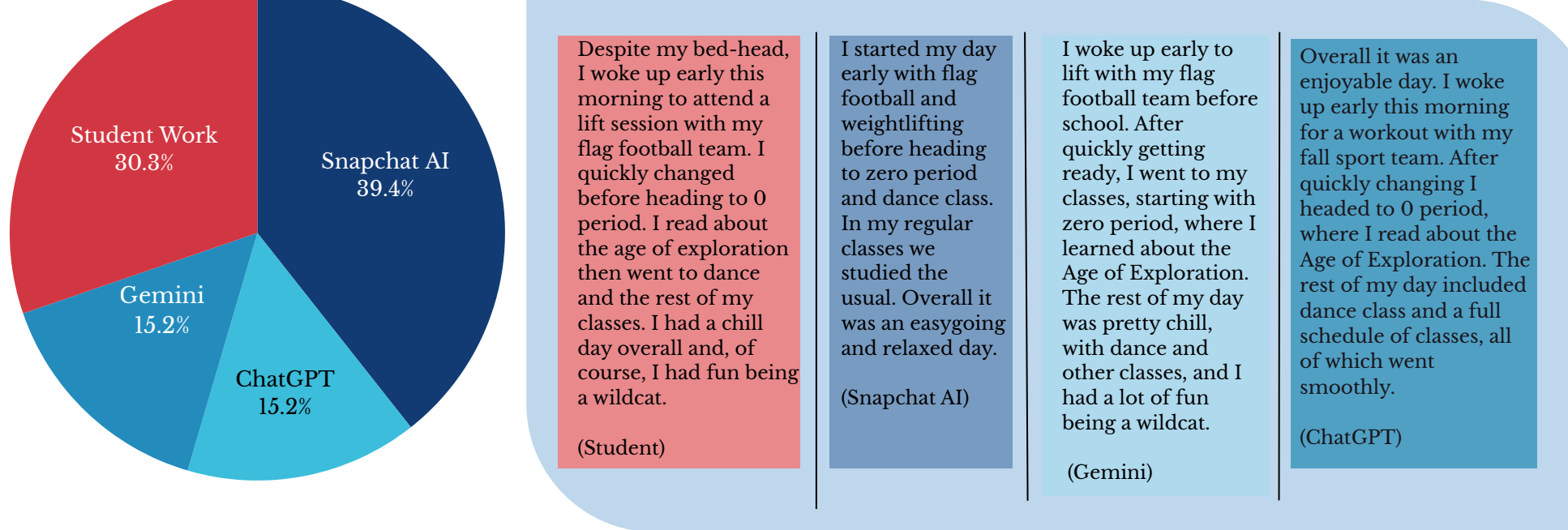
POLLING RESULTS

Thirty-three SI teachers attempted to identify student written work among AI generated prose and poetry. The pie charts below reflect what they chose as student work. Their responses indicate the ever growing difficulty of identifying AI usage.

Poetry:



Prose:



SI Teachers Share AI Policies

Beatrice Sopko '26

Contributing Editor

Artificial intelligence (AI) has reaccelerated the growth of the technology industry. With OpenAI, the leading research and deployment company of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) releasing the newest version of ChatGPT, GPT 5, teachers are working to create new policies that address student’s use of AI for the 2025-26 school year.

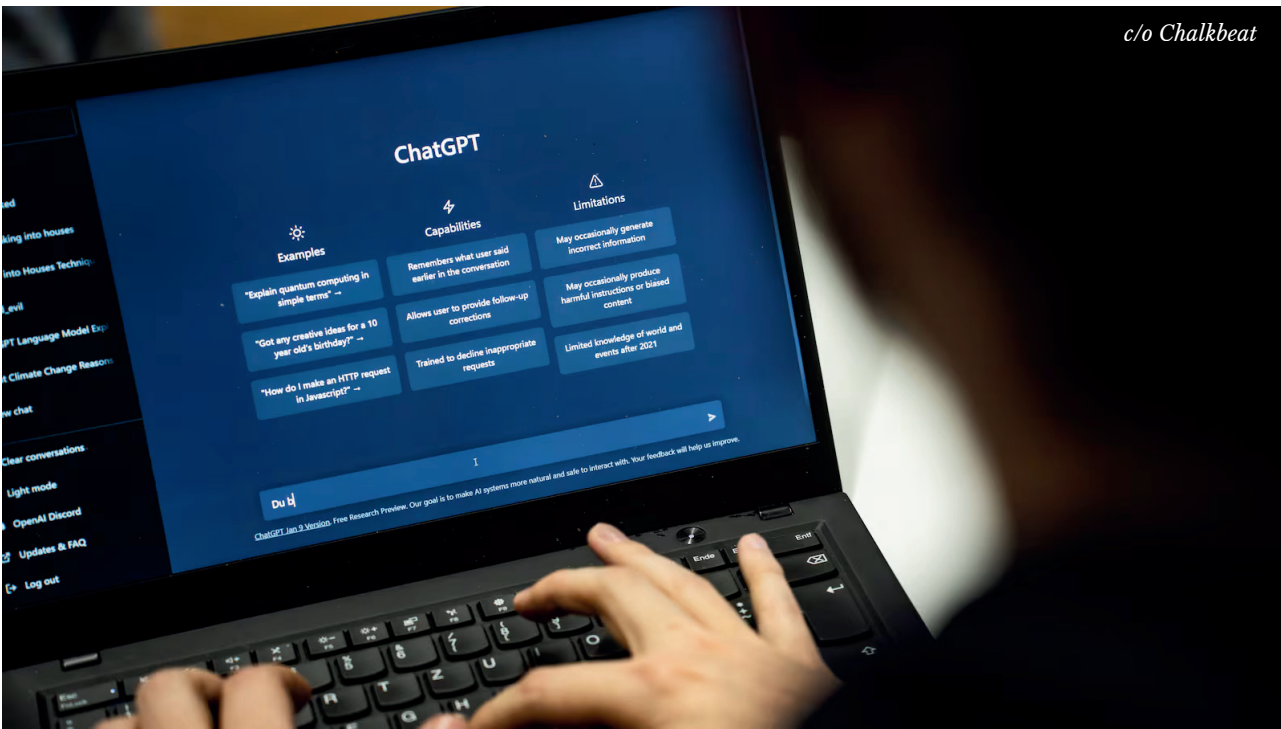
In an online survey of 4,007 teachers, parents and students conducted in the U.S. by Impact Research, 49% of both teachers and K-12 students reported using AI chatbots at least once a week for school or work. About 25% of teachers and K-12 students reported never using chatbots while the rest, about 25%, use it every once in a while.

SI does not have a policy that prohibits AI, unlike some other schools. However, the Student Parent Handbook states a student must, “Use [their] own words and represent [their] own views, not those of others, in any form of electronic communication.”

Different departments and teachers at SI have different policies surrounding AI usage. Students commonly use AI chatbots in school for information gathering, brainstorming summarizing long texts and editing their writing.

Lily Chavaree '26 said she uses AI for assignments only deliberately. “For my social cognitive class I used it to break down vocabulary so that I could better use them in my essay,” Chavaree stated.

Lucy Evans '27 said she has had teachers who would test ChatGPT’s critical thinking skills as a part of their class lessons. Evans said one example included asking ChatGPT about whether it thought modernization and globalization was positive or negative. Evans said her teachers have also had



Students in some classes may use ChatGPT for researching.

students use AI for research.

“If you have broad ideas you can ask to narrow them down when picking a topic for a research paper,” Evans said.

Social cognitive psychology and behavioral neuroscience teacher Eric Castro said students should use generative AI on many assignments like generating ideas or synthesizing what they’re thinking but they should confirm the results afterwards. Mr. Castro said students must also check whether they need to do the assignment themselves or if they can use AI. “Some tasks are hard on purpose, Castro said. “If a student uses AI, they skip the hard part and don’t learn.”

AI’s ability to generate text and answer questions has generated concern over it’s use and effects on critical thinking abilities. In a *Time Magazine* article, author Andrew R.

Chow writes about a small study from MIT’s Media Lab which looked at how ChatGPT affects schoolwork. The experiment found, “The group that wrote essays using ChatGPT all delivered extremely similar essays that lacked original thought, relying on the same expressions and ideas.”

While overuse of AI may be detrimental, Castro said students should least know what it is, how it works and why they exist.

“Students with college careers are going to be deeply impacted by the presence of Generative AI,” Mr. Castro said. “We as a college prep school have a duty of care to teach our students how to inhabit the world that we live in and use the tools available to them.”

Aryana Lau '29

Contributing Editor

Our generation is living a social experiment. What makes us different is that we didn't just grow up with technology; rather, we’ve grown up immersed in it and are shaped by it. Every search, scroll, post, and snap is part of an experiment that we never had the chance to agree to, yet it defines who we are and quite possibly who we will become.

We are part of the first generation to live in a world where our choices and preferences are tracked, predicted, and nudged by invisible algorithms. That might sound dramatic, but take a moment to think about it. Our playlists, social media feeds, even the way we talk is shaped by machines that are learning from us in real time. For all of the content that we are mindlessly consuming, how often do we stop to notice what is missing? Sometimes it feels like my phone knows me better than I know myself, as it finishes my sentences, suggests who I should text, and makes judgments on what is worthy of my attention. Growing up this way feels like a privilege that is almost too good to be true.

This privilege almost always comes with challenges. Originality, creativity, and authenticity can be difficult to hold onto in a world of inescapable sameness where trends spread instantly and are copied into oblivion. Our digital lives are measured in views, likes, and follows, which leads us to wonder, in this atmosphere, how do we

make space for our own unique voice to be acknowledged? Am I learning or just letting technology think for me? Are my opinions my own or are they shaped by the

“We are part of the first generation to live in a world where our choices and preferences are tracked, predicted, and nudged by invisible algorithms.”



Image generated by AI: Gemini 2.5 using the prompt: “Generate an image reflecting the headline: ‘Teenagers are the AI Experiment.’ ”

algorithms? So yes, the risks are real, but so are the rewards. No other generation before us has so much access to knowledge. Information has become democratized. We stand poised to be the most efficient, connected, and well educated generation in history. AI will likely help us to cure disease and solve massive problems. It's not just a matter of challenges and opportunities; how we interact with AI is a matter of responsibility. How can we create space for authentic creativity while being lured towards efficiency?

Here at St. Ignatius, we’re committed to cura personalis. “Care for the whole person” is a commitment to care for ourselves physically and emotionally. It is also a responsibility to think about our choices and how they affect our communities. The real experiment here isn’t whether AI will make us smarter, faster or more connected; that is a given. Maybe the real experiment is whether we will stay human while using it.

While we didn’t sign up to be test subjects in this new era of technology, we inherited its responsibility. By staying thoughtful, grounded in our values, and brave, we can be more than just the test subject generation. We can be remembered as the generation that found a way to live with AI without losing our humanity, and while perhaps solving the most important issues of our time.

Geraldine Segura '27

SI Students Chime in on New Phone Policy

Contributing Editor

On July 15, 2025, St. Ignatius students received an email from the Dean’s Office about the Student Handbook with new updates. Out of the various new add-ons, one caught everyone’s attention- the new phone policy. Unlike the year before, where our phones were supposed to be placed in phone caddies before class, we had to keep phones in our bags throughout the entire school day.

While looking through the handbook, I was surprised to see how this policy applied to both classes AND resource periods. I decided to send out a form to my close friends- asking them about their opinions on the new phone policy during resource periods. In the end, 5 people shared their responses. When being asked about whether or not they were happy about the new phone policy, both in and outside of the resource period, all of the 5 responses with “No.”

These are their responses to the following question: “Based on your response to the previous question, what would you say should’ve been done better?”

Georgia Parr ’27 said, “I think they shouldn’t have implemented the new phone policy at all. They intended to make us be

more social but it ended up doing the opposite.”

“Now I can’t text my friends and find out where they are, so I end up hanging out less with people during break or resource,” Simon Lim ’27 said. He further called to “revert to last year’s policy.”



c/o Bowerbird/Slickpic

Phone-free break?

PHONE POLICY

Continued from Front Page

across the state to restrict or ban phones by 2026.

“We know that excessive smartphone use increases anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues – but we have the power to intervene. This new law will help students focus on academics, social development, and the world in front of them, not their screens, when they’re in school,” Newsom said at the time.

A similar reasoning underpins SI’s new phone policy. “Over the last fifteen years, we’ve noticed a decline in student engagement in the classroom and in the hallways during the transition period, etc., because students were more focused on looking at their phone or checking their notifications versus engaging with their teacher or with their peers,” Ms. Devencenzi said.

To evaluate the phone policy’s effectiveness, the administration recently surveyed both students and faculty. After reviewing the survey results, English teacher Ms. Carole Nickolai said, “While teachers had an overwhelmingly positive reaction to the new phone policy, students’ response has been less favorable.”

For SI students, the new phone policy

certainly has been divisive. With one policy, a quintessential high school accessory for Gen Z was abruptly taken away. Over the summer, murmurs of the policy’s impact spread. There were concerns about communication with friends, lunchtime entertainment, and the infringement of students’ rights.

After the first month of the school year, opinions on the phone policy have evolved. Some students have observed increased face-to-face interaction away from the barrier of a phone. Leo Teague ’28 said, “[The phone policy] doesn’t really bother me, and it makes social times more fun.”

For other students, a ban on phones has just meant increased iPad usage. “I think everything people did on their phone, they do on their iPad now,” Chavez, the senior who was at convocation, said.

Regarding the use of iPads, SI psychology teacher Mr. Eric Castro shared, “In a colloquial sense, we can say phones are an addiction, but it’s what’s on the phone, the social media or the apps, that people are addicted to.” He added, “So banning phones but allowing secondary devices like iPads doesn’t really solve the problem but is a step in the right direction.”

Others feel strongly about the need to access a phone for communication or other applications. Nathan Rose ’26 asserted, “Unfortunately, the new phone policy is flawed. Rather than reducing distractions, it shifts them into class time by preventing students from handling personal matters during breaks, lunches, and passing periods.” He continued, “For example, if I am unable to respond to a text between classes, I will likely feel compelled to do so during class time, which ultimately takes away from learning.”

As students continue adjusting to the new phone policy, the administration plans to continue monitoring its effects. “We are going to be collecting data about once a quarter to measure how it’s going,” Ms. Devencenzi said. “We’re collecting data and anecdotal data.”

For Ms. Devencenzi, the intended impact of the policy is clear. “I’m hoping to see students laughing more, making more eye contact, talking to each other in the classroom formally, and having deep conversations,” she said. “If we’re always hiding behind our phone, always having our AirPods in, we’re not allowing ourselves to be fully present with each other.”

Affinity

Joey Ng '26

The Fear of Four

Contributing Editor

“Sì or Sǐ.” Four or death. In a language, tones are of the utmost importance, such as separating mom from horse (mā and mǎ) or pear and inside (lí and lǐ); that may explain the emergence of a strong superstition of Chinese cultural belief. Considered an unlucky number, the pinyin of four is separated by a mere tone mark above the “i” from the word “death”(四 (sì) or 死 (sǐ)). This linguistic resemblance has deeply influenced Chinese superstitions and social practices in areas such as health, business, and real estate. Additionally, buildings and hospitals located in China and Taipei typically avoid the usage of four in naming floors and rooms.

The number “4” is especially prevalent in our own city of San Francisco. For example, the Millennium Tower contains fifty-eight floors. However, due to avoiding numbering the forty-fourth and thirteenth floors out of Western and Chinese superstition, the tower has sixty floors.

In support of this superstition, senior Lucas Quan exclaimed out of frustration, “because Jake Moody wears the number 4, that’s probably why he misses so many kicks. That combined with kicking on the 4th down is very bad luck for him.” Even students at SI relate bad omens to this number.

In the business world, even certain companies avoid the number. OnePlus - a smartphone company based in China with over 73+ million customers - chose to skip over the release of their “OnePlus 4” out of adherence to Chinese culture and superstitions.

Even though the number “4” is a mere number in western culture, one singular tone in Chinese culture switches this association to death.



c/o Buildings DB

The Millennium Tower has fifty-eight floors.

AFFINITY

Continued from Front Page

All seven affinities were present at the Club Fair on September 9th. Additionally, BSU, ALAS, and ASC each had their kickoff meetings this month. BSU had their meeting on September 10th, ALAS had their meeting on September 16th, and ASC had their meeting on September 18th.

Make sure to come to the first Affinity X-Period in the Choral Room on October 7th! Four times a year, the seven affinities meet together to collaborate in a group discussion and allow prospective members to learn more about what affinity groups have to offer. The remaining three Affinity X-Period meetings will be on November 11th, January 27th, and March 17th.



Jewish Affinity Group (JAG)

Moderator: Ms. Schwarz



Asian Student Coalition (ASC)

Moderators: Sr. Orque and Ms. Wong



Association of Latin American Students (ALAS)

Moderators: Ms. Miguens and Ms. Narvaez



Black Student Union (BSU)

Moderators: Mr. Bluford, Mr. White, and Ms. Withers



Pacific Islander Association (PIA)

Moderator: Ms. Hurley



Arab Middle-Eastern Association (AMA)

Moderators: Ms. Totah-McCarty and Mr. Shahamiri



LGBTQ+ Affinity Group

Moderators: Ms. Brannen, Mr. Geraghty, and Ms. Cota

Malina Anderson '27

Rosh Hashanah Traditions

Contributing Editor

As September begins, so does one of the most significant holidays in the Jewish calendar: Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Unlike January 1, which is often celebrated with fireworks and countdowns, Rosh Hashanah is a time of both joy and reflection. It begins the High Holy Days, a ten-day period of introspection and renewal that ends with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Rosh Hashanah traditions are rich with meaning. Families and communities gather for festive meals that include symbolic foods, such as apples dipped in honey to represent hopes for a sweet new year, and round challah bread to symbolize the cycle of time. In synagogue services, the shofar (a ram's horn) is blown as a call to reflection and action.

It reminds us to pause, take stock of our lives, and enter the new year with intention.

Although Rosh Hashanah involves reflection of last year, it is also about looking forward.



“Apples and honey represent hopes for a sweet new year.”

The holiday is an opportunity to reconnect with loved ones, strengthen relationships, and commit to personal growth in the year ahead. Here at SI, the Jewish Affinity Group brings that same spirit of reflection, renewal, and community every year.

Common activities at SI include Jewpardy (Jewish Jeopardy), a fun and interactive way to learn more about Jewish traditions and culture, as well as enjoying delicious Jewish food that is often tied to Rosh Hashanah and beyond.

We hope everyone begins the year full of renewal, reflection, and joy, as Jewish students celebrate Rosh Hashanah and welcome the sweetness of the new year. Shanah Tovah SI!

The Importance of LGBTQ+ Affinity

Georgia Parr '27

Contributing Editor

Today’s political context can cause a lot of concern and apprehension when we consider the LGBTQ+ justice issues. For example, ten years after gay marriage was federally legalized in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges, the Supreme Court is being asked to look over it again. The issue was brought up after Kim Davis, a former clerk for the state of Kentucky, argued that the decision of Obergefell v. Hodges infringed upon her religious freedom. While it is unlikely that same-sex marriage will be overturned, even the possibility of it is concerning. Currently, only the request for the case to be looked at has been put forward. If the Supreme Court decides to review the decision, the case is at a risk of being overruled. Six out of the nine Supreme Court Justices are conservative, with Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch having openly expressed their desire to overturn Obergefell v. Hodges, and Samuel Alito having spoken about his dissatisfaction that same-sex marriage was approved.

Along with threats to gay marriage, transgender rights and resources for other LGBTQ+ issues are also being threatened. In 2025, 121 anti-trans bills were passed in 28 states of the United States. There are 85 national anti-trans bills that are currently being looked at or plan to be looked at by Congress.

If gay marriage does get overturned, gay couples who were already married will remain married due to the Respect for

Marriages Act passed by Congress in 2022. Gay marriage will still be legal in 37 states, including California, but it will not be federally recognized. While support for gay marriage in this country is fairly high, the overall support has dropped 3% in the last three years. According to Gallup, a leading polling and research organization, support is down from 71% to 68%.

— PEOPLE WITH AND FOR OTHERS —

LGBTQ+ AFFINITY

Our Affinity space creates a forum in which LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning) students and faculty, are able to discuss pertinent topics related to gender identity and sexual orientation. Through our work as people for and with others, we hope to establish and nurture an atmosphere of compassion, respect and awareness on the St. Ignatius campus.

★ YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE ★

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE FACULTY MODERATOR EMAIL: LGBTQ@SIPREP.ORG
c/o Jordan Liu '26

LGBTQ+ Affinity Posters in every SI classroom.

Support from the Republican party has dropped significantly, falling from 55% to 41% in the last four years. Democrat support has consistently stayed in the high 80s during this time.

Additionally, President Donald Trump has written several anti-trans executive orders. President Trump discontinued the LGBTQ+ Youth Suicide and Crisis Hotline back in July of this year. There are still numbers to call if someone needs support with this; however, they are no longer federally funded or supported. If any LGBTQ+ individual needs help with mental help or suicidal thoughts, they can call 1-866-488-7386 or visit TheTrevorProject.org/Get-Help.

With regard to the LGTQ+ Affinity group at SI, Bernice Liang '27, a queer student at SI, said, “I think it’s really important to have a place where queer kids can be safe and talk about this kind of thing right now.” Incidents of bullying towards queer students prove why it is so important to have an LGBTQ+ Affinity Group at SI. If you feel like you need support or just want to go hang out and have a good time with other queer people, keep your eyes open for upcoming LGBTQ+ Affinity events. An important thing to note is that you do not have to be “out” at all to attend the meetings. We accept everybody and welcome people who are questioning and allies.

Hidden Traditions: The Underrepresentation of Hindu Holidays

Radhika Saha '28

Contributing Editor

Every fall, certain Hindu festivals completely transform neighborhoods. Streets glow with lights, music spills into the night, and families gather in celebration. Yet outside these communities, many of these holidays slip by quietly. Diwali may get the headlines, but festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, Janmashtami, and Dhurga Puja hold just as much meaning and deserve a little more attention.

Ganesh Chaturthi, celebrated in late summer, marks the birthday of Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles. Families bring home clay idols, drape them in flowers, and share sweets with neighbors. The most striking part is the community pandals, huge decorated spaces buzzing with music and energy. At the end, idols are immersed in water. This is often done in eco-friendly ways to honor both faith and

the environment.

“My favorite part is seeing everyone come together to create the pandals at home,” said Rini Saha, a recent SI alum ('25). “It’s fun, creative, and everyone feels connected.”

Janmashtami, usually in August, marks the birth of Krishna, a figure loved for his wisdom, music, and playfulness. Devotees fast during the day, decorating temples and homes with peacock feathers, butter pots, and small cradles for baby Krishna. Midnight marks the moment of his birth. Bells ring, conch shells blow, and prayers fill the air. In many communities, children dress up as Krishna or Radha, turning the festival into something both spiritual and joyful. It's a celebration that mixes devotion with storytelling, but one that too often stays invisible outside the

Hindu community.

Durga Puja, in the autumn, honors Goddess Durga's triumph over evil. Nowhere is it celebrated bigger than in Bengal, where neighborhoods turn into art galleries with elaborate pandals, towering idols, and days of cultural performances. For many, it's as much about music, dance, and food as it is about worship.

“The holidays I celebrate aren’t very well known, but they’re important to me,” said Riley Purnomo '28. “If more people knew about them, they’d understand their meaning and why they matter.”

These festivals blend art, spirituality, and community in unforgettable ways. They might not always make front-page news, but for those who celebrate, they're moments of joy, pride, and belonging worth sharing with the wider world.



Lighting a pradeep (sacred lamp) to Lord Krishna.



Decorations in a home temple for Janmashtami celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna.

Nora Shaskan '27

Pay More Attention to Celiac Disease

Contributing Editor

No, it's not contagious. No, it cannot be cured. And yes, I eat food. But since I was diagnosed with Celiac Disease in 2016, I have strictly stayed away from gluten—a protein found in wheat, barely, and rye. Celiac Disease is unlike most dietary allergies. While those who are lactose-intolerant can take Lactaid, and nut allergens can use EpiPens in an emergency, such medical technologies have not yet been developed for Celiacs. If accidentally consumed, gluten tricks the immune system into attacking the small intestine, leading to severe symptoms that cannot be prevented.

On the first Monday of school, I accidentally ate a product made from whole wheat flour and waited in the dean's office, shaking in trepidation for the painful hours of violent retching certain to come. It took me three days to fully recover from lingering nausea, fatigue, and even brain fog—not a great way to start the school year.

But the thing is, Celiac Disease doesn't just affect your physical health and dietary needs. Dylan Frakes '27, diagnosed with Celiac Disease at 6-years-old and a junior at SI, said, "One of the worst things is going out with friends; my friends go to fast food places or get doughnuts and I am stuck without any food. It is very embarrassing."

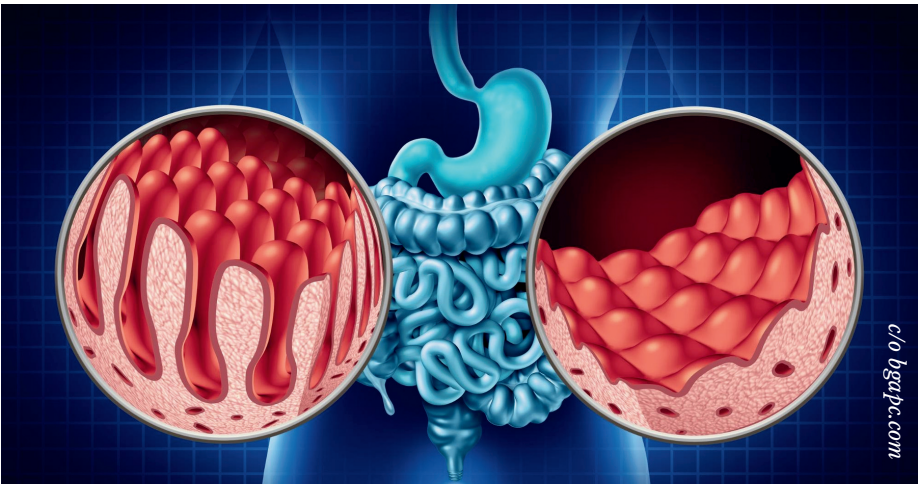
Humans are very social creatures and sharing a meal is a common way to connect as a community; however, when you can't eat what's served, there is an unintended sense of isolation.

In Christian tradition, the church community breaks bread together at every mass; I almost couldn't be Confirmed at my church because I couldn't receive the Eucharist due to the gluten within the host cracker.

Celiac Disease certainly affects your entire life—living gluten-free is a lifestyle of its own—and not everyone is willing to accommodate those with the autoimmune disease. Real examples of how seriously the gluten-free diet impacts my choices, social life, and opportunities ranges from which restaurants are off-limits, to which places I can't visit, to which colleges I can't attend. A Celiac's meal has to be prepared in clean pots and pans where gluten has never touched, for a small trace of the protein can trigger a full blown

reaction. This is a lot to ask for and I understand people's hesitation to help Celiacs like myself.

However, Celiac Disease isn't as rare as it sounds. It is not considered a rare disease, and 1% of the global population is diagnosed with it, not including those who are gluten-intolerant. This is a large number of people, and therefore I believe there should be more awareness about Celiac Disease. More public universities should have accommodations for those with this disease, one that can lead to cancer and life-threatening damage if untreated.



A display showing how when the small intestine gets damaged, it no longer becomes able to digest gluten.

Tessa Stecher '27

Dress Code Misses the Mark

Contributing Editor

This year the SI dress code has undergone many changes. The Deans introduced new regulations regarding the length of all bottoms and prayer service and mass attire.

These specific new rules directly target the ways girls can dress. While this might not seem too extreme considering how short some skirts and dresses were that were previously worn, this new rule takes away the freedom to wear comfortable clothing. Especially on warmer days, girls now have to risk being dress coded in order to stay cool, while boys continue to wear shorts that obviously fall above their knees.

While possibly unintended, this dress code update enforces stricter regulations on girls' attire and sets unequal expectations across genders.

Another dress code revision, SI Chic, outlines the proper attire for prayer services and Mass days. In accordance with SI Chic, students must wear black jeans, white jeans, or khaki pants, with red, white, black, or blue polos or SI outerwear. SI Chic is great for prayer services, but I believe a Mass is a more special occasion; students should be allowed to wear clothes that express the solemnity of the Mass.

In previous years, SI students walking the streets to Holy Name looked very nice in dresses and ties; but this year, everyone appeared no different from a regular school day—jeans and a hoodie. This reflects poorly on the school's principle values as a Jesuit institution, for dressing up for Mass is one of the ways SI shows the community our proper

and respectful attitude towards our Catholic faith.

Lily Dehlendorf '28 shared, "I don't think it's fair that we no longer have the opportunity to really dress up for things like game days and Mass, as well as not having the same options that the boys do." Students should be allowed to wear skirts and dresses at a reasonable length without having to look over their shoulder and see if anyone is going to punish them.

I understand the Deans' perspective and consider it valid not wanting really short bottoms, but banning them completely is not the answer. In order to grant girls the freedom to celebrate Mass while staying within the guidelines of the dress code, appropriate-lengthened skirts and dresses must be tolerated.



Students in SI Chic for Mass of the Holy Spirit.



SI Sports Update

Records as of 9/22/25

Bear Vida '27 and Chloe Fisher '26

Managing Editors

Women's Water Polo

Record: 5-5

The Women's Water Polo team has fought through a very close set of games. They currently hold a 5-5 record, with a recent big win against Presentation.



Goalie defends the net, ready for the save.

"We have a lot of talent and an amazing water polo family, I'm so exited to learn to play together and see all of the things I know we can accomplish!" - Ella Schwerte '28

Men's Water Polo

Record: 4-5

The Men's Water Polo team continues to compete! The Wildcats currently hold a 4-4 record and are on a 2 game win streak, with their last two games asserting their dominance in the water.



The Cats, taking a breather, cheer on their fellow teammates.

"We are excited for the season to start and everyone on the team is ready to work hard." - Joaquin McGuigan '26

Women's Volleyball

Record: 9-4

The Women's Varsity Volleyball team continues to impress, racking up a 9-4 record, and currently hope to keep their three game win streak.



Women's Varsity Volleyball huddles up before the first serve.

"Our team is looking solid so far this season with some big wins under our belt! We have a lot of energy and a lot of passion, so I'm excited to see where this team goes this season!" - Boyd Killion '26

Women's Tennis

Record: 5-5

Women's Varsity Tennis is fighting hard this season, obtaining a 5-5 record, and leaving opponents like Santa Barbara highschool and Riordan unable to score.



Women's Tennis gets themselves energized before a match.

"Women's varsity tennis is off to a great start keeping our spirits high on the courts!" - Michela Carlevaris '26

Field Hockey

Record: 6-0

The Varsity Field Hockey team is crushing it this season as they continue to stay undefeated. This team's offense impresses and the defense has played so hard that they have won three games without letting in a single goal.



The Field Hockey team says a prayer before the first whistle.

"The 31st Field Hockey team at SI is looking amazing, with a lot of strong energy and determination to stay undefeated this season!" - Chloe Fisher '26

Football

Record: 1-2

The Varsity Football team is hoping to continue their momentum after last year's impressive season. They have obtained a 1-2 record, and have currently scored 108 points, including an impresive 49-point win vs. Tamalpais.



The Cats line up as they listen to the national anthem before the game.

"This year's team is embracing changes within the system, playing with intensity, and doing anything we can to win. We focus on bringing the energy and winning the day which culminates in a good performance on Friday night." - David Delucci '26

Flag Football

Record: 0-2

This year's Varsity Flag Football team is ready to play with a new squad and great determination from both the players and the coaches.



The Varsity Flag Football team lines up for media day.

"This season is shaping up to be an exciting one for sure, as we have a lot of new faces especially within our coaching staff, but the same work ethic and commitment!" - Clarice Tan '26

Women's Golf

Record: 4-0

The Women's Golf Team starts off the year strong with a 1st place finish in an all-WCAL tournament and is currently undefeated.



The Varisty Women's Golf team poses for their media day picture.

"Our season is off to a great start, and the results speak for themselves." - Karina Zeng '26.

SI Sports Update

Bear Vida '27 and Chloe Fisher '26

Record as of 9/22/25

Managing Editors



The Varsity Cross Country gears up for the season at media day.

Cross Country

The Varsity Cross Country team is looking forward to this season with experienced juniors and seniors, and the new impressively fast freshman. The team has so far competed in Baylands Invitation and Jackie Henderson Invitation, where they finished on the podium at all levels.

“The season is going great, we have a competitively fast team this year with new fast freshmen, looking forward to racing WCAL!” - Audrey Kronk '26



Aila Ragual '29 poses with her shoes in preparation for the new season.

The Future Looks Bright for the Orange and Black

Colton Mckie '27 and Dominic Vicino '27

Contributing Editors

The San Francisco Giants have been playing sloppy, being perpetually disappointing for the past few years. Since their 2021 playoff run, the team has drifted into mediocrity. But change might finally be on the horizon.

Despite carrying the 14th-highest payroll in Major League Baseball, the Giants still have over \$100 million in cap flexibility before hitting the luxury tax. So the obvious question remains: why aren't they landing big-name stars? Bryce Harper, Carlos Correa, and Aaron Judge were all within reach, yet none ended up in orange and black. Year after year, fans watch the team swing and miss on marquee free agents, settling instead for replacement-level players. The midseason trade for Rafael Devers was the rare exception, but one player cannot flip the script on his own.

That's where potential fits like Willy Adames and Matt Chapman come in. Both have spoken highly of San Francisco, with Adames praising the city's diversity and energy: "The city is so diverse in its culture, and I really like how the city has been looking, and I think that's one of the reasons why I wanted to come here" (via CBS Sports). San Francisco is shaking off the pandemic years and regaining its reputation as a vibrant and exciting place to be.

Optimism doesn't stop with free agency. Giants legend, former MVP, and three-time World Series winner Buster Posey is now serving as President of Baseball Operations. His presence signals a shift in vision and

could reignite what fans once called the "Even Year Dynasty." Posey understands what it takes to win in San Francisco, and if the Giants make the right moves this offseason, a return to contention is not far-fetched.

Hudson Llamado '27 on the Giant's return to contention says, "They are very close to it right now and the team bond is there. Our defense is there, but the swing-and-miss needs to stop. Devers being inserted in the Giant's lineup obviously didn't work as planned, but with him heating up and the addition of Drew Gilbert things are starting to click. I think Drew is going to be our guy and I really have hopes for him and the young bucks in the coming years."

Meanwhile, the farm system is starting to



Students from the Class of 2029 enjoy the Giants game at the SI Frosh Giants night on August 12th.

deliver. Top prospect Bryce Eldridge is mashing in Triple-A Sacramento, launching 23 home runs, including a jaw-dropping 470-foot blast out of the park. At just 20 years old and standing 6'7", Eldridge looks like the kind of power hitter who could soon be storming through the gates of Oracle Park. His development serves as a reminder that homegrown talent, such as that in the 2010s Giants teams, when paired with savvy acquisitions, can help bring the franchise back to relevance.

The Giants are not there yet, and plenty of holes still need to be filled. Pitching depth, consistency on offense, and a true superstar centerpiece remain missing pieces. However, with financial flexibility, promising young talent, and a franchise legend now at the helm, the future looks promising.

If San Francisco can finally capitalize on its resources and turn potential into production, fans may once again see the Giants in the thick of October baseball. For a franchise that has spent the past few seasons stuck in neutral, that possibility alone is worth the wait. A return of Orange October to the Bay would "feed families" and bring back the excitement for baseball in San Francisco.



NFL São Paulo: Los Angeles Chargers vs Kansas City Chiefs

Mario Beard '27

Contributing Editor

In a high stakes matchup the Los Angeles Chargers and the Kansas City Chiefs met in São Paulo to kickoff their season on September 5th.

Fans were thrilled to see this intense matchup between two of the league's biggest teams, especially in the city of São Paulo. The Chargers managed to pull off a 27-21 win against the Chiefs, shocking many people as the Chiefs were the favorite to win.

On the Chargers side, quarterback Justin Herbert had a career night. He threw for 318 passing yards, tossed up 3 touchdowns, and a scramble on 3rd and 14

to seal the deal.

Wide receivers Quentin Johnson and Keenan Allen were big targets for the night, combining a total of 3 Touchdowns with 148 receiving yards. Their ability to consistently find space to be open was a key factor in this win for the Chargers.

As for the Chiefs, Quarterback Patrick Mahomes didn't make this win easy for the Chargers. He racked up 258 passing yards and a rushing touchdown. However, the chiefs continually struggled in the red zone throughout the game, missing various scoring opportunities that could've led to a

Chiefs victory.

After speaking with Chargers fan Jonathan Beard post game he said it was "a very shocking result and an amazing start to the season."

This game marked the end of a seven game winning streak for the Chiefs against the Chargers, putting an end to the Chiefs dominance in this one sided rivalry.

Los Angeles grabbed their first win of many to come for the season, proving they are a legitimate contender and are capable of taking on any team in the league.

Wildcats Face Early Test in Season Opener Against San Marin

Joey Keegan '27

Contributing Editor

On Friday, August 29, 2025, San Marin traveled to San Francisco to face off against St. Ignatius in the season opener amid hundreds of fans under fair weather and field conditions.

The Wildcats enter the 2025 football season with high expectations and plenty to prove. Coming off a remarkable run that ended with a CCS Championship and recognition as the best team in the WCAL, the Wildcats are carrying the weight of both pride and pressure. Every game this year will feel like a test and an opportunity to defend their reputation and show that last season's success was not just a one-time story, but the beginning of a standard.

Their opening matchup against the San Marin Mustangs was no exception. San Marin, far from being an underdog, arrived in San Francisco with its own championship pedigree. The Mustangs dominated the Marin County League with a perfect 1.000 winning percentage last season, and their momentum carried them to the North Coast Section Division 4 title. A program with that kind of track record demands respect, and the Wildcats knew they would need to rise to the challenge.

Adding to the intensity was the atmosphere itself. Students, families, and alumni packed the stands, filling the night with chants. The energy was electric from kickoff to the final whistle, underscoring just how much this matchup meant not just as a season opener, but as a battle between two championship programs with passionate fans. "The game was filled with tons of excitement and everyone showed up and showed out", said Michela Carlevaris '26.

The Wildcats struck first in the opening quarter, taking a 7-0 lead with a 5 yard run up the middle from running back Steve Malone (#4). San Marin answered back with 3 minutes left in the quarter handing off to their running back for a 6 yard touchdown.

Late in the second quarter, SICP extended their advantage when Thomas McKeon (#91) delivered a field goal, pushing the score to 10-7 in favor of the

Wildcats at halftime.

The third quarter saw a dramatic turnaround. San Marin responded with a passing touchdown and PAT to seize a 14-10 lead. Quickly afterward, their defense struck with a pick-six, extending the lead to 21-10. A few minutes later, a San Marin rushing touchdown (with a missed PAT) ballooned their lead to 27-10 by the end of the third quarter.



The Cats erupt out of the tunnel for their game against San Marin.

In the fourth quarter, SI rallied. Quarterback connected with #3 Zui Shelton for a TD—though the PAT missed—making it 27-16. Shelton found the end zone again soon after, bringing the Wildcats within range at 27-22. They then converted a critical two-point pass to #5 Ty Hicks, narrowing the score to 27-24.

Noteworthy statistics: SI finished with 118 passing yards, 118 receiving yards, and 131 rushing yards, though those efforts weren't enough to overcome the Mustangs' third-quarter surge.

Despite a spirited comeback, the Wildcats fell just short as time expired. San Marin emerged victorious with a final score of 27-24.

The Wildcats (0-1) prepared for their following game against Tamalpais (Mill Valley, CA). The Red Tailed Hawks entered the non-league outing with a 0-1 record. In their last outing, Tamalpais was defeated by

Northgate (Walnut Creek, CA), 14-7, in a non-league outing.

This game served as an intense and emotional season opener for both squads. San Marin's explosive third quarter was decisive, but SI's fourth-quarter effort demon-strated grit and promise as they look ahead to a demanding 2025 campaign. Starting center David Mannion '27 stated, "We are looking to learn from our mistakes and correct them" in future games.

Wildcats Serve Up a Win

Natalia Juarez '26

Contributing Editor

On August 22, the St. Ignatius women's varsity volleyball team had their first non-league game against Burlingame High School. The Wildcats entered the match determined to begin the season with a victory, and they did just that, with a thrilling win in four sets. Boyd Killion '26 highlighted this match as "a high energy game where our team played well together despite it being our first time competing together."

The opening set started with back-and-forth play as SI worked to find their rhythm. Strong serving from Burlingame kept the Wildcats on their heels, but steady passing and smart swings from SI hitters helped them in the end. The Wildcats took away the first set 25-16.

The Wildcats' defense, anchored by libero Lauren Nip '26, dug against

Burlingame's outside hitters.

Setter Gia McManigal '28 ran a balanced offense, connecting with middle hitters for quick kills.



The Cats huddle up before the first serve.

With momentum on their side, SI took the second set 25-16. The third set was riveting. Burlingame came out strong, but SI's offense made its presence at the net. A huge stuff block midway through the set ignited the home crowd, and the Wildcats surged ahead, closing it out 25-13.

With a 3-0 lead, SI looked to finish the match in the fourth. Burlingame battled hard, but SI's serving runs and sharp defense kept the Wildcats in control. A final block from Junior Emma Wu '27 sealed the victory, 15-7.

After the game, Mia Horak '26 reflected, "The energy on the court was great, and I can't wait to see what we do this season."

The Wildcats are just getting started on this fun and exciting season!

Connections

Bobby Mullin '26

Managing Editor

Match the boxes into groups of four categories!

OUTSIDE	OTHERS	WITH	ARTS
MANRESA	FIELD	SPORTS	FOR
SPIRITUAL EXERCISES	CANNONBALL	H	PENNANCE
HUMOR	VILLAGE	FOYER	AND

SpongeBob Goes to School

Mason Wong '27

Managing Editor

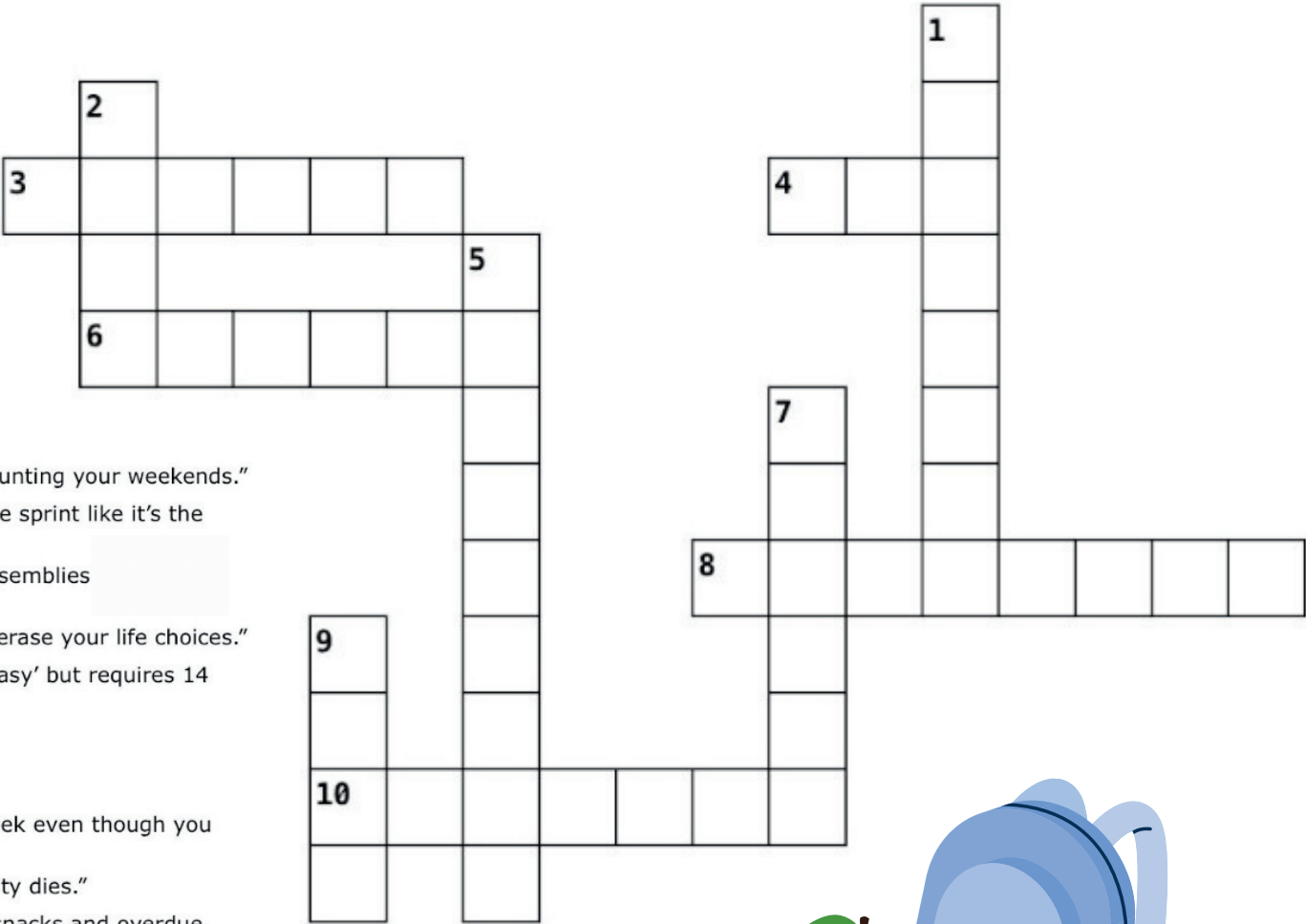
When the teacher says a project will take weeks to complete and you do it the morning before it's due



Back-to-School Crossword

Mason Wong '27

Managing Editor

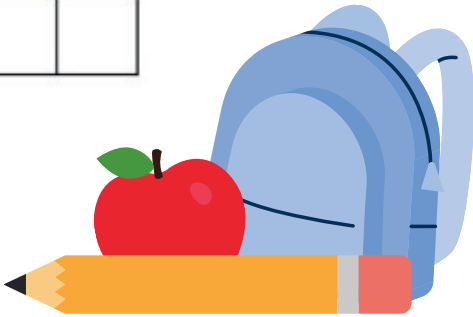


Down

1. → "The school's favorite way of haunting your weekends."
2. → "The sound that makes everyone sprint like it's the Olympics."
5. → "The person you see more in assemblies"
7. → "The tiny pink savior that can't erase your life choices."
9. → "That thing teachers swear is 'easy' but requires 14 pages of notes."

Across

3. → "The item you lose 3 times a week even though you own 50."
4. → "Where dodgeballs fly, and dignity dies."
6. → "Your personal storage unit for snacks and overdue library books."
8. → "A black hole that eats pencils, papers, and occasionally snacks."
10. → "The sacred artifact that vanishes whenever you actually need it."



Interested in writing for the newspaper? Email us at newspaper@siprep.org

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