

Knight Times

John H. Glenn High School Newspaper

Volume 1, Issue 3

June 2022

John Glenn Bids a Bittersweet Farewell to Beloved Educators

By *Knight Times* Staff Writers

Either hearing the 2:36 PM bell for the final time or teaching in a new set of classrooms and hallways, these educators are moving on. Each of them has added a unique flair that has made John Glenn High School a place we love, and we will miss them greatly.



Mr. Cole has been an imperative part of what makes JGHS such a welcoming, enjoyable place to come every day. His retirement will leave a hole in the building that will be apparent to each and every student and faculty member. Mr. Cole came to the Elwood school district with the intention of staying a few years. It was the friendly, tight-knit community that kept him besotted with the district and enabled Mr. Cole to grasp the opportunities to come. Five to six years into the job, Mr. Cole was familiar with everyone in the high school. He said that what he'll

miss most about working here are the student interactions and experiences. Greeting students in the mornings and catching up with individuals in between periods is what he values most. Student relationships are what make the experience, and without them, there would be no motivation to do better. In his office are small tokens of this, images of former students, letters, and other small emblems displayed proudly on his walls. However, Mr. Cole won't be letting this go in light of retirement. He made note that there are students he will be keeping his eye on,

and he hopes to stay in touch with as many students as possible. Although he may be leaving his position in district, Mr. Cole plans to continue making the lives of students better by starting non-profits and working with other organizations. He says, "A lot of these things are already in the making." Mr. Cole said one piece of advice he could give to students is, "enjoy every second of your time here, don't get caught up in the pettiness, or your own pride." He believes everyone should grasp experiences presented here with both hands. Similarly, his advice to teachers was, "You can learn from your students, just as they learn from you. Listen, and don't take your time with them for granted for a second."

He will now be joining his wife in retirement. Though JGHS is sad to see Mr. Cole go, he does wish to remain involved in the community. As he puts it, "I am like everyone's grandpa," so there's no getting rid of him so fast.

The Noble Knight award is granted to a faculty or staff member who embodies the traits of our school mascot, the valiant, heroic, self-sacrificing knight. This year among other amazing teachers and staff, Ms. Coopersmith was named noble knight, and for good reason. A special education

teacher for many years, she also "studied and taught literature throughout [her] career, but can bring so much more to it with [her] life experiences," according to Ms. Kennedy, who had the opportunity to co-teach English classes with Ms. Coopersmith. She has been a role model to both students and teachers alike.

Multiple people shared that she is an incredibly insightful asset to any classroom she is in. Blunt, honest, respectful, passionate, and grounding, Ms. Coopersmith does not merely have big shoes to fill, but "shoes that have tread the groundwork of what education was meant to be," states Ms. Peiliker.



Mr. Harrington has been a teacher for a total of 35 years and has educated many individuals with his scientific knowledge. What he really enjoys most about his job is to see his students succeed. In many cases, Mr. Harrington inspires other individuals to pursue a career in chemistry, and this makes him feel a great sense of satisfaction. For example, according to Anson Kwan, Valedictorian for the JGHS Class of 2022, "Mr. Harrington is the greatest teacher I've ever had. He inspired my passion for chemistry and helped me grow, both as a scientist and a person." As a result of his dedication to the classroom, he was named a distinguished teacher by the Harvard Club of Long Island. While Mr. Harrington has had a great impact in the classroom, his expertise

has also had a major influence on other parts of JGHS, such as athletics. Surprisingly, Harrington started his coaching career as a JV girls basketball coach, but eventually he would make his way towards volleyball where he won a total of six state championships. In addition to this, under his authority the varsity girls volleyball team endured a streak of fifteen Long Island championships in a row. Due to his success, Mr. Harrington was inducted into the New York State, Suffolk County, and JGHS sports hall of fame. Looking back on his memorable career, Mr. Harrington is by far one of the most influential individuals to ever step foot in JGHS and he will never be forgotten.

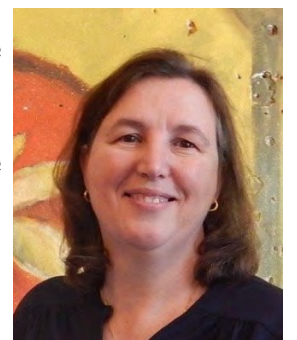
"Who you are today is way more interesting than perfect will ever be!" John Glenn High School will be feeling a significant loss come the next school year as our band teacher Ms. Vickie Henson is retiring. The above quote holds wisdom that she would like to leave with her students.

Ms. Vickie Henson has been a band teacher at John Glenn for 34 years but has decided that the 2021-2022 school year will be her last year of teaching. Through her years at John Glenn, Ms. Henson has not only taught band but has also been greatly involved in stage crew, Jazz band, Marching band, and much more. After this school year ends, Ms. Henson plans on staying involved in band by conducting the Huntington Community Band and being an involved mom for her son.

When asked what the most memorable moment of her career was, Ms. Henson gave a list of honorable moments, yet what stood out the most is when she said, "To be honest, all of those things listed above are great memories but my favorite moments are

teaching music lessons when I get a chance to know my students better. Interspersed with the music is learning about the person, their views, and their ambitions. That personal connection means everything!"

As one of Ms. Henson's students, I can honestly say that she is such an inspirational woman to not only learn from every day but also to look up to. Her class is always filled with laughter, smiles, and a multitude of wisdom. I have learned that some people are meant to be in certain positions in life, and in this case, some people are meant to teach. Ms. Henson is one of those individuals, and it shows so vividly through her wisdom and teachings that she passes on to her students. When Ms. Henson is put in front of a whole classroom of learners, you will never doubt that she genuinely loves to teach (even if her ninth-period class is giving her a hard time because they never stay quiet). She is a remarkable woman and teacher who will be incredibly missed by students, administrators, fellow teachers, and the whole Elwood community.



It is sadly time to bid adieu to our beloved physics and living environment teacher, Mrs. Hulme. Enthusiastic about everything she teaches, Mrs. Hulme has brought vigor and vibrance to her classroom. Over her years at John Glenn, she has taught hundreds of students, strengthening their interest in science.

To those who were lucky enough to have her as a teacher, you've seen how her classes can be out of the ordinary, proven by her *Just Dance* Fridays. In her AP Physics class, she leads creative labs, such as having her students find the mass of her own car. Mrs. Hulme didn't just teach material, she gave students the opportunity to figure things out themselves. She believes that "students learn science best by doing science—by experimenting,

analyzing and discussing their results, and then applying the paradigms they discover." This made her classes challenging, yet engaging as her students' minds were put to work. One student's favorite part of the class was her interesting stories about her family and her sailing anecdotes. Ms. Hulme did more than just teach her students, she connected with them.

Mrs. Hulme has had a lasting impact on all of her students, especially myself. The passion and interest she displayed towards physics inspired me to make it my major. She encourages her students when they're experiencing difficulty and cheers them on when they excel. Mrs. Hulme is a teacher at John Glenn that will certainly be missed.

Music has always been an integral part of John Glenn, and a leader in that area is Ms. Nagle. Her accepting personality and continuously positive demeanor, despite all the challenges faced in recent years, have made her an amazing mentor for students, both within her program and out. A senior student of hers, Jenna Velez, noted "I'm so lucky I was able to have Mrs. Nagle all four years in both chorus and music directing the musical. She's an amazing teacher and she will be missed." Being her student for the past three years has taught me lessons I wouldn't trade

for the world. Mrs. Nagle not only teaches us how to be good musicians, but how to be good people. Her emphasis on respecting ourselves and each other have strongly helped each student she's worked with. We will miss her cheerful smile and wonderful voice in the halls of John Glenn. We wish her the best of luck in Boyd, sharing her musical talents with the younger generations of Elwood. When asked if she had any closing remarks, she is hopeful that her students remember to never clap on one and three.



School News & Features

A Bittersweet Farewell (continued)



Ms. Vaccaro, a teacher who has been part of John Glenn for 29 years, will be retiring after 34 years of teaching. When asked what she would miss most about this school, she answered, "I'm going to miss being with the kids. I'm looking forward to retirement but at the same time it's bittersweet. I'm going to miss all the kids, adults... I'm just going to miss being here. It's just going to get harder as the weeks go on....The rest of my life is going to be spring break 2 months from now but I can't believe it." Ms. Vaccaro is going to leave her beloved teaching position and transition into the next phase of her life.

Her colleague Ms. Swan said, "She doesn't jump to conclu-

sions but always thinks of both sides of the story. She is very fair, courteous and caring, and is always there to help her students and teachers. She has a positive outlook and fun sense of humor. Another teacher will be able to fill her spot but will never be Ms. Vaccaro."

Ms. Burzynski and Mr. McNamara represented our school in saying, "Her warm and energetic voice got our days started off in the right direction during our morning announcements, and she helped to boost morale with her contributions to things such as our door decorating contest. She will be greatly missed and we wish her the best during retirement."

John Glenn's Music Family Does *The Addams Family*

By Taisha Blaise

The theater students of John Glenn put up an outstanding performance of the musical comedy, "The Addams Family," an adaptation from the 1991 dark comedy/fantasy film under the same title. The group functioned as professional storytellers but while also exhibiting their own individual singing and acting talent. The play follows the story of young adult Wednesday Addams (Katie Schieble) wanting to seek her parents' approval to get married to Lucas Beineke (Nolan Reinhardt). Gomez Addams (Braden Gastaldi) and Morticia Addams (Toni Meyer) invite Mal Beineke (Quinn Hines) and Alice Beineke (Jenna Veliz) to a family dinner game which results in unrevealed secrets, understanding, and chaos. The ancestors, Lurch (Colby Knorr), Uncle Fester (Aiden McNamara), and Pugsley (Cooper Knorr) all put out comedic appearances which significantly made the play a humorous success. The staff

were able to execute a well put together play without letting the underlying post-quarantine circumstances at the beginning of the play practice get in the way of the quality of the performances. While rehearsing 3 - 5 hours 5 days per week, the hard commitment and dedication definitely paid off. Directors Ms. Heuer and Mr. Dluginski made the show memorable by directing the production of the show with care and. The stage directors highlighted the creepy comedic story by contrasting it with bright colors, adding a more eye-catching look. The pit orchestra advanced the theme with their alluring music directed by Ms. Dana, the orchestral music teacher at John Glenn also followed by other members of the Elwood community such as Ms. Henson, the John Glenn band teacher, Mrs. Gotzen-Berg, Elwood Middle School Orchestra teacher, and fellow John Glenn High School students.

Mr. Glenn: A Night of Comedic Competition

By Nolan Reinhardt

On Saturday, April 13th, John Glenn held its annual Mr. Glenn performance. For one of the first times in 2 years, students were able to crowd in and enjoy the pure glee radiating from Elwood's stage. Being a freshman, I had no idea what to expect when I walked through the auditorium's doors that night, but it would be an experience to remember. Over the course of the show's nearly two and a half hour run time, a slew of senior boys took to the stage to win the title of Mr. Glenn. Over the course of several judging categories such as date wear, talent display, and interview, seniors attempted to win over the crowd with a variety of performances and humor. After all acts concluded, judges voted for who they believed best fit the title, a decision culminating with a victory for Aidan McNamara. After being asked for an interview, Aidan had this to say: "I still vividly remember the first Mr. Glenn show I [saw]... I watched as people unapologetically took the stage and entertained the audience like there was no tomorrow... While I am incredibly fortunate to have received the title, I was even more excited to be able to get up



Photo courtesy of Aidan McNamara

on stage and express my artistry." A performance inspiring future generations of freshmen to compete, Mr. Glenn served as a night of plain fun for all ages. While the show's concept has come under some scrutiny, being that only male seniors are allowed to compete for the title, it has been justified that the idea of Mr. Glenn is to parody female centered beauty contests such as *Miss America* or *The Bachelorette*. Female seniors are also not entirely absent from the night events as they play the hosts of the show. Overall, Mr. Glenn was a fun night to attend and a tradition hopefully carried on by future classes of John Glenn High School.

Golden ARTches: JGHS Students' Artwork Displayed in McDonald's

By Brayden Klement

Have you ever thought about the correlation between art and free food at McDonald's? Well fortunately that pondering thought is now a reality. It is a tradition introduced by McDonald's to display the works of art done by students from kindergarten to 12th grade. To keep an even playing field, there are divisions separated by Elementary, Intermediate, and High School levels. This year the theme for the artwork was "The Winter Olympics." As long as the student's artwork fell in between the restrictions, the artist had complete creative control of their piece. John Glenn was very fortunate to have 3 students place in the High School division and positively represent our school. Winners include Vanessa Weissberg (1st place / 9th Grade), Layla Brown (3rd place / 9th Grade), and Taylor Aiello (Honorable Mention / 9th Grade). Winners receive a gift certificate with different values depending on how well they placed. They will also be honored at a celebration at McDonald's where their artwork will be hung up and displayed. The artwork will be displayed in East Northport McDonald's for one full year before the next contest that will take place next spring. All of the McWinners should be extremely proud of their accomplishments. Special thanks to Mr. Marino for challenging his students to enter this contest as well as the Art Department for all of their help and hard work.

Opinion

No Place for "Hate":

Why Words Matter Now More Than Ever

By Nolan Reinhardt

"No Place for Hate" is a slogan pumped into school buildings across the US. It holds unimaginable power. The slogan's parent corporation, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), was once an organization focused on fighting anti-Semitic violence across the country. While it still works toward this cause, students today know the ADL as a league dedicated to inclusivity and acceptance of all people. However, this ambiguous slogan has been used to establish what is right and wrong in school life. This is a problem, as undefined words, such as 'hate', remain unexplained and obscure, leading to a lack of clarity over what behavior is appropriate for schools, an issue currently being debated by administrators across the US.

As extensive as the ADL's "Glossary of Extremism" is, it lacks a fundamental definition in the company's legacy hate. According to Merriam-Webster, hate is defined as an "intense hostility and aversion usually deriving from fear, anger, or a sense of injury." So why would the ADL not mirror this definition in their "Glossary of Extremism"? In order to have civil discourse, people rely on definitions to guide how they perceive events and form opinions. Definitions have a key role in shaping what society deems right and wrong, so vital discussion needs to be had with regard to the gray area of what is 'hateful' in school settings.

Slogans like "No Place for Hate" sound empowering on paper, but when it comes to enforcement, too much remains undefined, causing anything to arguably become *hateful*. Calls to action, such as the "No Place for Hate Pledge," are hollow when they state, "No person can be an innocent bystander when it comes to opposing hate." The more *hate* is used as a filler for *bad*, the closer it becomes to a meaningless buzzword.

More discussion needs to be had before districts allow political organizations, such as the ADL, to infect lesson plans with ambiguous buzzwords, corrupting the main focus of these programs: to create good environments for learning and growth. While the eventual goal might be the same, the ADL's "No Place for Hate" program is not the way to go about creating safe environments. Rather than seeking to eradicate *hate*, administration should continue to emphasize and enhance programs that foster kind behavior in lieu of shaming negative behavior.

A special thanks to Mrs. Burzynski for setting aside time to discuss the ADL, and Elwood's relationship with "No Place for Hate."

School News & Features

Meet the JGHS Life Skills Program

By Eva Musgrove

The Life Skills program is a wonderful, yet little known program that benefits numerous students within our school. Since it began being offered, this program has helped build independence, confidence and important real world skills to the students in our special education department. Mrs. Campo, Mr. Riedel and other various support staff work collaboratively together to create a curriculum that provides daily exposure to both vocational and daily living skills. The students have the opportunity to work with a vocational instructor from Abilities Inc. at various job sites, such as Staples, Panera, Five Below, and many others. This collaborative team of teachers works extremely hard to ensure the best for their students, with Mrs. Campo stating “Even if there are challenges in their day, we all work together to make sure they have the best day they can.” This care for the students shines through in the reac-

tions of those in the program. I had the pleasure of learning more about these job sites from the students within the program. The varying personalities reacted differently to different job sites, with some students preferring to work at jobs in the service industry, like Denissia Jordan, who enjoys working at Panera Bread, where she cleans tables, portions food, and lets her extroverted personality shine through when greeting customers. Other students, like Vennalie Albuero, enjoy



working in restaurants as well, and hope to pursue a career in cooking in the future. While working at these restaurants, another major part of the job is food portioning, which many of my peers in the program noted as one of their favorite parts of the job. Karl Grossman especially enjoys this aspect of working in the restaurant, as it reminds him of the banking he does in class, and is a real-world way of applying his math skills. Some students however are bigger fans of the retail job sites, like Diana Machuca and Francis Charles whose favorite place to work is Old Navy, where they fold clothes and greet customers, or Kelly (Desmond), who prefers working at Barnes And Noble, as she enjoys organizing the various books. This program creates great opportunities for the students in it, as it helps them discover their strengths in varying types of careers and evaluate which they may choose to follow in the future.



Photos courtesy of Ms. Campo

Ready or Not, Change is Necessary: Renovations Around Our School

By Nicole Wang

This past school year, numerous renovations and additions have taken place at our school. These included a new roof, ventilation systems in the Chemistry classrooms, ceiling fans, as well as the interior redesigning of the Performing Arts Center (PAC), the Family & Consumer Science classroom, and the cafeteria.

All these changes were necessary. Every so often, the district and superintendent do a needs assessment around the school, where they consider what needs to be changed versus what they want to change. From there, items and areas in need of enhancement are prioritized. Next, the district will apply for a bond to pay for these renovations through New York State. In this instance, community members voted for a bond referendum for \$34 million. There was an overwhelming approval rating from the community, and so the school was granted the funds to move forward with the renovations. Our principal, Ms. Burzynski worked with a team to meet

with architects and contractors to plan out how the end result would look.

Most notably, the cafeteria was one area of the school that was dated and was one of the many prioritized items to renovate. Nearly the entire cafeteria was given a different, more modern appeal. The aim of this renovation was to give students a more intimate “dining hall experience” by offering diverse seating and entertainment via the new TVs. The cafeteria can also now double as an ideal setting to have large meetings with faculty and staff because information can easily be presented and viewed from anywhere in the cafeteria.

Ms. Burzynski remarked in an interview that the renovations were an exciting process. Her main goal was to work with members of a team to identify areas that could benefit from renovations so that all students can have the most optimal learning environment.

Here is what some students had to say about the new cafeteria:

“I like it. It allows students to feel as if they have a place to relax and be comfortable in the school.”

“I find it to be poorly executed and quite cold, I enjoyed the previous communal seating.”

Some students described the cafeteria as welcoming and a more socially acceptable place to be. Others said they felt the money could have been spent on more practical items, such as purchasing new computers for teachers in the classrooms or replacing leaking ceiling pipes.

Although the majority of students surveyed seem to enjoy the new additions to the school, it is impossible to please everyone. And even though these changes were mostly received positively, there still seems to be a need for more practical improvements to the school.

UWD, Unity with Diversity

By Nick Palisciano

Have you heard about the JGHS club, Unity With Diversity, also known as UWD? UWD is an important club to the Elwood community as it strives to educate, celebrate, and maintain the importance of cultural diversity in our school. UWD provides a safe place and a voice for students to openly embrace other cultures and backgrounds. The members, supported by Ms. J. Kennedy and Ms. O'Brien, work with many non-profit organizations to help make Elwood a safer and more accepting place for people no matter their background and ensures that cultures that aren't part of the majority don't fade away. A senior member shared that

she joined in the wake of racial conflicts in the recent past, stating that she wanted to help advocate for equity and promote cultural awareness. You may notice posters around the building for heritage months or events, like

the Black History Month showcase. In these ways and more, UWD implements real change around our school and is fundamental in maintaining the importance of cultural awareness and celebration. Additionally, the club is a place to genuinely question our thoughts on these matters, and nothing is off the discussion table. UWD is an open club and you can join anytime as they are actively seeking new members. This club is of great importance to the Elwood community and a safe place to all.



Is It Cake?!

By Knight Times Staff

No, you can't eat that shoe, can you? Perhaps you've seen the newly popular phenomenon on Netflix or social media, but fashioning cake into hyperrealistic items such as purses, toilet paper, steak, and yes, shoes, is a trend for both bakers and those who want to have fun in the kitchen. On Friday, May 27, John Glenn had its first “Is It Cake?” contest based on the Netflix show of the same name and spearheaded by Ms. Fucci, the food and consumer science teacher at our school. For the challenge, teams of students sought the help of one teacher in the building to create some uncanny cakes. Ms. Fucci expressed that watching the students work together alongside the teachers like Ms. Jensen and others was a fun, encouraging, and heartwarming experience.



Photo courtesy of Ms. Burzynski

However, this was still a competition, and out of fabulous cakes crafted into a Nike sneaker, a hockey puck, a hockey stick, a hat, and a Rubik's cube, to name a few, the Rubik's cube took the cake and won first place. Ms. Burzynski stated that she was pleased to be one of the judges and noted that all competitors “did an amazing job.” With summer upon us, why not binge some talented professional bakers create some out of this world cakes and spend some time with your oven too.

Ms. Fucci's Cooking Tips

- Use pasta water to create a sauce. After cooking pasta, save about a cup of the salted pasta water and add it to a skillet. Then add the pasta directly into the skillet. Continue cooking the pasta for a few minutes. You can also add butter and parmesan cheese. It's very simple but it makes a delicious sauce.
- Homemade macaroni and cheese is very easy and tastes much better than a boxed mix! You can make it quickly with leftover pasta. Simple start with equal parts butter and flour. (about 1/2 cup of each per pound of pasta) Then add equal parts of milk and cheese (about 4 cups each). Season with garlic powder, paprika and dry mustard. This is a great use of leftover pasta and cheese.

Reviews

Battle of the Bite: The Best Pizza in the Area

By Maya Polese

The combination of bread, sauce, and cheese is undoubtedly one of New York's most appreciated treasures. Pizza has become more than a staple in households, it is a token of pride, something that has engulfed New York culture and its inhabitants. The cheesy, triangular food is also a common topic of debate. Throughout my time in Elwood, the "go-to" pizza place has fluctuated. In an attempt to put this dispute to rest, I compiled a list of the most popular pizza places in the Elwood/Huntington area. I chose 3 very credible taste-testers to join me on this excursion: sophomore Maddy Katzman, and juniors Tom Doherty and Mario Bento. In the end, we visited five places. Using the Dave Portnoy "pizza scoring rules," they each took a bite and gave a rating on a scale of 1-10. We began at the most local place, Mozzarella's Pizza. Maddy gave Mozzarella's the highest score out of the three with an 8/10. She noted, however, that the "sauce to cheese ratio was off." Tom followed with a 6.2/10, which was a little lower than Mario's 6.9/10. Mario noted the pizza was "Mid af." Not too far from Mozzarella's is Chef's of New York. Despite being many residents' first choice, they re-

ceived rather low ratings. Maddy came in harsh with a 3/10, admitting, "It was just not good." Followed by Tom with a 6.4/10, with, "Can't complain," which was barely behind Mario's 6.5/10.

We made our way to Huntington village to test two renowned places: Little Vincent's and Rosa's. Maddy was already fond of Little Vincent's, so her 9.7/10 is no surprise. For Tom and Mario's first time, it lived up to Maddy's hype. Tom gave it a 8.7/10, saying he was, "Pleasantly surprised, didn't expect it to be that great." Mario had to one-up Tom with a whopping 8.8/10. They all agreed the crust was perfectly crisp, but ultimately deducted points because of the smaller slice size. Maddy suggests to everyone that tries Little Vincent's to give the cold cheese slice a try. Rosa's Pizza around the corner was not much competition. The slices were definitely substantial, as Mario noted that a Rosa's slice cut in half was the same as a full Mozzarella's slice. However, this is where the satisfaction ended, as the tasters were underwhelmed with flavor. At first glance, you could tell all the cheese was falling off; "not what you want to see," said Tom. The crust was rather flimsy, and the tasters

noted, "the ratio of cheese to slice was off," which made it hard to eat. Mario was the most generous in his 7.3/10 rating. Tom follows with a 6.4/10 and notes, "it was just like, mid." And finally Maddy with a 5.2/10 bluntly states, "Thin crust, not enough sauce, too much cheese. Not the move."

Our final stop was Spuntino, down Jericho turnpike. None of the tasters had been there in the last 5 years, so it was quite close to a first impression. Their service definitely topped the other five. We ordered 2 slices cut in half, and they threw in free garlic knots and a side of sauce (without knowing we were rating them). Even after messing up and accidentally dropping the food in front of us, they were generous in re-making everything and laughing it off. Mario gave the garlic knots an 8.9/10 and the pizza a 9.0/10 flat, stating, "all around good pizza, good service." Tom was next with an 8.9/10, sharing, "really outstanding crust." Maddy ends it all with an 8.3/10, musing, "the sauce was superb."

Finding a good pizzeria is like finding a good barber. You want to love them, recommend them, and stay loyal to them. If you were to ask Mr.



Photo courtesy of Yelp user Michael S.

Epstein where to get pizza, he would probably tell you L&B's in Brooklyn. However, for those last minute Tuesday night dinners, or those days where you just need a pizza fix, you can find contentment in knowing there are some great places in your neighborhood. It may be in your natural, New York, opinionated leaning to assert your business at one place. However, if any of the 5 restaurants struck you by surprise in this article, consider adding (or removing) it from your rotation.

The Batman, the Latest and Greatest from the Superhero Genre

By Cooper Knorr

The Batman is the most recent comic book adventure starring the caped crusader with Robert Pattinson as Batman, and Paul Dano as The Riddler. This take on the world of Gotham City and Batman created by Matt Reeves is very unique and based in realism. The film is about Batman helping to solve crimes and riddles created by The Riddler. In doing so, he fights and meets other characters from the famous Batman universe such as Catwoman and the Penguin. The movie's action scenes are amazing and very well choreographed, and the color grading is very unique, using colors such as red and orange often. While it is the best DC Film I have seen in years, the movie felt boring and slow at spots. At a runtime of 2 hours and 56 minutes, *The Batman* is a marathon to get through. This rendition of the caped crusader, while excellent, had a flaw in its lengthy runtime. All in all, I would rate this movie a 4 out of 5.



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures



Harry's House

By Zoe Frucht

Hitting number one on the charts in a matter of hours, Harry Styles' new album, *Harry's House* is the fastest selling album of 2022 so far. The album is full of charisma and has a lighter mood to it. The name *Harry's House* pays homage to a living room record player that's seen everything from Joni Mitchell to The Beatles to Justin Timberlake. Harry's House has 13 tracks including the hit song, "As it Was." "As it Was" pairs an indie-pop with 80s inspired snares. This song is a bittersweet ode to love and change. The album opens with "Music for a Sushi Restaurant" and sets the tone for the album when it kicks things off with horns, scattling,

along with food references throughout the song. The album then transitions into "Late Night Talking" which is dedicated to late night deep talks with friends, as well as the dreamy song "Grapejuice," which has a similar idea. Some reviewers have said how the album lacks substance, "Harry's House lacks furniture." However, the album doesn't shy away from its simplicity, it actually delights it. It's something different for an artist such as Harry Styles to bring such a light to the little things in life that people don't tend to fully appreciate, like sharing a bottle of wine in "Grapejuice" and/or driving up the coast like in "Keep Driving."

Bridgerton Season 2: Can Lightning Strike Twice?

By Victoria Weissberg

Netflix's *Bridgerton*, set in the town of Mayfair in Regency Era England, just came out with a season two that focuses on Anthony Bridgerton's (Jonathan Bailey) compelling quest for a wife. Like season one, season two focuses on the precipice of impromptu love, the power of family, and societal standards affecting relationships. Season two contrasts with season one because Anthony Bridgerton is presented as someone who did not want love in marriage but saw marriage as a mere obligation to his family, unlike Daphne Bridgerton who was the focus of season one, and wanted a love match from the beginning. Anthony Bridgerton's want for love was just not there until The Sharma Sisters, Edwina (Charithra Chandranand), and Kate (Simone Ashley), arrived in Mayfair. The drama in Mayfair seems to have boiled up again as secrets rise to the surface thanks to Lady Whistledown, the show's narrator and journalist who produces a gossip paper divulging the innermost workings of Mayfair's elite. This season of *Bridgerton* definitely has less debauchery in it than season one but there's still an air of scandal to

this 'enemies to lovers'-oriented season. The music in this season really emphasized the modernized regency era plot, as instrumental covers of modern music were used which I enjoyed because it kept the 1800s feel of the show but added a touch of our reality to it. Songs like "Sign of the Times" by Harry Styles and "Wrecking Ball" by Miley Cyrus were used in some of the show's key moments, only in an instrumental version. This season of *Bridgerton* was very entertaining and much more interesting than season one as we see more characters' relationships fluctuate and change in this season and I do like tropes, so I would rate this season of *Bridgerton* a 10 out of 10. As for the future of *Bridgerton*, when interviewed by the entertainment website Collider, the creator of *Bridgerton* Chris Van Dusen said that he "would love to be able to focus and really tell stories and love stories for all the Bridgerton siblings. For each character, for sure...I think we've done some work in season 1 to set up other characters for more. I think it's a deep well of the story for us to explore."



Photo courtesy of Netflix