



# WELCOME CLASS OF 2026

The staff at the Rampage are happy to welcome the Class of 2026 to Shawsheen Tech! The past few years have given us an altered Freshman Orientation due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Luckily this year, we've been able to get closer to "normal" and allow us to have a more traditional freshman orientation. We thought it would be a good idea to hear a freshman's take on the orientation!

by Milo Jones

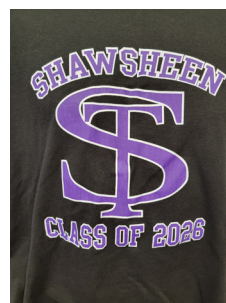
So, Hi I'm Milo! I am one of the new freshmen in the graduating class of 2026 and I'm here to tell you about my freshman orientation. I'd like to start by thanking everyone who planned the orientation and for taking time out of your schedules to make sure we had a good introduction to high school. The first day of school can be nerve-racking but the day turned out to be very laid back. We were able to meet some of the new staff at Shawsheen as well as some of the upperclassmen who would oversee helping us around the school. We got to meet an incredible artist named Robert who showed us his presentation about kindness and courage. His video was quite inspirational and his ability to paint incredible portraits in less than 5 minutes was a sight to see. At some

*times the day started to feel quite long, but it was impressive none the less. Overall, the first day of school was a good one for many as we were able to gauge our new surroundings and meet tons of new people.*

*The second day of school was just as interesting as we got to listen to a guest speaker talk about his experiences in high school with drugs and peer pressure and listen to him perform slam poetry. Although the day included the basics of learning the school policies, we got to end it with activities and lunch outside. We participated in games with the orientation leaders, and although the games were originally designed for younger kids, most people seemed to enjoy them and had a great time. I think that this was an interesting freshman orientation, and it was a fun way to learn*



*our way to be introduced to the school. Again, thank you to everyone who ran orientation and made sure that we were comfortable while adjusting to our new school life at Shawsheen.*



# SHOULD PARENTS MONITOR THEIR TEENAGERS ONLINE?

Students last year in Ms. McKee's class answered this question and wrote editorial essays with their opinions. A variety of factors can be considered, ranging from privacy to safety... what do you think?

## BEING SNOOPY IS POOPY

by Darion Considine

There are many different feelings that parents have about monitoring their teenagers online and on their phone. Some parents think that monitoring teenagers online is helpful, but I think it is more harmful, therefore I feel that spying on your teenagers should not be an option when instead you could just ask them questions.

One reason you should not spy on your children is because it denies them respect and shows them your lack of trust in them. For example, in the article, "Is Snooping on Teenagers Ever OK?" Lisa Damour writes that, "the same study instead linked parents' snooping to their worries about the strength of their relationship with their teenager" (Damour). Trusting your teenagers is one of the most important things as a parent. If you snoop through their phones, they will be more likely to hide things from their parents and keep more to themselves. The parent-child bond that you used to have could be broken easily if your teenager believes if you lost your trust in him, especially if you had no reason to snoop. There are even possibilities that could lead to things like depression and other mental problems that could just keep going downhill, like addiction including, drugs, alcohol, or even worse phone addictions.

Another reason you should not snoop on your teenagers is because it can cause your children to make secret accounts on social media where you cannot see it. According to Jeffrey Nadel in the article, "Should Parents Monitor Their Kids Online," it states, "Parents may insist on having child's email passwords; if parents insist on having their kids on social media kids may produce a new profile that

parents are unaware of" (Nadel). This is one of the most common options when you see your parents go through your phone even if you are not doing anything that you are trying to hide. Sometimes they just need space from their parents and their phone is the cure for that. So, looking through your kids' phone could begin a new habit of lying, or just make them want to have more time alone when parents just want to spend time with their kids. If the parents did not go through their children's phone, they would come out of their room more often to see their parents. But they feel like they are trapped and have no space if they are being snooped on.

I also do understand that monitoring your teenager's phone is the parents' choice because it is their job to protect their children and make sure they are not getting into trouble. According to the article, "Parenting Children in the Age of Screens," Brooke Auxier writes that, "Amid continuing debates about what role companies and institutions should play in protecting children from inappropriate online content, nearly all parents say that most of that responsibility belongs to parents or guardians" (Auxier). Although parents could choose to snoop on their children, if your teenagers are in high school, they should be given the responsibility to manage their own social media posts and things they say on the internet. For example, Lisa Damour also writes that, "A survey of 455 adolescents found that teenagers who believed their parents had secretly listened in on their conversations or searched through their possessions without permission shared less information

with their folks than teenagers who felt their parents respected appropriate boundaries" (Damour). This data goes to show that parents that like to snoop on their children end up not having the best relationship with their parents, and parents that do not snoop on their children end up having a better relationship with their kids as they grow up because they feel as if they are trusted by their parents. This may not occur in every family situation, but I would say that for a handful of situations this may be the outcome.

Snooping through your teenager's phone is not good for your relationship with your child so I believe that spying on your child is not ok. If you think that it is a good idea to snoop on your teenagers' phone, just remember that in the future, it could separate you from your kid, which you will regret. You can fix this problem by just asking them questions if you think they are getting into trouble but give them their space.

## TECHNOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY

by Leila Hurley

In this day in age, we are constantly looking at screens. It started as a tv in our living rooms to now the world at our fingertips. Anything you could possibly imagine could be beneficial or detrimental, especially with today's youth. Parents may not understand what they do not know but with recent studies emerging more parents are learning the many faults to the glowing boxes in our hands. When you give your child a phone or any device with internet you are giving them a big responsibility, but

# SHOULD PARENTS MONITOR THEIR TEENAGERS ONLINE?

## TECHNOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY

Continued...

most people think it is harmless without reading the facts. A recent study proves that parents are starting to become concerned with their children's mental states with constant screens in their lives. Each generation is becoming more socially anxious, it could have to do with the current state of our world but with the information we know today it is unlikely that cell phones have nothing to do with the outcome. According to the Pew Research Center, "At the same time, parents are particularly concerned that mobile devices could hurt younger children's ability to interact with others or forge meaningful relationships. Roughly seven-in-ten parents think that children under the age of 12 using smartphones will hurt their ability to learn effective social skills (71%) or develop healthy friendships (68%)." (Auxier). With no face-to-face social interactions our generations are relying more on texting and in some cases with people they do not even know. By not checking up on our children's phones we are not being properly informed about our youths' everyday lives. The scary reality is that if we do not checkup on our younger generations, we do not know who they are talking to. Apps can hide the identities of certain people and you can never fully know who you are talking to. These people can use mental illness to their advantage and manipulate kids into giving addresses, credit card numbers, and pictures. According to Nellie Bowles and Michael Keller in their article "Gamers Beware," "The criminals often pose as children, confiding in their victims with false stories of hardship or self-loathing to build up trust. Their goal, typically, is to dupe young people into sharing sexually explicit photos and videos of themselves—which they use as blackmail for more imagery, much of it increasingly graphic or violent." (Bowles, et.al). There are actual criminals on the internet and to be so ignorant as to say "I am not going to invade my teens trust" is quite frankly

oblivious and naïve. We must make online safety a much bigger deal and educate our parents about mental health in relation to cell phone use. If we step back and look at these situations, we realize that this situation is very delicate and needs to be handled as such. Many could say "helicopter" parents are constantly checking their kids' phones. And only "helicopter" parents would invade their child's privacy. For example, in her article, "Is Snooping on Teenagers Ever Ok?" Lisa Damour writes that, "Then there's an obvious problem shared by spies at every level: At what point do you reveal that you have been spying? Some parents might willingly blow their own cover, hoping that the potential boost to their teenager's safety will outweigh the inevitable loss of their teenager's trust." (Damour). I can see if an already fragile trust could be easily broken by parents checking your teens' phone. If parents have open communication and explain why the internet can be so damaging to this generation, we will become more educated on the topic. If any parent gives their child the ability to go on the internet, it should not be a push into the deep end. Every parent should explain the reasons for looking at the child's internet activity and that is the evidence that shows the dark side of the web. The parents must already have trust with their child to give them a phone or a computer in the first place. If you do not trust your child, why would you give them access to do so much damage? According to Kid's Health, Doctor Elana Pearl Ben-Joseph, MD states that, "The key is to stay involved in a way that makes your kids understand that you respect their privacy but want to make sure they're safe." (Pearl Ben-Joseph). The real question is do you want to be your child's friend or be your child's parent and guardian? The damage done cannot be repaired if your child posts something that can haunt them later in their lives. Think of all the things

previous generations have done that are considered wrong now, can you imagine that being on the web forever? If they are untrustworthy and/or mentally ill, you should be able to monitor their phone usage. If they are spending every second of the day on their phone, it is their life, and you as their parents have a right to know if they are interacting with someone or something that could hurt them. Someday if they decide to become parents they will be educated and pass on their knowledge. We have seen time and time again that bad things happen when minors are completely left on their own to fend for themselves. As a teenager with anxiety and OCD I really see the benefits of a checkup every once and a while to get comfort in the fact that everything is fine, my parents just want to make sure I am okay.

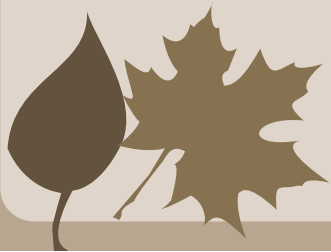


**"THE PUPPETMASTER"**  
by Maggie Zimmer



## Come to the Fall Fair!

Interested in coming to an event with over 60 vendors?? The Fall Fair is returning to the Shawsheen Tech on November 19th from 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM for the 13th time! It is expected to have a variety of tables including: Art Décor, Wood Crafts, Jewelry, and SO MUCH MORE. As if it couldn't get more exciting there will also be a raffle sponsored by the Class of 2024! Orientation Leaders and the Alumni Association will also be sponsoring the event, the proceedings of the fundraiser will also benefit these groups and the orientation program. Come to the fall fair, HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



## JOIN US AT NEWSPAPER CLUB!

Meetings every Tuesday/Thursday morning during homeroom in DVC (505).

Email Mrs. Ouellette at [aouellette@shawtech.org](mailto:aouellette@shawtech.org)

# JOIN A CLUB!

## CLUBS AT SHAWSHEEN

By Stanley Morgan

At Shawsheen Tech, we have a wide variety of extracurricular activities. From Art Club to Math Club, to the Traveling Rams and Robotics, any student can discover something new that they may love.

Activities outside of a typical school day aren't only for entertainment but can prepare young minds for the future. Students can learn special skills, make new friends, and work on their time management skills. On the topic of clubs, our Assistant Principal, Mr. Caruso expressed, "Extracurriculars are important and necessary to teach adolescents skills for the future beyond Shawsheen."

If you want to get more involved at Shawsheen Tech, make sure to listen to the morning and afternoon announcements for club meetings, or look on the school website under Clubs and Activities.

*Pictured on right: Video Game Club: Photos by Alanna Paquin*



# FALL SPORTS



Photo by Mo Melanson



Photo by Erin Cornell



Photo by Mo Melanson



Photo by Mo Melanson



Photo by Erin Cornell



Photo by Kathy Timmons



Photo by Ms. McGinness



Photo by Ms. McGinness



Photo by Mr. Dorazio



Photo by Mr. Struthers



Photo by Mr. Struthers



Photo by Mr. Struthers



Photo by Mr. Struthers



Photo by Lia Price



Photo by Mr. Dorazio

# HOMECOMING



## CONGRATS TO COACH COSTABILE!



Photo by Lindsay Scales



Photo by Lindsay Scales



Photo by Lindsay Scales



Photo by Lindsay Scales

## HAPPENINGS



An "Adam Sandler" spotting at Shawsheen!



Science goes Country!

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