



## NEW CELL PHONE POLICY

Written by Emma Casey, Contributions from Shayna Kerivan, Stanley Morgan, Mazy Stuart and Onyx Paquin

As we all know, one of the biggest changes we saw this year was the updated cell phone policy. Although the new phone policy feels like it has made a substantial difference for everyday life at Shawsheen Tech, it is not hugely different when compared to the old policy. That may seem impossible, but the real difference is not allowing cell phones to be seen or used in the hallways and having a more severe consequence. Previously cell phone in the classroom was determined by teacher discretion, so in some classes you could use them for educational purposes and in others you were not allowed.

Members of the Rampage staff interviewed 525 students over a few days during homeroom to find out what students really thought about the new policy. Opinions varied, and students had a range of reasons for why they either liked or disliked the policy. Let us look at how students react to the new phone policy.

First let us look at the positive reactions toward the policy. Of the 525 students interviewed, only a mere 16 students said they fully supported the policy, only 3% of students polled. Some of the reasons they support the policy is because it felt "freeing" to put their phone away. These students enjoyed the break from social media, and they did not need to worry about the constant notifications coming through their phones. It helped to eliminate distraction during the day. Though the students that supported the policy were

among the smallest group of students, they gave their opinion in a well-spoken and thoughtful manner.

Next let us look at the students who are "in the middle" or "undecided." 79 students, or 15% of students polled, pointed out both the good and bad aspects of the cell phone policy. These students liked some parts of the policy, but not others. They were able to explain, in detail, how they felt about the policy at hand. Although these students agreed that the new policy was "freeing," they did not like the harsh punishment that followed. This group felt strongly against having to face detention, if caught using their phone, especially if they were using their phones for school related tasks, or simply listening to music.

Finally, let us look at the number of students who do not like the phone policy. 82% percent, 430 out of 525 of students interviewed, had strong negative opinions regarding the phone policy. These students were very willing to share their opinions. Most students said they wanted to be able to listen to

music, take pictures of their work, and even one student said they would like to be able to keep track of a medical condition. These students were the most receptive to answers when prompted. *We realized through interviews that some students may not be aware that exceptions for medical conditions are allowed. Students who think they qualify for an exemption should reach out to the Dean's office.*

On top of asking students for their opinions, we asked the Dean's office for the average number of detentions given per week due to cell phone violations. On average, there were about 10-20 detentions per week. The first week of school, however, had between 25-30 detentions, almost 10 more than the weeks following.

Now that we have looked at all that, what does it all mean? Well, this information means that many of the students interviewed disliked the new phone policy. A large majority think it is unfair for the students to be punished for cell phone use. The phone policy change might not be that different than the old one in practice, but to the students this year, it feels a lot worse than it might seem. If you have questions regarding the cell phone policy and the specifics in it, we encourage you to ask your teachers or the administration about it, especially if one of the reasons you need your phone is for a medical condition. In the next issue of the Rampage, we will continue this topic and ask for staff opinions regarding this policy change.



## MOVIES YOU SHOULD BE WATCHING *NO MATTER THE DECADE*

By Mazy Stuart

October is Spooky Season, a time of the year where the world becomes obsessed with dark and scary bedtime stories. We hear classic tales of ghosts, witches, monsters, zombies and slashers. Along with these stories comes a season of spooky and scary movies to watch. If you're someone like me, you had 31 nights of Halloween movies all planned out.

When looking at the history of horror films, it can be very overwhelming to figure out what to watch. In my opinion, I believe

the older horror movies were significantly higher quality because they relied more on suspenseful story-telling rather than the gross-out-factor that is common in movies of today.

With today's films relying more on gore and special effects, I ask the question, is this the best way to get your audience hooked, or should we go back to the old days where classic horror movies didn't need blood and gore to make it good? Personally, I think modern-day gore is a new and creative way

to leave an impact and scar the viewer. However, I also feel as if we're relying too much on this one component to make a horror movie scary. I like that gore in horror is giving us more realistic scenes, but I don't like the idea of only using that to make a movie "good." Special effects should not be the saving grace of your horror film. In conclusion, I believe the most important factor in a great horror movie is the key ingredients of a good plot, lots of suspense, and less focus on just gore.

## SHAWSHEEN DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS: *12 ANGRY MEN*



# THE FLAT EARTH THEORY: *A CONCISE DEBUNKING*

By Nishtha Lamsal

The notion that the Earth is flat has a long history, with ancient books and civilizations describing a disc-shaped planet. However, by the time of the ancient Greeks, intellectuals like Aristotle had already acknowledged the Earth's sphericity. There are now numerous indisputable arguments against the flat Earth myth. Our globe is regularly depicted as a spherical orb in images taken from space. On a globe, international flight routes make sense, but not on a flat disc. The gravitational attraction we feel, which pulls objects towards the center of the Earth, points to a spherical mass. The bottom-first disappearance of ships on the horizon suggests that the Earth is curved. Further dispelling this myth is the fact that Earth always casts a rounded shadow during moon eclipses. Furthermore, only a spherical Earth model could account for the many time zones that people experience around the globe. Additionally, scientists and astronomers from many backgrounds and with different goals agree that the Earth is spherical. The flat Earth theory has been proven false in the modern era by a wealth of scientific evidence.



## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

### CHESS AND CHECKERS CLUB

Are you looking for a club to enjoy a game of chess, learn a new technique, or meet other chess and checkers fans? Well look no further! Chess and Checkers club has all the materials to enjoy this hobby while having delicious snacks!

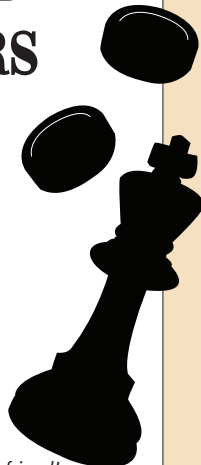
Join us on:

The last Monday of every month, in the guest dining room from 2:15-3:15.

Contact Mr. Williams,  
(jwilliams@shawtech.org)

for more information

*Make sure to bring a friend!*



## SPORTS CORNER

## VARSITY -Fall Season- SPORTS RECAP

### Boys Soccer

The boys soccer team had an amazing season, ending the season 11-5-2. They especially had a notable streak midway through the season, from September 23rd to October 18th. The team went 8 games without losing, going 7-0-1 during that stretch of games. So major props to the team, especially Head Coach Tom Severo.

### Cross Country

Cross Country also had quite the season, going 4-1 during the season for the boys and 2-3 for the girls. Boys placed 5th in the State Vocational meet and Girls placed 3rd in the CAC league. Congrats to Head Coach Dan Dorazio on a great season.

### Football

The football team absolutely crushed the competition in every game they played during the regular season leading them into the playoffs with a record of 7-0, winning each of those games by double digits. This wouldn't be possible without Head Coach Al Costabile, and overall, they had a great season!

### Girls Soccer

The girls soccer team got off to a rough start, starting the season 0-3, but they managed to bring it back on track. They went the last 5 games without losing, and ended the season 6-7-2. A notable achievement during this season is the Head Coach Doug Michaud got his 200th career win as a coach during this season.

### Golf

The golf team did what they do every year, similar to the football team, they beat the other teams by at least double digits. This team continues to be the best golf team in their division. This was all done under the leadership of the Head Coach Tom Struthers.

### Volleyball

The volleyball team also did spectacular, getting very close to going undefeated, only taking 2 losses this season. They went 20-2 under Head Coach Katie McGinness. 15/20 of their wins were sweeps, not letting their opponent get a single point. Overall great effort and success from the team this year.



# SHAWSHEEN'S NEWEST STAFF:

## *MR. ALSUP*

By Onyx Paquin

This Year the Rampage is working on a series of interview-based articles dedicated to the newest recruits to the Shawsheen staff! For this issue the focus is on a new member of the guidance department, Mr. Alsup.

**Q: What is your role at Shawsheen?**

A: I'm a Guidance Counselor for the freshman class, I work with the students with last names M-Z.

**Q: How long have you been in this department?**

A: This is my 16th year as a Guidance Counselor.

**Q: What are you struggling to adjust to at Shawsheen?**

A: I think its just getting to know who is who in regards to staff, it just takes time. There's a lot of people and knowing what positions they are which is not a bad thing by any means.

**Q: What is your favorite part about Shawsheen?**

A: I came from a traditional high school, so this is my first experience in a technical high school. The opportunities that Shawsheen provides students is great.

That wraps up Mr. Alsup's interview! All freshmen from last names M-Z remember that he is your guidance counselor, so if you have any issues in class, he is your go to! We would like to thank him for giving us the time to interview him. Stay tuned readers for another new staff interview next issue.



# THE FALL 2023

## *SHAWSHEEN OPEN HOUSE*

On November 5th, Shawsheen Tech held our Community Open House!



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