

## Centurion Athletes Commit To Their Colleges

By **Tyler Hernandez**, *Comic Artist*



Cypress is proud of all the athletes who signed their letters of intent this month. (photo by Rehansa Kulailleke)

The long-standing tradition of the College Athletes Signing in spring began in 2010. This year it took place on February 5th, 2025. Friends and family of the students signing were invited to Cypress High School's basketball gym to celebrate the six students signing their letters of intent and moving on to the next stage of their sports careers.



Athletic Director Mark Slevcove served as Master of Ceremonies (photo by Rehansa Kulailleke)

Mr. Mark Slevcove, one of two of the sports directors, acted as the announcer for the event and extended his

praise to the students. The event was also live-streamed by the broadcasting students, and the culinary students provided snacks.

According to Slevcove, many of the students signed beforehand and the event wasn't the actual signing, but more of a representation and celebration of their signing.

While it used to be the day they would sign the actual pledge over the years the scheduling changed and led to some signing before and some the day of. One of the students, Delaney Faus, said "I signed before, in November...I liked the location and the coaches."

The athletes who were honored are: Delaney Faus, a softball player who will be attending San Jose State.

Aiden Franco is a baseball player who will be attending Azusa Pacific University. Jackson Kesserman is a water polo player who will be attending Wheaton College Massachusetts. Vince Partington is a wrestler who will be attending Vanguard University. Wyatt Rosales is a baseball player who will be attending Western Oregon University. Naya Taylor is a softball player who will be attending Utah Tech University.



Family, friends, and faculty members gather together to cheer on the next 4 years of each student's academic and athletic career that is ahead. (photo by Rehansa Kulailleke)

## Out With the Old and in With the New

By **Amy Park**, *Social Media Manager*

This year Cypress High School reconstructed their lunch line, increasing the number of barriers to improve organization and efficiency. In the past two years, Cypress High School has experienced various issues with its previous system, with students sometimes pushing and shoving one another aggressively. **Principal Jennifer Brown**, addressed this issue and made alternate adjustments to encourage a safe environment.

What was bothering administrators was how groups of students would cut into lines, causing a clump to form, when the lunch lines are supposed to be a single file line. There had been multiple instances of fighting due to anger and frustration. **Patrick Cheung**, a senior said, "There were many occasions where I would witness fights between students almost breaking out because they were cutting one another in line."

Brown stated that last year she had requested the dis-

trict for more dividers but it was denied. When the issue with the lunch lines was brought to her attention, she focused on distributing the students to different lines and increasing the barriers between them.

Now that the new system has been implemented, there is noticeable improvement on how the lunch lines run. The lunch lines are now able to run much more smoothly, and there aren't as many students cutting into the lunch lines, because the new barriers don't give students the opportunity to cut. "Now that people can actually line up for lunch, I don't have to wait in line for an hour," **Lu Emara**, a senior at Cypress High School said.

The main priority of the school is to ensure the safety of students. **Blanca Legrue**, a lunch distributor at Cypress High School, says, "Students, please behave in school because you are all becoming young adults and you must be aware of other student's safety."

The new barriers that were implemented into the lunch lines is very successful (photo by Amy Park)



## President's Plans: First Immigration, Now Federal Grants?

By **Deborah Son**, *Editor-in-Chief*



Programs including Medicaid, food stamps, school funding, Pell Grants, rental assistance, and more are at risk if a halt in federal funding occurs. (Photo by Deborah Son)

During the first few weeks into President Donald Trump's presidency, his administration halted the process of providing federal grants to the people

and small organizations. He claimed that "prioritizing budget cuts and investing in efficient programs would be necessary for the United States."

Among lower-income families and communities, federal grants have been a main pillar, providing essential assistance to access healthcare, housing, and education. These vital resources offered to the public have become a source of support in times of desperate need. Programs including Medicaid, food stamps, Pell Grants, rental assistance, and more have all been threatened. With vulnerability in play, the loss of these grants may result in higher levels of poverty, homelessness, and economic instability. Disrupting

the system of the U.S. may cause a chain reaction and eventually deteriorate the rest of the government.

However, Trump's attempt to freeze federal grants has been temporarily paused due to it exceeding the president's authority. The violation of large communities that depended on federal aid was an issue because it was excessive damage to the public. With the policy being deemed unconstitutional, the order to freeze the halting of federal grants was made until enough jus-

tification was given for these measures to take place. Additionally, many states, local governments, small businesses, and advocacy groups filed lawsuits against this action to follow legal procedures when resuming.

Following the announcement, citizens have questioned Trump's plans while raising alarm among the population regarding its negative impact. While these steps have been blocked temporarily, many anticipate the decision will resurface and spark global concerns.

# The Lightning Thief Strikes the Stage at Cypress High

By **Rehansa Kulatilleke**, Photo Editor/Opinion Editor



The second theatre show of the year closed their performance on February 7th. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

On February 6th and 7th, Cypress Theatre presented its second show of the year with the musical version of the novel *The Lightning Thief*. The musical follows a young teenager who discovers that he's the son of Poseidon. Throughout his journey, he embarks upon quests to find friendships in the most unexpected places.

The show follows a young boy named Percy Jackson (played by **Finn Cooper** and **Maggie Fraser**) who has a history of getting into trouble, regardless of his trying to avoid it. After getting ex-

pelled from another school, Percy's mom (played by **Josephine Beltran** and **Hannah Arnce**) reveals the truth about his father being a god. Percy eventually ends up at Camp Half-Blood where he meets other demigods—one of whom being Annabeth, daughter of Athena (played by **Patricia Krausse** and **Megan Hu**), and Satyr—his best friend, Grover (played by Addison Archer). The three go on a journey together to get Zeus' stolen lightning bolt to prevent a war among the gods. Their quest follows encounters with other gods whose aim is to

find the lightning bolt and use it for their own good.

Rick Riordan's novel has had several different adaptations ranging from movies to shows, and now musicals.



Background props were used to enhance the show for the audience. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

Alongside the different versions, stand the different interpretations of each char-

acter. Fraser who played Percy during the closing night says, "I've known that [book] Percy for so long. So it came more naturally to me." With so many different versions, it can be difficult to pinpoint not only what kind of person you want your character to be, but the emotion you want the audience to feel. Cooper, who played Percy Jackson on the first show says, "Percy, compared to the others, is not experienced at all in any of the camp stuff, and what better way to portray that than being a loser? But of course, Percy is the hero, so I tried to make him a 'heroic' wimp if anything."

Every performance isn't always easy to master without practice, especially when time is limited. Tech rehearsals leading up to the show lasted from 3:30 PM to as late as 7 PM. Rehearsals consisted of working with others in groups so that everyone would be prepared for their parts. Theatre teacher **Ms. Stewart** says, "It was really ambitious to put on the musical in a short amount of time. So, we divided people up into differ-

ent groups, so everyone was on stage dancing and singing...we just sort of rotate and learn as fast as we can."

Apart from the acting, the production was also a main factor in the show. Background props were a major part of the production to enhance the show for the audience. Artistic director, **Freddie Ho** says, "We really wanted that goofy feeling...I really wanted to keep the super bright colors we had, the contrast with the orange shirts and the blue background and all of that."

The *Lightning Thief* not only gave the audience another laugh but reminded them to value the people they have. Cypress Theatre continues to spread its creativity to the audience as the year progresses.



The show's quest follows encounters with other gods whose aim is to find Zeus' lightning bolt. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

## What Classes Are Centurions Taking Next Year?

By **Yazeed Albadarin**, Sports Editor/Business Manager

Registration cards for next school year are due, and students are already mapping out their academic and athletic plans.

Andrei Ikolic will take AP European History along with a mix of honors and regular courses, including Spanish 3 and Soccer.

Tenth-grader Aaron Garcia will be taking Sports Medicine to focus on athlete injury and prevention, along with physics and English. Aaron will also participate in cross country, soccer and track and field.

Junior Isaiah Garma chose a two-to-five schedule next year. His classes include English Ethnic Studies, Stats HP, Graphic Communications 2, and Government/Economics. Isaiah will compete in both cross country and track and field.



9th Grade Andrei Ikolic will have new challenges with honors classes next year

11th-grade Cypress High Student Isiah Garma is excited about next year's schedule.

10th grade Aaron Garcia will have a tough year balancing Track and Field, Cross Country, and Soccer along with school.

# Grammys Mark A Successful Year for the Music Industry

By **Rehansa Kulatilleke**, Photo Editor/Opinions Editor & **Zoe Chung**, Copy Editor



Grammy winners Doechii, Beyoncé, and Kendrick Lamar (left to right) (Photo by Zoe Chung)

The 2025 Grammy Awards took place on Sunday, February 2nd, and were filled with incredible moments presented by the Recording Academy that marked a big year for the music industry. Performances from artists such as Billie Eilish, Chappell Roan, Doechii, and more appeared on the stage.

The biggest award of the night, 2025 Album of the Year was awarded to—35-time Grammy winner Beyoncé for her country-pop album, *COWBOY CARTER*. Other nominees included *New Blue Sun* by André 3000, *Short n' Sweet* by Sabrina Carpenter, *BRAT* by Charli xcx, *Djesse Vol. 4* by Jacob Collier, *HIT ME HARD AND SOFT* by Billie Eilish, *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess* by Chappell Roan, and *The Torched Poets Department* by Taylor Swift. Although Beyoncé's album has been favored in the eyes of the 13,000 voting members of the Recording Academy, the media has formed a different viewpoint. While many believed that Beyoncé deserved the award, others anticipated a different outcome if Billie Eilish won. As of February 11th, *COWBOY CARTER* has reached 1.7 billion streams worldwide, while Billie Eilish's album, *HIT ME HARD AND SOFT* reached over 5.8 billion. Despite the fact

that the Recording Academy does not choose the winner based on the number of streams but on the overall production of the album, the media continues the voting process of the Grammys. Senior **Justin Vo** says, "I think that Billie Eilish got robbed because *Birds of a Feather* got more streams than most of *Cowboy Carter* combined."

Another major award that was announced was the 2025 Best Song of the Year and 2025 Best Record of the Year, where 22-time Grammy winner, Kendrick Lamar for his song *Not Like Us*. Though *Record of the Year* and *Song of the Year* sound similar, *Song of the Year* highlights an artist's songwriting rather than the production of the song like *Record of the Year*. Other nominees for the 2025 Record of the Year include *Now and Then* by the Beatles, *TEXAS HOLD 'EM'* by Beyoncé, *Espresso* by Sabrina Carpenter, *360* by Charli xcx, *BIRDS OF A FEATHER* by Billie Eilish, *Good Luck, Babe!* by Chappell Roan, and *Fortnight* by Taylor Swift featuring Post Malone. Nominees for the 2025 Best Song of the Year include *A Bar Song (Tipsy)* by Shaboozey, *BIRDS OF A FEATHER* by Billie Eilish, *Die With a Smile* by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars, *Fortnight* by Taylor Swift featuring Post Malone, *Good*

*Luck, Babe!* by Chappell Roan, *Please Please Please* by Sabrina Carpenter, and *TEXAS HOLD 'EM'* by Beyoncé. Lamar's song has been in the Billboard Top 100 for over thirty weeks, reaching number one for two weeks. The song has also won three additional awards such as Best Rap Song, Best Music Video, and Best Rap Performance. Lamar has also performed the famed song at the Super Bowl this year along with several other of his past hits.

Another award announced was the 2025 Best New Artist of the Year, for which Chappell Roan claimed the title. Other nominees included Benson Boone, Sabrina Carpenter, Doechii, Khruangbin, RAYE, Shaboozey, and Teddy Swims. Roan has also been nominated for Best Album, Best Pop Vocal Album, Best Song, Best Record, and Best Pop Solo Performance of the Year. In her acceptance speech, she discussed the issue of the industry profiting off of artists, resulting in them barely earning a livable wage.

Whether it be with new artists or old, the Grammys continue to make history as the years go by. Artists continue to spread their creativity to others around them, growing a different kind of family to others around the world.

# Paddington Movie Officially Returns to Trilogy 3

By **Adam Hawari**, Staff Writer & **Jayson Kai Linayao**, Video Assistant

Studiocanal placed a modern spotlight on beloved movie series *Paddington* with their debut film, "*Paddington In Peru*," in theaters on February 14, 2025. Now directed by Dougal Wilson, the Browns' ordinary lives abruptly halt as *Paddington* receives a letter from his aunt in Peru. Reverend Mother, played by Olivia Colman, writes to *Paddington* about how much his Aunt Lucy misses him, which leads the family to leave Windsor Gardens to Lima.

"*Paddington in Peru*" will be shown at Starlight Cinema in Cypress, Regal Edwards

grown up as young adults, deal with relatable problems of early adulthood. In the middle of this, Mr. Brown's complications with his boss encourage the family to instead leave and go with *Paddington's* adventure. Once at the House of Retired Bears, *Paddington* realizes that Lucy is gone. This realization further fuels their venture, having a clue that she had gone to El Dorado, a myth about a supposed city of gold.

Although the film's direction of adventure appears linear, its ability to showcase *Paddington's* journey



*Paddington* is officially back again in theatres. (Photo by Jayson Kai Linayao)

in Long Beach, and Regal Edwards in Cerritos all for a limited time. The movie will eventually be streamed on Netflix and Amazon Prime Video as a PG rated film. The film is one hour and 46 minutes long, which makes it the longest screen time out of the trilogy.

In this new cast, original *Paddington* actors, Ben Whishaw, Hugh Bonneville, Madeleine Harris and Samuel Joslin play the Brown family. This time, Mrs. Brown is played by actor Emily Mortimer. *Rolling Stone* found the acting, "A little less twee, a little less idiosyncratic than its predecessors, but it retains the sunniness." The soundtrack for the movie was mostly composed by Dario Marianelli.

After *Paddington 2*, the newly updated family montages through their lives. Jonathan and Judy, now

of identity deepens the meaning of the film. Senior **Soraya Castro Meza**, said, "It's great to see my country be represented," in response to the film taking place in Peru. In addition, the overarching theme of home helps to encourage the embracing of cultural identity within the modern times. Meza said, "The way of connecting with us, at least here in America, there's a lot of immigrants, my parents are immigrants and I was born here, so I think it's nice to connect to your culture." Whether it be *Paddington*, Aunt Lucy or Mrs. Brown, people will always have their own El Dorado.

Overall, the latest film in the trilogy helped to capture what made the original films classics. *Paddington in Peru's* themes modernizes the importance of family and heritage in a time when people regularly struggle to find who they are.

# An Insight with Our Principals, Social Workers, and Counselors

By **Minnel Vega**, *Student Activities/Features Editor*

In addition to teachers, many administrators and counselors at Cypress High School work hard to ensure every student can succeed throughout their four years at Cypress. These staff members put in a lot of behind-the-scenes work that people normally don't see. In addition to the administrators and counselors, there are social workers, **Ms. Bristol Lopez** and **Mr. Daniel Lorigo**.

Some of the administrative team's jobs, focus on disciplining students, helping them with their future careers, ensuring safety, and setting life goals even beyond high school. Assistant Principal **Dr. Daniel Lieu** says, "Even though it looks like we're doing a lot of logistical tasks on the computer, we still have many student interactions. I work with our school staff and teachers to arrange classrooms students test in and figure out if there is any conflicts with students who have two AP tests on the same day."

Assistant Principal **Mr. Eric Tenorio** explains, "People don't realize the amount of work outside the classroom that has to happen to make sure that we're running a good school. It could be things like working and speaking to the parents, making sure the bells are working, and making sure we have a functioning cafeteria."

All these things that happen here at Cypress don't happen with just one person; it takes a collective effort of multiple people. Assistant Principal **Mrs. Lauren Choi** shared, "You have to collaborate with different people you work with. You work with other administrators, but there's also collaboration with case carriers, department chairs, AIDs in the classrooms, and collaboration with the parents."

Being an assistant principal is not easy when answering emails or working with students and teachers. Assistant principal **Ms. Jana**

**Kovar** says, "I take it each step at a time because a job can be overwhelming and you can have seven, eight things hitting you all at the same time and you have to figure out how to time manage it and then attack."

A school's social worker's job is to ensure that students are happy, healthy, and safe, whether providing mental health resources or meeting with a student for a couple of sessions. But as a social worker, they don't just meet with students every week. **Ms. Bristol Lopez** says, "One thing we do is professional development training for teachers and staff. We train them on how to manage a situation say if a student has an emergency or a crisis concern in the classroom, we train them on how they get the student where that student needs to be." She added, "One thing people don't realize is that as school social workers, we go graduate school to get our masters in social work and we're trained to be mental

health therapists. So when we provide mental health treatment to students at school, that's our expertise."

The counselors here at Cypress have many different jobs that can sometimes be overlooked. Senior counselor **Ms. Carrie Vaughn** says, "People think that as counselors, we sit and make schedule changes, and that's not the case. We want to build the capacity of our students, whether it's academic, college, or career, as well as social and emotional. I take it to heart just really getting to know my students and making sure that they know how to find me if they have a question."

These staff members do a lot of work outside each classroom to ensure the school runs smoothly and are always ready to support students. Thanks to the administrative team, counselors, and social worker's efforts, Cypress High ensures student's physical, emotional, and academic success.



Cypress High School staff work hard to make sure the school runs smoothly. (photo by Minnel Vega)

## In the Spotlight: French Students Visits Cypress

By **Rehansa Kulatilleke**, *Photo Editor/Opinions Editor*



# Valentine's Day: Love is in the Air at Cypress High

## Cypress High Math Teachers Find Their Balance Between Being Coworkers and Spouses.

By **Jayden Kay Linayao**, Video Editor/Photo Assistant



Math teachers Mrs. Falt and Mr. Falt occupy rooms 223 and 225, directly next to each other. (Photo by Jayden Kay Linayao)

When the bell rings at the end of the day, couples rush out of their classrooms to celebrate the day of love with their partners, but what do teachers do to celebrate with their loved ones? Most teachers come home to their loved ones

after work, but Cypress High School math teachers **Mr. Falt** and **Mrs. Falt** have the comfort of their spouses just one room away. Since 2010, these teachers have worked side by side both at work and at home.

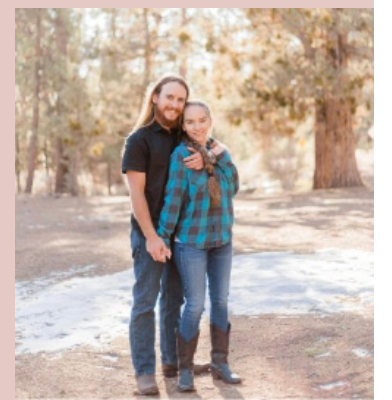
For the past fifteen years, this power couple has occupied rooms 223 and 225. "It's really nice having rooms right next to each other because if I have questions for her or if she has questions for me, we can ask really quickly," says Mr. Falt. Both teachers find

that after all of these years as both co-workers and partners-in-crime, they agree that there have been nothing but benefits to working with each other every day. "There are no bad parts about having my husband as my co-worker," Ms. Falt commented, "It's just that when you go home, you usually ask your spouse, 'How was your day?' but we don't do that because we were with each other all day." They also both agree that another benefit of having their partner at work is that it's a "shared life" and love having each other "a few feet away."

don't do anything special on this day, but instead celebrate a holiday which they call "International Guilt Day." "We normally just eat dinner at home together just like every other night, because we are usually busy or have other plans." Mrs. Llewellyn explained.

In the end, whether it's sharing classrooms or sharing a quiet dinner at home, teachers like Mr. and Mrs. Falt and Mrs. Llewellyn remind us that love can be celebrated in many different ways, even in the busiest of times.

Teachers spend the majority of their holiday celebrating with their students at school, but once they get home, some spend romantic dinners with their partners, others find fun activities with their kids, but **Mrs. Llewellyn**, ASL 1 and 2 teacher celebrates Valentine's Day a little differently. She and her husband



ASL 1 and 2 teacher Mrs. Llewellyn and her husband Cody Llewellyn celebrating their engagement. (Photo by (Mrs. Llewellyn))

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## CENTURION SPOTLIGHT

# Cypress High Boys Golf Team Prepares for The New Season

By **Tony Rodriguez**, Staff Writer



This year, the team is in a more challenging league. (Photo by Tony Rodriguez)

As the Cypress High Varsity boys golf team heads into the season, the players and the coach are gearing up for a fresh set of challenges. With a new division and stronger competition, the team is focused on raising their game while fostering a sense of camaraderie and self-development.

Golf Coach **Ms. Metry** stated that she is “high on expectations” for the season. She explained that daily drills and training are huge factors going towards their season, “One bad stroke doesn’t win or lose the match,” she said. With the team being a more challenging league, Metry has no doubt that they can achieve success. She believes that their growing connection will be

important. She also understands that maintaining the enjoyment of the game and competition is necessary.

JV golfer **Raymond Le** doesn’t just play the game for competition, but also for the friends he made. “I know a lot of guys on the team, so it’s pretty fun just being able to go out and play,” he said. In order to perfect his game, he has a personal trainer, practicing putting drills and approach shots. He also practices rounds with team members, each round trying different techniques and methods.

Varsity Golfer **Ayden Takao-ka** is anticipating the coming season with a focus on consistency and team. He believes they would win if they put in the effort. “If we do the work, we have a good shot,” he emphasizes. His training includes short-game drills and simulation play on course to mimic actual matches. He also trains his mental game, staying calm under pressure and using friendly compe-

titution with Le as a means of self-progressive evokness.

Varsity member **Taylor Reser** has the upcoming season firmly in mind with a strong feeling of expectation of what challenges are to come. “What gets me most hyped is new competition,” he said, knowing that going into a higher-level division will expect both himself and his team to step their game up. His drive is to push further into CIF, even if it means competing against their top teams. His competitiveness and fits into a healthy team culture. Throughout the season, Reser is determined to get better every day. “The competition is “tuff,” but I’m only concerned about how I can improve,” he said. Through analyzing his performances and following self-improvement drills and training, Traylor is prepared to meet the season’s challenges.

Throughout the year, varsity golf will emphasize individual betterment, camaraderie, and perseverance.

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# Cypress High Boys Basketball Misses Playoffs By A Coin Flip

By **Reina Takagi**, Social Media Manager



Hayden Roberts keeps the ball away from the defender. (Photo by Reina Takagi)

Finishing off the season 18-11 overall, the #32 ranked Cypress High School’s Boys Basketball Varsity team finished 4-5 in the Crestview League. Unfortunately, they did not qualify for the CIF playoffs this year.

On February 4, 2025, Cypress High School’s Boys Basketball Varsity team won their last league game away at Foothill High School. After their loss to Crean Lutheran in the previous week, the team bounced back and defeated

the Foothill Knights with a final score of 65-50. This was the Centurions’ second win against Foothill this season, as they defeated them back in January with a score of 72-65. Senior **Jaden Lopez-Dee** said that a highlight of his season was “being in one of the top leagues in the country and being able to compete with the higher division teams.” Lopez-Dee also talked about Cypress’ strengths: conditioning and stamina, as well as “team chemistry,” and their ability to “share the ball.”

On February 5, 2025, Canyon High School and Cypress High School played for a spot in CIFs, after La Habra High School won a three-way coin flip. The Centurions came up eight points short with a final score of 64-56. Senior **Isaac Vergara** expressed that “competition is tough at the next level,” and to, “stay motivated.” He shared that the team does that by “keeping the energy high and always encouraging each other and pushing each other so that we become better than we are.” The Centurions are #32 out of 516 CIF-SS boys basketball teams, and are grouped in Division 1. However, out of 29 automatic qualifications in that division, and three at-large bids, playoffs were not secured for Cypress. Those at-large berths went to Mater Dei High School, Chaminade High School, and Alemany High School.

Cypress High School tied for second in the Crestview League, the second best league in Orange Coun-

ty. The team hit their peak after beating three Top 15 teams in the county. However, they were hit hard by the flu. Coach **Derek Mitchell** expressed his sympathy for the boys who “worked so hard and did everything that was asked of them.” He added, “CIF is using a new criteria for allowing teams into the playoffs, and we were left out.” Mitchell also talked about the Centurions’ great performance at the National Torrey Pines After Christmas Tournament in San Diego. They finished second in their division and beat a good team in double overtime,

which Mitchell said, “was one of the most memorable games of [his] coaching career.”

Mitchell tries to motivate his players through competition. “Every drill we do and every game we play is about competing to the best of our abilities. The will to compete at the highest level will take our boys past any limits they have previously experienced,” he said. The constant goal for the program, according to Mitchell, is to compete for a League championship, to continue on in the CIF playoffs, and to eventually win a

CIF championship.R



Ryan Gov pushes past his defenders, heading to the hoop. (Photo by Cypress Yearbook)

# Girls Water Polo Ends The Season In Success

By **Betty Langrine** *Distribution Chief* & **Adam Hawari**, *Staff Writer*



Cypress High School girls water polo seniors celebrate their last year on water polo after their last game. (Photo by courtesy of Mackenzie Romero)

Cypress High School's girls water polo team had a season filled with ups and downs. Despite facing numerous challenges, the team managed a record of 4-10. Even though the win-loss record might not fully reflect their efforts and potential.

The team's first victories came from their hard-fought matches against Pacifica High School. These games were particularly significant as they demonstrated the team's ability to strategize and execute plays effectively. The matches were intense and closely contested, the first match ended in 4-2 and the second ended with 5-3. The players showed

remarkable teamwork and skill, which ultimately led them to their win over Pacifica.

Senior Team Captain, **Mackenzie Romero**, emphasized the importance of commitment and motivation. Although her team lost important seniors and starters last year, the girls were able to come together when it mattered the most. Romero acknowledged these challenges, and helped to solve them through team meetings, morning practices, and going over games. When asked how they can keep up their win momentum, Romero responded, "Bringing us closer together, team chemistry, having a lot more team bondings

and knowing each other helps to make the game easier."

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly their major win against Segerstrom High School. Coach **Garret Potter** stated, "We were really tired and we just came off a tough loss and we wanted to finish off the week with a high note." In this match, Cypress dominated the pool, securing a resounding 14-2 victory. On the same day, Winter Formal pressured the players during the match, having an important team talk saying, "We play for formal." Potter explained that the player's ability to counter, defend and show off their amazing

offense, contributed to their win. This match was a clear demonstration of the team's capabilities when everyone made a positive commitment. The players exhibited excellent coordination, strong defense, and relentless offense.

Throughout the season, the team faced several tough opponents, which contributed to their overall record. "I think no matter what the result was, the most important thing was that we stayed a team, we were all there for each other," said Potter. Despite the losses, each game provided valuable lessons and experiences that helped the players grow and improve. "Some losses were tougher than others but it only made the victories feel even better," said Potter.

One of the standout players this season has been Mackenzie Romero. She's made many strategic passes and, "made a great job committing to the team and making everyone accountable," Potter said. Her ability to read the game and make smart decisions has been crucial in many of their matches. Freshman **Gianna Nasser** has also been a bright star for the team. Showing great potential, Nasser quickly made a name for herself. Sophomore **Miley Main** has also shown amazing talent in the water. Her performance this season has been outstanding. As a freshman, she has a lot of room to grow and de-

velop, "I'm excited to see how she progresses in the coming years," Coach Potter says.

The team has had a challenging season, but they're not letting that dampen their spirits. With this season's challenges, the promising postseason can bring in newer talent in the team. Romero said, "A lot of the girls who want to try out next year try to swim in the postseason," hoping to improve the player's fastness and confidence over the year. The team is looking forward to improving and coming back stronger next season.

"This season obviously didn't go as well as we thought it would but I think it's one of those seasons that we're supposed to have, it's a developmental season where everyone finds out what kinds of talent they have and what their role is on this team, and it's only going to help us next year," stated Potter.



Coach Garret Potter encourages the team to work and improve together as a team. (Photo by Adam Hawari)

## Cypress High School Girls Soccer Team Reflects on Challenges.

By **Mifrah Bawany**, *Front Page Editor*, and *Features Editor*

Cypress High School girls soccer team's overall season record was 1-6-1. This season was tough for the girls but also full of learning experiences. Despite the challenges, the players stayed determined and motivated until the last game. While facing strong opponents they improved their teamwork.

Senior Varsity midfielder, Maya Sanda, said, "One of the season's most exciting games was against Yorba Linda," the year's final match. The emotions were high, making it a memorable game for everyone. Playing against Yorba Linda was the toughest opponent the team faced because "their midfield was pretty free range and they had excellent team chemistry"

she said. One highlight was winning the game against Fairmont in a tournament with a score of 1-0, proving that their hard work and dedication paid off.

This season, the team faced many challenges, like a lack of communication and not reaching enough goals, but the team improved over time. "We got better at passing and talking more on the field," Frosh/Soph goalie, Raven Apodaca said. Their coach helped by teaching them how to communicate better and always motivated the team. "She lifted us and told us not to put our heads down when we got scored on," she said. In the end, the team grew stronger, communicated better, and improved throughout the season.

Despite the struggles, the team improved their communication skills, becoming powerful as a team. With their coach's support and motivation, they learned to stay confident and kept pushing themselves till the end.



Maya Sanda (Left) and Raven Apodaca (Right) (Photo by Mifrah Bawany)



Cypress High School girls soccer team celebrates their win against Fairmont with a score of 1-0. (Photo by Cypress Soccer)

# Trump's Immigration Plans

By **Bryana Bennett**, Staff Writer & **Carly Pedroza**, Business Manager

## Pro

One of the key issues President Donald Trump addressed during his campaign was illegal immigration. He said, "On day one, I will launch the largest deportation program of criminals in the history of America." According to the Migration Policy Institute ([www.migrationpolicy.org](http://www.migrationpolicy.org)) there are an estimated 13.7 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

One of the main reasons for Trump's mass deportation plans is the "threat to national security." Last year on <https://homeland.house.gov> then-chief of Border Patrol Raul Ortiz said, "The total number of got-aways could be underreported by as much as 20 percent. There is no way to know how many more potential national security threats... are now at large in our country. More than 390 illegal aliens on the terrorist watchlist have been apprehended attempting to cross our Southwest and northern borders between 2021 and

2024, which is an increase of more than 3,000 percent compared to 2017 through 2020."

Another major issue to national security is the 573 thousand pounds of illegal drugs that were seized by Border Patrol in 2024. According to the DEA ([www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)) "between June 2023 and June 2024 more than 107,000 people lost their lives to a drug overdose in 2023, with nearly 70 percent of those deaths attributed to opioids such as fentanyl." Trump hopes to end the fentanyl pandemic by fortifying the border. Trump also plans to deploy the US Navy to ensure that drugs can't be smuggled by the region's waterways.

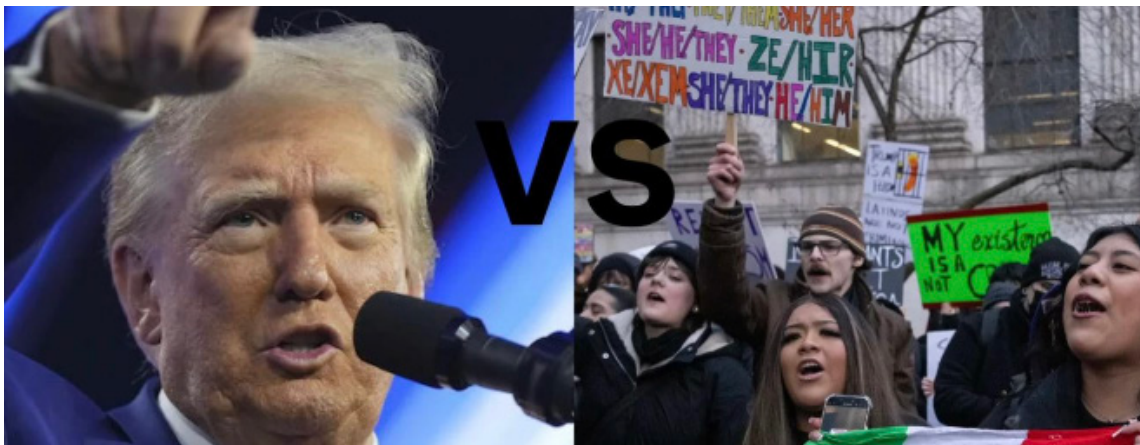
Furthermore, immigration is expensive. A study run by the Department of Health and Human Services in 2017 estimated the annual per refugee costs for federal, state, and local governments are \$7,134.

The study continues by stating that on average, the federal government spent \$440 per

refugee per month during the study run between 2005 and 2014. Just in 2023, federal and state governments spent \$150.7 billion on illegal immigrants, according to a Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) study, which can be found at [www.fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org).

Illegal immigrants also commit crimes. The Laken Riley Act, signed into law on January 29, 2025, is a beneficial act that amends the "Immigration and Nationality Act" ([www.justice.gov](http://www.justice.gov)). This act was named after a Georgia nursing student who was killed by illegal immigrant Jose Antonio Ibarra on February 22, 2024. Her name became a rallying cry during Trump's White House campaign. The Act requires the detention of illegal immigrants who are accused of theft or a violent crime.

Trump's immigration plan is meant to address national security, the fentanyl epidemic currently raging through the US, the cost of refugees, and crime in the United States.



Trump's new immigration plans are controversial, rising tensions amongst Americans. (Photo by Carly Pedroza)

## Con

The debate about undocumented immigrants in the U.S is still a huge issue in 2025. Some believe that the immigrants should be sent back to their home countries while others believe it's unfair and damaging. Immigrants tend to come here for a better life, a chance to provide for their families, better opportunities, and safety. Sending them all back will not only hurt them and their families but also our economy.

Many of our immigrants work in farming, construction and service jobs, tending to do the jobs that aren't popular. Without them, many companies will struggle, due to not finding people who are willing to do hard jobs with such little pay. Even though they do not have proper documentation, many of them pay taxes and buy our goods which helps the economy grow. Without them businesses will lose work which may cause our prices to go up. Many of the immigrants come to the U.S to get away from somewhere that is poor and that has excessive violence. Most of them have built lives and have lived here

for many years. The government should help them become Americans so they can continue to help us and our economy.

A common argument is that many undocumented immigrants are criminals. Regardless if the immigrants have documentation or not, they are less likely to commit crimes, because they know what consequences might happen to them. Most immigrants come to the states to work and build better futures for themselves and their families, not to cause trouble. Blaming them for crimes that were committed by U.S citizens is wrong, but our country chooses to ignore these issues and focus on issues that are less important. Researchers at the CATO Institute, a libertarian think tank, looked into Texas in 2019. They found that undocumented immigrants were 37.1% less likely to be convicted of a crime. (NPR.com)

Many immigrants have families and children who were born here making them American citizens. Kids are leaving for school only to get home to find that they have been taken away. Deporting parents

leaves these kids without support and a stable environment which will soon lead to poverty and homelessness. Breaking up families causes trauma and can make it harder for kids to live their day to day lives.

America was built by immigrants. People from all different countries came to the U.S to make better lives for themselves. What makes undocumented immigrants any different? They work hard, contribute to their communities and give the country diversity. The government should recognize their value and find ways to help them become official citizens of the U.S.

Some people believe that these poor undocumented immigrants are the cause of crime here in the U.S; the honest truth is that they help our economy. They are here for a better life and a chance to give their children the life they never had. Deporting them is going to destroy families, businesses, and our country's values. Instead of the government sending them back, they should try to create fair immigration policies, to help allow these families to continue their life here in America.

# Unblocked Games on School Computers

By **Antonio Sandoval** Staff Writer

Every day, a new site for free games is blocked by our district, taking away our freedom and escape from the prison known as our school. The constant struggle to find these pleasures extinguishes our spirit and crushes our souls, forced to embrace the cold bars of education. There has to be somewhere where our district hasn't placed its forbidding gaze, a paradise no one has yet to experience, and there is. Fully unblocked games on our Chromebooks, some of which would usually have to be paid for, are now free to the student mass.

Maybe you're addicted to something a bit different, such as Block Blast. Well, there's a website for you, HOODA MATH. They offer Block Blast, Flappy Bird, Geometry Dash, car and bike games, clicker games, the entire Papa franchise, and much more.

URL here:  
<https://www.hoodamath.com/games/unblocked.html#gsc.tab=0>

Not enough to keep you occupied? You need more to satisfy your soul that craves unblocked games? Or perhaps more substance, well then MathTest is the place you belong. They have a smaller selection but much higher quality, with titles such as Five Nights At Freddy's which would usually cost \$4.99 on Steam, Paper.io 2, Cookie Clicker, Temple Run 2, Duck Life, Fireboy And Watergirl, Fruit Ninja, Flappy Bird, and more.

URL here:  
<https://lesson-1-guru.pages.dev/>

Still not enough? Well you are in luck, there is a place for that, an oasis called github.io. Imagine 420 games, some of the nobility are Pizza Tower which would be \$19.99 on Steam, Minecraft Java Edition(yes the full game) which would usually be \$26.99, the ENTIRE Riddle School franchise which would be \$9.99, Subway Surfers, Bloons Tower Defense 1, 2, and 4, Baldi's Basics, Jetpack Joyride, Galaga, Super Mario, Super Mario 64, and SO MUCH MORE.

URL here:  
<https://quiz-30.github.io/>

Though these games are very fun and these sites are addictive, it's only a matter of time before our district blocks these, and it's time for

us to find a new site. That's the fun part though, there is always bound to be an unblocked game website our district hasn't laid its gaze upon yet, it's just up to us as a student body to find it.

Of course, not allowing games is not just a district policy, but the policy is based upon several federal Acts: The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires schools and libraries to filter the internet to protect children from harmful content. The Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) would require online platforms to protect children from harm and limit addictive features. Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) - Requires K-12 schools and libraries to filter the internet Requires policies to protect children from harmful content Requires instruction, supervision, and monitoring for minors Requires safe access to online forums, chat rooms, and instant messaging Prohibits the disclosure of personal information about children without authorization Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) - Requires online platforms to protect children from harm Requires platforms to limit addictive features Requires platforms to provide options to protect children's information Requires platforms to limit other users from communicating with children Requires platforms to default to the safest settings possible for accounts believed to belong to minors Includes parental tools to restrict purchases and financial transactions

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) - protects children's privacy by giving parents control over what information is collected from their children online.



The hacker in front of his computer wouldn't be allowed at Cypress High. (Photo by Getty Images/iStockphoto)