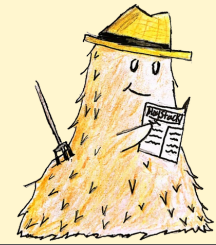




# HAYSTACK

HHS Journalism, Room A-13



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Newsletter - Staff Interview Edition

Vol. 1, Issue 14

April 7 2026

## Staff Interview: Mr. Lipping the Farmer vs Mr. Lipping the Teacher

By Lola McGinnis

Everyone knows that each new year comes with another senior class graduating but in the realm of HHS, there's something different this year. Not only is the class of 2026 graduating this year but in a way a well-known teacher around campus will also be graduating, or in other words, retiring. Mr. Lipping, a well-liked teacher here at HHS known for teaching AP Government, AP Macroeconomics, and a part of the AVID program, will be saying goodbye this year along with our current senior class. Fortunately, I was able to get an interview him on his retirement plans and to reflect back on his time as a teacher. Here's what he had to say:

### How long have you been teaching for?

"This is my twenty-third year teaching at Hayward High School. It's my twenty-third year teaching so my whole career has been spent at Hayward High."

### Why did you decide to retire now?

"Number one, um, starting to feel my mortality. I'm getting old, and my body's starting to break down and...there's things I'd actually like to do while I'm still young enough to enjoy them. There's a lot of places I would like to travel to with my wife."

"Another reason is that it's getting very hard to teach government these days...I teach AP Government and it gets a little frustrating, trying to teach government when I have to say, 'this is how the government is supposed to work' and 'this is what College Board wants you to know, but we're [the government] not doing that right now.'"

"It makes me feel like a liar and I don't like paying attention to the government anymore and I don't like teaching stuff [about the government] that is not technically true anymore."

### What do you plan to do with all the free time?

"Well I inherited a farm from my grandparents a while back and it was a working farm but since, you know, I work full time, and it's one hundred miles away, so it's kind of gone into disrepair or whatever...I would actually like to restore it to its former glory."

"I used to be pretty handy. I used to know how to do stuff, like, you know, fixing things and stuff, and since I've been teaching for the last twenty-three years, I haven't had much of an opportunity to do that [fix things]. So in addition to travel, I would like to start fixing up the farm I inherited from my grandparents."

### Do you think you'll miss teaching?

"Oh, absolutely. I'm gonna miss teaching. Um, I am lucky. I don't think there's a whole lot of people that end up doing what they're supposed to do and teaching was obviously what I was supposed to do because I like doing it. I also seem to be pretty good at it."

"...when I look back at it, I am going to have fond memories of it. Because uh, I don't know. You know the old saying, you know, 'if you do what you love, you're not really working. Well that's not exactly true because I worked a lot but I did really enjoy it.'"

### What's something you'll miss about teaching?

"Honestly I'm gonna miss the kids...I'm gonna miss my students."

"The thing I actually liked about teaching, I think is one of the things that made me good at it, is that I actually like hanging out and interacting with you knuckleheads, you know? It's fun to me."

### What's something you liked about teaching at HHS?

"I've always said this...the kids at Hayward High...are the most accepting kids and nice kids that I've ever been around."

"...Hayward is so diverse. And there are, you know, people that are neurodivergent...people that are LGBTQ...just these different groups of people...never actually seen [non-accepting people] and I know it happens, okay? But everyone gets accepted...Hayward kids are the nicest and most accepting kids that I've been around and I'm going to miss that too."

### Any advice for the class of 2026 (as your last "official" class)?

"Number one, follow your dreams but make sure that you always have a solid backup plan. You know, I'm not saying you can't be a professional athlete or an actor...and if that's what you want to do, then do it. But you got to be real. You need money in life so you have to have a solid backup plan."

"The other thing is, and I am fortunate in this, you know, I'm just a teacher but I'm retiring young, I think. And the reason that I was able to do so is because I've always lived like, what I would say is 'live like you're broke'."

"If you do that you'll be okay but a lot of people don't do that, you know? And that's America in general. It's not just you guys."



Mr. Lipping [Photo by: Yoli]

## CSO Blanton, Security Around Campus

By: Josh Cook

Recently, I had the pleasure of interviewing Campus Security Officer Chris Blanton. The following text is a transcript of our interview, covering the most significant matters surrounding this job.

### So what made you want to be a CSO?

"I didn't originally know I wanted to be a CSO until I started doing the job. I had a friend who recommended me for the job, so I applied for it and I got it. Once I got it, I felt like this is something I'm good at. Now I've always worked with kids, but I worked with at risk kids, the youth, working in facilities, or transitional housing, working for the county and San Mateo and San Francisco County. So I've always worked with kids. I just always worked with kids that had... I don't want to say issues, but they had things that developed in the inner city community and these things develop into bigger issues like gangs, drugs, and things like that. So from there, when I got here, it turned out to be something that I really enjoyed doing"

### What action have you had to take up in the past in order to secure the campus?

"Well, we've had guns on campus. We've had violence on campus.. And we've had to act.. We've had to evacuate classrooms and put all the kids in what we consider a safe space. We've had to deal with situations where it wasn't possible to evacuate, and the kids are in a space that can turn into something that you don't want it to turn to, so there's been a lot of things that we've had to do. So to say how I've been working, its always been to create a safe environment or to act without any type of preparation for things that happen in a moment."

### Speaking of which, how eventful would you say being a CSO is?

"I think that depends on the person. For me it's eventful because I'm social. I like working with the kids. I like talking to them. Kind of invested in their, in their present and their future, if you could say that. So for me, it's eventful every day.

### How much do you care for the students you protect?

"That's why I'm doing what I do.. Not just for their safety, their physical safety, but for their mental safety, the safety of their future and everything else. I'm hoping that I can contribute a little bit to whatever it is that they do. Hopefully, I've said something, I've done something, that they can, you know, say in the future, "hey, you know, you would always believe in me", or "this dude pushed me to do things that I didn't think I can do". You know, even if it's just a little small part of it, I appreciate it"

*\*Continued on the back\**

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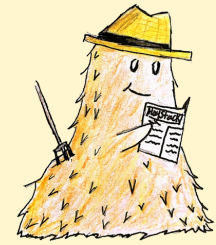
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**So would you say that you feel appreciated enough?**

"I feel appreciated, yes. And not to mention the fact that I understand that jobs like this don't always come with a showing of appreciation. You know what I mean? When you do things that other people don't really understand, they don't know to appreciate you, you're just a part of the machine. So I don't expect it, but fortunately here, we actually get it."



**CSO Chris Barton**  
[Photo by: Yoli]

## Interview: Mr. Regan Talks Taylor Swift & Coffee

By: Rudy Rosas Perez

In this interview, I had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Regan to learn more on his interest of Taylor Swift and coffee.

**When did you first become a Taylor Swift fan?**

"Probably sometime in college, somebody played her music so like 2008 or 2009."

**What was the first Taylor Swift song or album that really stood out to you?**

"The album that really stood out to me was the *1989* album because it was one of her big albums."

**What makes Taylor Swift different from other artists in your opinion?**

"I mean not so much now, but then I mean there was so much sex appeal with like Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera that she wasn't just like a sex symbol."

**Why do you think Taylor Swift has stayed popular for so long?**

"I think it's because she's changed her music so many times and kind of stayed out of any sort of controversy. The funny thing is, that I'm much bigger 49ers fan than I am a Taylor Swift fan so when she got engaged to Travis Kelce, I truly liked her just a little bit less than I did before she was engaged to Kelce."

**Why do you like coffee so much?**

"Coffee is the best beverage that there is um it gives you energy it just tastes good and gives you energy. I didn't even like coffee till I was like 24ish until I had my first real job and everyone was like 'Oh you gotta have coffee in the morning it'll help the work day go by better' and I was like 'Okay, I'll try it' and it's the best."

## Staff Interview: The Curious Secrets of Ms. Walker

By: Isla Salgado

There are many aspects that we take for granted and Ms. Walker's contributions are one of them. When asked about her go-to genres or simply underrated genres, Walker expounds her love for historical fiction. While Walker loves literature, she enjoys so many other forms of media, most notably plays. Additionally, Walker's role extends outside of being a high school librarian by being the union leader of AEOTE. I went to chat with Walker about some of her most loved novels, the joys of being a librarian, and her great efforts as a union leader and chair of two statewide committees. **Spoiler alert!** You're about to find a treasure trove of new books to indulge in.



**Ms. Walker**  
[Photo by: Rudy]

**What are your go-to genres or what book genres do you think are underrated?**

"Ooh genres I think are underrated are historical fiction. I love historical fiction. I think that it's a great way to learn about the experience of history and not just the facts of what occurred, I also like something called the nonfiction novel. Which is something [that occurred] but the writing style matches more like a fiction even though it is not. I like poetry prose, which is like a standard paragraph essay but the way that it's written reminds people of poetry. I both love reading that genre as well as writing it myself. Most students check out fiction for pleasure reading...but I feel like there's a lot of other genres that are fun to read, particularly poetry. Even what we call companion books. A companion book is when you have two books on the same topic with different genres. For instance, if a student reads a historical fiction [on the] Great Depression, then the student would read a nonfiction book set in the Great Depression. But it can be as simple as a student reading a book where all the characters are Filipino American and then they find a non-fiction book about Filipino Americans. I also love plays. I think that it's really exciting to read a play or even read it with some friends almost acting it out. We have such a wonderful theater program at Hayward High and [talented instructor] Mr. Kammet. But I don't see students check out plays as much as I like."

**What is a tip that you would give to students that are aspiring to write whether poetry or a novel?**

"Read! Reading poems or novels written by others can be a great source of inspiration. I also encourage students to dedicate some time every week to write, even if their schedule only allows a brief period of time for this endeavor. If you can write every day, even better!"

**You've done so much! And I just heard that you are part of the teacher's union... is that true?**

"So, I'm actually in a separate union. There's the Hayward Education Association, and teachers, counselors, they're in that union. I'm in what's called the Association of Office, Educational and Technical Employees (AEOTE). They are different unions. AEOTE represents educational and technical workers, like secretaries or the people that work in offices, people who do tech work, educational workers like the library and the college and career center[...] We're two separate unions in Hayward but we are both part of California Teachers Association and we're both part of the same national union which is the National Educational Association. I've also done a lot of work there."

**What is something that you want people to know about you?**

"I'm what you call, 'Made in Hayward' meaning born and raised in Hayward. I only briefly lived away from Hayward when I was living in San Francisco and attending San Francisco State but part of my time there I was commuting, so I just really love this city. I love this school. I think we have an amazing city and an amazing school. I'm just fortunate enough to live here, vote here, be an educator here, and get involved with the community here. That is [a bit] about me. If you have any questions about Hayward or our school. I welcome anyone, student or staff to come by. Let people know--I know that it was featured in [a past article] that we do have a Hayward High museum in the back of my office--if any staff or students are interested in the history of our wonderful school that's been in existence since 1892--shoot me an email to come visit or just stop by!"

*If you're interested in exploring the library or looking to discover new content, here are some of Ms. Walker's favorite works to start off with:*

- Fiction - Café con Lychee, by Emery Lee
- Short Story Collection - Ab(solutely) Normal; Short Stories That Smash Mental Health Stereotypes (multiple writers)
- Poetry - Inheritance: A Visual Poem, by Elizabeth Acevedo
- Play (Theater) - Novio Boy, by Gary Soto
- Memoir - Americanized: Rebel Without A Green Card, by Sara Saedi
- Non-Fiction - Carry On Tradition, by Tyson Amir

*\*Full interviews on our website [farmerhaystack.com](http://farmerhaystack.com) !\**