HAYSTACK
HHS Journalism, Room A-13

Hayward High School
1633 East Ave, Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 723-3170

visit farmerhaystack.com
hhs.haystack

Newsletter
Vol. 2, Issue 3
October 19, 2026

Class Of 2027 Wins DTR Back To Back!

By Briana Rosas Bojorquez, Adriana Nuñez Sanchez, Wagma Masood, and Channtal Manalastas

On October 9, the Class of 2027 surprised everyone with another win at the rally. Downtown Rally (DTR), a memorable event at Hayward High School that takes place every October, has seen the senior class win year after year. Many students believed the event was rigged in favor of seniors because it was their last year before graduation. However, the Class of 2027 challenged that belief when they won DTR as juniors in 2025. Their victory was unexpected enough that the Class of 2026 was disappointed to lose a win they had been looking forward to. Now, during the 2026–2027 school year, the Class of 2027 has shown up and come away once again with a DTR victory.

Because they had already won as juniors, many seniors weren't as worried about winning this year. Instead, they focused on enjoying the rally and spending time with their friends. Some students shared that they like DTR because it gives them a break from classes and a chance to enjoy time with their classmates. Rather than stressing over the competition, they were able to enjoy the experience without feeling like they had to win.

Even though they weren't purposely trying to win this year, the Class of 2027 ended up placing first in the float, parade, banner, bleacher, and judges' table categories. They won five of the seven categories, earning another DTR victory in 2026. The back-to-back win gave students plenty to celebrate, with many feeling proud of their class and congratulating one another on their hard work. The other classes also had strong showings, with the freshmen and juniors taking first place in other categories and the juniors placing second in most categories.



Class Of 2027 Marching With Pride
photo by Mr. Gonsalves

Class Of 2028 Takes First In DTR Dance

By Elizabeth Enriquez, Ashley Espinosa, Aaron Reyes-Nino, Odaly Rodriguez, and Daisie Rivas

On October 9, 2026, the junior class of 2028 at Hayward High School was announced as the first-place winner for its DTR dance performance. Their dance was themed around Avatar: The Last Airbender, and they successfully incorporated multiple aspects of the show into their performance. The four elements, audio from the show itself, and well-organized, interesting choreography helped the juniors win through their hard work and effort. We interviewed two juniors, Ricardo Sanz and Isabella Banuelos, to hear their opinions and personal experiences and learn how the juniors were able to achieve their victory.

Ricky Sanz

What were some challenges that arose during the choreography planning?

Ricky explained that planning was challenging because the dance came together at the last minute. He said, “Believe it or not, the dance this year ended up coming together pretty last minute,” and some students had to teach themselves the choreography while he was absent.

How long did it take to learn the choreography?

Ricky explained that some participants started learning “the week before or even the week of DTR.” Since he was absent for almost a week, students had to work together to learn the dance and practice the choreography.

What was your favorite part of the dance?

Ricky shared that he loves participating because it gives students a chance to “be goofy and have fun” while showing their school spirit.

How did you all come up with the idea of using different elements in the dance?

Ricky explained, “since this year's theme was Avatar: The Last Airbender, each song ended up representing one of the four elements.”

“We're only in high school once, and we likely won't have chances to do things like these ever again, so I encourage everyone to participate in future DTRs in any way you can.”

Isabella Banuelos

How long did it take you to learn the choreography?

“It took me a day because it was Ricky’s last day before he left for Hawaii and we went over it all in the span of an hour. It’s okay. I liked the choreo and he made it easy for everyone.”

What were some challenges that you had during the choreography planning?

“I had challenges with certain moves like with Rock Your Body and Starships because I kept forgetting which way to go or how to get to the other side of my partner, but overall not much challenges.”

HAYSTACK
HHS Journalism, Room A-13

Hayward High School
1633 East Ave, Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 723-3170

visit farmerhaystack.com
hhs.haystack

Newsletter
Vol. 2, Issue 3
October 19, 2026



The Junior Dance
photo by Mr. Tolbert



Varsity Cheers' DTR Performance
Photo by Mr. Gonsalves

What were your favorite parts of the dance?
"Definitely Water, Party Rock Anthem (specifically the break dancing part), and the beginning of Starships (where it's Kaizen, Andrea, Ameera, and I). Oh I didn't do this part but I love Andrea's cabbage merchant reference that comes after Water!"

The juniors continued doing their best by practicing and pushing themselves until they got the moves right. Their performance included a mix of hip-hop moves, smooth transitions, and tumbling across the gym, which made their dance more entertaining to watch. All their time, teamwork, and dedication could be seen in how organized and confident they looked during the performance. Even though some of the choreography came together at the last minute, the juniors worked together to learn the moves and make sure everything came together for DTR.

Their performance showed how much effort they put into making their dance stand out from the other classes. From incorporating the four elements to adding different dance styles and memorable moments, the juniors made their Avatar: The Last Airbender theme their own. Their ability to work together and keep practicing helped them put on a performance that impressed the audience and earned them first place.

In the end, their hard work paid off when they were announced as the first-place winners of the DTR dance. Congratulations to the junior class of 2028!

Class Of 2030 Steps Up At DTR

By Camila Torres, Alisson Santiago-Garcia, and Jayden Jean-Louis
The freshmen's underrated takeover! The Class of 2030 brought some amazing energy to DTR, more than anyone expected. They were loud, excited, and made sure everyone knew they were there. They came pretty close to matching the seniors' energy, which is impressive for their first DTR at Hayward High!

Prior to the rally, we asked freshman Nazanin Miakhail about her idea of DTR and what it means to her. She explained, "DTR is when all the students march downtown and have a rally. Then, that same day there is a football game. DTR is basically showing school spirit and showing up and showing out for your class."

With so many students showing up, the rally was packed with excitement and school spirit. The freshmen did a good job making sure their class was heard. Their Grinch-themed float also helped them stand out.

The frosh cheerleaders also did an amazing job at the rally. They brought a lot of energy to their performance and helped keep not only their own section excited, but the other sections excited as well.

The freshmen ended up placing fourth, but they had the energy to place higher, considering the effort and enthusiasm they brought to DTR. Hopefully, they keep that same energy for next year's rally and come back even stronger. They have plenty of time to improve and build on what they did this year. The Class of 2030 has a lot of potential, and we hope they can stay dedicated and rise up the ranks in the future at DTR!



Class Of 2030 Showing Their School Spirit
photo by Mr. Gonsalves

HAYSTACK
HHS Journalism, Room A-13

Hayward High School
1633 East Ave, Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 723-3170

visit farmerhaystack.com
hhs.haystack

Newsletter
Vol. 2, Issue 3
October 19, 2026

History of DTR

By Elijah Yamanaka, Terrence Sorn, and Mai'loni Thompson

On October 9, 2026, the senior class of 2027 secured its second DTR victory in a row. The last time a class achieved back-to-back wins was the Class of 2020, six years ago. This achievement raises an interesting question: What classes have won DTR more than once?

For 103 years, Hayward High School has held its annual Downtown Rally (DTR), a tradition filled with creativity, class colors, and unique themes. Each class gets its own color and theme, which helps them show off their class spirit. For example, in 2005, the junior and senior class colors were red and blue, while today, the juniors are orange and the seniors are purple. Each class also gets to vote on its theme, leading to a wide variety of ideas over the years. In 2012, the themes included The Hulk, Candyland, Friday the 13th, and Cirque du Freak. The junior class even had an interactive float that people could go inside.

Over the years, some themes have made a comeback. Shrek was used by the freshman class in both 2005 and 2024, while the Minions theme was used by the sophomore class in 2014, 2023, and 2026. Although themes may repeat, each class brings its own creativity to the event. For years, the senior class was known for taking home the win, but there have been a few exceptions. In 2019, the juniors won with their "Juniors of Pride Rock" theme based on The Lion King. Then, in 2025, the Class of 2027 broke the seniors' five-win streak with their Wreck-It Ralph theme.

They followed that victory with another win on October 9, 2026, using a Disney Villains theme. Winning two years in a row is a rare accomplishment that shows how much school spirit and creativity the Class of 2027 brought to DTR.

Overall, DTR has been a big part of Hayward High's school spirit for years. Every class gets a chance to show its creativity through its themes, colors, and hard work. Looking back at past winners shows how memorable these victories can be, especially when a class wins more than once. With the Class of 2027 now earning back-to-back victories, they've added another memorable moment to DTR history. It will be interesting to see which class wins next year and whether anyone can match their achievement.



A Photo Collection of Freshmen DTR Themes
photo by Briana Rosas Bojorquez

How Was the Homecoming Dance?

By Yousif Najm

How was Homecoming? That's what people who didn't go might ask. Personally, I had a fun time. The music was okay, and there were some issues with the DJ, but that was really it.

Terrence, a senior who attended, said, "I didn't like how some of the younger people were being disrespectful. The DJ played good music, though."

Christina shared a similar opinion, saying, "I thought Homecoming was OK. It was kind of boring, but it was still fun with my friends. The little fake mosh pits they were doing were funny to watch, but they kind of got annoying after a bit because we were just, like, dancing. Yeah, I left early with my friends, and we went and did something else, but yeah, I had a fun time!"

Overall, Homecoming was a fun experience for many students, even though there were a few issues with the DJ and some students' behavior. While some found the event boring, others enjoyed dancing and spending time with their friends. Despite the mixed opinions, Homecoming gave students a chance to hang out, have fun, and make memories outside the classroom.



The DJ Booth
photo by Yocelin Guerra

HAYSTACK
HHS Journalism, Room A-13

Hayward High School
1633 East Ave, Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 723-3170

visit farmerhaystack.com
hhs.haystack

Newsletter
Vol. 2, Issue 3
October 19, 2026

Flag Football Deserves More

By Gisela Armenta - *Guest Writer*

We're 15-2-1, yet nobody sees us. Being an underrated team in an underrated sport makes us feel like underrated athletes, so it's hard to get the recognition we deserve. We work hard, play hard, and win, but playing flag football, you'll see a lot of adversity, like being compared to boys or other sports who seem to get more attention or opportunities. Flag football is an amazing, growing sport, yet our team sees no recognition for our accomplishments, and I bet you if we were boys, we would.

Every game, in the bleachers, there's a maximum of 20 people supporting us. It is discouraging to women and girls everywhere to have very few people show up for a game that they would've shown up for if boys or men were playing it. Not to throw shade, because girls flag football and girls soccer (sports I am proudly a part of) have definitely had their losses and downs, but overall, you see so many more people showing up to boys' games in general, win or lose. Girls' sports and girls/women in general are just as good as men and even better, so I don't see why we as a society and community still don't see that fact.

And going on the topic of losing and not showing up or not growing as a society, why do girls'/women's teams have to be defined by one game or player? Girls soccer loses one game, and all of a sudden, we suck? It makes no sense, but the boys' team loses, and it's because "the other team was simply better" or "it wasn't our day." This double standard is infuriating.

I can't speak too much about other girls' sports at our school since I haven't played them, and I definitely know in general certain sports just receive less attention overall, but I do know that for the most part, across our school and the world, girls/women receive less recognition for their achievements than they should.

I write this not only for the people at Hayward High School but for everyone. We need to do better. We cannot keep this mentality going that "boys are better than girls" or that "girls can't be as good as boys" and even say ridiculous things like "girls' sports are so boring." We need to come to the realization that these generalizations are coming from viewpoints of mainly men who hate to see a woman succeed and do better than them. So next time you think about paying $8 to see the football games, think about spending $5 for the flag football game, because I promise you it will be more significant for us than you think.



Hayward Girls' Flag Football Players At Midfield
photo by Louis Joung

Hayward Vs. Windsor

By Dawn Uslanghi - *Guest Writer*

On September 19th, 2026, the Hayward High football team faced Windsor High School in Windsor, CA. They had a competitive matchup between both teams. This matchup tested them as a team and showed them the little things that the team needs to work on. While Hayward High unfortunately did end up falling short, with the score being 42-39, they had many strong moments on offense and defense. Players and coaches both said that there is room for improvement and that they will be working on those things for future games and for when they face Windsor again next year on the Farm.

Sam Tamale, Right Guard No. 68, said that he felt he played well overall but also knows that there is room for improvement. "I did really well at the game, but there's room for many improvements," Tamale said. Looking ahead to the Hayward High-Windsor matchup next year on the Farm, he hopes to become not only a better football player but also a better teammate. Tamale also emphasized the importance of the team improving its communication and being able to scan the entire field better to see the open players.

Yosgar Ramirez, Kicker No. 10, said one of the team's biggest challenges was being able to maintain its focus when Hayward was in the lead. He stated that the team needed to remember that the game was not over and that there was still time left on the clock. Ramirez said that he was motivated to play this game because of the team and the team's dynamic. He said that he felt he gave his best possible effort and worked to help out his team.

Diego Altamirano, Center No. 58, said that he relied on the keys and techniques that the coaches had provided him with during both the season and offseason. Altamirano stated that the team needs to learn how to keep its composure when it has the lead. Instead of the team letting up when the score is in its favor, he said that the team needs to keep playing as if Hayward's score were still lower.

HAYSTACK
HHS Journalism, Room A-13

Hayward High School
1633 East Ave, Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 723-3170

visit farmerhaystack.com
hhs.haystack

Newsletter
Vol. 2, Issue 3
October 19, 2026



Hayward Playing Against Windsor
photo by Ellis Reavis



Some Football Players Photographed
photo by Ellis Reavis

Jaydyn Irving, Quarterback No. 12, stated that he prepared for the matchup by watching film every night until around midnight and sometimes even later than that. Irving said that his biggest challenge as a quarterback was not starting off fast enough and not having the right energy at the start of the game. Irving said that Hayward needs to be more "poised" and that they need to make sure to keep a level head, especially when they have the lead.

Coach Quinn Perry, varsity defensive coordinator, said that the team stayed strong and continued to fight. He said that the team "rode the waves," but when the score was in Hayward's favor, they got too excited. Coach Perry explained that the team still has things to work on, especially maintaining focus and composure when leading. Despite the loss, he believes Hayward High still has a good record and that he has a good football team in his hands.

The game against Windsor gave the Hayward players and coaches things to work on and build from. Starting with better communication, maintaining focus and composure when in the lead, and being able to focus and compete at their best throughout the game. Setting all of these challenges aside, the players and coaches are going to remain focused on improving and becoming a stronger team.

Welcome to Hayward High's Music Scene!

By Ale Cervantes Fernandez - *Guest Writer*

Music is a central component of campus life at Hayward High School, providing students with opportunities to develop technical skills, perform publicly, and collaborate with peers. The curriculum is managed through the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Department and accommodates a variety of musical styles and experience levels.

The band curriculum allows students to participate in three distinct formats throughout the school year. During the fall semester, students form the Marching Band, known as the Marching Farmers, to display their marching and musical skills at school events (like DTR) and band reviews. At home football games, these same musicians perform as the Pep Band to provide entertainment from the stands. Following the conclusion of football season, the ensemble transitions into the Concert Band. This phase of the course focuses on a variety of symphonic repertoire, helping students improve their intonation, sight-reading, and ensemble mechanics ahead of competition evaluations. For students interested in specialized styles, the school offers a Jazz Band class. This ensemble covers swing, blues, funk, ballads, and more while introducing the foundational principles of improvisation and solo performance.

The String Orchestra serves as the primary ensemble for viola, violin, cello, and double bass players. Students in this class work on bow technique, section blending, and music notation while also rehearsing a variety of orchestral arrangements.

The instrumental ensembles are directed by Mr. Tocco. In addition to the performance ensembles, he offers elective courses in Guitar and Audio Production Engineering. Through this diverse combination of traditional performance and hands-on technical training, Hayward High fosters a vibrant musical community where every student can find their artistic voice.



Hayward High's Jazz Band At The NCBA Festival On May 9th, 2026
photo from Ale Cervantes Fernandez

HAYWARD HIGH FARMERS EST. 1892

HAYSTACK

HHS Journalism, Room A-13

Hayward High School
1633 East Ave, Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 723-3170

visit farmerhaystack.com
hhs.haystack

Newsletter
Vol. 2, Issue 3
October 19, 2026

What Is The College And Career Center?

By Aaron Reyes-Nino

What happens there? The staff who work in the College and Career Center help students with many things, including college applications and researching colleges, scholarships and financial aid, finding jobs and internships, resumes and job applications, career planning and exploring different careers, and work permits for students under 18. Sometimes, college representatives also visit to talk with students about their schools.

One of the main reasons students visit the College and Career Center is to get work permits. Many students start looking for jobs during their sophomore or junior year to save up money for college. Honestly, having a job is a great way to save money and take some financial stress off yourself. You also gain new experiences, learn skills you might not have learned in school, and have fun along the way.

For example, I decided to get a job toward the end of my sophomore year. One reason was that I was always at home and felt like I wasn't using my time wisely. I ended up talking to Mr. Adams, who helps students improve their resumes so businesses can see their experience and the effort they put into their applications. Before that, I didn't even know that community service hours could be included on a resume. Adding experiences like these can make your resume more interesting to employers and show them that you're willing to put in effort.

Overall, the College and Career Center is a useful resource for students who want to prepare for their future. Whether you're looking for a job, trying to improve your resume, or planning for college, the staff can help you get started. Taking advantage of these resources now can make the process of finding a job and preparing for college much easier later on.



The College And Career Center
photo by Aaron Reyes-Nino

Journalism Staff

Editors In Chief
Camila T.
Alisson S.
Managing Editor
Channtal M.
Local Editor
Ashley E.
Op/Ed Editor
Elijah Y.
Entertainment Editor
Estrella C.
Sports Editor
Wagma M.

Website Coordinator
Briana R.
Photography Coordinators
Elizabeth E.
Terrence S.
Social Coordinator
Mai'loni T.
Staff Writers
Yousif N.
Adriana N.
Jabari N.
Jayden J.
Daisie R.
Odaly R.
Aaron R.

Upcoming Video Games

By Elizabeth Enriquez

As this year is coming to a close, these last few months have been filled with hype and excitement. There are so many video games releasing soon that it's almost impossible to know what'll come up next. So here is a list of a few hyped up games that'll be releasing in the next couple of months so that you can see which ones you'll like the most as we sit back and wait.

Castlevania: Belmont's Curse: An action-adventure game that's a part of the Castlevania franchise. Released on October 15, 2026, this game's story takes place as a continuation of Castlevania III: Dracula's Curse and Castlevania: Curse of Darkness over two decades later in 1499 where you'll follow Rose Belmont, a young vampire hunter and successor of her vampire hunter father, Trevor Belmont (the protagonist of Castlevania III: Dracula's Curse) who's on a mission to save Paris from destruction as it's being overrun by monsters.

The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time (Remake): An upcoming action-adventure remake of the original 1998 version that was released for the Nintendo 64. Coming out on November 5, 2026, it keeps the same gameplay and premise of the original story, where you'll be following Link as he explores the land of Hyrule and travels through time to defeat the antagonist Ganondorf. With brand new graphics, this remake will surely live up to the legacy of its original version.

Grand Theft Auto VI (GTA 6): A very highly anticipated action adventure game that's a part of the popular Grand Theft Auto franchise. Releasing on November 19, 2026 after being delayed twice, the game is a single-player open world where you can do whatever your heart desires, whether it be messing with NPCs, stealing cars, robbing different establishments, etc. But as you play the game, your character's actions will be judged on your actions, determining any in-game consequences that may arise. Being such an awaited game, so much so that it's become an infamous meme, GTA 6 will most likely keep breaking the internet once it releases as it's been doing for the past couple of months now.