HAYSTACK

HHS Journalism, Room A-13

Hayward High School
1633 East Ave, Hayward, CA 94541
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Newsletter
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What Happened To Farmer Fred?

By Vanessa Molina - *Guest Writer*

As the new 2026-2027 school year kicks off, students have noticed something is missing, particularly someone. Hayward High's beloved mascot, Farmer Fred, has been missing. Word has spread quickly across campus that Farmer Fred's head went missing over summer break and likely won't return until next school year. Many are left wondering: What exactly happened to Farmer Fred's head? Was it lost, stolen or simply misplaced? These questions have been circulating among students, fueling curiosity and concern. Students are also asking what they can do to help bring Farmer Fred back. During Hayward High's first home game, an inflatable chicken stood in as a replacement to keep the crowd spirited. Although it helped keep the crowd cheering, it just wasn't the same.

For Hayward High, the temporary loss of Farmer Fred is more than just a missing mascot. Farmer Fred holds historical significance for the school, rooted in Hayward's agricultural history. Over the years, Farmer Fred has been the face of Hayward High school spirit, keeping students excited to participate.

To keep that spirit alive, plans are being made to create a paper-mâché head while waiting for a new one next school year.

Farmer Fred's head may be gone for now, but that doesn't mean school spirit has to disappear too. Whether you have information about what happened or want to help bring back the mascot, every student can make a difference. Let's work together to make sure Farmer Fred returns and keep Hayward High's spirit alive in the meantime.



Farmer Fred And The Cheer Squad
photo from Vanessa Molina



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Advice For Hayward High Freshmen

By London Pitchford - *Guest Writer*

Coming to high school as a freshman is such an experience. There's so much to learn about and so many new faces to meet. It's also one of your biggest opportunities to get out of your shell. As a senior looking back at my freshman year, there was so much growth throughout the school year, and I definitely learned a lot about myself on my journey. I think I've had the high school experience, and I want to give you tips and advice so you can have as much fun as I did.

To start this off, it's not as scary as your middle school teachers make high school seem. Yes, it's definitely intimidating, especially with the upperclassmen walking around. But in reality, we're all in our own worlds. We already have our own friends and things to worry about. I recommend coming to us upperclassmen for any help you need rather than trying too hard to fit in or make a good first impression. Speaking of fitting in, be yourself. You don't need to be someone else for people to like you. I promise there will be people who like you just the way you are. Come to high school with a positive mindset and just go with the flow.

Another thing I can guarantee is that your freshman year will be the easiest of all four years. The classes are simple, and teachers are usually more patient with you because you're new to high school. However, just because it's your first year doesn't mean you can just relax and stop turning in work. All the work will pile up, especially toward the end of a quarter or semester, and you might get overwhelmed or end up with a really bad grade. Build a relationship with your teachers and make a good impression. If they think you're lazy and don't put in any effort, they might not give you the benefit of the doubt and could give you a low grade, possibly an F.

A harsh reality is that you aren't going to stay friends with everyone from middle school. Let me rephrase that: you MOST LIKELY aren't going to stay friends with all the same people. People drift apart as they grow into different people. You might end up finding new hobbies and interests. My advice is to be open to making new friends who share the same interests and goals as you. Some of your friends might go down the wrong path or get involved with the wrong crowd. It's important to help them when you can, but you might have to separate yourself if their choices start affecting you. Being around the wrong crowd can put you in a bad situation.

One more thing I can say, which is also harsh, is that not everyone is your friend. There will be people who don't want to see you do well. Some might smile in your face and talk badly about you behind your back. It's better to have one real friend than 10 fake friends.

Wrapping this up, have fun and make memories. Enjoy your freshman year because I'll tell you right now, it does go by fast like everyone says. Be yourself and don't change for anyone.



Freshmen During DTR
photo by Mr. Gonsalves

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Recurring Concerns With Hayward High

By Jayce Collins - *Guest Writer*

For many students at Hayward High School, the school day comes with challenges beyond classes and homework. From limited bathroom access to long cafeteria lines and concerns about the student environment, these problems affect students' daily experiences and raise questions about what could be improved.

One student named Mai'loni expressed frustration with bathroom access and cafeteria lines. She explained that having only one bathroom open makes it difficult for students to use the restroom when needed. She also described how long lunch lines leave students with limited time to eat. According to Mai'loni, waiting too long makes it harder to get the food she actually wants. This shows how cafeteria organization can affect students' lunch breaks.

Another student named Jimena shared concerns about the people at Hayward High School. She believes student behavior can make the school environment uncomfortable. Problems such as gossip and disrespect can create tension between students. These situations can make it harder for people to feel accepted and focus on their schoolwork. Jimena's concerns highlight the importance of treating others with respect and creating an environment where students feel comfortable being themselves.

Another student, Gisela, discussed other possible issues, including crowded hallways and dirty bathrooms. She also mentioned that toilet paper and paper towels are not always restocked. These problems can make the school day more stressful and uncomfortable. Keeping shared spaces clean and making sure hallways are organized could help improve the school environment.

Although students have different concerns, their experiences show why student voices matter. Listening to students and considering practical solutions could help make Hayward High School a more comfortable and supportive place for everyone to learn.



Students Waiting For The Bathroom
photo by Jayden Jean-Louis

Introduction To Key Club

By Estrella Garcia Madrigal - *Guest Writer*

Looking for community service opportunities or even just a way to grow as a leader? Look no further! Key Club is a student-led organization that focuses on both. Students volunteer for local causes, take part in service projects and participate in school events. These opportunities take place in Hayward and beyond, giving students different ways to get involved.

The president of the club is Evolet Vargas. When asked why students should join, she explained, "People should join the club because they get a cord when they graduate, gain volunteer hours and help out the community."



Key Club Members
photo by Alondra Ibarra-Rios

The club is looking for new members who are interested in community service and want to grow as leaders in their community. "You make friends and you don't have to volunteer alone as you can always have someone by your side," stated outside vice president Evelyn Gallegos. The club usually meets every Wednesday at lunch, although the schedule may vary. Everyone is welcome, even if they are only slightly interested in joining.

Currently, there are several volunteer opportunities available to club members in Hayward and nearby areas. One option is park cleanups with the H.A.R.D. Foundation, where members help maintain local areas by picking up trash and pulling weeds. Students can also participate in monthly Keep Hayward Clean and Green city cleanups to help keep their communities clean.

Students interested in specific opportunities can contact President Evolet Vargas for more information. Community service can also strengthen college applications by showing leadership and involvement in the community. Even for students who aren't planning to attend college, volunteer experience can look good on a résumé or provide a way to spend time outside the house. With that being said, joining Key Club is a great way to get involved!

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Upcoming Theater Shows

By Estrella Chaires Beltran

Theater is pretty fun and funny when it comes to the actors and the audience, of course. This school year (2026-2027), there are a lot of fun shows coming up in the theater, all directed by Mr. Kammet himself.

On January 21 and 22 at 6 p.m. and January 23 at 2 p.m., *Dracula* will be showing at school. Then, on January 29 and 30 at 6 p.m., it will be performed in the PAC. This show is about Dracula, who moves from Transylvania to England to cause panic. He drinks people's blood, and clearly, someone needs to do something about it. Watch the show to find out more! Or ask Mr. Kammet.

On March 25, there will be the monologue show! A monologue features one person acting on stage. It's like a duologue, but now you're acting alone!

That's all the information I have about the shows for now. Mr. Kammet is still working hard to bring you more exciting performances for the rest of the year. Maybe Theater 2 will write the final play! Keep an eye out for additonal information if you're interested!



Design by Estrella Chaires Beltran
Inking by Elizabeth Enriquez



Theater 2 Students
photo by Estrella Chaires Beltran

Upcoming Movies

By Briana Rosas Bojorquez

Everyone knows teenagers love going out. What better way to spend time outside the house than watching a movie? Luckily for student film lovers, the upcoming theatrical season is packed with major releases that everyone can enjoy. If you're looking for a way to escape stress, head down to your local cinema for a fun night out.

Fans of cinematic universes can look forward to some beloved franchises returning with new stories. First up is "Godzilla Minus Zero," a highly anticipated follow-up to the Oscar-winning hit. Arriving in theaters on November 6, this release is making history as the first Japanese production in the franchise to be filmed for IMAX.





Posters For Jumanji: Open World

If you prefer jungles over monsters, "Jumanji: Open World" hits the big screen on December 25, which some might know as Christmas Day! What a fun way to spend time with family and have a laugh. This movie will be the final installment in the beloved "Jumanji" reboot series.

If you prefer stories that originated on bookshelves, Hollywood is also bringing more fan-favorite book adaptations to the big screen. The dystopian hit "The Hunger Games" is returning with "The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping," another prequel based on Suzanne Collins' book series. The film is set to arrive in theaters on November 20, and fans can look forward to the return of Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson. Their return brings back two familiar faces from the original films.

A month later, sci-fi fans can look forward to "Dune: Part Three," directed by Denis Villeneuve. Arriving in theaters on December 18, the film will continue the story based on Frank Herbert's 1969 novel "Dune Messiah." Villeneuve has also directed popular movies like "Blade Runner 2049" (2017) and "Enemy" (2013).

Whether you're looking for intense battles or a good comedy, the upcoming months have something for everyone. Grab your popcorn and bring your friends because there are plenty of movies worth seeing on the big screen!

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Why You Shouldn't Try To Be Like Others

By Isha Lal - *Guest Writer*

Many people, even us, sometimes compare ourselves to others. The comparison could be about anything, such as dressing a certain way, acting like someone else or trying to get better at something someone else is good at. Trying too hard to be like others can make you forget to enjoy life and appreciate the small things. Being yourself can help you live life to the fullest.

I interviewed one of my closest friends, Clip Howell Mediran, also known as Clippy, about being yourself. When I asked, "Have you ever tried to be like someone else?" he said, "Yes, I've tried to be like someone quite a lot in my life. Most notably Roger Federer. I just live the way he lives and plays tennis. I often try to incorporate his playstyle into mine. This is mostly because he inspires me to be better." He also explained that it's okay to be inspired by people, but comparing yourself to them in a negative way can affect your mindset and hold you back. I also asked, "What would you tell someone who feels like they need to be like everybody else?" He explained, "I would tell them being yourself is enough because you are the closest person to yourself. There will be no one else just like you and you are unique in your own way. Be yourself because everyone else is already taken." This shows that comparing yourself to others can make it harder to feel good about yourself.

The last person I interviewed was one of my best friends, Daniel Martinez. When I asked, "Have you ever tried to be like someone else? Why?" he said, "No, because I always thought why would you wanna be like others when you can just be yourself and be different." I also asked, "What would you tell someone who feels like they need to be like everybody else?" He answered, "I would tell them to be a wizard. To be different because that makes you unique. Being unique is what attracts people and opportunities to you." His answer shows how being yourself can help you stand out and feel more confident.

After talking to my closest friends, I learned that comparing yourself to other people can make you feel like you are not good enough. Everyone has different talents and interests. You do not have to be like others to be successful. It is okay to admire people and feel inspired by them, but if it starts affecting your mental health or the way you act every day, it may be time to take a step back and focus on yourself.



Pretending To Be Someone Else
photo by Elizabeth Enriquez

Game Review: The Last Of Us

By Amber Jacob Alimurong - *Guest Writer*

The Last of Us is a third-person survival horror game developed by Naughty Dog and published by Sony. The main characters are Joel Miller and Ellie Williams. The game takes place in a world devastated by a deadly infection. Joel, who lost his daughter, must take Ellie, a young girl who is immune to the virus, across the United States to a hospital where researchers hope to develop a cure. Along the way, they face dangerous infected creatures and other challenges.

One of the strongest parts of The Last of Us is the relationship between Joel and Ellie. At first, Joel sees Ellie as someone he needs to transport and protect. As they travel together, they grow closer and begin to rely on each other. Their bond makes the story more emotional and gives players a reason to care about what happens.

The gameplay also makes the experience engaging. Players explore abandoned areas to find supplies and manage their resources carefully. Since supplies are limited, players have to think about how they handle dangerous situations.

Overall, The Last of Us is a great game for people who enjoy survival horror and story-driven games. Its characters and challenging gameplay keep players invested from beginning to end.



The Last Of Us Game



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Inking by Estrella Chaires Beltran

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