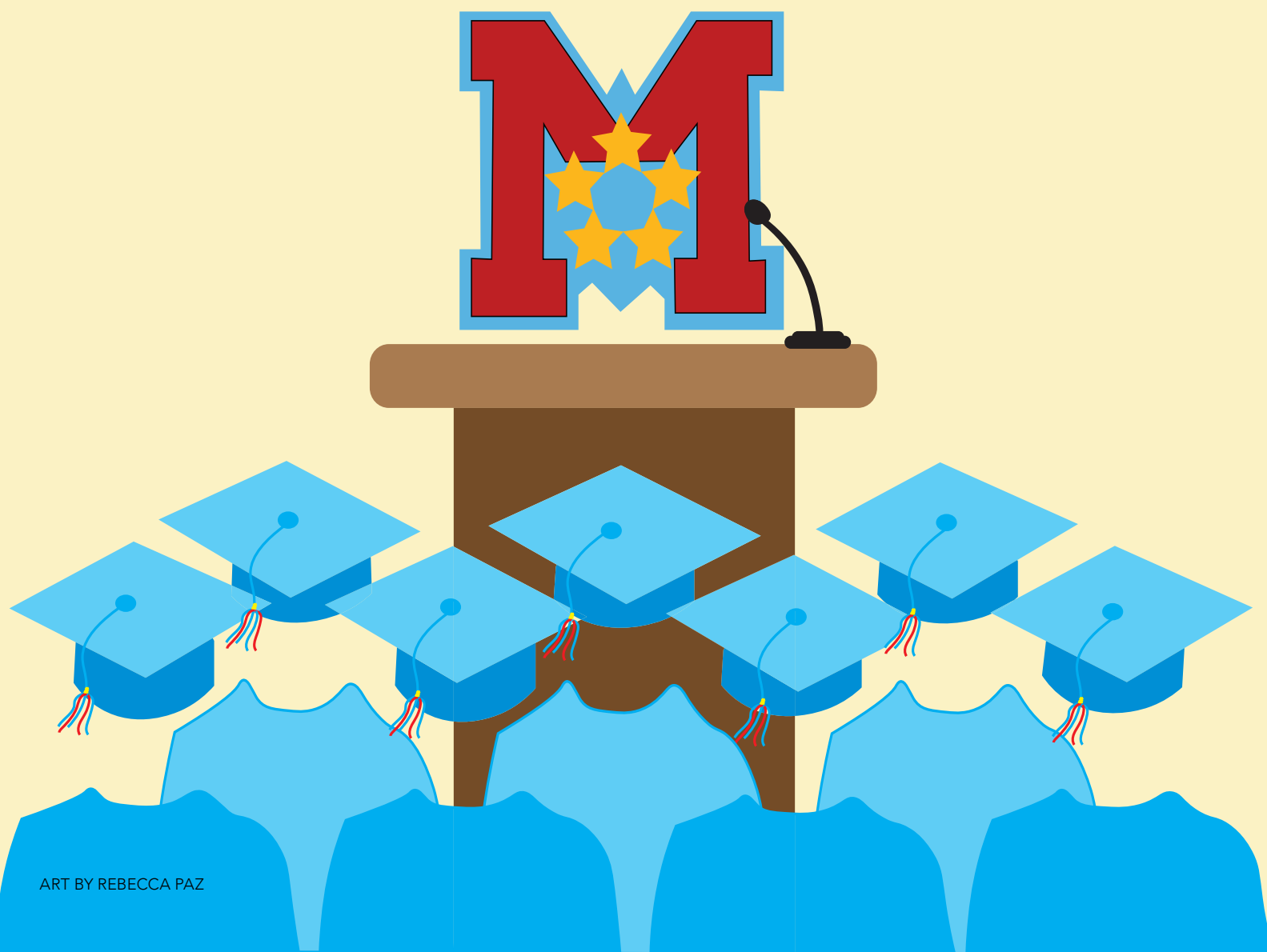


# rank & file

June 2022  
Volume 60, Issue 1



ART BY REBECCA PAZ



RISHI VANKA/RANK&amp;FILE

# rank&file

## volume 60 issue 1

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## *Letter from the Editor*

As a third-year staff member and Rank&File's new editor-in-chief, I've been able to witness the change from a printed newspaper, to an online magazine and finally to this year's printed news-magazine.

The Rank&File has undergone many changes in the past few years, and I hope this cycle will continue into the next school year. Among our exciting new changes are those to multimedia: the reintroduction of our Rank&File podcast, new YouTube videos, IGTV and collaborations with other student media groups.

I thank the past staff for all the hard work they

put into creating something new, and have full faith that the following year's staff will continue to apply the same effort to our paper and multi-media projects.

I especially want to thank Rank&File's three seniors, Kirtana Sathishkumar, Matthew Savage and Theo Schmidt, for making the last volume extra special.

To the class of 2022, this one's for you.

Aitana Wells  
Editor-In-Chief  
Rank&File

# New places, Familiar faces: Seniors decide to room together in their freshman year of college



First meeting in the third grade, seniors Visher Ramuni and Nathan Madden will both attend The Ohio State University this fall.

Hoping to ease the transition to college, they decided to be roommates.

"There's a lot of weird people out there," Madden said.

They both chose Ohio State for different reasons.

"It was because of the campus, scholarships and Ohio State University having a great finance program and good academics overall," Ramuni said.

Madden also enjoyed the great academics and large atmosphere of the school.

"Maybe," Madden joked as Ramuni asked if he would join a fraternity.



Similar to their classmates, seniors Ryleigh Siciliano and Haley Platter first met over a decade ago at the start of their elementary school journey.

Platter said she's familiar with James Madison University through her brother, who is currently a junior at James Madison University.

"[Siciliano and I] got to experience his fraternity life for a little while, which made the experience even better," Platter said.

Both decided that James Madison University would be their next stop after Marshall.

"We can both agree that knowing we would both go there was a bonus, but there are positives for us individually that made us choose this school, whether we were to room together or not," Siciliano said.

Siciliano said having Platter there at the end of the day is nice and she likes that they'll continue having each other when things get tough. Both plan to join different extracurriculars and club sports to have time away from each other and to meet new people.

"Introducing each other to our separate teammates would be fun," Platter said. "Both of us are very interested in rushing, but maybe not for the same sorority. It's definitely something we want to look into."



Attending Virginia Tech this fall, seniors Gabriel Hindley, and Gaurav Jones are planning to be each other's college roommates.

They met at the beginning of their senior year when they were introduced to each other by a friend in an English class.

"Once I heard Gaurav was considering going to Virginia Tech, I asked him if he'd like to be roommates as soon as I could," Hindley said.

Although their decisions to attend were not influenced by each other, they both thought that being roommates with someone they already knew would help the living transition.

"It seemed like less of a dice roll—I already know and like Gabe," Jones said.

They also share some common interests and plan to join similar clubs and programs. They have already applied and been accepted to Leadership and Social Change, and are planning on joining the Living Learning Community.

"Also, we plan to go to the gym together, and I may try to get him involved in intramural sports," Hindley said.

They chose to attend Virginia Tech because of its campus and in-state location.

"It is in-state, seems to have a fun campus life, and has great academic options and rigor," Jones said.

Similarly, Hindley chose this school because of its campus, location and the welcoming community.

A Portrait of the Past:  
2022 in Review



Scan this code for a trip  
down memory lane!

● compiled by emma mobley  
and rebecca paz



## Reason follows in footsteps of family's military heritage



COURTESY OF JOEY REASON

Senior Joey Reason decked out in his Naval Academy gear.

by melanie george and eleanor mcaden

Senior Joey Reason decided to follow in the footsteps of father and grandfather by going to the U.S. Naval Academy.

With a father in the military, Reason said he is already familiar with how the training program will work.

"I grew up on the base of the Naval Academy, so that definitely gave me an advantage," he said.

Despite his experience, Reason said being accepted was a surprise.

"I was planning on going somewhere else," he said. "I had to jump on the opportunity when I found out I got in."

He said the next hurdle will be getting used to the school.

"It will definitely be a hard transition because it's stricter," Reason said. "So it is definitely going to be a big change from Marshall."

Overall, Reason said he is looking forward to this next step.

"[I'm] definitely nervous, but you get to do a lot of cool stuff," Reason said. "I'm going to learn a lot of new things training to be a naval officer."

## Schuetten takes gap year to return to red, white and blue



COURTESY OF HELEN SCHUETTEN

Senior Helen Schuetten races at a sprint canoe competition.

by melanie george

Senior Helen Schuetten plans to spend her gap year racing through the water.

She said a year away from school will allow her to train for sprint canoe. However, Schuetten said she still feels strange about the decision.

"I'm going to miss seeing people everyday," Schuetten said, "but I won't miss the stress of it."

Other than time off school, she said a gap year would allow her to attend training camps for sprint canoe, while also aligning with competition dates.

"I'm planning on taking a gap year to train and hopefully make another U.S. team," she said.

With summer just around the corner, Schuetten said she is still getting used to the idea of her future.

"I can't believe we're about to graduate," she said. "I still kind of feel like we're all stuck in the 2020 lockdown."

Afterwards, Schuetten said her plan is to attend Old Dominion University for engineering.

## Off to an Ivy: Hymes sets herself up for the future

by kirtana satishkumar

Senior Makenzie Hymes applied early action to Princeton University, but when she read her acceptance letter, she was shocked.

"I very much applied on a whim," Hymes said. "I had the opportunity to apply, and I thought, 'I'm only gonna be applying to colleges once; I may as well just go for it.'"

Hymes said she was surprised because of the school's low acceptance rate.

"I really did not expect it at all because I find it hard to believe that anyone expects to get [into] a school of that caliber," she said.

Hymes said she chose Princeton because it had a diverse community, strong dance department and interesting course offerings.

"I realized, as I was looking at colleges and making the final decision, that everything I saw and liked about one school could also be seen at Princeton," Hymes said.

At Princeton, Hymes plans to study public policy, African American Studies and dance.

She said she believes Princeton will give rise to new opportunities.

"It'll kind of get me more set for the future," she said. "Whatever I choose to do, I'll probably be on a better path for success."



COURTESY OF MAKENZIE HYMES

Senior Makenzie Hymes poses on the courtyard of Princeton University, her future school for the next four years.

## Senior Co

Rank&amp;File compiled the annual list of college

**American University**Luke Batarseh  
Grace Manson**California State University  
Northridge**

Linah Nyerere

**Carnegie Mellon University**

Abigail Brunner

**Champlain College**

Carson Chichester

**Christopher Newport  
University**Nicole Farrace  
Audrey Godwin  
Maggie Langborgh  
Tara McCaleb  
Nolan Reynolds  
Joseph Sweeney**College of William & Mary**Kelly George  
Brendan Tingley  
Patrick Tingley**Drexel University**

Jyoti Gupta

**Fashion Institute of  
Technology**

Parmida Ansaripour

**George Mason University**Emma Battista  
Leiale Demant  
Yevin Kariyawasam  
Ariana Martin  
Claire Pyatt  
Darian Salahi  
Matthew Savage  
Ilia Sheikholeslami  
Michael Sun  
Aniya Smallwood  
Noah Temple  
Maya Tichoc**George Washington  
University**Hanin Al Ghoul  
Genevieve Manise  
Holly McLean  
Angel Samsuhadi  
Alex Thrasher**James Madison  
University**Malcolm Burbano  
Grace Chamberlain  
Michelle Morris  
Ryleigh Siciliano  
Olivia Viskupic**Johns Hopkins  
University**Matteo Betancourt  
Scott George**Liberty University**

Matt Wilson

**Marymount University**

Ziyan Qutub

**Muskingum University**

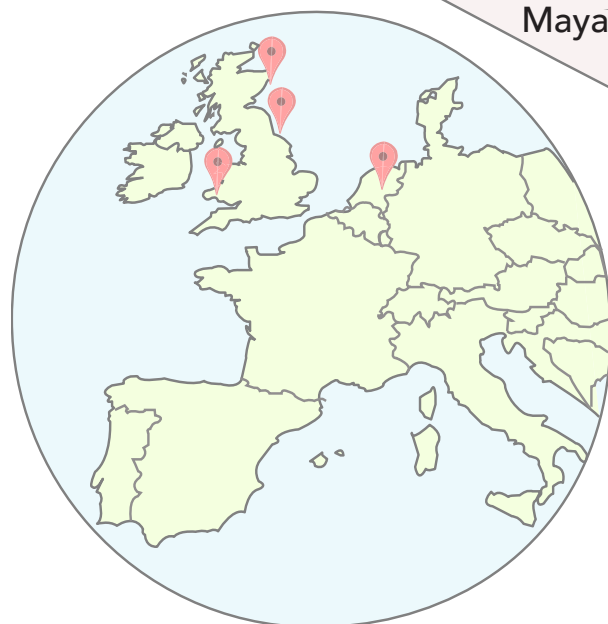
David Stiles

**Northern Virginia  
Community College**

Kirtana Sathishkumar

**Oberlin College**

Ashlee Hiller



# College Map

College and university decisions of over 100 seniors



# College across the pond

Although a majority of seniors apply for national colleges, Rank&File talked to four seniors who who took it international.

by josie hamilton, marie kah, kirtana sathishkumar and rishi vanka



## SANJANA PANDETI

Historical European buildings, flavorful food and art galore—this is a taste of what senior Sanjana Pandeti's college experience will look like.



Pandeti plans to attend the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands as a cultural anthropology and developmental sociology major.

She said the University of Amsterdam is a good fit because its student body is made up of people from all over the world.

"They have a pretty solid network, so finding jobs in that sense hopefully won't be too difficult," Pandeti said.

She said she hopes more students will consider going to college abroad.

"I feel like a lot of students at Marshall don't really think about going internationally," she said, "but it's always an option, so you might as well explore it if you're interested."

## SAYDA BIR

When senior Sayda Bir chose a school abroad, she never expected to get in.

Bir said she plans to attend Scotland's University of St. Andrews in the fall and will double-major in social anthropology and international

relations.

"St. Andrews provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go to school abroad and meet students from all over the world, as well as being able to travel easily through Europe," Bir said.

She said the school's academic structure is more appealing than American universities.

Overseas, general education like English or math are replaced with major-related classes of student choice.

"St. Andrews would offer me a wonderful degree for international relations," Bir said. "Not to mention the environmental legislation they are doing over there in



the U.K. is much more to my liking and something I would like to incorporate here in the U.S."

Bir said that when she visited in April, she fell in love with the town and campus.

"It is right along the beaches of the east coast giving way to the prettiest views," she said. "It is so calm and quaint during the day, and rowdy at night with all the pubs in town. St. Andrews is the perfect mix of the outdoors and your small town European city."

Bir said that ultimately,

attending University of St. Andrews is an opportunity she couldn't pass up.

## DANIEL HELTBERG

A desire to make connections fueled senior Daniel Heltberg's decision to go to the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

Heltberg has family in Denmark and France, which influenced his decision.

"I wanted to live closer to them as my grandparents get older," Heltberg said. "It is a lot easier to travel to Europe and see other countries."

Heltberg said he believes his completion of the International Baccalaureate diploma curriculum will help in his move to the United Kingdom.

"I know things are different in the U.S. versus the U.K.," he said. "From my teachers I hear that IB classes are a good gauge for university."

He also said he plans to major in environmental science.

"The atmosphere is one of the things I care most about," Heltberg said. "I wanted to study in a place that values that."

He said American attitudes towards the environment are off-putting.

"There [is] so much skepticism," he said, "and I feel like it's best to move away."

## AIDAN MCCOY

Senior Aidan McCoy was excited when he learned he

was accepted into Swansea University in Wales.

He said he plans to major in economics.

"I was really happy," McCoy said, referring to his acceptance. "It gives me a completely different opportunity in comparison to American



schools."

McCoy said his goal was to apply to a school in the U.K. because of the opportunities it would offer.

"Being able to study there, I felt like I could learn more about the actual different cultures and the different economies," McCoy said. "I do want to eventually move over to [Europe] after college and that kind of accelerates that process."

McCoy said he committed to Swansea University because of its strong academic ranking.

"The surrounding area enticed me too because it has a blend of city life," he said, "and you can just go out and see cool nature stuff because it's right by the beach."

Art by  
Reyna Berry  
Rhea Newnaha  
Rebecca Paz  
Kirtana Sathishkumar



# Protest organized for abortion rights

by josie hamilton and aitana wells

When the clock struck 2:40 on Monday, May 9, over 300 students got up and walked out of the school.

The students attended the Reproductive Freedom Walkout organized by Generation Ratify, a student-led movement for gender equality. Forty five Virginia schools, including Marshall, participated in the walkout.

"We [were] leading a walkout to defend the overturning of Roe v. Wade," said vice president of Students Demand Action club and senior Serena Miller-Muro. "Recently there was a draft leaked that would reverse Roe v. Wade and allow people to cut off access to safe abortions, and it would harm mostly minority women."

*"Everybody should have the option to choose. It's their life and their body."*

—vice president of the Students Demand Action Club and senior Serena Miller-Muro

Miller-Muro was on a Zoom call with her fellow Generation Ratify leaders the night before the walkout where they discussed the logistics for the walkout and prepared for what to expect.

"My body, my choice, my freedom, my voice," really speaks to the fact that it's just everybody's individual right," she said, referring to abortion access. "Everybody should have the option to choose. It's their life and their body."

Students who participated in the walkout were encouraged to wear green, the international color representing pro-choice beliefs.

"The color green really symbolizes life and the preservation of all women, and people with uteruses," junior Gavin Sandall said. "It's really important to have safe abortions."

Despite not having a personal connection to the movement, Sandall said he attended the protest because he feels it is important to stand up for people who need access to this type of healthcare.

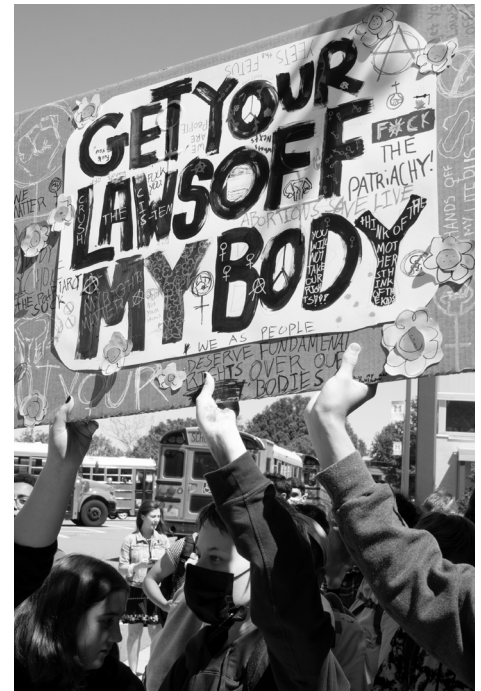
"The overturning of Roe v. Wade is just a complete violation of all human rights," he said.

Junior Sara Porjosh described the debate on abortion as "ridiculous" because of its necessity to health care.

"[This debate] has been going on ever since I've been able to walk," Porjosh said. "I feel like it shouldn't have existed, and it's not something that we should have fought and should have needed to fight for."

She said she has high hopes for the change that this walkout can initiate.

"I'm sure things are going to be very



RHEA NEWNAHA/RANK&FILE

Students walk out of school on May 9 in support of abortion rights. The event was held in response to a leaked U.S. Supreme Court draft opinion overturning Roe v. Wade.

difficult to happen at a federal level," Porjosh said. "But I know that in walkouts and protests at the local level, the conversation changes."

An FCPS regulation, which went into effect in 2020, allows students excused absences for civic engagement activities.

## Editorial: Don't just walk out, speak out

There have been two school-wide walkouts this year, and while both have been in support of incredibly important issues, they have also been frustrating.

During the Reproductive Freedom Walkout on May 9, students in the crowd were laughing and joking with friends. For those who were personally invested in the cause, this felt like a complete undermining of everything the walkout was supposed to represent. Even organizers and students who gave speeches made jokes or laughed at times, and—though levity is sometimes needed with such heavy issues as abortion access and equal rights—the walkout was neither the time nor place for this.

Disinterest from the crowd was also present at the walkout earlier in the year, organized by the Muslim Student Association, but not to the same extent. In both situations, it was

disappointing to see students treat the events as a way to skip class. In fact, it was more than disappointing: it was maddening.

The Reproductive Freedom Walkout was meant to show how much young people care about and are affected by the politics around them. What does it say to adults and reporters if we're all smiling and having a good time? That abortion rights or fair treatment of Muslim students is a joke?

Perhaps the whole idea of a walkout, especially one that starts 15 minutes before the end of school, is inherently flawed because it rewards students who just want to leave early. Or perhaps we all need to stand up a little taller and actually fight for what we believe in instead of fooling around.

Do what you want on your own time, but don't screw up a chance to make change for those who care.

# Seniors commit to college athletics

by rishi vanka

On Wednesday, May 11 at 4:00 p.m., 10 seniors officially committed to colleges across the country for sports.

Throughout the school year, colleges scout the best players and offer them spots on the team through scholarships. This culminates on signing day, where players sign contracts agreeing to play for their future college dream.

The event begins with coaches speaking about their players, shedding a tear or two, and applause from relatives. Next, players sign contracts and seal the deal as pictures are taken.

The college decisions are as follows:



BEN PYATT/RANK&FILE

On May 11, seniors gather in the front lobby for Signing Day.

## Girls Soccer

Rylie Hughes — University of Central Missouri  
Ashlee Hiller — Oberlin College  
Sanam Milani — Radford University

## Boys Lacrosse

William Buhrman — Randolph College  
Kenneth Ward — U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
Jonathan Zou — Bridgewater College

## Rugby

Dylan Liskey — U.S. Military Academy West Point

## Girls Lacrosse

Laura Crone — Piedmont University

## Field Hockey

Emma Payze — Shenandoah University

## Baseball

David Stiles — Muskingum University

# DeLeo details aims of 'Frog and Toad' musical

by melanie george

After two years of the pandemic, Director Bernie DeLeo said he wanted to put on a show that people of all ages would enjoy.

Through the end of April and early May, Statesmen Theatre performed "A Year with Frog and Toad," a musical based on a children's book series.

"Frog's kind of fastidious, and Toad is kind of a knucklehead, and they weather the storms of friendship and challenges," he said. "They have really sweet, warm, lovely lessons."

With two matinees for feeder elementary schools, DeLeo said his motivation for choosing "Frog and Toad" was the children who are growing up in lockdown.

"This will probably be the first live theater they've ever seen," he said. "I

thought that could be really cool to introduce them to what live theater is."

Live theater can include special effects such as autumn leaves dropping on the audience and puppet animals flying about based on cues in the songs.

"One of the things we decided to do was just a lot of stunts and special effects," DeLeo said. "We kind of went all in with puppets."

DeLeo decided to move the band backstage to make room for the puppet zone, which he said is more kid friendly.

"When the band is in [the front], there's heads and there's instruments above the floor line," he said. "So I thought, 'little kids are going to be frustrated if they can't see.'"

DeLeo said the effects made the children more immersed.

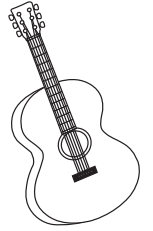
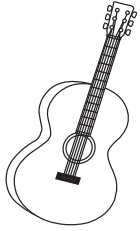
"I thought that was really fun to extend the play out into [the audience]," he



Scan the code to find out what it takes to make a musical!

said, "rather than having the story so far away."

The show is not over yet, as it is nominated for best musical of the inaugural Brandon Victor Dixon Awards and will perform at the awards ceremony on May 22.



## Table Talk: *Guitar Teacher Mr. K*

Matthew Kulikosky on guitar spring concert featuring special student solos and group performances of all genres

• compiled by melanie george

### What differs between the spring and winter shows?

The spring show is kind of special because [during] the second half of the show students can perform in their own groups. They can perform solo pieces, if they want, or perform together.

### Is the show exclusive to guitar class?

They can perform with other students from around the school, whether they be choir students, band students or even students who aren't in the music program. As long as somebody in the group is part of [the Guitar department], they've got a space on our stage.



Scan the code to view our video on Statesmen Guitar!

### How are you feeling about the concert?

The shows are usually a lot of fun, because there's a lot of variety to them. We'll play sometimes from classical music to rock music, jazz or blues. And then you know, when you have the students performing their own stuff, it can be anything. It's a good opportunity to come see some of your friends play and have fun with it.

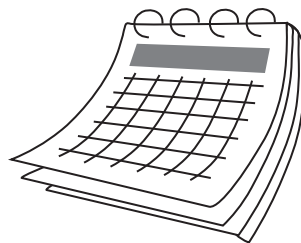
## FCPS makes changes to next year's holiday calendar

School board adds four days off for religious and cultural observances, alters activities allowed on in-school observance days and aligns calendar with neighboring school districts

### New Student Holidays Include:

- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur
- Orthodox Good Friday
- Diwali

Eid al-Fitr will also be a holiday for the first time next year, since it fell on a non-school day in 2022.



### During in-school observance days:

Teachers are allowed to continue with new content on those days, but tests, quizzes and sporting events are still not permitted.

"Our staff worked very hard to get this calendar right. We believe it is the best option to serve our families, staff and students in the coming school year."

- Superintendent  
Scott Brabrand

Information derived from FCPS website, art by Kirtana Sathishkumar

• compiled by  
melanie george

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Meanwhile, the **Columbian** yearbook remains a rich and permanent source of memories as it preserves the school's historical record.

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