

# Madison State of Mind

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Band and Color Guard after parade

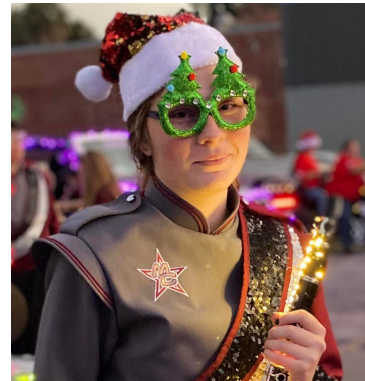
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## Light Up Madison Celebration

On December 4th, the streets of down-town Madison were filled with holiday cheer as Light Up Madison was under way. During this festive evening, a beautiful parade, donning Christmas lights, could be seen passing through Madison, spreading lots of cheer among all of the attendees.



MCHS Color Guard at Light Up Madison



Abi Saltares at Light Up Madison

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# Door Decorating Contest

## Christmas Traditions Around the World

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Mrs. Saltares takes 1st place. Abby Saltares, Daisy Contres, Calli Knight, and Trinity Russell helped decorate this *Feliz Navidad* themed door.



There was a split tie for second place by Mrs. Bergeron (left) and Ms. Brown (right). Mrs. Bergeron's fireplace themed door was decorated by Mason Good and Sydney Curtis. While Ms. Brown's *Christmas Tree Around the World* was decorated by Des'Tanee Smiley and Avionna Ware.





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# Door Decorating Contest

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Mrs. Ortega's *Gingerbread House* door, decorated by Olivia McIntire, Roxanne Gosseck, Calli Knight, Anna Meyer, and Melena Webb.



Mrs. Starling's *Holiday Check List* door was decorated by Jenner Wallace and Faith Taggart, as well as Teresia Paiva and Taylor Vickers (not pictured)



We look forward to even bigger and better things

*in the New Year!*



**DAVEY WOOD  
3RD PLACE  
WELDING  
COMPETITION**



**CASEY MCFALL  
1ST PLACE  
CREATIVE WRITING  
DISTRICT LEVEL  
WINNER**



**DIXIE PHILLIPS  
1ST PLACE  
CREATIVE WRITING  
DISTRICT LEVEL  
WINNER**



**ALYSSA WHEELER  
1ST PLACE  
CREATIVE WRITING  
DISTRICT LEVEL  
WINNER**

Congratulations for  
all of your  
achievements this  
year!!

**James Madison Preparatory  
High School Students have  
won many awards this year.  
Here are some of the  
highlights...**



# Student Life

As students get ready for winter break, holiday cheer spreads throughout campus. What are the students of JMPHS looking forward to this holiday season? Students look forward to holidays such as Hanukkah, Christmas, or Kwanzaa. Many students especially look forward to staple holiday snacks such as sugar cookies, hot chocolate, fruit cakes, or eggnog.

But what else about winter break brings so much appeal to students?

"I like the holidays because there's always good food, and I like watching my siblings open their presents," says Olivia McIntire. Marley Miller says that she likes spending time with her family and celebrating Christmas. Despite all the different responses to this question, the students of JMPHS seem to agree on one thing: they love receiving presents. Popular items on many students' wish-lists this year are: books, video games, clothes, and sports equipment.



From left to right: Thomas Robinson, Emma Thompson, Olivia McIntire, K'Lyn Williams, Trey Silvernell

"I LIKE THE HOLIDAYS  
BECAUSE IT JUST GIVES OFF  
GOOD VIBES, AND  
EVERYONE IS HAPPY"  
-HAFITHA AYYAD



## HOLIDAY MOVIE WATCH-LIST

1. Home Alone
2. Elf
3. The Polar Express
4. The Grinch
5. The Nightmare Before Christmas
6. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
7. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
8. Gremlins



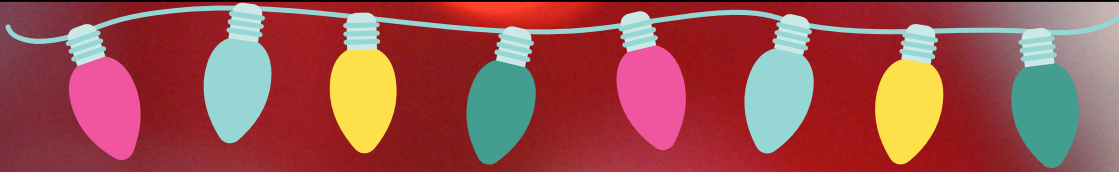
No one at JMPHS can deny that there is an air of excitement and anticipation in the air for winter break. When walking around campus, wish your friends happy holidays and a great new years!



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# Student Life

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**Everyone loves Holidays, especially students. Holidays are something for everyone to look forward to, and it gives us students a break from school.**

**When asking students what their favorite thing about fall is, the majority of students say the weather, students like Kiley Malone. It's always blazing hot in Florida, so this gives us fresh air. Speaking of fall, a popular product inspired by Fall is pumpkin spice. A lot of students look forward to fall for the new seasonal drinks like pumpkin spice. There is some diversity with pumpkin spice. Some may say pumpkin spice is not good and is "overrated," like Dixie Philips. Thanksgiving is a holiday a lot of students at JMPHS love. Not only does it give students a break from school, but it also lets them spend time with their families. On Thanksgiving, a favored tradition is eating a bunch of food and sleeping a lot.**

**Another Holiday that students love is Christmas. Christmas is almost every student's favorite holiday. There's a lot of traditions students do on Christmas, from going to Disney World to picking a Christmas ornament to decorating their tree, Christmas is all about traditions. A big thing about the Holidays is the seasonal drinks and scents. The most favored holiday scent is vanilla bean Noel and the most favored drink is peppermint mocha.**





# Teacher Times

## Holiday Carrolls Written by: Kiley Malone



As we are getting out for winter break, many students forget that teachers have lives outside of the classroom. As a result, Mrs. Dela Carroll answered questions about her plans for this upcoming holiday. Along with these, she provided advice for students and other school related subjects.

Mrs. Dela loves to celebrate Christmas. She celebrates by gathering with her family at her home. On the Saturday before Christmas she meets with her husband's family to participate in a gift exchange and home-cooked meal. With her side of the family, they gather on Christmas Eve to have a bonfire and hot chocolate. They also have a hayride to sing Christmas carols with the littles. Mrs. Dela's absolute favorite part of the holidays is that she gets to spend time with her family and friends. Mrs. Dela doesn't have a favorite holiday movie, she likes them all because she loves the joy that the holidays give. She loves the holidays because she is able to celebrate with as much love and care for her family as she can. She finds it important to make every moment memorable. Mrs. Dela's favorite holiday food is anything sweet, but she loves the rest too.

Besides the holidays, Mrs. Dela always cares for her family, friends, and students. She even stated that "The most important things in my life are my friends and family." There is never a dull moment with her and her family. They love to play card games, horseshoes, or any other games they can find. As long as they laugh and have a good time, a moment is never wasted. Mrs. Dela loves to help her students with anything they need. In her opinion, the most important qualities a student can have are determination and integrity. Her best advice for her students is to do their best no matter what.

Throughout being one of Mrs. Dela's students, she has shown nothing but kindness and determination to have kids succeed. She will try her hardest to provide for her students and to further them in their education. Mrs. Dela loves to celebrate the holidays and is a very family oriented person.

## Mrs. Bergeron's Holiday Traditions Written by: Dixie Phillips



With winter break rapidly approaching, many students are thinking about the holidays. But what about the teachers? What do they look forward to? One teacher has her answer.

Mrs. Bergeron teaches english and reading classes here at JMPHS. When asked about her holiday traditions, she told me that each year she and her family celebrate together. They watch A Muppet Christmas Carol and have a sing-a-long, as well as making gingerbread houses and taking vacations. "I normally do Santa Lucia's day for our family since we have no girl children. My oldest son, Xander, likes to help deliver the breakfast," she says. Santa Lucia's day is celebrated on December 13th. Saint Lucy is the patron saint of the blind. On this day, the oldest girl daughter wears white and passes out coffee and baked goods, but there are many modern variations of this tradition throughout the world.

Mrs. Bergeron's love for reading shines through in her wintertime hobbies. "I love reading Victorian and Romantic novels, especially involving ghosts. They normally tell enough to spook you without being gory." Her favorite books of all time are the Harry Potter series and *The Alchemist*. When teaching, Mrs. Bergeron loves seeing students have a "lightbulb moment", where they understand something they're struggling with.

When asked about her New Year's Resolutions, Mrs. Bergeron says that she is not very good at keeping them. "I normally do set goals at the beginning of the year," she says. "One of my goals this upcoming year will be to drink more water. I am really bad about soda, so I am going to try to cut back on it." Her professional goal for this year is to understand the new standards in ELA.

Do you have similar traditions to Mrs. Bergeron?

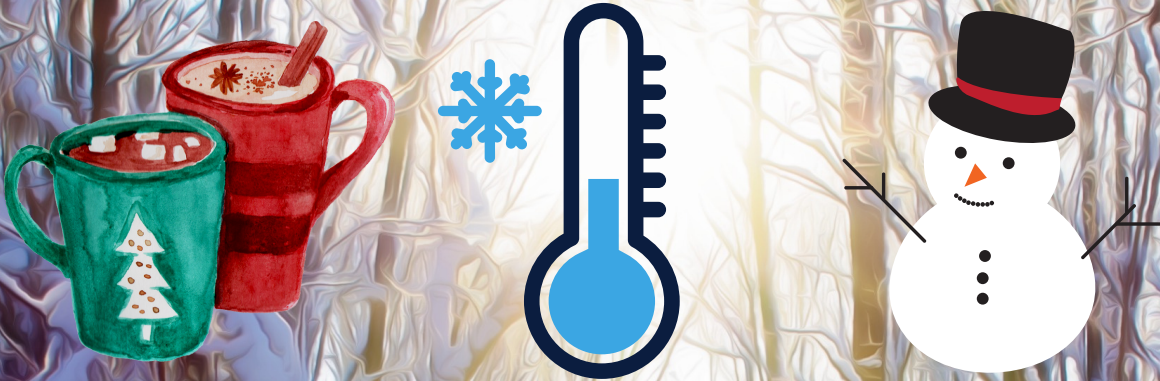


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# Weather Watch

## Written by: Kiley Malone

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Over the past few weeks and for weeks to come the weather has and will continue to be cooler. The cooler weather affects many things, including what people wear, where they go, and their favorite activities. Some of your fellow classmates answered questions about the weather and how it changes their routines.

With the information gathered, everyone prefers the coolness of winter over the blazing heat of summer. Now that it's cooler outside, people can do things they usually don't do. Some said they get to drink hot chocolate, while others said they can actually go outside without having a heat stroke. Of course, one of the most popular answers is that they can wear hoodies. JMPHS freshman Dixie Phillips stated that "I get to go on vacation and travel, traveling in the winter is so much better than in summer." One student said that they can't go to the lake anymore, but they are still glad that it's not "roasting" outside. Along with these answers, some of the most common were: changing how I dress, holiday breaks, and hot beverages.

Overall, the new change in temperature has brought new happiness around campus. Everyone is excited about hot chocolate, vacation, and most importantly hoodies. With the crisp air and chilling winds, there's nothing wrong with a little change in daily routines.

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# Student Life

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By: Alyssa Wheeler

Are you a student? Are you excited for winter break? More than likely, in the middle of the break, you'll find yourself bored, with nothing to do. Well, have no fear, for I have many ideas to share with you!

To make the most of your winter break, you'll need to think about what you want to get out of finally having some spare time. Perhaps you desire to relax and unwind. Or maybe you're looking to make improvements in your life or to pick up a hobby.

A fantastic way to spend winter break is by relaxing, which is especially well-deserved for all of our hardworking students at JMPHS! Some great suggestions include: creating a new skincare routine, sleeping better, writing letters to yourself, practicing gratitude, or even going outside. Goodness knows that we need vitamin D after this semester :(.

Alternatively, you could try to improve yourself! After the past two weeks, some of you are likely feeling down from finals weeks, and these suggestions could help your GPA and your overall well being. Some great ways to repair your time management is to get in the habit of using a planner, or even a bullet journal for those who think outside of the box. Additionally, winter break is a great time to get in shape for any try-outs that are happening for a desirable sport next semester (forgive me for any sports transgressions, I don't know when the sports events are happening). With your new planner, you could try scheduling out important test dates and due dates to help you study and prepare ahead of time! Lastly, you can also learn to become more financially responsible by getting a part-time job, or saving up money!



Image from [www.fallindesign.com](http://www.fallindesign.com)

Lastly, after you've relaxed and improved areas of your life, you can also spend time working on new and old hobbies! Some quick suggestions include the fiber arts, which include crochet, knitting, sewing, and embroidery! Now that we're all home for the holidays, or at relatives' houses, we'll have the best access possible to our grandmas' stashes of fiber arts. If you want to be creative in other ways, you could also try out drawing! If you're still searching for things to do, you could always challenge yourself with a new video game. In the same vein of self-improvement, you can also learn how to cook, just in time for the holiday season!

Happy Holidays and enjoy!



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# National News

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By: Alyssa Wheeler

In the spirit of the holiday season, I have decided to leave our precious students off with good news! As many of us know, the planet's climate is still changing radically due to a multitude of factors. Because of the temperature changes, some of our main staple crops around the world are at risk of heat damage. A research group called Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE) has been researching an important enzyme called Rubisco, which is involved in photosynthesis. Rubisco is crucial for converting sunlight and carbon dioxide into oxygen and sugars.

Occasionally, this enzyme makes a little mistake, about 20 percent of the time, and uses oxygen instead of carbon dioxide, called photorespiration. Because of this mistake, it can be very wasteful when you're in the business of growing crops and food very quickly and efficiently. You may be wondering how climate change becomes an important factor in this simple plant process. Well, as it turns out, when temperatures rise, so do the number of mistakes that Rubisco makes when doing photosynthesis.



Image from [www.isaaa.org](http://www.isaaa.org)

Because of this new finding, researchers found out that through an engineering approach, involving photorespiration, AKA when Rubisco makes a mistake, they were able to create crops that were extremely resistant to temperature changes. Additionally, to back up their hypothesis and observations, they decided to test a field of tobacco plants, which was 5 degrees (Celsius) higher than normal temperatures. They observed that the engineered crops had a higher biomass and lower losses compared to the "wild-type plants."

All in all, this technology will be extremely important for farmers and agriculture in the next few decades as temperatures continue to rise and climate change continues to damage our agricultural efficiency.

Source:

<https://phys.org/news/2021-12-ability-future-proof-crops-climate.html>

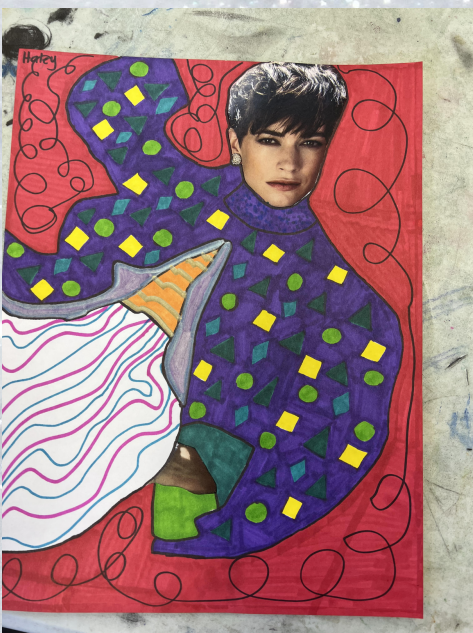


Image from [www.wur.nl](http://www.wur.nl)





# Creative Corner



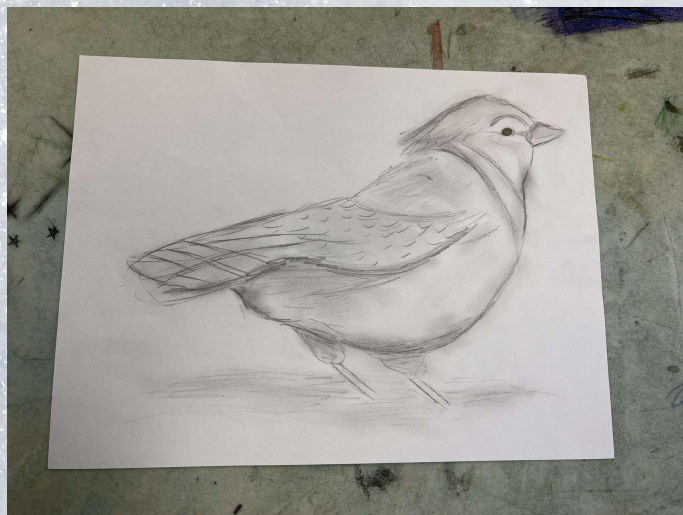
*Blue Jacket by: Haley Glavich*

Gustav Klim inspired art piece



*Strike a Pose by: Dixie Phillips*

Gustav Klim inspired art piece



*Bird in the Windowsill by: Kiley Malone*

Pencil sketch of bird standing in the  
sunlight

