

Students attend ‘Stranger’ Fall Fest



Photos courtesy of Argolite Yearbook

Personal experiences with honors classes differ for two freshman students

Bryce Barnett
CLASS OF 2026

Hector Sanchez and Ibrahim Abuafieh, both 14, were finally given the opportunity to pick challenging classes, such as Honors or AP (Advanced Placement). Weeks later, in a Monday email interview, they spoke about their variant experiences. “I felt smart enough to do them, not knowing the reality that was about to come,” said Sanchez, responding to the question of the reason behind taking the classes. He is currently taking three honors courses. “I feel like they are helping me learn how to work on a very busy schedule,” said Abuafieh, another freshman with the same number of classes as Sanchez, seemingly

optimistic about dealing with honors classes. While being an honors student is an achievement that is applauding and something to be proud of, the stress that carries with the classes is something that will impact even the most ambitious and ready-to-learn students. A few weeks prior to the interview, Hector had been stressed and exhausted about dealing with these classes. “It’s also taken time from me going to the gym which I’ve been really wanting to focus on lately,” said Sanchez. When asked the question about if they would ever pursue these classes into a majoring degree or college class going forward, Hector immediately declined, saying it was

“definitely not a choice” for him. “I want to pursue my life in other directions which has virtually no relations whatsoever to these classes,” he said. Abuafieh, took the offer of pursuing a future based off these classes. “They will help me learn how to deal with an even busier schedule for when I leave high school and go to college,” said the freshman. Most honors classes are teacher-designed, and you indulge into more deeper and in-depth topics. Dealing with honors classes is beneficial but difficult. It helps you boost a GPA score, find more prestige college offers, but students are obligated to live up to higher academic expectations and demand. “Overall, taking more

challenging classes such as AP, honors, and concurrent enrollment courses come with benefits as well as inconveniences,” says the Tri-Color Times, hometown newspaper of Granger High School in Salt Lake City, Utah. Some students know how to properly manage stress and other aspects of honors classes, some are worse off and need extra help, further showing the differential experiences of honors classes. “Please know what you’re getting yourself into before taking them,” said Sanchez. “It will get better if you just focus and do your homework,” said Abuafieh.

MAROONNEWS

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SUBMISSIONS

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College applications: The real Halloween terror

Maja Nawrocka
CLASS OF 2023

Autumn. The death of summer break. Chilly weather, leaves falling, the scent of pumpkin spice and a hint of something frightful in the air:

College Applications.

It's that time of the year again, when seniors try to figure out who they are and what they're going to do with their life. This year the class of 2023 steps up to the plate.

Here's what some Argonauts are up to!

"I've always been interested in learning about the science behind the human body," says Argo Senior Michelle Gomez. She plans on going to Loyola to earn her nursing degree.

Mary Villalobos also plans on becoming a nurse and is deciding between Loyola and UIUC. She says, "I've always wanted to work with babies and kids and being a postpartum nurse would allow me to do that." When deciding on a career, your lifestyle is also an important factor. "I also like the work-life balance that working as a nurse would give me," Villalobos adds.

Some students have known all their lives what they wanted to do. They spent their early years pretending to be doctors, nurses, or playing school.

"I've known since I was in kindergarten that I wanted to be a teacher," said Karen Flores, another senior at Argo, says. Flores has multiple colleges she is considering

and is planning on majoring in Spanish and minoring in education. She wants to work as a Spanish teacher. Maybe she'll even come back to Argo!

Isabel Fuentes is also considering multiple colleges, including UIUC, UMich, and UChicago. She plans on majoring in Biochemistry and minoring in Korean. With her degrees she plans on applying to medical school and later working as a dermatologist in Korea.

When asked if she was sure that this was what she wanted to do for the rest of her life, Fuentes responded, "I don't, but I really enjoy it right now."

Happiness should be a priority when deciding on a career. Daniel Fournier agrees with Fuentes, saying, "I don't necessarily believe that I'll know if what I end up doing is what I want to be doing. There are many things that can happen that will change the path I'm on and in the end, I think I'll be looking for whatever feels right."

Fournier is unsure of exactly what he wants to do but has been considering engineering. Like Fuentes and Villalobos, he plans on applying to UIUC along with the University of Iowa and EIU.

Not everyone has known their entire life what they want to do and it's okay to use college as a way to figure that out.

Andres Fonseca is one of those seniors. All he knows is that he

plans on getting his Master of Business Administration but is unsure of what he wants to do with that education. When asked about what college he wants to go to, Fonseca replied, "No clue. Somewhere sunny. California maybe."

With college applications and thoughts of the future comes another thing: Stress.

"It's finally hit me that it's time, and there's no stopping it," says Fournier. "I find myself thinking about the reality of it all every day."

As much as we might want to, we cannot stop the clock. It rings in the tune of adulthood whether we're ready for it or not. "Growing up is inevitable," says Gomez. "The best we can do is accept it."

"When I first started filling out my common app I started crying to my counselor because I wasn't sure if that was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life and everything seemed too difficult to do," says Flores.

It's fine to not be sure what you want. "I think I'll be okay whatever I choose to do," says Fuentes. Even if you choose the wrong path, it's never too late to change course.

"Don't compare yourself to others. You don't have to 'fulfill a potential' others have set for you. Your true potential is defined by you. Do what you're passionate about and what makes you happy in life. Don't stress about things you won't remember in a year. Live a life you will look back on and be proud of," says Gomez.

Students using the restroom: privilege or right?

Ameera Abed
CLASS OF 2023

If a student sneezes in the middle of class, they don't need to ask to run to the front of the room to grab a tissue because it's a basic hygienic right. For years now, students have developed bathroom anxiety due to asking their teachers to go to the bathroom and sometimes receiving a "no" as the answer.

Whether a student has a medical reason or happened to drink a lot of water, many feel as though using the restroom is a right and should not be required to ask for permission. It is a natural occurrence and uncontrollable which is why many have an issue with the idea of asking for that right that every human obtains, yet others would disagree.

"I feel like it's a basic human function and you shouldn't have to ask someone to use it, especially since it's not really their business, and it should be up to the student to decide if they can go or not," said Amany Abusalem, a senior at Argo this year.

In 2012, a survey was conducted to show the main reason students go to the nurse. According to "When Schools Tell Kids They Can't Use the Bathroom," "fewer than half of the 600 school nurses who responded suspected that children

with frequent urination or bladder and bowel accidents were suffering from an underlying health problem."

About a decade earlier, in 2003, that number decreased when similar questions were asked of teachers.

"Fewer than one in five participants in a survey of Iowa educators suspected that children who demonstrated frequent urination or accidents were suffering from an underlying health problem. A third of them said they'd ordered at least one student requesting bathroom access to wait."

"I feel like a lot of people have medical issues," Abusalem said. "It's something very natural so you shouldn't have to give an excuse of why you have to go. For me, I drink a lot of water at school so in the middle of lecturing I have to stop him and ask if I could use the bathroom which is embarrassing and at the same time I don't want to be the reason for disrupting a class."

This issue has been occurring for years, mostly among high school students and below. College students don't have to ask for permission to go to the bathroom similar to all grade level students when they leave school. Outside of school, you don't need the privilege or permission to fulfill a basic human right of using

the restroom so why do you need it in school? This is the question most students have regarding this issue. Girls are also more concerned than boys because of their monthly menstrual cycle.

"I think this issue mainly concerns younger grades like kindergarteners because they can be too scared to ask and if the teacher says no they can't exactly stop it and with high school students when girls are on their periods or people just have issues it can cause discomfort or even pain," said Abusalem.

However, teachers have a different perspective on why they believe students must ask for permission to go to the restroom. Teachers are concerned that students need a pass so that miscommunication can be avoided. Most teachers will allow students to go to the restroom when needed as long as it is not during a test or quiz.

"I do think they should maybe talk to me beforehand just in case and also they should get a signed hall pass from me just so that way it clears up any miscommunication between myself and any student supervisor that sees them in the hallway," said Andrew Garcia, an educator at Argo. "They normally ask to go before the period starts and which I allow them to go all the time."

School safety: Secure enough or not?

Nora Suhail
CLASS OF 2023

Generally, 59% of students around the world say that they don't feel safe in school. What about Argo? It is known that worldwide, people generally don't feel safe in schools, especially in America. School safety and security tends to seem an issue for many students in Argo. Some people say there's too much security and they're overly strict, while others say there's not enough security. Fatima Suhail, a sophomore at Argo, believes we should improve security in school. "Well, I do like that there are people at every corner, but they're not trained. They're just regular staff members that don't have anything to protect us," says Suhail. A recent study shows that

higher security levels in school can lead to lower test scores, typically in math. Jason Jabri, the man who assisted in conducting this research, reports, "Heightened security reduces test scores in math, reduces the number of students attending college and increases suspensions." Both point of views on this issue are very equally weighed, especially for students here at Argo. "I'd say I'm pretty comfortable with the security here," says Minna Suleiman, an Argo sophomore. "I like seeing the different security guards and hall monitors all around school." Not only does security and safety seem to be an issue for students here, but possibly even for bus drivers. Fatima Suhail takes a stance on this issue and claims that "Bus drivers can

also feel unsafe. Obviously, it'll be students getting on in the afternoon, but in the morning, a random person could get on and say they're 16 years old. The bus drivers need to feel safe, too." It's very known that we usually have a bunch of security guards near the lunchrooms, which may be unnecessary. "Near the 2nd floor English bathrooms, there's a lot of crowds in between periods. There's always one security guard trying to gain control of the situation... we can do better with that situation and get more guards over there to separate the mayhem," says Suhail. Overall, students should feel that they're receiving the security needed to feel safe enough to even attend school every day.

How to use positive self talk to do your work

Natalia Stanibula
CLASS OF 2026

"I'll be honest, it took me a long time to even start this paper," says an Argo student who would like to remain anonymous. With time ticking away this student knew that their paper was soon to be due the next day. "I kept asking myself 'what am I good at?' I was really stumped," says the student. Getting homework done is a very troubling task for many students. It can take hours of procrastination or distractions for a student to finally get into their assignment. "To start, make a list," says the student. "Make a list of things that you're good at. It can be as small as making your bed or even as big as building a PC. Then, just look at the list. Even if it's just

one thing, try to be proud of your accomplishments. If you can do that one thing, you can do much more. Even a homework assignment. It might not be a big accomplishment to do your homework, but it's still something you can be proud of." Some teens are just depicted as lazy for not doing their homework, but most of the time that's wrong. There is an abundance of reasons why a student might not want to do their homework. The stereotype that not doing homework automatically means someone is lazy can really impact someone. "Lazy? Oh, I've been called that multiple times. It hurts. It really hurts," says Gabriela Bonar, another student attending Argo, who gets straight A's. "It's upsetting how

people don't even want to listen to you explain." Subsequently, it is critical to tell people how their negative comments can make you feel. For some students, one small comment like that can really drag them down — no matter how much positive self-talk is used. Having the motivation to do your work is quite a challenge. Doing that and trying to encourage yourself to do your work is even more difficult, but it can be worth it for some. "You just have to be really positive or else it won't work. Highschoolers like us (and all people) look at the bad stuff first," says Gabriela. "It's just learning to find your own methods that cooperate with your everyday mood."

School funding for clubs: Is it enough?

America Ginez
CLASS OF 2025

The amount of funding given to each club is something people debate about. Here at Argo, people who do the funding for these clubs believe it's enough, but what are the opinions of the teachers and students that are actually in and run those clubs? One club responds to this question. "The funding is enough," said David Hernandez, an Argo teacher that looks after the theatre program. "I think we're in a very good place. I'm very happy that we have the money that we have because other schools don't have the money that we do." Overall, Hernandez had a positive view on the funding they received for the theatre program. Even saying their fund allows them to buy whatever they need. However, Hernandez said while the funding was enough, it wouldn't hurt to have more. One student also shared this thought. "We could always use more money," said an anonymous student, a Junior in theatre since their freshman year. "To allow more opportunities for a much larger and grandeur performance, both on stage and in the background." The student went on to say

that in their years in theatre, they saw much more impressive performances by schools that the student seemed to think were the result of more funding. They believed limiting the budget would not allow for bigger opportunities and felt these



Photo courtesy of unsplash.com

opportunities would only be achieved with more funding. However, one of the people who oversees the funding of these clubs, answers why they must limit these funds. "The main focus is obviously for students in their education," said Nicole Wasko, one of the assistant principals, who is also the activities director. "So, while we want to provide all these experiences, we're also limited on what we get."

While they are limited in funding, certain activities do also have board accounts that help them fund the club and their activities. Along with board accounts, clubs must raise money by themselves with fundraisers. However even with fundraisers, clubs sometimes have a tough time gathering money. "The fundraisers are divided because there's so many going on that people can only contribute so much to a fundraiser," said Wasko. "They're in competition with each other and sometimes that affects how much a club can raise." Despite this, Wasko expressed how she believes they do a good job of giving clubs enough funding. With the help of fundraising and the funds already provided, people who provide funds and clubs can work smoothly together. When asked about what they think about the people who do not think the funding is enough, Wasko asked students to recommend creative ways to fundraise as well as help them make suggestions on what they can do. Again, reminding students that they are still limited in the funding they do. "I do wish that we had more to be able to give our clubs so they can do unlimited things," said Wasko. "Unfortunately, that's just not the way the world works."

Students who are immigrants share struggles with education

Rember Palma-Madrid
CLASS OF 2023

Students at Argo who are immigrants struggle and have different experiences in the U.S. Students say they struggle with loneliness, learning English, and getting resources for their family. Maja Nawrocka, 18, a senior here at Argo, had it hard, and not just her, but also her family. Maja got here from Poland when she was 2 years old it has been 16 years since she been here. Maja and her family struggled in adapting and finding a job to keep them up above water to survive in a place with no knowledge. "I was two so I really can't remember exactly when I got here, but I know my parents struggle a lot both with money and knowing the language. It was hard for them to get jobs because they didn't speak English," said Nawrocka. An anonymous Argo student talked about how they did not have the opportunity to say bye to their family and did not have guidance. This student has been here since the beginning of 2021. "I felt bad because it was something unexpected because we decided a week before to come and didn't have time to say goodbye to all my friends and family members. I felt lost. I didn't know what was going on," said an Argo student. This student had no choice but to leave their whole life behind, family members, friends from childhood, and those loved ones that passed away. Another anonymous Argo student spoke about loneliness, feeling out of place, and struggles with English. They have been here for 6 months. "The first time I got to this school I felt super weird. I was living experiences way different in my life and in a school that I didn't know nobody, and my language is completely different, so I felt really out of place," said an Argo student. With these problems, a student, Maja, wants to see change. She mentions how other countries teach other languages in comparison to the U.S. "It's not the worst, but there is definitely multiple things I would change. I definitely want it to become standard for kids to learn a second language in elementary school. Almost every single other country teaches a second language except the U.S.," said Nawrocka.

Scarcity of parking causes problems for students at Argo

Mahmoud Ghanayem
CLASS OF 2023

Students at Argo Community High School without a parking pass are still struggling to find parking spots, and students say Argo isn't doing much to help.

"I finally got my license senior year and was ready to drive to school," said by Mustafa Mustafa, a senior at Argo Community High School. "After I received my license, they said there is no more parking passes left."

There are many students just like Mustafa that drive to school every single day and don't have a parking pass. It is a struggle for them to find parking some days which causes them to even be late to class sometimes. This is not right because only 42 seniors can get the student parking pass. The class of 2023 at Argo is roughly 350 students. Roughly half the class of 2023 have their license

and drive to school. That leaves 110 students without being able to get an opportunity to get a parking pass.

"I know the district has; I don't know what has come of it. But I know they were asking for an absurd



Photo courtesy of unsplash.com

amount of money," said Vincent Loizzo a dean at Argo Community High School who oversees parking passes. He said this when asked "Why doesn't Argo investigate buying the

parking lot that is for sale east of the current student parking lot?"

The students understand that money is not unlimited. But when it comes to parking Argo should investigate the downsides it has for

that is late at night and parked their car on the street and didn't have time to move the car before leaving school, they may feel uncomfortable and unsafe walking to their car at night that far away.

"Yes, sometimes not all the time but I was tardy," said Mariam Ghanayem, a former student at Argo Community High School.

There are many reasons why Argo should buy and investigate making more parking spaces. But one reason not having a big parking lot and investing thousands into a parking lot is that every single year is different. This year most of the seniors have a car but next year there might not be as many. So, the thought about spending thousands and thousands of dollars on parking lot that may benefit this year but is useless in the next couple years is just unnecessary.

"It's tough for them (the administration), it's tough," said Loizzo.

Are school hallways safe?

Natalia Stanibula
CLASS OF 2026

How safe do you feel in your school hallways? Argo is known to do many ID checks to make sure everyone entering the building is supposed to be there. I out tested how safe it really was, but first I took some pre-experiment data.

I had three freshman volunteers for my experiment: Gabriela Bonar, Savannah Valendia-Munos, and Gabby Huzior. I would do this experiment three different times throughout the week with each candidate.

The Experiment:

I would attach an air pods case or put money in their bag before entering the hallway. (I'd make sure it was a different setting or place each time.)

I'd make sure that at least one or two people were looking. I would try to "steal" either of the items as carefully as possible. I

wanted it to feel as real as possible. I would hold out whatever I stole, look at it, then stuff it into my pocket.

Results:

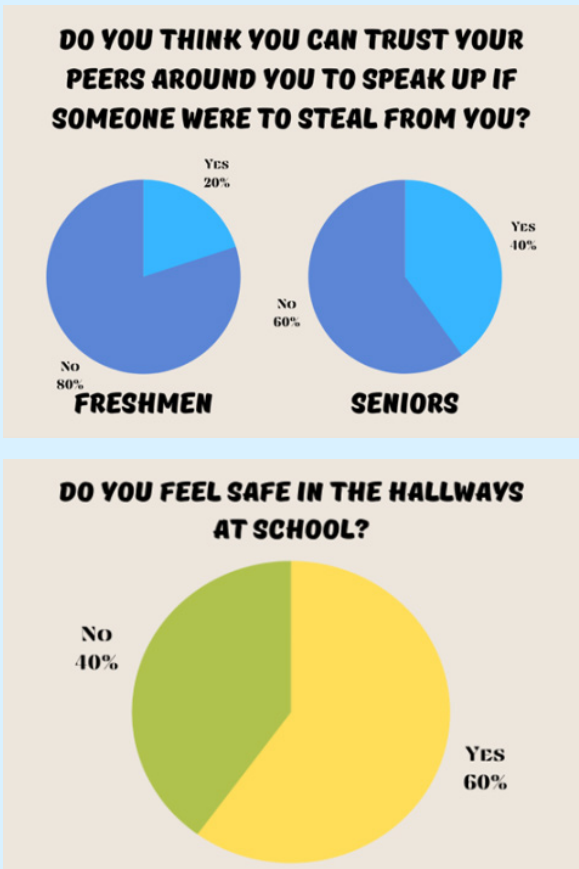
We had high hopes for this experiment. However, nobody spoke up when I stole from their bags.

As secure as Argo tries to be, it's unfortunate that it seems this experiment shows we can't trust our peers. This does not mean we cannot trust anyone. This experiment only went on for a week and its possible I could've gotten different results.

What can we do in situations like these?

Tell an adult, staff member, or a higher authority such as a security guard or policeman. Trust me, they want to help.

Use See something say something! It's completely anonymous and it can really help someone out who needs it.



Images by Natalia Stanibula

Argo Struggling with Effects of Nationwide Bus Driver Shortages

Gisselle Salto
CLASS OF 2023

In a recent nationwide survey conducted by the NAPT, NASDPTS and NSTA, half of school transportation managers have reported a "desperate" or "severe" need for bus drivers. Argo is no exception to this.

"It all started last year. So basically, when the school shut down-we went remote. First Student let go of all their drivers. Then, when we opened up, kind of like that hybrid part time schedule, not all the drivers came back. Some of them stayed on unemployment, some of them found other jobs, so we never ever got back our drivers, ever," said Dean Denise Ghaowi, who manages bus transportation for Argo.

First Student is the company that Argo and many other schools across North America use for bus services.

Due to the bus driver shortages, Argo has had to combine some bus routes.

"Now, this year, since the shortage of bus drivers, we have to be merged with Sterling Estates, which is another 15 minutes added on to the ride and the bus rides are always so packed. It's usually three to a seat and it just does not work like that, it's just so much," said Marina Ilic, a sophomore here at Argo. Not only are the buses crowded because of the combined bus routes, but it is also taking longer for students to get home.

"I just get home really really late. It takes me like 30-35 minutes

to get home. I get home at 3:35 each day, which is kind of ridiculous in my opinion considering that I can get to downtown Chicago faster than my bus can take me home," Marina mentioned in an interview.

The longer bus routes have impacted students' routines after school.

"Being an honors and AP student, 35-40 minutes is a lot. It means a lot to me because I can be doing so much homework or anything else at that time. Instead, I'm just contemplating what time that I'm going to get home. In 30 minutes, you could do a lot. It's just annoying getting home so so late every single day," Marina mentioned.

Although, Ghaowi mentions that drop off times after school have not been affected.

"This is the first time hearing about them being late dropping off...all the routes are getting home relatively around the same time as they always did," Ghaowi stated.

Administrators are working on hiring new bus drivers. First Student has offered bonuses to potential bus drivers in an effort to employ more.

"First Student did a signing bonus of \$10,000 if they could get drivers, now you don't get it all at once, you get \$2,500 after you work 3 months, \$2500 after you work 6," Ghaowi explained.

Covid has impacted many aspects of our daily lives, some changes lasting longer. Bus transportation at Argo is another aspect that we do not know when will go back to normal.

Argo vending machines closed by NSLP

Jessie Santiago, Jr.
CLASS OF 2023

Things changed when we came back to school after quarantine. Some big and some small. One of the things that people have been talking about since we came back is the vending machines. Why are the vending machines closed during school?

“They should be open cause let’s say someone doesn’t have anything to eat,” Andrea said. “They can get something from the vending machine.”

The vending machines were almost always open in 2019-2020. When we came back from the quarantine in 2021, suddenly, they

were closed. People immediately questioned why and were very confused.

“I think cause people were ditching class or the bathroom as an excuse to go to the vending machines,” Andrea said. This issue isn’t the reason for them closing vending machines during school. This may have been bit of a nuisance for teachers and security, but it is not a reason to close them during school hours.

“Argo is part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) with the State of Illinois. Per this program, the school must follow strict guidelines on what is offered to students during school hours. Vending machine choices do not qualify,” said Ms. Hoffmeister, Confidential Secretary to Joe Rojek, the Assistant Superintendent of Business.

To explain, this means that the government does not allow Argo to sell the snacks we have in our vending machines during school hours due to guidelines. The NSLP controls what Argo can put in their vending machines. The State guidelines with the NSLP to be specific. The students of Argo did nothing wrong or anything like that for the vending machines to close.

Sadly, it doesn’t get any better.

“It is possible we could offer healthy snacks in the vending machines; the district would need to

work with the vending company and the NSLP to see what options there might be available,” Ms. Hoffmeister said. “We have looked into this in the past and there were not many options.”

There is a way for the vending machine to operate during school hours. The problem is that the options the NSLP provides aren’t very good or in a lot of variety. The options are also healthy options which most students of Argo will not be happy with. The business office of Argo would very much would like to open their vending machines during school hours. Due to the State guidelines with the NSLP, they can’t.

Shortages on lunch leave students hungry

Brooklyn L.
CLASS OF 2023

At Argo Community High school, students are always walking the halls, constantly asking their friends for food, even after their lunch period.

“It’s too little. They don’t put enough food, and we like to eat,” said Kassam Saleh who is a sophomore at Argo. He gave a lot of his own opinions about how much food he gets on his lunch tray.

Kassam and a few of his other friends have fifth period lunch. They all say that its different from other lunches. By the time that they get to the lunchroom, they always get told

they don’t have any more cheese pizza or anymore of the daily special. When the students of Argo leave the lunchroom, they’re still hungry.

Ever since COVID-19, school lunches around the US has had a shortage. According to an article created by Mike Buzalka, last fall a survey was taken and 98% of schools all over the nation have been struggling with their meal programs. 97% of schools have been struggling with product shortages and 95% with staff shortages.

Maricela Camargo, the line two cashier at Argo Community High school says that she feels like they are still going through a shortage. “Yes, and were understaffed. There

has been a shortage on food and a shortage on staff. I would help in the line, but we can’t because were missing people.”

Students who have to pay for a lunch say that their portions aren’t worth paying for.

“I pay \$3.50 for a lunch, and I don’t think the amount they put on the plate is worth paying 3.50 for,” said Terryon Taylor, an Argo sophomore and Junior Varsity football player said. “I feel like they should give us two slices of pizza, we big kids and I’m always hungry,” said Eloni Lewis, an Argo sophomore and Junior Varsity Girls basketball player.

So why can’t the lunch ladies give the students more food

on the plate? Is it because of the shortage of food? Is it because they’re letting students pay for another lunch? Well, if it was up to “School Lunches by the students of Harvard Health Publishing,” students should typically get one serving of fruit and veggies, two servings of grains, one serving from the meat group and one serving from the dairy group.

“We go by the state of Illinois regulations, we wish we can put more food. We know that you guys are big kids, but we have to go by the rules and regulations of the state of Illinois. So, if they say use scoop number two for corn, we have to use the number two scoop for corn. We cannot over do it,” said Camargo.

‘The Maroon’ student newspaper and ‘Argolite’ yearbook attend SSC Publications Conference



Photos courtesy of Argolite Yearbook

Lack of drivers means mixed routes and overcrowding

Amany Abusalem
CLASS OF 2023

Many students believe that Argo is solely responsible for the increasing lack of space on the busses, yet many different factors go into it. “Usually, people are on top of each other or standing and it’s just not really a safe environment,” said Mena A. Sulieman, a sophomore at Argo. “I take the bus home every day...last year it happened almost every day.” “I had to stand in the bus until someone got out on the first stop,” said Kalil Abusalem, a Sophomore at Argo. The lack of seating is a hazard issue for the students. No one looks forward to

being crammed with other people on a bus for 20 to 35 minutes, yet it is important to understand that the administration dislikes it just as much as the students do. Unfortunately, the issue is out of their hands. In fact, last fall the Block Club Chicago noted around 2,100 Chicago public school students didn’t have a ride on their first day. They continue to say that the issue stems from the lack of drivers. The district still has 400 empty bus driver spots. The struggle for the lack of drivers seems to come from the testing. “Not a lot of people can pass the test,” says Denise Ghaowi, the Dean for A-Ga. Ghaowi continues to say, “out of a hundred people who

tested last year only 3 passed.” Argo doesn’t have much power when it comes to the lack of drivers. It seems to be a statewide issue. Not many people want to be bus drivers and the ones that do have a hard time passing the test. Fewer drivers, in turn, leave fewer buses for students. “We talked about possibly buying our own busses then we would have to staff them leading us back to the same issue,” says Ghaowi after being asked about a possible solution for this issue. “In the past, we’ve always had 18 or 19 busses. With the driver shortage, they only allowed us 16 busses. We had to combine the routes to fit all the students.”

It’s important to understand this issue doesn’t stem from a lack of trying. Combining the routes is the only solution that could still fit all the students. With routes meant for two busses or two different routes, sharing a bus can lead to overcrowding. There are multiple perspectives on this issue and the fault doesn’t lie on one person, but rather on a series of events that lean on each other. “Even the bus company wishes they had more drivers,” Ghaowi said. “Other schools are dealing with this too.”

The truth about homecoming: what really happened?

Marina Ilic
CLASS OF 2025

This year’s homecoming was supposed to be “The Sweetest night of the Year,” so at what point did it turn sour? Rumored spiked drinks, crowded areas, and even music taste affected these views. The warm night of September 10th was supposed to be one to remember; although, the reasons weren’t as positive as most would have liked. “If this was my first homecoming, I don’t know if I would want to attend again. It was just kinda... plain. There wasn’t much to it,” said Argo Sophomore, Dalia Alramli. The theme of this year’s “Candyland” Homecoming was one that was critiqued plenty. “They could do better than Candyland,” said 15-year-old, Aniyus Mitchell. The theme was not the only thing that was critiqued. The music that was played was fit for some groups of students, whilst others were hesitant.

was prominent throughout the homecoming talks. The Assistant Principal, Ms. Nicole Wasko, stated, “There’s

cords, and even tripping over each other was one that students mentioned as well. Mitchell described the

thrown together last minute... I mean, it was Gatorade and water out of tubs from the Athletic Department,” said Alramli. The tubs of Gatorade were one of the biggest concerns of homecoming. It was rumored that the drinks were spiked, dangerous to drink, and even that students were ending up in the hospital. The Assistant Principle states, “Unfortunately, I think one student says something or hears something and exaggerates it, and it gets trickled down to a bunch of other students. I obviously knew that it didn’t occur because we knew where the water was coming from... There was no opportunity for students to be able to do that,” she says.



Image courtesy of ACHS Activities

“I liked the music towards the end of the night. It was fun to dance to,” said Mitchell. On the contrary, Alramli said, “There wasn’t really a good mix of sing-along and dance songs.” The music atmosphere changed multiple times throughout the night and differing opinions came about. This issue was one that

obviously a diverse group of students here, so there’s a diverse group of music taste... Maybe next year we can have sections of different music themes, so then if someone doesn’t like a kind of music they can go to another section.” The issue of sweaty bodies touching students, tripping over

situation as “just very crowded, very tight.” The small area was easy for security to watch over students and make sure everything was running smoothly. The question that students would like answered the most is, were the drinks watched closely enough? “Everything was just kind of

The rumor was quickly shut down, and the fact was laid out that simply, “nothing happened,” Ms. Wasko stated in a private interview. More than the sour moments, there were definitely many sweet ones throughout the night. To end off the 2022 Candyland Homecoming, Argo High provided fireworks for the students to enjoy the last bit of the night. “We thought it would be a nice thing at the end of the dance for students to get to watch them,” said Ms. Wasko. The Candyland Homecoming was one to remember. Mitchell states, “All the interactions, all the people I was with, it’s always fun. Seeing everyone at school, but in a much different environment.”

The school got strict about ID’s: But why?

Michal Gacek
CLASS OF 2023

Students are confused on why they became so strict about wearing ID’s now at Argo Community High School, because the rules were never this strict in the past. “There are several reasons why we have to wear ID’s now,” said John Bacon a security guard here at Argo Community High School. Bacon says, “IDs are for our safety.” It’s for our own safety, and it’s a safety concern,” says Bacon. According to One Source Security, only 18% of high schools require students to wear ID’s. That is a big safety concern, similar to how Bacon was talking about the way ID’s

play a big role in the safety of students and the school. One Source Security also states that in the halls the faculty and staff can just look at you with a single glance and see if you belong here. Although, why do we not have to scan in anymore? “That the scan ins were mostly for the covid times,” said Bacon. “Now we can just see in the halls if you’re wearing your ID and your teachers can just take attendance in first period to see if you belong here.” According to One Source Security, IDs won’t make the supervisors stand at every entrance. That is wrong because here at Argo they still stand at the entrances to

make sure you have an ID, so they do not just let random people in. I wonder how a student would feel about these IDs being back. I got that answer right here. “No, I don’t like the ID’s being back because they bother me,” said David Soria a senior here at Argo Community High School. You can hear this from a lot of students not just him. He says they bother him whenever he is walking, and they don’t match with the “drip.” This comes from a lot of students saying that IDs bother them. Especially from the students that take a class with machines. The teachers always make you take it off, so it doesn’t get cut and an accident doesn’t happen.

David Soria said, “I use my IDs to enter the school, get around in the hallways, and I sometimes even buy lunch with it.” They made getting lunches easier for the lunch ladies there because now if you have an ID, you just scan and you get a lunch instead of having to bring money in cash. On One Source Security they say that students buy lunches with their IDs too. The main reason he believes these IDs are back for our safety. He said, “These ID’s make the school safer and easier for staff to see if we belong in the school.”

Adam Silvera’s Death Cast is Back – Warning People When They Die and Telling Them to Live

Emily Cardinal
CLASS OF 2024

“Death-Cast won’t just tell people when they’ll die. We’ll make sure their lives don’t go un-lived,” Joaquin Rosa claims in the novel *The First to Die at The End*. The prequel to *They Both Die at The End*. *The First to Die at The End* shows the first day that Death-Cast launches. Death-Cast calls subscribers if they die that day. It is seen in *They Both Die at The End*, that the Death-Cast’s predictions are correct. Rufus and Mateo live their last day together within *They Both Die at The End*. Adam Silvera notes that no one thought the title was the truth; “People thought I was going to do a fake-out. None of us is going to be the exception to death.”

The First to Die at The End is a love story between two young protagonists. Meeting at Times Square to celebrate the beginning of Death-Cast, Orion Pegan approaches Valentino Prince. Valentino had just moved to New York and knew no one, so Orion’s friendship was a welcome surprise. Valentino learns Orion signed up for Death Cast because he believes he is going to die: He has a heart condition and can die from a heart attack at any moment. Orion wants to be a writer but believes he’ll never live long enough to write anything important. Orion expresses his fear to the reader by saying, “I write short stories because I am one.” He learns within the next few minutes that his story will be longer than Valentino’s.

Valentino Prince is the first person to receive a call from Death-Cast, telling him he is going to die today. Valentino nearly reaches a breaking point- he just moved to New York to begin living. Valentino doesn’t have anyone but his sister to

call, but she is states away. He has no family since he just came out as gay and his parents disowned him. All he has is a stranger with a dying heart to keep him company.

Valentino believes he will die today, so he promises Orion his heart.

Out of all the characters Adam Silvera has created in the Death-Cast universe, he relates to Orion the most.

could’ve been like, if he was out in 2010.

An interesting detail to *They Both Die at the End* and *The First to Die at The End* is that the Death-Cast isn’t the villain. Adam Silvera expresses his view on the Death Cast by saying, “I’ve never viewed Death-Cast as villainous.” Death-Cast is meant to be a service to its subscribers,

his struggles in getting Death-Cast up and running. One thing that is avoided, but mentioned, in Joaquin’s point of view is how Death-Cast works. That part of the Death-Cast universe remains a mystery. Several more characters also show their point of view with Death-Cast and this new way of living. Mateo and Rufus, the main protagonists from *They Both Die at The End*, also have chapters of their lives as children.

9/11 is mentioned throughout *The First to Die At The End* and is tied into Orion’s story, as he lost his parents because of it. This part of the story was added because of Adam Silvera’s own fear and experiences. He was 11 years old when 9/11 happened and his mom was in Manhattan the day it happened. He recalled that he had to make plans in case they got separated as his mom, himself, and his brother walked home from school. He recalled, “It was so terrifying to fear death like that.” Two months after the tragic event of 9/11, Adam Silvera learned anyone can die at any moment when his favorite uncle died in a plane crash. The idea of Death-Cast was created because of his anxiety regarding death.

Adam Silvera was in love with the universe he created in *They Both Die at The End* and expressed his joy in expanding it. Something unique about the universe Adam Silvera created is that he can continue writing books without writing “the same book over and over.” There is going to be a third Death-Cast novel that will take place in 2020. Adam Silvera explains his plan of the book by saying, “I’m going to be talking about how Death-Cast helped prevent COVID from becoming what it became in our world, because it’s an alternate reality.”

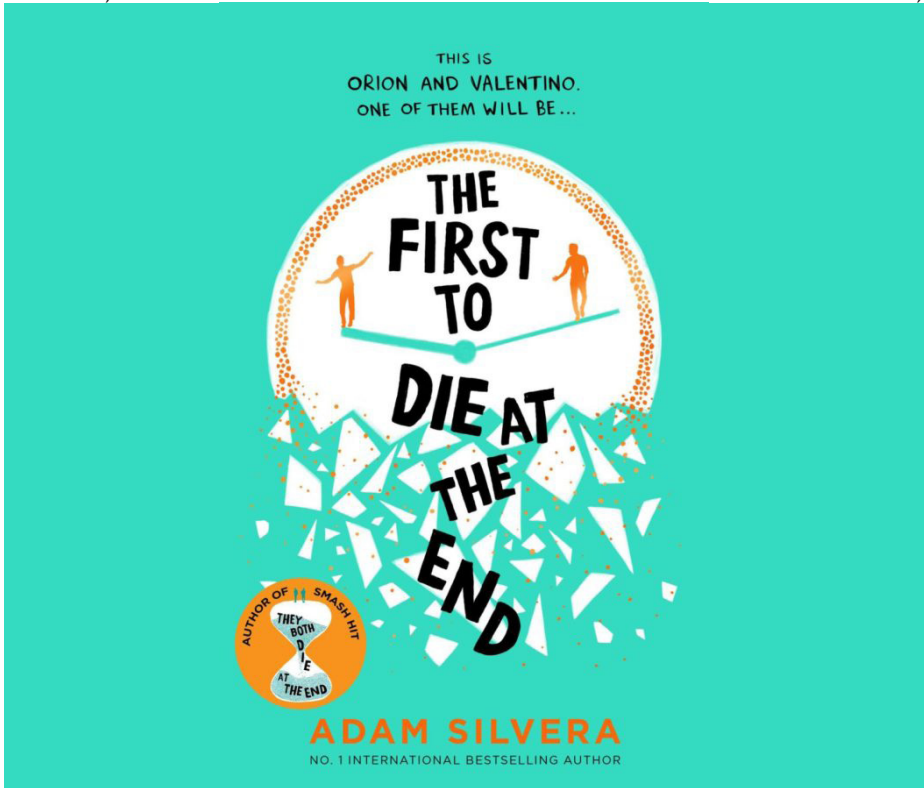


Image courtesy of adamsilvera.com

Initially, Orion wasn’t going to be a narrator of the book, his best friend was. Silvera struggled with writing the story from Dalma’s, Orion’s best friend, point of view so he wrote it from Orion’s. Adam Silvera wasn’t out as gay during 2010 and he said that “There are so many parts about his identity that are identical to my own, except I just wasn’t out yet.” Adam Silvera was able to use Orion in order to see what parts of his life

allowing them time to get their affairs in order and experience a good last day on earth. There are some minor antagonists in *The First to Die at The End*, but nothing the characters are actively working against.

The First to Die at The End is told from several points of view. In addition to Orion and Valentino, it is also told from Joaquin Rosa’s point of view. Joaquin Rosa is the creator of Death-Cast and expresses

Sports

Almost Friday: A closer look inside the varsity football team

Maja Nawrocka
CLASS OF 2023

Octavio Enriquez, a Junior at Argo Community High School and number 77 on the field, found a new family in the Varsity Football team.

“We really are a brotherhood. We’ve got each other’s back at all times and there’s nothing we wouldn’t do for each other.”

The things that make football enjoyable are the team bonds that are formed during the season, and the bonds between football players are tough. While not everyone may get along all the time, the players have respect for each other and treat each other almost like family.

In football, the bonds formed through sweat and tears are thicker than those formed by blood.

However, there’s more to being a Football player than just team atmosphere. Like all student athletes, the Football players have a lot on their plate. They practice every day,

Monday through Friday, right after school until 5:30. “It’s pretty difficult. It follows like a very tight schedule,” said Jacob Fries, a Junior and number 45 on the Varsity team.

There are two parts to being a student athlete, and both are just as important. Despite the additional time that is consumed by practice, football players are expected to finish their homework and study for exams just the same as any other students. “Homework is a little tough, you know coming home a little late, but we manage,” says Enriquez.

Despite the hardships, both Enriquez and Fries enjoy their time on the Football Team.

The players have created some pregame rituals. At home games they are led onto the field by the Marching Argonauts. With the booming of the drums, it’s hard not to get hyped up for the upcoming game.

“We just lock in you know. Anything to prepare us for the game ahead. You can’t be overly hyped,

or you won’t perform well,” says Enriquez.

The football team isn’t all work, no play. The team has their own jokes.

The Argo Football emote, started by Fries himself, has quickly become a big team joke.

“Just today, my head coach sent me a gif of the emote. He loves it,” says Fries.

The emote was popularized during the Shephard game after Fries tackled an opponent, pointed at him, and started dancing. Since then, the team has popularized the dance on social media.

“It’s become one big inside joke,” says Enriquez.

Another part of Argo Football culture is Argo Barstool, an Instagram page dedicated to the football team.

The original barstool account, which is not affiliated with Argo, was taken down and banned shortly after the Homecoming game against

Reavis. Since then, a new barstool account has been created, but even the Football team doesn’t know who runs it.

The barstool account posts all sorts of football related content, from the game schedule to spirit wear, and everyone’s favorite: the “Almost Friday” posts.

So, what is “Almost Friday”? Halfway through the week, Argo Barstool would post embarrassing and funny pictures of the players or their friends with the caption “Almost Friday” in an effort to gather more hype for the upcoming game.

And it worked. The pictures got reposted all over social media, letting everyone who saw them know that there was a football game coming up.

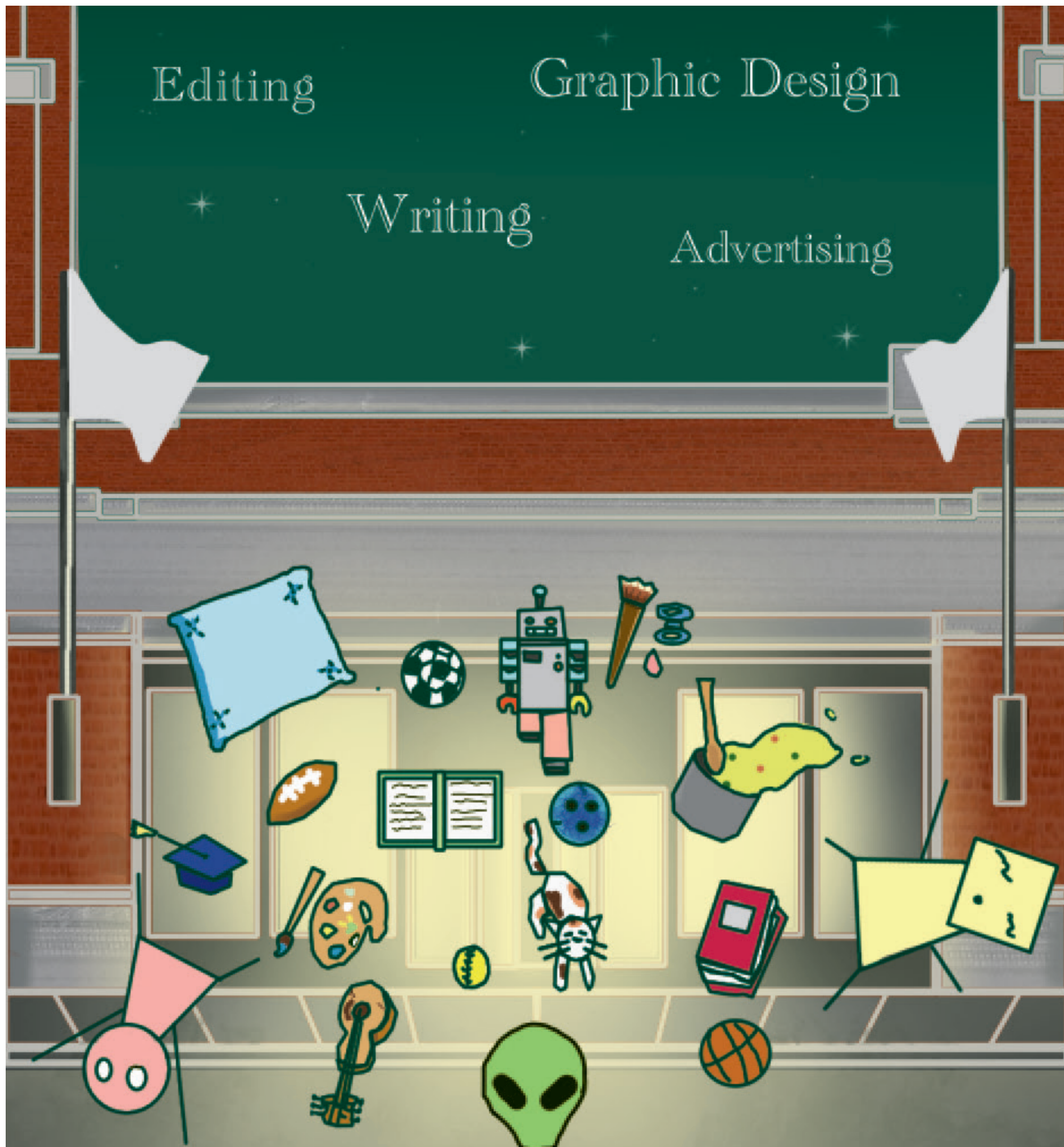
Everything from Argo Barstool, the emote, and team huddles are important parts of Argo Football culture that bring the teammates closer together.

Editing

Graphic Design

Writing

Advertising



Email mrojas@argohs.net or kbowns-kamphuis@argohs.net to get involved!