NEW YEARS

The Start of Something New

Happy **N**ew **Y**ear, **M**oors! Now that we have returned to our tedious school days, we often look forward to some change. New Year's resolutions usually come with a sense of thrill and determination. They seem easy now; you're focused and driven. However, as the year goes on, they will get more difficult to accomplish. In this issue, we reveal how our principal, our teachers and students plan to keep their goals alive this year.

SYLVIA WINSTON Features Editor

The Principle Goal of Our Principal

ELTON HO Staff Writer

With 2013 drawn to a close, the school year begins its transition into the second semester. Naturally, newly appointed principal Duane Russell has ambitions for the next phase of his inaugural year at AHS. He wishes to allow AHS to continue down the auspicious path it is currently on, referring to it as a great school.

Russell currently does not have a personal New Year's resolution, devoting himself to the improvement of AHS is his priority. Russell's main focus for 2014 is the implementation of the new Common Core State Standards. This ongoing process involves the training of teachers through professional development. As he only recently started his term as AHS principal, Russell wants to ensure the successful application of the new education standards at AHS.

In any case, Russell should be able to count on the support of the Moors in achieving his goals. With the help of the student body and the guidance of Russell, AHS will gradually accomplish these goals and rise to meet the latest Common Core Standards.

Educators' Efforts for the New Year

JANET GUAN Staff Writer

The start of a new year calls for new goals to set or the continuation of goals to work towards. Many New Year's resolutions are very self-improvement based, from changing eating habits to pushing for more exercise. However, teachers create goals that push not only themselves, but also the class as a whole. Educators' motivation affects their students' productivity and innovation during the time they spend at school.

Educators can set multiple short-term goals or long-term goals for themselves to accomplish. Such is the case for Justin Minkel, a teacher who writes for Education Week. Of his top five goals for the new year, two goals focus mainly on students: to collaborate and to interact with students more.

"Rigor and joy can co-exist. The kids in my class need to work hard and learn to struggle through difficult material, but they also need to laugh, play, and delight in the world," Minkel said.

Teachers at AHS also have their sights set high for the classroom setting as well. Many educators will place particular attention to implementing Common Core Standards to their teaching methods.

"All teachers nationwide are preparing for the Common Core Standards, which is going to require teachers to modify and adjust their curriculum," history teacher Bryan Venti said. "My goal every year is the same, which is to help students to be academically successful."

Many New Year's goals that are completed involve dedication, continuous effort and time. However, objectives cannot always be accomplished with the effort of an individual. In order for the class to improve, all participants need to contribute. Teacher and student collaboration is a must to meet classroom objectives.

Procrastination Abomination

REBECCA ZENG Staff Writer

"Stop procrastinating!" This is a fairly common New Year's resolution for high school students. The process of procrastination begins as simple, everyday laziness, such as not wanting to wake up early or complete homework assignments. The priorities of everyday tasks diminish gradually, until the next year rolls around and a majority of the people feel the obligation to make the same resolutions to mend their daily habits. Reducing procrastination is not an easy task. For example, breaking down activities and focusing on one part it is a practical way to reduce procrastination. As well as starting with the hardest task of the day first and let the easy ones just take care of themselves..

In addition, many students will try to get better grades this year. Whether it is to impress a parent or to beat a friend in an unspoken competition, getting better grades has been a popular choice for students' New Year's resolution lists this year. In order to improve academic scores, some interviewed pupils plan to study harder for examinations, while others pledge to try to avoid distractions.

According to the University of Scranton's Journal of Psychology, about eight percent of people are successful in achieving their resolutions. However, they also stated that people who make explicit resolutions are 10 times more likely to achieve their goals as opposed to the people who do not make precise resolutions. While trying to break old habits may seem difficult and tedious, hard work does pay off in the end.

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