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THE ARTIST ACADEMY ISSUE

HSPVA Myths: Debunked

By Rebecca Rock

It's easy to walk down the beautiful halls of PVA and feel like you're at a normal high school. Except for the masterful artwork adorning the walls. And the music traveling down the staircase. And the scenery — okay, so maybe this isn't so much like a "normal" school — but who needs normal?

I don't think anyone comes into HSPVA with the idea that they'll have a "normal" high school experience. Nerds don't get shoved into lockers, and fights don't break out. Now, I can't speak for others, but that's perfectly fine in my book. We all share art in common. That's what bonds us. So ignore all the silly things people say from the outside of our school because it's time to tell the truth. What really happens in our five story downtown campus? Are theatre kids really forced to wear black every day? Do the art areas mix? Do we even have "real" classes?

First, let's dive into the origins of myths. They are fiction, by definition. Before coming to PVA, I heard a number of stereotypes about people from different art areas. Ignore those stereotypes! Many theatre kids *don't* have dyed hair, many creative writers *are* outgoing, and you know what assuming will do! This applies throughout the school; a student is not their art area. They do not represent the whole art area, and their art area's stereotypes do not dictate their personality.

As you should all know, stereotypes are often super exaggerated. Though going to our school is not a normal high school experience; many of us are just that. *Normal*. We go to the movies and hang out with friends. You'll never have to give up hobbies just because it doesn't fit a preconceived notion of the arts school.

But, we do have some whacky superstitions that you are basically required to partake in. They're all fun; they all may or may not be legitimate, and there's no harm in some silly games. On that note, eat a bagel. Doesn't matter what kind, bagels are supremely important at our school. Whether from the school store, Phoenicia, or the theatre office, eat the bagel (to appease the spirit of the ghost rabbi).

Getting slightly more serious concerning ingesting: we DO NOT all do drugs. I confront this myth all the time when people find out I go to PVA. I'm not going further into this. Let's just leave it at that. We are a real school with real rules.

I think the confusion about our being a "real school" comes because so many of our classes pertain

to our art departments. As you all know, we do take academic classes. At least fifteen over the four years, and usually more. Though we all have skill in our art forms, academics must be recognized and appreciated. Sometimes you won't even realize the value that academics have until you can relate the characters of a play to an era in world history. The underlying theme: we learn a giant myriad of different things at HSPVA, not only those pertaining to art. Tell your parents not to worry! You can go to college for whatever you want after PVA, and you will be ready.

Sometimes this school feels like a dream and with dreams come illusions. Hopefully I've dispelled a few of the intimidating ones. Now go forth and conquer! And don't forget to plug in your laptop before class!



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The Unofficial HSPVA Glossary

By Shelby Edison

Since HSPVA has its own unique vernacular, I’ve put together a handy dandy glossary for some iconic PVA lingo.

APUSH — AP US History. It’s a notoriously difficult AP class for juniors that juniors like to blame for their lack of sleep.

Commons — The central area on the first floor of HSPVA that serves as a space for everything from a cafeteria to a stage to a place to conduct physics experiments.

De Blij — *Why Geography Matters* by Harm de Blij, or the textbook for Pre-AP World Geography. De Blij is very verbose and likes to reference his own work a lot. (Search for de Blij’s own name in the bibliography at the end of the book for a fun, rainy day scavenger hunt!)

Diversity Series — Five festivals over the school year: Koffeehouse, 790 Night Market, VenUS, Alphabet Soup, and Carnival. Each celebrates a different community/culture that can be found at PVA. They are full of exhibits, performances, galleries, and food.

DJ Friday — Complete with our very own student DJ, DJ Friday is a celebration of the weekend every Friday during lunch in the commons.

Happening — One of PVA’s most beloved and iconic traditions. They’re talent shows featuring performers of all grades and art areas put on at lunch in the Commons (or online) and hosted by two seniors, or Happening Chairs.

Library Desk Concert — Modeled after NPR’s Tiny Desk Concerts, these are small concerts produced and performed by PVA students during lunch in, you guessed it, the library.

Octopus Ink — HSPVA’s art and literary journal. It’s filled with writing of all genres and many mediums of art from students across grade levels and art areas.

paper* — What you’re reading now! It’s HSPVA’s student-run journalistic publication, filled with obscure pop culture references, updates on PVA life, and overheard (quotes overheard in the hallways).

Studio Theatre — It’s a smaller performance space on the second floor that’s home to creative writing readings, theatre performances, and some Diversity Series events.

The Denney — The main theatre at PVA, complete with two levels of seating, a tech booth, orchestra pit, and ginormous stage. It’s home to All-School Musicals, Black History Productions, dance recitals, concerts, and much more.

WHAP — AP World History. It’s a notoriously difficult AP class for sophomores that can single-handedly prevent the sophomore slump due to its heavy load of required reading.

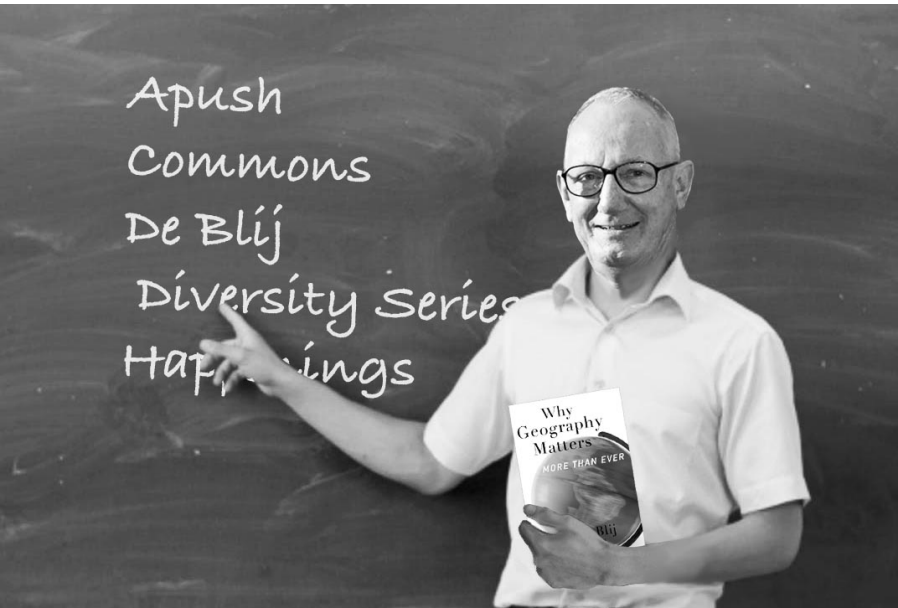
Little Known, Embarrassing Facts about PVA Teachers and Staff

Did you know that **Ms. Williams** gets embarrassed by just about anything that most other people enjoy, and people serenading her with a rendition of “Happy Birthday” at a restaurant makes her feel like a popsicle melting on a hot day?

Did you know that during **Mr. Klein**’s first time teaching a class of 6th graders, he tripped over an extension cord and accidentally said a few expletives in front of his class?

Did you know that when **Mr. Perez** was teaching his class how to form commands in Spanish, he let his students come up with commands that he would follow if they were grammatically correct? Turns out, all the commands were correct, and he had to sing, run, and perform ballet in class!

Did you know that **Ms. Switek** has been locked in 2 public restroom stalls in a three month span (and had to get out by crawling over the top of the stalls)?



Zan’s Mixtapes

By Zander Tate

Welcome to PVA! Here’s a collection of songs from the past and present that encapsulate the crazy experience of freshman year. You dance, cry, make friends, and learn--a lot. Regardless of how this year works out, music will always be there.

“**Paradisín**” by **Rina Sawayama** — This is the ultimate main character song. It sounds like the theme song to some indie show and makes you feel just as cool. Who doesn’t want to feel like the world is theirs?

“**Sir Duke**” by **Stevie Wonder** — A classic song that just makes you wanna dance! This song sounds like dancing in the hallway, but for now we’ll just have to stick to vibing in our rooms...

“**IPHONE**” by **Rico Nasty** —Just a fun and wild track that embraces the crazy state of the world. If the 100gecs core production doesn’t scare you off then you’ll be screaming “he on my hip like a tamagotchiiiiii” in no time.

“**Laugh Now Cry Later**” by **Drake ft. Lil Durk** — While Drake may have the privilege we don’t of being able to save the crying for later, this track provides some much needed optimism in 2020. There’s no simpler way to describe life--especially right now-- than “sometimes we laugh and sometimes we cry—BABY.”

Freshie-scopes

By Maja Neal

Salutations, new blood. As the resident astrologist — also known as five rats stacked in a malfunctioning Zoltar machine — it’s my job to throw September predictions your way and see what sticks. So let’s take a peek at what each sign’s first month at PVA looks like.

Aries - You tend to GO GO GO. Though that energy can be useful, the best thing to do for your productivity is step back. Advice: make a full-size portrait of Che Guevara from green tea bags.

Taurus - We’re feeling extra creative and antsy as September begins. Just remember you can’t be a genius all the time! Advice: learn how to pop-shuvit a TechDeck.

Gemini - Do NOT react angrily when provoked, even if it seems like someone is testing you. Otherwise, this month holds new friendships and priorities in store! Advice: get lost in the Overlook Hotel’s hedge maze.

Cancer - Listen to your gut; it is full of intestines and wisdom. A boost in self-confidence will be majorly helpful in adapting to your new situation. Advice: heist the Dior Eugénie ballgown from the Met.

Leo - You’ll start off pretty chill, but halfway through September you might start to act on impulse. Try not to make any big decisions when you’re annoyed. Advice: bake frog-shaped lime macarons and meditate.

Virgo - It’s easier to be yourself this season. Identify and resolve to go after the things that really matter to YOU, not anyone else. Advice: solve a murder in a small, eerie Pacific Northwest town.

Libra - Quarantine has been monotonous; here’s your chance to let out all that bundled-up creativity. Just don’t take on more than you can handle! Advice: present your beloved with a juicebox bouquet.

Scorpio - Though you might finally get the chance to shake things up, you’ll feel on-edge because of it. Try to be open-minded, and don’t be nervous to get rid of toxicity. Advice: buy me a baby-pink 1989 Nissan 240SX.

“**Little Bitty**” by **Alan Jackson** — If you don’t feel all big and bad, know that it’s alright to be little bitty. Yes, I know it’s country, and we’re conditioned to hate it, but I promise this is a cute and clever song that’ll be stuck in your head all day.

“**GOLD**” by **Brockhampton** — I may be biased because this song reminds me of my freshman year, but “GOLD” is just a feel good track to play around your friends.

“**7/11**” by **Beyoncé** — It’s not PVA if there’s no Beyonce. Pretend its DJ Friday and just rock out to this. How can you not dance when you hear that first beat drop?

“**Fifteen**” by **Taylor Swift** — Does this one really need an explanation? WeLcOmE tO HiGh sChOoL!;

“**Con Altura**” by **Rosalía ft. J Balvin & El Guincho** — How can you not love La Rosalia?! This reggaetón hit is another song that just sounds like a good time with friends at a party—a feeling we all miss.

Listen to the playlist using the qr code below!

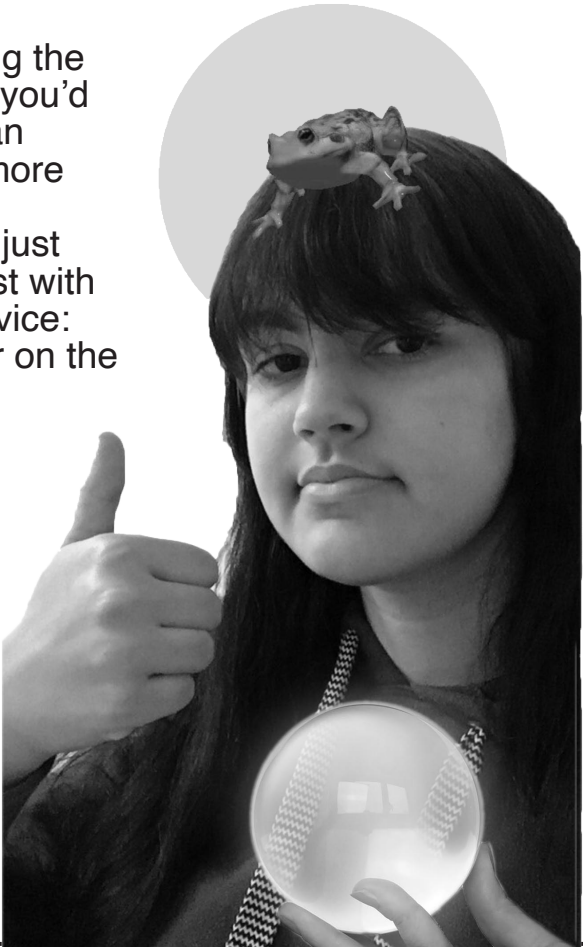


Sagittarius - If you’ve felt slowed down since spring — maybe because of the Jupiter retrograde,or maybe, I don’t know, the pandemic — get ready for that to change. If you had dreams for 2020, you’ll be reinvigorated to go at them. Advice: become a tropical coral off the Australian coast.

Capricorn - You might start this month put-together, but become way more pressured and hectic as work piles on. Working through these challenges will prove to you and your peers that you’re capable of great things. Advice: take a bite of a bath bomb.*

Aquarius - Not making the progress you thought you’d make does NOT mean you’ve failed. Acting more inconsistent may be a sign that you’re really just becoming more honest with your own feelings. Advice: Reanimate a dinosaur on the DL.

Pisces - It might feel difficult, but try to get used to your new lifestyle. Accept that things have changed for you and find the best in them. Advice: Make a knit sweater for your local raccoon.



*a metaphorical bath bomb, that is

Quiz: Which PVA Department do You Belong In?

by Luca Jarosz

1. Let's say we're currently at school. Where do you see yourself eating lunch?
- a. The Commons, obviously. I want to be right in the middle of the action!
 - b. The first floor dressing rooms. I want to be loud and chaotic with my friends without anyone else watching.
 - c. Honestly, underneath the stairs in Staircase C seems super cozy. I could see myself there with my friends just joking around and having fun.
 - d. I'd probably be eating at whatever club meeting I have that day.
 - e. Definitely in the Creative Writing living room. It seems super quaint there.
 - f. The 5th floor terrace for sure. The vibes are nice, and I need some fresh air after working all day.
2. Uh oh. You hear from your friends in AM academics that there's a pop quiz in your first class after lunch. How are you going to study for it?
- a. My notes are super organized (and color coordinated!), so I'll just look them over before class to make sure I'm prepared.
 - b. I'll get together with some friends before class, and we'll make some flashcards to quiz each other.
 - c. My friend already has a Quizlet prepared for the class, so I'll just look over theirs before I go in.
 - d. I can wing it.
 - e. I already knew there was a quiz anyways. I've been studying for weeks.
 - f. I study regularly enough to do well without cramming.
3. You forget your lunch at home, and your friend lends you some money to buy something at the school store. What are you buying?
- a. A prepackaged salad
 - b. A bagel with cream cheese
 - c. A bottle of Sweet Tea and a bag of Cheez-Its
 - d. A bottle of water and a bag of Kellogg's Gummies
 - e. A Blackberry Izze and an Uncrustable
 - f. A Clementine Izze and 4 Cheese Sticks

Mostly A's:
You mostly align with someone in the Dance Department! I already know you're gonna be killing it at every DJ Friday, and you better remember to not wear sneakers in the dance studios (or face the wrath of Ms. Carothers... just kidding... kind of).

Mostly B's:
You mostly align with someone in the Theatre Department! Let's face it — you're loud, boisterous, and you think you're the main character (whether or not you are, I'll leave it up to you). Make sure to wear your all black clothing every day and get ready to join the cult you never knew you wanted to be in.

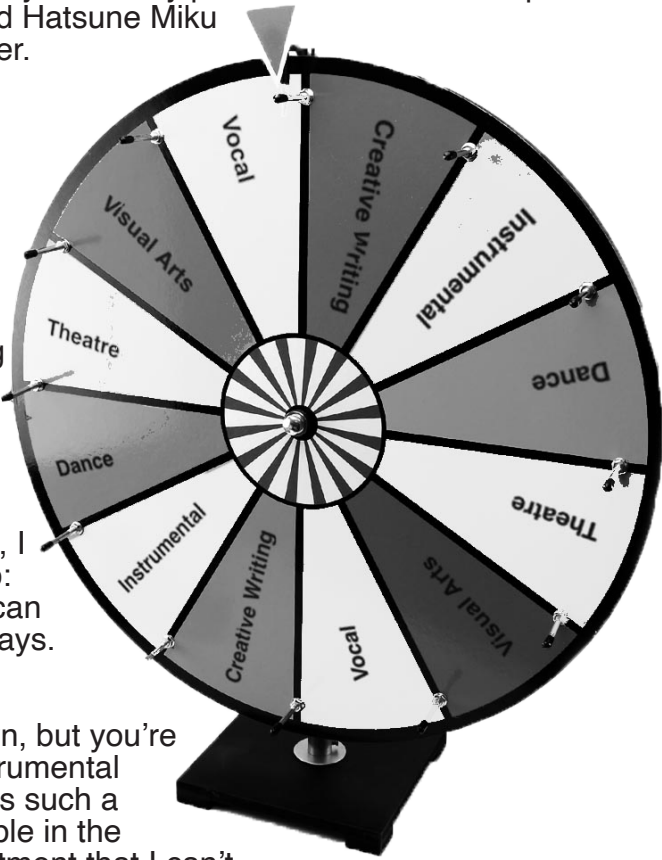
Mostly C's:
You mostly align with someone in the Visual Art Department! I bet you're really funny and go against the flow, which I really admire. You usually keep to yourself but are really outgoing when you're with your close group of friends. It's nice... I love that for you :).

Mostly D's:
You mostly align with someone in the Vocal Department! You have the voice of an angel (at least I'd hope). Welcome to the department that taught Beyoncé for about three months! Maybe you're the next Queen B... who knows!

4. You arrive at school, and your first period teacher hasn't shown up. The classroom is unlocked, and there's no sign of a substitute. What do you do?
- a. Prop up my phone on the whiteboard and make TikToks with my friends. Those TikTok dances aren't gonna learn themselves!
 - b. I'm going to talk with my friends and just relax. I have a long day ahead of me, and I'm going to take advantage of this time to just chill.
 - c. I'm putting in my headphones and doodling in my journal. The people in my class are being way too loud anyway.
 - d. I'm just going to chill on my phone, maybe scroll through Instagram or Twitter.
 - e. I'm going to go tell the teacher next door. Maybe they can tell the office and get us a substitute ASAP.
 - f. Two words. Hall. Walking.
5. You're sitting in your last period class of the day and an office worker walks in to deliver a note to your teacher. It's for you. You're being called into the office, and you're in trouble. What'd you do?
- a. I forgot how thin the walls are in the school, and I was talking bad about a teacher... let's just say I'm in deep.
 - b. This is definitely about me and my friends causing commotion and having a dance party in the hallway during class.
 - c. Graffiti in the bathroom stall.
 - d. I wasn't a part of the dance party in the halls... but I was hyping up the kids who were... whoops.
 - e. My presentation in class didn't go over well because I called for the beheading of multiple politicians and the fall of the bourgeoisie.
 - f. I found a way to link my phone with the school speakers and blasted Hatsune Miku over the loudspeaker.

Mostly E's:
You mostly align with someone in the Creative Writing Department! You're very well spoken and have such a way with words. It honestly blows my mind. Matter of fact, I could use your help: let me know if you can edit my college essays.

Mostly F's:
I can't peg you down, but you're probably in the Instrumental Department! There's such a wide variety of people in the Instrumental Department that I can't quite figure you out. Maybe you're a violinist, a jazz drummer, or a mariachi student. Not sure! I bet you're really good at what you do, though.



Overheard@PVA

"I found out a couple years ago that I'm on the cover of *a Christian romance novel*." — Elena Oliviera

"I think I left my Prius in the other dimension." — Caroline Paden

"Newton saw an apple drop and thought of gravity. I threw an apple, saw a tree, and **thought of God**." — Eva Trakhtman

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"I think every cowboy had a little bit of *depression*." — Eli Johns-Krull

Submit your overheards (or overzooms) to hspvapaper@gmail.com

"There used to be **peacocks** in my neighborhood." — Anna Tobin

"I would marry anyone named *Mr. Darcy*." — Rebecca Rock

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