

# Voice of the Highlander

No. 1 - September 2019

The student newspaper of Robert T. Hill Middle School in Dallas, TX.

## Girls rule at Hill

By Demarion Wreh



This year, women's rights and gender equity, became a major focus. As all kinds of feminist movements headlines across the globe. This movement has made its way to Robert T Hill during football season. All you have to do is look at the sideline and see 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Jennifer Saucier and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Savannah David breaking that image.

Coach Jennifer Saucier is excited to get in the game this year as one of the football coaches. She will be coaching the kickers.

"I feel like the coaches and the players are super welcoming and respectful," said Coach Saucier, "It's an honor being a football coach."

This will be Savannah David's first time on the football team. She will be one of the kickers. She is having fun showing the boys how it is done.

"I also feel honored I'm a little scared, but I'll get used to it," said David.

We are very proud of these women. They are constantly raising the bar and being role models to other females at Hill. Their goal is to continue to break that image of what girls can do.

## Teacher breaks foot

By Ian Marchand



Mrs. Tseng is the Hill STEM teacher. She was very active until she suffered a leg injury at school. Apparently, it happened before the school year started.

“I was climbing on top of a table to set up the board and I slipped and fell,” said Tseng.

Tseng was rushed to the doctor. She was afraid of what her injuries were going to be.

“I feared not being able to move around anymore,” she added.

Tseng is hoping for a fast and fluent recovery, but surgery is possible. We ask all teachers to be careful climbing on anything.

We will be keeping track of her recovery.

## The one and only Ms. Stroud

By Tasmiah Majid



**Mrs. Stroud is a 7th grade teacher at Hill Middle School. She has been teaching here for three years. It will be her third year this year. She teaches 7th grade pre-ap reading and writing.**

**Mrs. Stroud was born in east Dallas. Actually, about five minutes from Hill. She went to SMU for her teaching degree.**

**“I want to empower young people through education,” said Stroud, “I think that if kids become better readers and critical thinkers, they can change the world.”**

**Ms. Stroud is an awesome and wonderful teacher.**

## Do you want your hoodies back?

By Yuridia Rojas



Why are hoodies not allowed? That is what a lot of kids at Hill Middle school ask themselves.

We interviewed people to see what the pros and cons of not being able to wear hoodies. We also asked why hoodies are not allowed and why the policy is so important.

First, we asked 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mr. Ault about the policy.

“The policy is important because we want to keep students at Hill safe,” said Mr. Ault. He also stated that teachers do not want students to cover their faces with hoodies.

We also asked 8<sup>th</sup> grader Ian Marchand why he dislikes the no hoodie policy and why he thinks hoodies should be allowed. He replied, “I don’t like the policy because I like putting my hoodie on and in general sweaters with hoodies look better.”

He also said that hoodies should be allowed because it is easy to get them, and it is a better style.

Unfortunately, we couldn't find anyone to interview for why they like the policy.

## Water bottle dilemma

By Breanna Bailey



There are many reasons why they do not allow water in water bottles at Robert T Hill Middle School. Of course, there has been rumors about students adding illegal fluids into their water bottle.

7<sup>th</sup> grader Tasmiah Majid has been attending school for about one year.

"I understand the water policy for safety reasons, but it gets annoying because the water here taste nasty," said Majid.

Hopefully, staff members find better drinking beverages for students at Hill Middle School. It is true that a large majority of these students here at Hill do not agree to this policy.

We hope these students at Hill have a great year and that this rule does not turn into rage.

## Hill students want to level up with a video game club

By Kaylon Edwards



Robert T Hill Middle School has a huge diversity of after school clubs like the chess club, news club, and art club. But students want another club at the school like no other, a gaming club. Students feel like gaming should be represented at Robert T Hill Middle School with its very own club and should be shown in positive light.

We wanted to get in the minds of students to see what they feel about this idea.

"I feel like students would be eager to join the pro video game club," said 8<sup>th</sup> grader Cody Fulenwider.

He also said, "I feel like this would actually just be another great way for students to be represented at our school".

Ms. Grant is working on allowing this club to be at Hill. We will have more details in the next Voice of the Highlander.

## The life of Mr. Ault

By Hillary Martinez

Josh Ault is a 7th grade social studies and journalism teacher at Robert T Middle School.

We learned that in his spare time he likes to be outdoors. We also learned that his favorite thing being a teacher is seeing kids grow and learn new things.

We also learned that his home town is Henderson, TX. He also lived in eight different states.

## **Teacher Profile:**

### **Mr. Trevino**

By Corlynda Malvern

Robert T Hill Middle School has hired 23 new teachers for this 2019 -2020 school year.

We want to introduce you to our new 8<sup>th</sup> grade history teacher Mr. Trevino.

“I have always enjoyed history and wanted to share that with others, so teaching is the perfect way to do that,” said Mr. Trevino.

We agree that really is the best way to do it.

We wanted to know what quotes mean the most to him.

“The scariest moment is always just before you start by Stephen King,” he said.

He also likes a quote from Benjamin Franklin, “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn”.

Trevino says he is excited to teach 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

“I want to do my best and prepare the 8<sup>th</sup> graders for high school,” he said.

He says he is excited to make a positive impact on the students at Hill and help them to have a brighter future.

## **Cross country is ready to win**

By Savannah David



Have you ever wondered what it's like to be in cross country? As many of you know many of your fellow students are in cross country.

8<sup>th</sup> grader Jocelyn Shombert is on the team.

“I like cross country because of my friends and because it gets me fit for soccer season,” said Shombert.

Cross country is a demanding sport that few know about. It requires a lot of endurance, patience, and determination needed not to quit.

“We stretch and then we run 30 minutes with 1:30 minute breaks in between each 10 mins of running,” said Shombert.

Please come out and support the cross-country team tomorrow at the next meet.

# My friend Karen Ipina

By Victoria Kenny

One of my best friends is 8<sup>th</sup> grader Karen Ipina.

Before Hill, she attended Martha Turner Reilly Elementary School.

Ipina says this school year has been going good except for some changes.

“I don’t like that we can’t have our phones or hoodies,” said Ipina, “It would be better if we had backpacks and hoodies because then we would have an option.”

Despite these rule changes, she is glad she has something to go home to.

“I have a dog and his name is Baxter,” she said, “He is adorable.”

Ipina is a cool person and is super funny.

# Band break through

By Angela Tapia

Robert T Hill middle school band has already begun to learn new material. We are excited to hear them play for the first time.

7<sup>th</sup> grader Armani Lee is in his second year in band. He likes Mr. Romero, the new band director.

“He’s cool and chill,” said Lee.

He also said they are using snare drums and learning how to read music correctly.

“The class makes me feel kind of good,” added Lee.

We hope to know more about what goes on in band and find out other student’s opinions.

Band seems great and interesting, so might have to check it out. Would you join band?



**Members of the news club interview Mr. Romero, our new band director, in the first edition of their show Up on the Hill on Tuesday.**

# English teacher loves Hill

By Moo Paw



Have you ever wondered who the 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading teacher is? Ms. Pineda

has been teaching at Hill for several years.

“This is my 4th year at Hill,” said Pineda, “I have some educational experience before, but Hill is the best school so far.”

When she is not at school she keeps busy.

“I love to spend time with my friends, family, and two dogs,” she said.

We are excited to learn more about Ms. Pineda in the future.

If you would like to meet Ms. Pineda go by room 208 and say hi.

## A New Season

By Cody Fulenwider



It is crazy to think about how hard the Hill robotics teams have been working this early in the year. The robotic teams have been showing up at school every weekday morning at seven to practice and improve their robots.

There is no doubt that the robotic teams will represent our school better than ever this school year!

“I am very excited about the competitions,” said STEM teacher Mrs. Tseng, “I can’t wait to see our robots in action.”

Of course, the robotics teams hard work will hopefully pay off at the end of the year when they find out if they have met their goals and qualified for the state, national and international championships.

“My goal is to teach the new sixth graders how to design, build, and program robots,” said Tseng, “While preparing the seventh graders to do well in their competitions. As for my eighth grade, my goal is to support them and help them keep up with the great work they have done so far.”

Just imagine how extraordinary it would be to say that you have participated in a world championship. Fortunately, the eighth-grade teams can say they have due to their spectacular work on their engineering notebook last year. The eighth-grade girls team qualified not only for state and national competitions, but also for the world championship. There is no doubt that all the teams are trying their hardest to qualify for the biggest Vex competition in the world.

# Volleyball takes a win!

By Jocelyn Shoumbert



At Robert T Hill Middle School, we have a volleyball team that is always committed to playing hard and has started the year out with a win.

We are hoping they will win all their games and keep practicing and doing the best they can. We know our team can take those wins and be the best from the rest.

“I feel confident because we are so good in practice and we were ready,” said 8<sup>th</sup> grader Emma Hughes, “I feel so happy playing volleyball to be honest. I don’t care I just feel so happy!”

We are rooting for our Hill Middle School volleyball team and hope the best for them for the next game. They are always wanting to win, but they are always having fun doing it. Go Hill!

# Why binders?

By Emely Rodriguez and Andrew Sivess



Most of us were annoyed when we saw the “no backpacks allowed” policy at the Robert T. Hill Middle School. The mere thought of binders filled us with irritation. We think it is unfair to everyone. We have so many papers to carry, pencils, coloring utensils and now a 2.9 pound Chromebook.

“I wouldn’t have to carry anything in my hand,” said 8<sup>th</sup> grader Victoria Kenny, “Don’t forget it’s 11 inches long and it’s not so thin.”

“I don’t like the new rule,” said 8<sup>th</sup> grader Dwayne Edwards, “I wish we could put our things in our backpacks because the stuff we carry gets in the way.”

There are some people who do agree with the “no backpack” policy.

“I agree with the policy of the backpacks because it’s safer,” said 7<sup>th</sup> grader Tasmiah Majid .

Do you agree or disagree with policy? Is this rule necessary?

# Journalism is here!

By Jaime Batista

As you know the journalism class makes a new name for their newspaper each year. This year they decided to call their newspaper ‘Voice of the Highlander’. There were originally other names, but ‘Voice of the Highlander’ won with the most votes.

"I really enjoy writing stories for people to see," said 8th grader Andrew Sivess.

We checked with a couple of new students and they seem to really enjoy this class.

Chromebooks this year will be of great help for the students at journalism class since this day and age technology is really helpful for work.

There are a lot of journalists at work here and only the future will tell what stories they will have this year.

You also will be able to read the school newspaper online this year as well. Please visit our new website at [www.hilljournalism.weebly.com](http://www.hilljournalism.weebly.com).

## \$5 swag day crisis

By Ty'Liyah Smith



At Hill Middle School students wear a uniform not provided by the school. On Friday, students have the chance to pay five dollars to wear anything that they choose.

However, the students we spoke with say that there needs to be some changes.

"I think that it's unfair," said 7<sup>th</sup> grader Valeria De La Cruz.

"It should be three dollars," said 7<sup>th</sup> grader Roberto Castaneda.

It seems like students do not agree with this rule at all. Maybe they will find a way to get the payment to go down.

What do you think about it?

## The pain of carrying Chromebooks

By Ceferino Cruz



**To begin with, Robert T Hill's students think that Chromebooks are good for them and are not bad because it can help teachers to not use as much paper and finish with the work much faster. Some classes can do work online, so we can do it faster.**

**8<sup>th</sup> grader Frank Cochran is a student at Robert T Hill, and she feels that carrying a Chromebook can be a challenge.**

**"The Chromebook gets heavy," said Cochran.**

**Some students do not think the same.**

**Do you mind carrying the Chromebooks or do you feel there needs to be a better way?**



# Dance like a star

By Julissa Gomez



Dance class is a class most of us have if you do not have gym or LCC. What do people think about dance class? Do they like it, or do they hate it?

“It helps me get out of my comfort zone,” said 7<sup>th</sup> grader Hillary Martinez.

Dance is one of Hillary’s favorite classes. She enjoys the fact that we get to dance with other dance teams. Hillary hates dressing out in class.

“Ms. Ah is fun,” said Martinez

In a conclusion, this student thinks dance class is fun and she enjoys it. Robert T Hill dance team rocks!

## Martinez On New Policies

By Frank Cochran

Have you noticed all the new staff changes this year? Returning from a hiatus this year, and returning as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade principal, is Mrs. Martinez! She is excited to be back at Hill

We asked her if she disagrees with any new policies.

“No, there’s not really anything I’ve seen that I disagree with,” said Martinez, “Every rule we have is here for a reason, and I think many students don’t understand that.”

She says there are reasons why these new policies, like not hoodies, are in place.

“We think really hard about all the rules that we put into place, and it’s all to keep you kids safe,” she added.

We had a great time talking to Ms. Martinez and hope to do more stories on her in the future. We hope she stays here for a long time! If you see her in the hall, make sure to say hi!

### **Newspaper Staff:**

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# IZUKU by Leticia Duarte



