

# El Gato's School

## 2023

Dear class of 2023: look up from your schedule and take in the hallway scene. Walking at a snail's pace in impenetrable lines that span the entire hallway sucks for the people behind you! DO NOT sit in the hand sculpture! You know the one I'm talking about and don't question it, I'm saving you from a mistake. Remember, upperclassmen sense cockiness and they can and will humble you when necessary. Other than that, we want to help you because we understand your struggles. Try new things because it's the best way for you to find what makes you happy... and try not to get overwhelmed because high school is supposed to be the best years of your life. Enjoy it!

**-Sonali Muthukrishnan, News Editor**



One of the most essential things that freshmen should take into consideration is trying to be as productive during Tutorial as possible. If you are playing sports, taking hard classes, or just wanting time to hang out with your friends, Tutorial can be a life saver. Especially with the new Tutorial rules, you don't have the excuse of wanting to get food for not getting a solid amount of homework done. Tutorial is too good a resource to go to waste, and you definitely want to start good habits in your freshman year.

**-Lucy Holland, Sports Editor**



## 2022

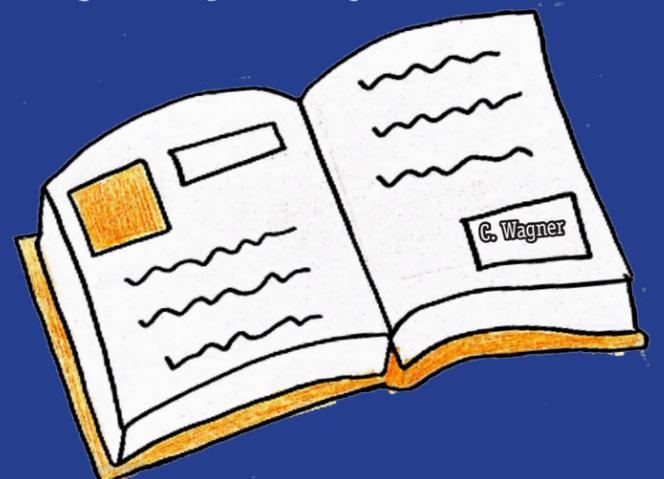
It's easy for sophomore year to start to feel like it's 'in between' something — you're not a freshman anymore, but you're not yet an upperclassman. However, don't let yourself think that this year is bound to be monotonous. Now that you're used to high school life, take advantage of the clubs, activities, and classes you saw as too daunting during freshman year, attend the dances and sports games that you skipped out on, and get to know the classmates who are unfamiliar to you. Most of all, make school fun. Trust me, you'll miss it.

**-Lexi Kupor, People Editor**



Congratulations sophomores! You survived freshman year! Now it's time to buckle your seatbelts because they went easy on you last year. If you want a safe route through sophomore year, make sure you learn how to use your time wisely and stay organized. I know you've heard it a thousand times from speeches and people and videos, but there is a whole lot of truth behind it. The most important advice I have for you, however, is to start with organization. The school planner that you got for free last year - the one you probably wrote one assignment in and tossed aside - will become your new best friend. Available at the ASB office for \$10, this planner paved my way to success sophomore year. Every assignment was written down in one place instead of strewn across the calendar, modules, and assignments in Canvas.

**-Caroline Wagner, Graphics Designer**

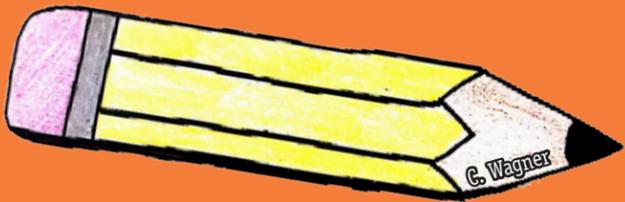


# Survival Guide

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As you enter your junior year, your mind might be full of thoughts of SAT or ACT testing, honors and AP classes, getting enough sleep, and somehow maintaining a social life. Junior year can be overwhelming for some, so it's important to keep up with all your work. One thing that helped me was taking the SAT in December of my junior year. It's a good idea to start taking the SAT/ACT as early as you can, because it gives you an opportunity either to get the test over with or retake it. Also, it's important to get to know your teachers and guidance counselor, as they might be writing letters of recommendation for you next year, so you want them to know you personally.

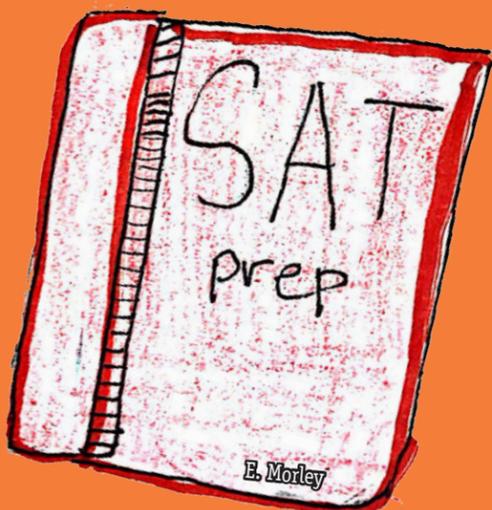
- **Morgan Tinsley**, *Editor-in-Chief*



To most, junior year will feel like a bucket of ice water being dumped on your head. I'm here to tell you to go grab a towel and dry off; everything is going to be fine. My biggest mistake was holding off on my SAT/ACT studies. You don't have to be studying 24/7, but you should pick up an SAT book and give it a read. It will relieve stress and improve your overall state of mind. And, when you're ready, sign up for the next available test.

As for some general advice, just be intelligent about your workload. It's better to work smart than to work unnecessarily hard. This can be as simple as filling out a planner and dispersing your workload, or even just checking in with teachers during tutorial with general questions can make a world of difference.

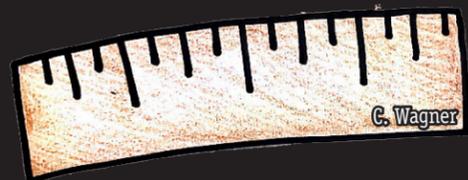
- **Liam Hoole**, *Media Production Editor*



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"I would encourage you not to think of senior year as just treading water until college, but to think of it of an opportunity to push yourself and to make friends. Spend time with each other and have new experiences; get to know yourself a little bit more. I would say that you're on the verge or maybe you've already started making some really important life decisions and it's really easy to feel like these decisions will determine the rest of your life. I just think that's not true. These decisions are important, but they do not define you for the rest of your existence. Make lots of mistakes. Take a chance, have an experience you're nervous about. One of the mistakes that I made when I was your age is placing too much power into suggestions that other people had for me rather than making my own decisions."

- **Matthew Holm**



"This too shall pass. It's not always gonna be this chaotic. What the kiddos tell me at the end of the year is they understand the concept of you find the college that fits best for you. That may or may not be a big name school, but the most important thing is that you like it there and you want to feel comfortable on that campus. **Jerry Zhou** [who graduated] last year came back with a Hawaiian shirt, and a year from now you're going to be the same way. You're going to be wearing a Hawaiian shirt, you're going to be so relaxed. This semester is stressful, but it's totally doable and reaching out to friends is a good idea. I'm not going to deny it's a stressful time because that would be a lie. But we all get through it every year, and it's going to be fine. Be nice to yourself. I just saw this today: You have been criticizing yourself for years and it hasn't worked. Try approving of yourself and see what happens."

- **Paris De Soto**

