

What do ASB Freshman candidates want to change?

"I want to increase the amount of interaction between students in different grades, and I think that is very helpful for younger students to get advice from older students"

DAVID WU ('26)



"I plan to put student input boxes around the school to make sure that all of the actions ASB makes can help directly impact the Freshman class."

KIARA YOON ('26)

wish me luck

Students share their lucky charms and the meaning behind them.

"Aya means color and Ka means flower, so [this] brings a lot of color to my math problems and frequently opens the door when it closes on me. Ayaka is a really cute name, and that reminded me of one of my childhood toys. It was the first time I felt like a kid again, and the first time I truly smiled in freshman year."

Photos courtesy of Sophia Dong

SOPHIA DONG ('25)



"I carry [it] around with me all the time. If I am switching bags I would make sure this would still be on me. I got this in the Harry Potter store in NYC and I remember being so excited lining up with my family for hours!"

Photos courtesy of Trianne Hontiveros

TRIANNE HONTIVEROS ('23)



"[This] came from my grandmother, and I received it as a gift for my 16th birthday. My grandmother's grandfather is a scholar, so I guess his success in academics can bring me luck on academics."

Photos courtesy of Iris Tang

IRIS TANG ('24)



RETURNING to routine

Story by Hannah Huang

Alli Katila-Miikkulainen ('26) shares her morning routines.

(below) **GETTING A HEADSTART** on her work, Freshman Alli Katila-Miikkulainen finishes her biology homework before her first class at the library. She believes that studying in the morning prepares her for the upcoming semester.

Photo by Rebecca Doran



(left) **ARRIVING BEFORE MOST** people, Alli Katila-Miikkulainen bikes into school.



Monday morning, 7:30 a.m. Alli Katila-Miikkulainen ('26) has been up for an hour and half, doing homework.

"I wake up refreshed in the mornings, so I think that if I do my homework and study then, I can do fun stuff later in the day," Katila-Miikkulainen said.

Katila-Miikkulainen doesn't even need a boost of caffeine to get her day started.

"I have never had coffee before in the mornings because I don't ever feel tired when I get up," Katila-

Miikkulainen said.

As a member of the school Jazz band, Katila-Miikkulainen has zero-period morning practices three days a week on Mondays through Wednesdays.

"I bike to school and arrive at 8:15 a.m. and go to the library to do homework for 35 minutes before my

first class if I don't have Jazz band," Katila-Miikkulainen said. "Otherwise I arrive a little bit before 7:45."

For Katila-Miikkulainen, her current morning routine is what works best to start off her day productive.

"I have never had coffee before in the mornings because I don't ever feel tired when I get up."

ALLI KATILA-MIIKKULAINEN

falling into ACT



Photo courtesy of Aether Yun
Aether Yun ('25) talks about theater.

When did you first get into theater, and why did you continue doing it?

"I first got into theater because I was in the class last (freshman) year, and I really liked the community here, and I liked acting on stage. That is why I continued this year."

How do you prepare for an audition?

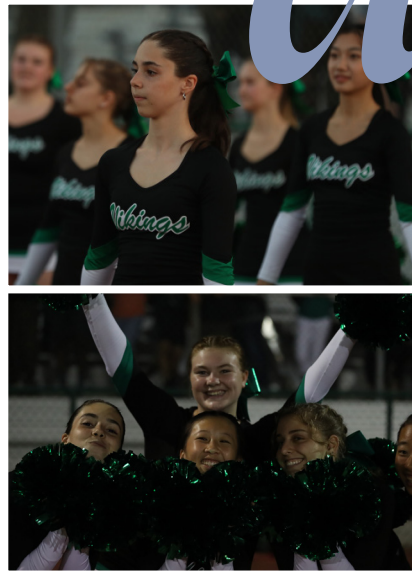
"Making sure I have my monologues fully memorized and knowing that by heart helps me a lot. Also I make notes on certain scene queues, A.K.A emphasis on tones, pauses, different emotions."

What is your favorite Paly Theatre play?

"Definitely Mamma Mia! In the spring season, I mean who doesn't like it?"

dancing

Design by Hannah Huang and Arati Periyannan



RETURNING TO THE (top) sidelines, Freshman Arabella Guinle ('26) wraps up her first performance on the Dance Team. "It was super clean, and everyone put in their best effort," Guinle said.

TO CELEBRATE THEIR (bottom) completed routine, Arabella Guinle ('26), Theresa Hart ('23), Arden Zhen ('26) and Victoria Senderzon ('23) wave their pom poms. According to Senderzon, the dance set the tone for the rest of the season to come.

The dance team performs during halftime of the first football game of the season.

Story by Arati Periyannan

Photos by Annelise Balentine

The cheering crowd gets louder as the first seconds of "As It Was" by Harry Styles start. After two weeks of perfecting their routine, the Dance Team takes the field at halftime during the first football game of the season. Varsity fell to Leland High School 35-21.

For freshman Arabella Guinle ('26), this is the first of many halftime games she will perform. For her, the roaring crowd, the bright lights, and the football field are a new experience.

"I was really excited to perform at half-time because it was a pom pom routine and that was something new for me," Guinle said.

While Guinle was performing for the first time, seniors Victoria Senderzon ('23) and Anna Hagan ('23) were starting their final season on the Dance Team.

"The new members were nervous at first because they didn't know what to expect, but we assured them that it would be fine," Senderzon said.

Choreographed by USA Spirit Association and senior Theresa Hart ('23), the dance will set the tone for the rest

of their season. To prepare they went through each move over and over again until everyone felt comfortable with it. After marking the dance out on the field, the team was ready to perform.

"The overall atmosphere was very fun from both the student section, our team, and the cheer team," Hagan said. "It was a great experience being able to be part of all the school spirit."

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ANNA HAGAN ('23)

After taking in the applause from the crowd, they returned to the sidelines to cheer next to the student section for the remainder of the game.

The football game was the largest crowd the team had performed in front of this year. After sideline season, the Dance Team has high hopes for their competition season, using their own choreography.

"I'm most excited for competition season because a lot of our pieces have a chance of doing really well," Senderzon said.

WITH THEIR CHOREOGRAPHED (dominant) routine to *As It Was*, Dance Captain Theresa Hart ('23) and Anna Hagan ('23) lead the dance team during halftime. "It was really exciting to have our first dance as a new team on the football field," Hart said. "Getting to see all the hard work that the team put in made me very confident for the rest of the year."