

The Prowl

Chapman High School

Principal: Matt Davis

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Administrators, teachers emphasize importance of attendance

BY SAVANNAH FIFE & LILLY SEAWRIGHT-PAGE EDITORS

Post-COVID, public schools worldwide have seen a drastic change in attendance, with a significant rise in absences. According to the U.S. Department of Education, “Students experience chronic absenteeism from coast to coast. Twenty states reported that more than 30% of their students missed

at least three weeks of school in 2022-23.” This issue has become more prominent in recent years at Chapman, but this year the administration is putting a stronger focus on attendance. “As far as the policies, nothing has changed,” Principal Matt Davis said. “It’s been this way for a very long time. What has changed is the emphasis on attendance a little more this year.”

School administrators plan to recognize students with strong attendance records to show them that being present is valuable for their future. “I’m just trying to do what I can to curb attendance issues and make it a priority,” Davis said. This year, administrators are emphasizing the long-term impact attendance has on students’ lives. “We want to make this school a microcosm of

what’s going on out there, the real world,” Davis said. Teachers said they also see the value of consistent attendance. “I strongly believe that attendance has a huge impact on how successful a class can be,” CATE teacher Berry Burnette said. “When students are consistently present, they stay up to date with lessons, class discussions and important instructions. This makes it easier for teachers to keep

the whole class on track, without having to slow down or repeat material for those who are constantly absent.” Burnette is currently helping with a new mentorship program. In that role, he said, he has seen the negative effects of poor attendance from a different perspective. “I definitely see things differently,” Burnette said. “I see how both teachers and students can struggle when

students aren’t present. Teachers have to slow down or catch students up, which can affect the whole class, and students fall behind more easily when they miss important lessons or activities.” Students who had frequent absences in elementary and middle school often carry the same trend into high school, but the goal is to break that pattern.

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Chapman’s newest energy drink obsession



photo by Ashley Lee

BY VERONIKA KHRAMOVA & GISELLE MORQUECHO DELGADO STAFF WRITERS

This year at Chapman, a new obsession has taken hold: Alani Nu energy drinks. Many students are drawn to the colorful cans, sweet taste and boost of caffeine. “They have so many different flavors and they’re so colorful,” junior Leigha Bailey said. Students said their top three favorites are strawberry sunrise, pink slush and red slush. The most requested new flavor is piña colada. “I would say my dream flavor is piña colada,” junior Alison Loaiza Castro said. Not everyone is a fan, though. “I don’t like Alani’s because they’re too acidic and sugary, but I’d drink them if they had less artificial flavor,” sophomore Brooklynn Grice said. Some students also point out the downsides

of consuming too much caffeine. “I was just in Spanish class, drinking my Alani. My heart started feeling weird and kind of skipped a beat,” Bailey said. “My whole chest started hurting and I was freaking out. Later, they had to wheelchair me out of class.” Bailey said she later cut back after the health scare. “I stopped drinking Alani’s for a couple months and now I just drink them once a week,” she said. Grice also warned against making them a daily habit. “Drinking one energy drink once in a while is okay, but every day is unhealthy,” Grice said. Chapman nurse Pam Tolleson said she strongly discourages students from drinking energy drinks at all. “I do not think energy drinks are appropriate for teenagers,” Tolleson said. “Energy drinks can be addictive, and when you try to cut it you get massive headaches.”

Senior backpacks reflect childhood favorites



photo courtesy of Jada Tessnier

BY LAHNA MOSS & AZARI PERRY STAFF WRITERS

Senior backpacks have become a beloved tradition at Chapman. Before their senior year, students purchase backpacks featuring their favorite childhood movies, TV shows or characters. The tradition, which started just a few years ago, has become a way for students to show how carefree their childhood was before facing the responsibilities of the real world. Principal Matt Davis said he thinks one reason students take part is to close that chapter of their lives as they begin their careers.

“I think they’re trying to say, I’m finishing up and putting up, you know, a period or an exclamation point at the end of their high school career,” Davis said. “And I think it’s pretty cool myself.” Assistant Principal Carrie Forrest said the tradition is meaningful because of the memories attached to the shows students grew up watching. “I think the memories of them watching those shows and how much they loved them make the tradition special,” Forrest said. For many seniors, the backpacks are a fun way to connect with their past. Rowen Raney said she enjoys seeing the variety of

designs in the hallways. “I love it,” Raney said. “I love the tradition of it. I think it’s great that people can wear backpacks with shows they loved in their childhood on them.” Raney carries a Minnie Mouse backpack, though she admitted she just picked it from Amazon since she did not watch much TV growing up. Other students selected backpacks because of their deeper connection to certain characters. Owen Walker said he grew up playing Pokémon, which made his choice easy. “I got a Pokémon senior backpack because I grew up playing it,” Walker said. Preslee Taylor also tied

her decision to a childhood favorite, choosing a “Paw Patrol” backpack. She said she picked it because Skye was her favorite character and because she loves pink. “I chose it because it’s pink and really fun, and I just really like it,” Taylor said. Maria Ducker carried the same approach into her choice. She picked Olaf from “Frozen,” a character she has loved for years. As a child, she even had her own Elsa dress that she never wanted to take off. “I have always resonated with Olaf because he’s kinda like me. He likes hugs, and I like hugs,” Ducker said. “He’s just so cute, and he’s a little sweet guy, and I just love my backpack.”