

# The Prowl

## Chapman High School

Principal: Matt Davis

Volume 20, December 2025

### Christmas Column

The Prowl asked Chapman students and faculty about their favorite Christmas songs.



"My favorite Christmas song is 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree' because it's from 'Home Alone.'" - freshman Ezra Noto



"My favorite Christmas song is 'Jingle Bell Rock' because I used to always blast it in the car with my sisters around Christmas time." - sophomore Jianna West



"My favorite Christmas song is 'All I Want for Christmas is You,' by Mariah Carey because it has a catchy beat and the lyrics are great." - junior Xander Fly



"My favorite Christmas song is 'That Christmas Song,' by Nat King Cole because it is a classic Christmas song, and everybody knows it, and it puts you in the Christmas mood." - senior Gracie Greenway



"My favorite Christmas song is 'Feliz Navidad' because I can sing in Spanish." - Spanish teacher Adela Trejo

## New school calendar shortens summer, adds breaks

BY SAVANNAH FIFE & LILLY SEAWRIGHT-PAGE EDITORS

The 2026-2027 school year will look different for Spartanburg County Schools, including Spartanburg School District One.

Recently, all seven districts adopted a modified year-round calendar.

Next year, school will begin on Aug. 6 and end on May 28. The calendar includes multiple longer breaks including a three-day break in October and a week-long break in February.

Traditional other breaks remain untouched.

Information about the changes to the calendar began circulating among the community before the calendars were actually released, which led to early, but brief, criticism, according to Principal Matt Davis.

"I think we got a bad rep from some people early on because they didn't know what it actually was, but I think once it was put out there, I haven't heard any complaints," he said.

The calendar changes will allow staff and students to vacation during less-popular periods of the year.

"Teachers typically can only take vacations in the summer or Christmas break, and that's where everybody takes vacations," Davis said. "So now, according to this

July 2026						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
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September 2026						
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October 2026						
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31						

November 2026						
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29	30					

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Spartanburg School District One Modified Year-Round Calendar 2026-2027

July 30-31	Staff Development
August 3-5	Staff Development First Day of School
September 7	Labor Day Holiday
October 2	Staff Development
9	45 <sup>th</sup> Day
15-16	Fall Break
November 2	Staff Development
3	Election Day Holiday
25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 18	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester/Half Day
21-31	Christmas/Winter Holiday
January 1	Winter Holiday
4	Staff Development
5	Students Return
6	90 <sup>th</sup> Day
18	MLK, Jr. Holiday
February 15-19	Mid-Winter Break
March 15	Staff Development/End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
19	135 <sup>th</sup> Day
April 5-9	Spring Break
May 27	Half Day for Students
28	Last Student Day/Half Day for Students
31	Memorial Day Holiday
June 1	Staff Development Exchange Day
17	In Observance of Juneteenth Holiday

Designated Incentive weather days: October 15, March 15, and June 1. Additional days will be addressed as needed.

\*Modified year-round calendar in accordance with SC Law §59-1-425

LEGEND	
Staff Development	
First/Last Day of School	
School Holiday	



photo courtesy of Spartanburg School District One

new schedule, they can go in February or in October."

During a typical school year, teachers and students often find themselves longing for a break, particularly during stretches such as the

time between Martin Luther King Jr. Day and spring break.

"We have those long stretches in the second semester that are kind of frustrating, so it will be nice

to break that up," English teacher Erin Smith said.

Another advantage that many see is that school will begin on a Thursday, allowing for an easier transition.

"If you start on Thursday,

you have time to acclimate to school, and the acclimation process is huge," Davis said.

Staff members believe that the modified calendar will positively impact attendance, which is in line with a major school goal.

"I'm really hopeful that (the calendar) will affect (attendance) positively," Attendance Secretary Adrienne Miller said. "People will get breaks and will have the ability to take that time when they need it as opposed to taking it while school is going on."

Junior Alexis Floyd said that the extended calendar will allow students the opportunity to enhance their learning.

"I think it'll be pretty good to have the school year be stretched a little bit just because it gives more time to dwell on all of the topics you're learning about," she said.

Even though the calendar has benefits, it also has drawbacks.

"I do worry about the time crunch that we'll have in between getting out of school and then starting school for our custodial staff because they work really hard to get this place spotless over the summer, and now they'll have a shorter amount of time to do that," Smith said.

*Calendar, continued on page 2*

## New speed signs aim to curb traffic issues in downtown Inman

BY SAVANNAH FIFE, ASHLEY LEE & LILLY SEAWRIGHT-PAGE EDITORS

Recently, Inman has been adding new roads and safety features to improve pedestrian travel downtown. The latest addition was speed signs installed Oct. 9. These signs project a car's current speed to alert drivers if they are going too fast.

Striving for this change the most is Councilwoman Heather Moore. After a family incident, she believes strongly in the safety of the Inman community.

"Downtown Inman is a walkable city that is growing," Moore said. "I feel it is necessary for the safety of pedestrians and to help drivers be more aware of

their speed. Also, this will help prepare for the changes that will come with the Saluda Grade rail trail."

Chapman and downtown Inman's proximity means the majority of local drivers are students. Whether they are driving home or shopping, downtown Inman serves as a route for many young drivers. This large demographic affects the safety of pedestrians.

"Younger drivers tend to think a little differently than others who have been driving for a longer period of time," driver's ed teacher Kevin Carr said.

With around 4000 cars passing through Inman in a day, they average a speed of 29.1 mph.

"When I'm out directing traffic, I see them topping

the hill right before they get to the school, and I don't have a radar on them, but they are definitely speeding," school resource officer Jeff Martin said.

Seeing this issue, Moore worked alongside many Inman officials to bring her vision to life.

"Our police chief, Keith Tucker, played a vital role in securing these radar signs," Moore said. "Also, the city council assisted in making this much-needed addition to downtown."

According to information provided by Tucker, after the addition of the speed warning sign and increased focus on the downtown area by police officers, 24 tickets were issued within 40 days.

The increase in enforcement has also caught the at-



photo by Ashley Lee

A speed sign in downtown Inman clocks a car at 28 mph. The signs have been installed to encourage drivers to slow down.

tention of local students who frequently drive through downtown Inman on their way to and from school.

"I like the traps because they keep everybody safe along the roads in downtown Inman," junior Will McCraw said.

These signs help remind drivers to be cautious in the busy area.

"My hopes are it will make drivers aware of their speed and crosswalks," Moore said. "This will decrease chances of wrecks and pedestrian injuries."

# Thompson named Distinguished Literacy Teacher of the Year

BY GISELLE MORQUECHO-DELGADO, LAHNA MOSS & AZARI PERRY  
STAFF WRITERS

Recently, English teacher Rebecca Thompson was named the Spartanburg District One Distinguished Literacy Teacher of the year.

Thompson said she thinks she won the award because of her rapport with her students.

"I try to be real with my students, and I hope I got the award because of the relationships I form with the students and the big picture that we try to see in the classroom," she said.

Prior to coming to Chap-

man in 2024, Thompson was an assistant principal in Union County.

Principal Matt Davis said he thinks Thompson is a good teacher because she spent time as an administrator.

"When you become an administrator, you see things a little differently than as a teacher," he said. "You're looking at the school from one classroom. Now, as an administrator, you get a little helicopter, you get a bigger view. Seeing other teachers teach and some of the best practices, the things that work out there, she's able to implement that in her classroom."

Thompson said that win-

ning the award won't affect her classroom practice.

"Mainly, I think I'm trying to keep helping kids be interested in lifelong learning," she said. "I know a lot of high schoolers don't like reading, but a lot of them don't realize that the shows you watch, the music, they're all literature, and if you can connect those things all together, you see these common things, themes that you can apply to your life. And that's what I want my kids to take."

She also hopes her teaching helps students as people:

"I want my kids to be kind human beings, right, and have great humanity towards one another."

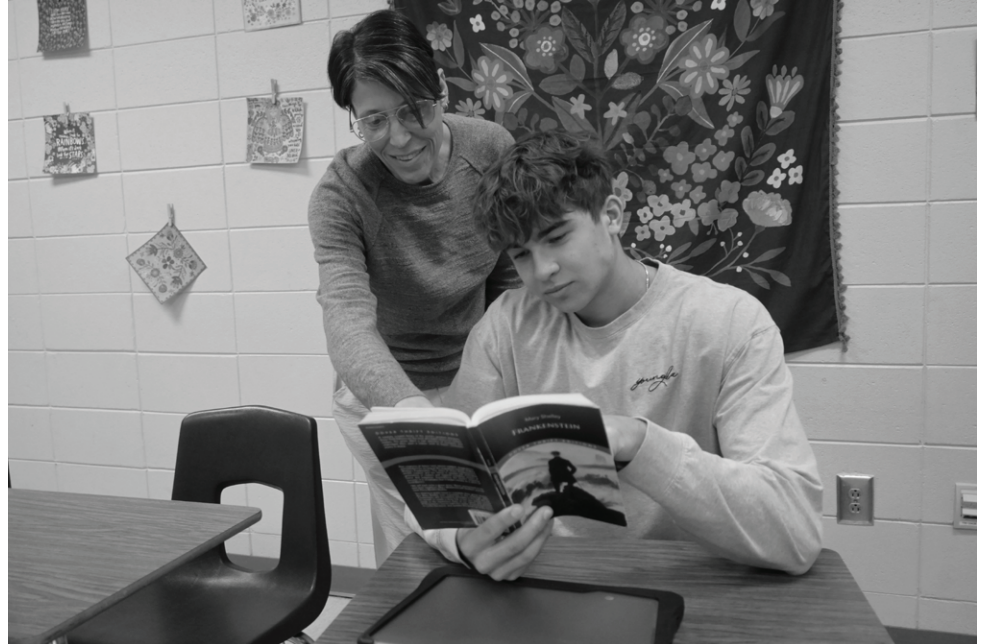


photo by Ashley Lee

English teacher Rebecca Thompson works with an English IV student. Thompson was recently named District One Distinguished Literacy Teacher of the Year.

# Chapman community finds learning and fun in NYT Games

BY SAMANTHA IRELAND  
STAFF WRITER

Whether it's Wordle, Connections or Strands, New York Times Games have taken members of the Chapman family by storm.

There are a variety of games, benefits and challenges that engage students and keep them coming back each day.

Junior Avah Blanton plays the games as a pastime with her peers.

"Me and Annastyn (Smith) play every day together, so I love playing with my friends," Blanton said.

Individuals create memories while sharing these moments, and not just between students.

Teachers also form their own routines with these games.

History teacher Fara Stewart plays every day and likes to challenge herself.

"I have some fond memories of watching and helping students with the games," Stewart said. "I like giving hints to students, so I try to always do the games before school."

There are also a variety of benefits from playing these games.

Junior Anastasiya Boychuk has been playing for a couple years and has a unique perspective on those benefits.

"I learn new words because English is not my first language," Boychuk said. "I

don't know a lot of the words so I feel like I learn from (the games)."

Teachers may also see a different view.

"I think it is beneficial to play as an aging adult to try to keep my mind sharp," Stewart said. "For me, it is just a fun activity. For students, I think it allows thinking skills that aren't always fostered in standards based classrooms."

When experimenting with these games, players often find a strategy or specific way they like to approach them.

For example, Stewart always starts Wordle with the word STARE and then moves to CHUNK.

Boychuk always starts



photo by Ashley Lee

Yearbook adviser Alex Hollis plays New York Times Connections. Connections is one of the most popular games among students and teachers.

with BEACH.

Both said they choose these words because they contain

a mix of common consonants and vowels.

"Everybody should play

these games," Boychuk said. "It's good for your brain."

# REVIEW: Starbucks' seasonal sips get mixed reactions

BY CAMPBELL MATHIS & DECLAN SHENSKY  
STAFF WRITERS

For this holiday season, Starbucks introduced a variety of new holiday beverages.

The company dropped four options that can be served hot or cold, depending on preference. The four drinks include the peppermint mocha, sugar cookie latte, gingerbread chai and caramel brulée.

We decided to try these four drinks hot and rated them on a scale of 1-10. The first one we tried was the sugar cookie latte. This drink leaned more toward light coffee, offering a sweet and milky taste. Compared to normal coffee, it was smooth and pleasant.

Declan gave the sugar cookie latte a 4/10, and Campbell gave it a 5/10. Declan said the latte tasted more like milk than coffee,

saying, "It wasn't coffee, just sweet milk." Campbell agreed with that statement, giving the drink an average score of 4.5/10.

The next drink we tried was the peppermint mocha. This drink was stronger, offering a bolder coffee with a hint of peppermint.

Declan gave the drink a 7/10, while Campbell gave it a 6/10. Campbell said, "The drink was very strong, while still offering a smooth taste." The peppermint mocha earned an average score of 6.5/10, beating the sugar cookie latte.

The third drink we tried was the caramel brulée. Out of the four, this one was by far the strongest coffee on the list. That flavor came from multiple shots of espresso.

Declan gave the drink a 5/10, while Campbell gave it a 3/10. This was the lowest-scoring drink, with an average score of 4/10. Both

noted the strong flavor, though Declan said it was still pretty good. Campbell disagreed, saying it was "too strong" and almost undrinkable.

The final drink we tried was the gingerbread chai. This drink earned the highest score of the four. Campbell rated it 8/10, and Declan gave it 9/10. The drink was very sweet while still offering a nice spice.

Both noted it was the most holiday-tasting beverage, giving it an average score of 8.5/10 and naming it the winner.

All of these drinks were different in their own way. Depending on what flavors you enjoy, Starbucks offers a variety of holiday choices. Starbucks normally ends this menu in the second week of January, so once they're gone, they're gone. Happy holidays!

# New calendar not without concerns

Calendar, continued from page 1

Davis echoed that concern about the building.

"For me as a principal, we use the summer a lot to get the building ready, so it's going to be less time for my custodians," he said. "That concerns me a little bit."

Sports teams, particularly

basketball, may experience some headaches as they adjust to the new schedule.

"Unfortunately, it's going to hurt us in February," head basketball coach Jared St. Charles said. "That's literally going to be our first week of playoffs, so I don't love that part, but we'll make sure our players know they've got to be here. They just can't take

their winter vacations."

Despite these and other challenges, including concern about childcare for younger children, the new calendar seems to have excited students and staff alike.

"I'm really hopeful that all of those things will be positive, not just for the students but for the teachers, too," Miller said.

## December 2025 Graduates Senior Wills

I, Ester Godunko, leave my academic abilities to Anna Godunko.

I, London Jabber, leave my love and determination for academics as well as athletics to Mj Sohota & Lila Moore.

I, Dominica Syrbu, leave my loud laughter at bad jokes and "She listened while she ate" to Vera Chyzh and Amy Paduret.

I, Dominica Syrbu, leave walking each other to class and 5 minutes of "How was your day?" between classes to Karina Syrbu.

# Senior year is the perfect time to try something new



**AVERY HOLDEN**  
Senior year is often seen as

the time in a high schooler's life when they get to relax and coast until graduation, a phenomenon known as "senioritis."

However, through personal experience, I have found it's best to make the most out of your senior year.

Whether it is joining clubs or picking up a new sport, making social changes in your life can help create last-

ing memories during your senior year and even prepare you for your future.

Getting more deeply involved in extracurricular activities helps build new connections and friendships that can last a lifetime.

Personally, being on the volleyball team and joining the basketball team has helped me build friendships I know I will never forget --

or would not have even had -- the opportunity to make if I hadn't joined my senior year.

Working with my teammates, who are all working to improve as athletes and as people, has created an unbreakable and lasting bond between us.

Not only can getting involved during your senior year improve your high

school social life, but it may also impact your future. Learning new skills and picking up new interests and hobbies can broaden your skill set, which can be useful for college and jobs just a few years ahead. Specifically, learning to work and problem-solve with others on a sports team or in a club can set you up for success in the workplace by equipping

you with the ability to think critically with a team of co-workers in high-intensity settings.

Ultimately, broadening your horizons during your senior year can help foster new relationships with meaningful lifelong friends and allow you to excel in your career.

## Technology is reshaping how friendship looks today



**AZARI PERRY**

Friendships before technology were often deep, meaningful and rooted in shared experiences. What made friendships special back then was the effort people put into maintaining them — making calls, writing letters and meeting up — but technology has changed that.

Although technology has made it possible for people to connect worldwide, it has also ruined the intentionality of friendships. With

technology, people are more connected but less invested. Instead of nurturing our friendships through effort and presence, we now scroll through feeds and like posts. This shift changes how we relate to each other.

According to British writer C.S. Lewis, friendship is born through shared experiences. "Friendship is born at the moment when one person says to another: 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.'"

Technology makes it easier for people to have lots of superficial connections instead of deep ones. We often settle for quick online interactions over talking in person. This makes friendships less genuine. Technology makes us more connected than ever, yet true connections seem harder to find.

So, has technology ruined

friendships? Not entirely, but it has changed them a lot. People have to find a balance between their online and offline lives. They should make time for meaningful interaction and engage with the people around them. True friendships require effort — and they are worth the effort.

True friendships are important to have because they can improve mental health, provide emotional support during difficult times and be a source of happiness during good times.

Eleanor Roosevelt said that true friendships are special and leave footprints in your heart. "Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends leave footprints in your heart," Roosevelt said.

## Free admission could boost attendance and energy



**KENSLIE EDWARDS**

Students should not have to pay to get into athletic events at the school they attend.

Coaches and administrators expect the student body to show up for all of our athletic teams. We have pep rallies on Fridays to excite people for the upcoming game, and not even a fourth of our student body decides to show up and support.

How are we supposed to accomplish this when we have to pay upward of \$10

per game?

For regular-season games, we should not have to pay; when we get to the playoffs, it makes students more inclined to want to pay to watch the team they have been cheering on all season. Playoff games are usually double the price of a regular-season ticket.

If we do not have to pay all season, we are more likely to pay the larger price for the last games of the season.

Players live off the crowds and the hype, but students don't want to pay, which affects the sport and the team as well.

For example, Chesnee High School does not make students pay for any athletic event, and it has a significantly larger student section than we do.

On top of this, it is difficult to get tickets in the first

place. We have to wait in a long line before the game or pay online — while also having to pay a fee — making the tickets \$10.

Some students do not have the ability to spend their money on tickets every week; making tickets free would eliminate this problem.

As teenagers, it is hard enough to make money to go to these events; when students attend these events, they are missing out on opportunities to make money at their jobs.

If schools want to promote spirit and inclusivity, they should make student admission free. Supporting your school should not come with a cost.

## The case for pro wrestling fandom



**BRAYDEN LEWIS**

Pro wrestling, over the years, has been a niche interest for students my age. I think this should change because it's a different form of entertainment that people may not realize is engaging, and it is easy to follow.

Most people say it's fake. People think it's weird, and many don't even give it a chance. I'm here to try to sway these people.

First, wrestling is a tradition that can be traced back to the 1800s.

Even President Abraham Lincoln was a wrestler. It has become a global event with different companies, styles and productions.

With all the different styles, I'm certain there is a brand of wrestling for you.

Second, wrestling can make you feel something when

you find a wrestler you like because of their character, ring work and promo skills (which means talking abilities).

When you get attached to them, you start pulling for them like a sports team or your favorite athlete; it's a great feeling.

Third, when people say it's fake, they're 50% right and 50% wrong. Here's why: Yes, it is scripted; yes, it's predetermined.

But the wrestlers still go out there and take real hits on the mat, which is made of straight wood with a little padding.

Over time, this takes a lot out of a wrestler's body.

Lastly, when you go to a show nearby — either in Charlotte or Greenville — it could change your mind when you're around other fans and feel the atmosphere of a real live show.

In my opinion, if you have never seen wrestling before or just don't like it, give it one chance after learning these things.

## Early holiday cheer benefits everyone



**ELIJAH MANDLOVE**

For a long time now, the normal time to start celebrating the seasonal holidays has been right after Thanksgiving or at the beginning of December.

A large number of people accept this, waiting until this time to start their celebrations.

However, this needs to change. The holidays should begin at the beginning of November.

One of the main reasons for this change is the fact that one month is simply too short for the massive celebrations and traditions.

Starting in December, people have just a few weeks to decorate, watch movies and participate in other holiday traditions before having to put it all behind them.

Starting in November allows for a lot more time to engage in the festivities and really have the opportunity to appreciate them more than one would in the limited span of a few weeks.

One reason people start celebrations in December is because they think November should be reserved for Thanksgiving and further fall festivities.

While this is a fair argument, there is no good reason these holidays can't be celebrated simultaneously.

Both involve spending time with family and friends, and Thanksgiving isn't too extravagant of a holiday to get in the way of Christmas decorations or festivities.

The holiday season is just too big an event to be constrained to less than a month.

Starting in November will provide more time to enjoy the holiday while not getting in the way of Thanksgiving and other fall celebrations.

## Senior schedules aren't what they seem



**CAMPBELL MATHIS**

If you're currently an underclassman, one of the things you may think about is how lucky seniors are regarding leaving early or coming in late. It is not all that it's made out to be in the long run.

For example, as a senior in high school, I have taken four core classes every day of high school for the past three years.

Now, after years of hard work, I finally have the opportunity to take only two classes. It may seem like going to school for three hours and taking an easy workload would be fun, but in reality, it's not.

Students often fail to realize that even though school may seem boring and dull, it keeps your brain occupied

in a good way.

If you're planning to go to college, going to school with a full schedule of classes can help prepare you for harsh deadlines and how to manage a strict workload.

It can also be used in the real world as well. When you juggle multiple classes throughout the day, you learn how to communicate with different types of people.

Teachers teach differently from one another, and this can carry over into the workforce by helping you learn how to manage different types of people and work effectively.

You may think that one semester off can't do as much damage as you imagine, but this isn't necessarily true. Many studies suggest that even one semester off can cause procrastination habits and may also affect you mentally.

Before you consider an easy semester, weigh the pros and cons carefully.

Just know, once that time is gone, you can never get it back.

# Williams earns National Merit Scholarship honor

BY IAN COATES &  
BRAYDEN LEWIS  
STAFF WRITERS

This year senior Sam Williams became a National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalist based on his PSAT scores. Williams is described by his guidance counselor, Jarrod Ray, as “an exceptional student with a one-of-a-kind personality and demeanor, which makes him very likable.”

Williams scored in the top 1% in the nation, which has been “an achievement not reached by a Chapman student at least in 19 years,” Chapman Principal Matthew Davis said.

Davis is very proud of Williams but wants people to recognize that this reflects Williams’ work ethic and character.

“He’s an exceptional guy, a humble guy that works hard, and he really cares about people, so I’m really proud of him,” Davis said. “This award and achievement really epitomizes his work effort.”

Williams is proud of what he has accomplished but wishes to remain humble

about the recognition.

“I’m very proud of this achievement,” Williams said. “I have been taking the SAT since 9th grade, trying repeatedly to increase my score. The SAT has actually become a bit of a running joke in our house, with how many times my siblings and I have taken it. While the award is based on the PSAT scores, they are largely the same test. This award, to me, is a testament to the work I’ve done and the hours I’ve spent improving my score.”

Before breaking down his study strategies, Williams noted that preparing for the PSAT and SAT became a long-term effort.

“I’ve done a multitude of things to prepare for the SAT/PSAT,” Williams said. “The most helpful resource is, although I don’t want to admit it, Khan Academy. They offer a free course covering everything on the SAT. I also used a paid website called PrepScholar, which is a little more focused on the SAT and has an adaptive curriculum, but was not significantly more useful than Khan Academy. If I was to start from the beginning,

I would probably only use Khan.”

He also emphasized the importance of learning alongside others.

“I also made use of Schoolhouse,” Williams said. “It’s a website that allows students to attend free SAT classes held by other students who have taken and done well on the SAT. It’s very helpful for looking at SAT material with someone who is familiar with it. I would also suggest that, if you’ve already taken the SAT and done well, to see if you’re eligible to be a Schoolhouse tutor. It looks very good on college applications.”

Ray explained the significance of the achievement and why it matters for students.

“The National Merit Scholarship is an honor because it recognizes students who have demonstrated exceptional academic talent through scoring in the top 1% of all test-takers nationwide on the PSAT,” Ray said. “This recognition is considered a significant academic achievement, is a point of pride, and can lead to substantial scholarships and



photo by Ashley Lee

Senior Sam Williams holds up his National Merit Scholarship semifinalist letter. Williams is one of the only students in Chapman history to receive this honor.

tuition benefits. Being a National Merit semifinalist can open doors to top colleges and can be a positive indicator of a student’s potential for success in rigorous college studies.”

Ray also shared how he has supported Williams throughout high school.

“I have worked with Sam to help him stay on track with his coursework, deadlines, and applications,” Ray

said. “His dedication to his schoolwork has paid off with the high marks he has achieved.”

Davis hopes Williams’ success will inspire more students to participate in the PSAT during their junior year.

“I’m hoping that people will see this and more 11th graders will begin to take it seriously,” Davis said. “Historically it’s not been a big

deal; school is just a routine. Now I think he’s opened the door a little bit for more students here.

“People usually skip the PSAT in their 11th grade year and jump straight to the SAT or ACT, but this is really such a big deal too and can give you scholarship funds.”

# Howard grows her craft through years of theatre

BY ELIJAH MANDLOVE  
STAFF WRITER

At Chapman, there are lots of different kinds of students. Most focus on sports or academics, but a select few are passionate performers.

One of those students is senior Gloriana Howard, who has been acting since she was a kid.

“I participated in a pay-to-play theatre show back in Ohio when I was eight years old and I played a pretty significant character, had a lot of fun, and I never stopped acting after that,” she said. “There was one actor who played Scar in ‘The Lion King,’ and I remember really being inspired by how great he was.”

Howard’s early inspiration also came from television.

“I was inspired by Shawn Spencer from ‘Psych,’ just

somebody who completely encapsulates the character they play,” she said. “I really respect the way he’s able to portray him.”

After moving to South Carolina, Howard looked for a way to stay involved in theatre.

“I moved here around 2021, and since I knew I really liked theatre I really wanted to be able to find some friends who shared that interest,” she said. “The Spartanburg Youth Theatre was holding auditions, so I auditioned for one of their shows, got cast, and just kept auditioning there after that.”

Her teachers have noticed how her theatre background has shaped her work ethic.

“Gloriana’s theatre experience helped her tremendously because she is so used to working with deadlines and with groups,” yearbook adviser Alex Hollis said.

“Everybody has to be on the same page for the overall production to happen the way it’s supposed to.”

The Spartanburg Youth Theatre has played a major role in her development.

“It’s run almost like a professional theatre,” she said. “We have a really great professional staff there who build the sets, and the directing teams are really great. But it’s also unique because it’s a for-youth, by-youth theatre, so the technical elements and the actors are all in seventh through 12th grade.”

Acting isn’t her only passion.

“Theatre does take up most of my free time, but I love spending time with friends and reading a good book,” she said. “I really like painting and messing around on a canvas, and I spend a lot of time with my dog.”



photo courtesy of Gloriana Howard

Senior Gloriana Howard as The White Witch in The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Howard has been acting since she was a child.

Her friends admire how she handles so much at once.

“Gloriana is one of the smartest people I know,” senior Lily Cothran said. “She probably has a good idea

of how to balance all those things.”

Howard hopes to turn her passion into a career.

“I’m hoping to get into the field in some sort of way

whether it’s stage acting or a movie or voice acting,” she said. “I really just want to be in the entertainment industry somehow because acting is what I really love.”

# YIG program gives Alewine look at government

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Freshman Carson Alewine was one of the few students from South Carolina chosen to participate in Youth in Government through the YMCA.

YIG is an organization that offers programs, conferences, events, trips and training to allow middle and high school students to learn about the government.

YIG is primarily offered to private schools, which is where Alewine first got involved.

Chapman is not partnered with the YIG program, but Principal Matthew Davis made an exception for her because she attended private school until this year.

“I wanted her to be able to have the business experience that he would want any student to have that was serious about it,” Davis said.

Alewine attended a two-

day conference where she goes through the government’s process of passing bills and electing officials.

Students from across the country come to the conference to compete to get their bills passed and go through several stages to get a bill passed.

“It’s a really big honor to get your bill passed, because it takes a lot of energy and effort, and lots of debating,” Alewine said.

This program is an oppor-

tunity for students to get involved with government at a young age and learn about job opportunities they might be interested in.

It has allowed Alewine to express her interest in government early, and she encourages other students to get involved.

“Even though it’s challenging, I have lots of fun when I go, and it’s something I look forward to every year,” she said.

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