



## Seattle Schools consider later school start times

**Celine N. Le and  
Elijah Lorraine E. Tugade**  
*Viking Shield Reporters*

The Seattle Public Schools is planning on implementing a later start time for schools in the district. Having school at a later time can be both a benefit and disadvantage for students in high school.

In a poll conducted in Rainier Beach High School, the opinions of the student body are evenly split. Out of 34 students, 50% believe that school should start later because it allows them to get more sleep and have more time to get ready in the morning. Some claim that teachers assign "too much homework," and that causes students to stay up later.

A later school start time can affect one's mental and physical health, as well as one's well-being. With later school starts, students have a better chance of getting the recommended 8 to 9 hours of sleep they need.

Khalil Shabazz, a tenth grader who is involved in a variety of activities at Rainier Beach and a 10th grade Language Arts teacher, Ms. Kemano share their input on the issue.

The strongest argument to start school at a later time is that students would get an adequate amount of sleep. Ms. Kemano states that effects of students getting enough sleep include a "reduction in 'tardies' during 1st period as well as absences," and that "students will be more engaged in class."

With enough sleep, students are more focused and have more energy to participate in class based on studies conducted by a variety of organizations.

It has been shown that a change of school time produce mental and physical changes to students. According to Khalil, he said, "Mentally, it would help you because you don't have to get up as early and get your brain going. Physically, toward the end of the day, students will

feel free like they should be out of school, their bodies basically going to change into after school mode but they're still in school."

Khalil responded to the question "Do you believe that a later school start time would have an effect on students?" by saying, "I think it would because we're already used to waking up at a certain time that when they have to get up later, [the time] just messes up... what they're used to."

Both Khalil and Ms. Kemano believe it is likely that students would stay up later if start times are delayed. Khalil said, "I think they would stay up later because they know that they have to get up at a later time than they're used to, so it's kind of like a weekend."

Ms. Kemano states, "I believe in the science behind students getting more opportunity to sleep, but at the same time, they may stay up later and be unproductive."

When school starts at a later time, students would realize that staying up later will not affect them as much. Also, they will see the extended time in the morning and take that for granted.

However, later start times also mean that students would get out of school later, leaving out time for after school activities and priorities. Later school start times will benefit the amount of sleep that teens get before coming to school, but it poses many challenges for families, including transportation.

The other half from the poll believes that the usual start time of 7:50 am is appropriate because it allows them to get out of school earlier. This means that they get more time after school to participate in sports or have part-time jobs.

When asked if he supported later school start times, Khalil said, "No I do not, because if we start later, I don't think

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## Proposal made to split Seattle Schools into north and south districts

**By Makayla Miles and  
Antoneyah Washington**  
*Viking Shield Reporters*

When examining Seattle Public Schools segregation is visible. If you look at the schools in the southern side of Seattle you see mostly people of color. Look at the schools in the northern side of Seattle and you see mostly white people. Ask anyone in Seattle and they will tell you this; it's an invisible line. However a decision that is coming up could possibly establish the division. A proposal made by state representatives Eric Pettigrew and Sharon Tomiko Santos is geared towards splitting the Seattle School District into north and south districts.

This bill would cap all large school districts at 35,000 students. Seattle Public Schools currently has 52,000 students, which makes this bill specifically directed towards us.

Representatives Pettigrew and Tomiko say this bill has been created due to built-up frustration that the less affluent, blue-collar South Seattle communities have gotten less attention than the north. According to Pettigrew, "smaller school districts would improve performance for low-achieving children."

Ever since this proposal was made, many parents, teachers, students, and even leaders from



Contributed Image

*A proposal to separate Seattle Public Schools into north and south districts is facing opposition in some communities.*

the district are strongly against this proposal. Many feel that if this bill were to pass, the south end of Seattle would be left in the dust. According to RBHS teacher Mr. Epstein, "The first concern if the district were to split would be resources and ensuring that we get our share of resources to meet the needs that our school has, I don't know how we would do that with less income on the south end."

South Seattle residents often feel that the northern end receives more resources. Washington state currently ranks 44th in spending per student, which means that we're already straining for resources. To

add to the already built-up frustration, 20 percent of local funding comes from property taxes, which leaves South Seattle in a very tough position.

Although there is a lot of opposition concerning the possible split, there is one Viking that stands strong in disagreement on this possibility-- he goes by Mr. Pierce. Many of us know him as the go to guy for anything IB! But he also has some words of wisdom pertaining to this touchy subject: Mr. Pierce "can't see how this would benefit South Seattle Schools at all."

## Metro bus fares increase



Contributed Image

*Metro riders can expect to pay more on their next bus trip.*

**By Josue Oseguera**  
*Viking Shield Reporter*

Did you know that the metro bus fares increased on March 1st? Probably you didn't, and for some people who are interested then just keep reading. The bus fares for youth went up by 25 cents. The original price was \$1.25, but now it's \$1.50. Some people don't mind the fare getting higher, but for some people they do care.

Talked to some people on the bus and heard what they had to say. A 40 year

old man by the name of James said "I don't mind the fare getting higher because I have an Orca Lift, and I always use the bus to see my mom. Its great that she is still alive." If you don't know what is on Orca Lift then I will explain it. An Orca lift has the same features as a Orca card, but this card just saves your money by 50%. The money is based on your income because people voted to tax themselves for more bus service like the bus arriving in time or

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## Keep bus fares affordable and accessible

By Ilham Ismail  
Viking Shield Reporter

Don't you hate the feeling of paying too much for something when you feel like it should be cheap and accessible for everyone?! Public Transportation fares have just went up, and many people are not enjoying that increase. Public transportation should be for everyone and everyone should be able to afford it, but fares always going up are not fair for the people that do need public transportation. I mean there's a reason why public transportation started: for people to get to where they need to on a budget it's a cheap way of getting around and for low-income people that do not own cars they rely on busses.

Many people in the community have a lot to say about how the increased cost is not fair to them, that they have to pay more for transportation when they feel like it should be affordable \$1.50 for the metro. That's ridiculous I mean I would understand if the transfer was valid for the whole day but its not.

I asked RBHS teacher Mr Tomchick about what he thinks about the fares

going up. He said "I think it's disappointing because public transportation is supposed to be accessible for everyone, and the more they raise the price the less accessible it becomes and starts to defeat the purpose of public transportation." This is exactly the way people are feeling because everyone should be able to pay for transportation but prices going up just defeats the purpose of Public transportation because not all the public can afford it. And that's not right.

Some people are saying the fare raise was to help keep the public transportation going. I believe that's not a good reason because the higher public transportation gets, the less people would want to take the bus as transportation, and public transportation's funding will go down. Overall, the fares going up for public transportation was not a good idea and is not fair for the people that do take the bus because people need to be able to pay to get around. The fact that public transportation was made for everyone to have a chance to get transportation at a low price and the fact that its going up is just not right for the people that need public transportation.

## Beauty standards in the media

By Soleil Lewis  
Viking Shield Reporter

Do you ever think about how the media showcases minorities (Latinas, Blacks, Africans, Asians, etc.) in magazines, films, and television? Beauty industry has its own standards of what is beautiful. The beauty industry has been known to define beauty: as being white. Many minorities are excluded from being represented in media outlets, the small percentage of minorities who are represented in the media are usually negatively represented. Rainier Beach students were asked their opinion of how minorities are portrayed in the beauty and fashion industry and if minorities were well represented. Only 24% of ethnic minorities represent cosmetic and toiletries. Only a few minorities are really represented in this industry. Many students agree the beauty standards are unfair. In the words of Rainier Beach students Shina Williams and Itsamari Garcia-Felix minorities (Latinas, blacks, Asians, etc) aren't equally given equal opportunities to be seen in the industry. According to Itsamari Garcia-Felix, "No, minorities aren't fairly represented because they aren't shown as much in the media."

The question is why are minorities not included in these industries. Do beauty industries actually give minorities a chance at fair representation?

The beauty industry isn't the only industry that has significantly grown in the representation of ethnic models. The fashion industry argues that there's an equal representation of minority models. On the other hand consumers argue that the industry does a poor job of well representing Black, Latina, and Asian models. According to



NY Times Eric Wilson, "you would think things have changed and then you realize that they have not. In fact, things have gone backward." Even, young minority girls feel that the fashion industry doesn't represent people of all shapes and sizes. We are in 2015 not the 50's the beauty industry needs to redefine their standards of beauty.

Honestly the NY fashion shows were dominated by white models, they've been like this since the late 1990's. 6% minorities account for the total in the fashion industry. According to Williams, "I normally see in the fashion industry are caucasian, though African American women are now being shown more often than before, like the model Tyra Banks." It sounds like models such as Iman, Banks, and Naomi Campbell have paved a way for many ethnicities. Have these models really paved a way or have they just fixed branch of the problems going on in fashion roots.

We all look at magazines and see images of white models depicting what the western world defines as beautiful. Well-known clothing designers put more white than black models out on the runway. The fashion industry seems to prefer white models over minori-

ties. Rainier Beach student Garcia-Felix stated "Minority women are less represented in the fashion industry, thus creating unachievable standards for minority young women to succeed in this world."

In my research I found that minorities are portrayed in a negative or stereotypical undertone until given an empowering and positive image of a character. In Margaret Sullivan's article analyzing another article criticizing Scandal's and How To Get Away With Murder producer/director Shonda Rhimes with her casting. According to Sullivan, "Another reference to the actress Viola Davis as being less classically beautiful than lighter-skinned African-American actresses."

Is this a standard for minority women in the entertainment industry in the roles they cast in television and film? According to Williams, "the media uses stereotypes about minorities as a form of saying "we are all equal", but in reality there are divisions between races." The media doesn't fairly represent people of different religions, cultures, and skin colors.

The only way our voices will be heard is by fighting with our hand-crafted skills. Let's petition to stop buying magazines that don't have pages filled with people of different shades other than white. We need to bring awareness to communities other than just Rainier Beach's, push to have forums that join people from different states and cities. Our voices as consumers not being heard, we keep accepting the media's images of white Anglo beauty. All it takes is just one person to start a movement to fix what can't be "fixed". Be the one to make a change!

### Homework Club

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# Are free throw distractions too distracting?

By Keiron Goodwin  
Viking Shield Reporter

College basketball around the country is pretty wild and entertaining to watch. Fans want their teams to win, and will pretty much do anything for them to win. Free-throw distractions are the biggest things fans can do to make the opposing team to suffer and have their team win. Recently, fans have been taking their distractions to another level; some would say they are too crazy! Here is a list of the average score differences the top 10 college fan distractions



Photo via blog.drstankovich.com  
Are fans making free throws too distracting for players?

cause.

Right here is clear proof that these active fans make a difference for the players on the court shooting free

throws. I personally feel like this is an entertaining piece that's a part of the game, and I hope they don't take it away.

The only way I feel like it should stop is when it gets too far out of hand, such as throwing things on the court or giving the people around you huge problems watching the game. I'm not the only person to feel this way; some think they should eliminate the whole distracting piece all together. Those who think so say that they take it too far for just trying to have a kid miss a couple free throws. They say they already get enough people yelling at them, so all this extra distraction is a waste of time. They say they shake their body parts in

the air, make crazy noises, it also annoys the people around them trying to watch the game.

In conclusion, it goes both ways and I can see

where each side is coming from. But like I said, in my opinion they should keep the distractions going and have college basketball expand and get wild.

### Team / Change in opponent FT% / Points saved

Arizona State*	-8.7 pct. pts / 1.7 points
Northwestern	-6.6 pct. pts. / 1.3 points
Baylor	-5.5 pct. pts. / 1.1 points
Utah	-4.9 pct. pts. / 1.0 points
Nebraska	-4.5 pct. pts / 0.9 points
U.C.L.A.	-4.3 pct. pts. / 0.9 points
Louisville	-4.2 pct. pts. / 0.8 points
Virginia	-4.1 pct. pts. / 0.8 points
Butler	-3.8 pct. pts. / 0.8 points
North Carolina	-3.3 pct. pts. / 0.7 points

Data from NYtimes.com

# The battle of copyrights

By Brandon Barnes  
Viking Shield Reporter

Many people are unaware of the struggles and obstacles that music artists go through to get their songs done for an album or have them radio ready. Filing for copyrights is probably the least appealing part of the music industry. But what is it that's so unattractive? Imagine you've just finished recording a new hit single, almost everything is done and ready for the world to hear. But wait, your producer sampled another song for the beat and now you need to get that sample cleared. And until you do, you won't be making any money off that track any time soon.

Just what is a copyright exactly? A copyright is the exclusive legal right, given to an originator or an assignee to print, publish, perform, film, or record literary, artistic, or

musical material, and to authorize others to do the same. This is essentially a fancy way of saying you can keep dibs on what you made, meaning that it is illegal for anyone to use your product without being asked first. Now if you don't have the time to wait for a sample to be cleared, copyrights can expire, the thing is, they only expire fifty years after the creator's death. But if you don't feel like waiting, you can always steal it and pay a \$200-\$150,000 fine plus all the attorneys fees and court costs instead.

This is a problem that the creators of the hit song Blurred Lines by Pharrell and Justin Timberlake had to face. It's not that they couldn't get a sample cleared, the problem was, Blurred Lines sounds a lot like the late Marvin Gaye's Got To Give It Up. Marvin Gaye's sister, Zeola Gaye, whom was also on her brothers song, filed a lawsuit

against Pharrell and JT for copyright infringement because of the similarities in the song. Because everyone agreed that Blurred Lines was indeed a rip off of another song, the Gaye family was awarded 7.4 million dollars and that was that.

At the end of the day, copyrights protect an artist's material so that is theirs and only theirs and allows them to do pretty much whatever they want with it. I mean, you have to agree, if you put hours and hours of work into a song or another piece of artwork and then someone completely stole that idea, wouldn't you be a little upset? And without a copyright, you wouldn't be able to do anything about it. Granted, the punishments are a little harsh, and leaving someone to guess if they owe between \$200 to \$150,000 is just cruel and unusual, but then again, all you have to do is not steal others work, right?

# Are drones safe or an invasion of privacy?

By Shina Williams and  
Itsamari Garcia Felix  
Viking Shield Reporter

Drones have presented a matter of controversy to the public in recent years. Seattle has had many interactions with drones and some people weren't all that pleased with drones being used. The public has voiced their opinion on the issue through different outlets saying drones provide safety and others saying it is an invasion of privacy.

Drones could be used to prevent criminal activity around the city. In an article about drones in Seattle the possible uses of drones in our community are revealed, "The Seattle Police Department previously said it would use drones to provide an overhead view of large crime scenes, serious accidents, disasters, and search and rescue operations" (USA Today). Drones would allow police to go to emergency situations faster.

Yet not everyone agrees

with the idea of using drones. As stated in an interview with Language Arts teacher Mrs.Kemano. Kemano argues, "Drones are a violation of our privacy and I think they are kind of a violation of our constitution and I think that drones will create and breed an environment where people wouldn't feel comfortable and I feel like people would feel as if their every move was being scrutinized." Drones with cameras on them could be used to see other people in a vulnerable

position, such as getting undressed. Homeless people scavenging for food might not want cameras watching, either.

Meanwhile, 10th grade Rainier Beach High School student, Soleil Lewis is for using drones in our community, but when it comes to the aspect of privacy she believes, "You have to respect people's boundaries, you can't control everybody, you know, you have to take everyone under consideration".

# Khemical Breakdown represents RBHS

By Justin Gabriel  
Viking Shield Reporter

The Rainier Beach Break Club (Khemical Breakdown) went to a break-dance battle in the Massive Monkees Studio against Franklin, Cleveland, Garfield, Bainbridge, and Chief Sealth. There was one vs. one battles, three vs. three battles, and the best one was school vs. school battle. The members of Khemical Breakdown, Messiah Fagerholm and Julie Nguyen, participated in the one vs. one battle. They showed straight up courage and enjoyed dancing against their opponents. Messiah amazed us by his footwork style like the 6-step, 5-step, CCs, and the Rainier Beach step. In addition, Julie was also doing outstanding footwork such as 7-step, 12-step, and ended with a remarkable bridge freeze. For the three vs. three battle, Justin, Julie, and Kirsten were a team against two

teams from Franklin and Chief Sealth high school. The competitors were highly skilled, but all three of our own teammates not only have great skills, but they have the passion for dancing. They all danced a solo round against Franklin and Chief Sealth with their own individual rounds and created a routine together which is the reason why we all got to dance in the first place. The last round was an all out battle of school vs. school. One side there was us, Rainier Beach, against Cleveland and Bainbridge. Everyone who participated did an amazing job dancing against these two schools. They gave all they had and showed courage, either going solo or participating in a routine together. In the end of the battle everyone showed some respect for each other because it's not about comparing your skill against each other, it's about the passion of dancing.

## BUS | FROM 3

having a bigger bus so it won't get full.

Another bus rider, Peter L, told me "I want to have a bigger bus because the 107 always gets full and sometimes when the bus is really full, the bus drivers just ignore the people wanting to go home after a long day at work." That sometimes happens to people, but since the bus fare increased, the 107 now has a bigger bus. Now people have room to sit down.

Some people aren't happy about the change. "Spending \$1.50 to use the bus is a waste of money," says Hugh, "because I won't hang out with my friends, use my friend's wife, or I can't make it to my date." He is saying that because he doesn't want to waste more money, but giving advice to him gave him an Orca Lift by working at a post office.

Since the bus fares increased, lots of good things did happen-- like providing jobs for people and Metro listening to people's opinions about the what they should change.



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# The Daily Life of the Crazy People | The Cabin

By Elizabeth Melhaff and  
Makayla Miles  
Viking Shield Reporters

*Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from a short story titled, "The Daily Life of the Crazy People", written by the creative duo who go by Emm'kay.*

The cabin was big enough for two people. I was sitting on a bed in one of the rooms while Liz was cooking dinner.

"Makayla, time for dinner," Liz yelled.

"Must you yell?" I asked entering the living area.

"Yes," she replied.

I looked at the table and she had cooked a meal for like 50 people. There was spaghetti, macaroni cheese, potato salad, salad, chili and chicken. On the other half of the table there was ramen, sushi and other traditional Japanese food I didn't recognize.

"Why did you cook so much?" I asked.

"I always cook a lot and we have company," Liz stated.

"Of course we do," I muttered under my breath.

I looked around and noticed that cabin was very spacious even though it didn't look like it, although there was clutter everywhere. A white couch was just randomly placed in the middle. A flat screen T.V. was unplugged lying on the floor. Crumpled pieces of paper with art on them were everywhere.

Of course me being me just couldn't handle clutter. It started with just picking up the loose pieces of paper then I ended up redecorating the whole cabin. Liz just stared at me and continued making plates for people. Once



I was fully satisfied now that the place was clean and organized, I went to questioning Liz.

"And what sort of company do we have?" I questioned.

"Anime Club, Vampire Knight students, and basically anyone from the school who wanted to come," Liz answered nonchalantly.

I glared at Liz and she just smiled.

"Oh and Parvy is coming," Liz added suddenly remembering.

At least there is a silver lining. Parvy was a good friend that neither of us had seen in a while.

The doorbell rung and Liz went to play hostess. I hated social gatherings of any sort. There had to be at least 100 people there and I didn't know half of them, and the ones I did know I barely talked to. It was very crowded which I didn't appreciate at all. I took it upon myself to grab some food and lock

myself in the room. I had just finished my food when I heard two raps on the door. I ignored it and started writing in my journal. The door all of a sudden burst open. Of course it was Liz.

"You could have knocked," I said looking up from my writing.

Liz glared at me while I tried not to die of laughter.

"If you don't go back out there and socialize I'm going to hurt you," Liz threatened with one hand on her hip.

I rolled my eyes and continued writing.

"I'm giving you 10 seconds," Liz said.

I sighed and made a dramatic show of getting up. Liz and I rejoined the party.

"Go talk to someone," Liz commanded me.

"Fine," I snapped.

I scoped out the room and saw my friend Cupcake sitting by the window by himself so I decided to go to talk him.

"What's up Makayla?" he asked as I approached him.

"Nothing much. Did you know carrots used to be purple?" I asked.

"Nuh uh," he replied.

"Yep," I responded.

"How you know?" he asked.

"Coos facts told me," I stated matter of factly.

"Nuh uh."

"It's an app you can download it. Don't you love my awesome facts?" I asked

"They're my facts." He responded.

"I'm pretty sure they're mine," I countered.

"That's racist," he retorted.

"How is that racist?" I asked.

"Because it is," he stated.

I rolled my eyes. We always had the weirdest conversations.

Out of the corner of my eye I saw Liz talking to a guy and decided to go be nosy. Cupcake decided to come along with me.

"Hi Liz," I said leaning on her

shoulder.

The guy she was with looked just like the person I had seen her shooting glances at on the plane. Except now he was uncloaked. He was wearing very nice clothes for a casual party, he happened to be very tall, and had amazing hair.

"Makayla this Kaname," Liz formally introduced us.

"Of course it is," I sighed.

I wish I could say I was shocked but I wasn't. Kaname smiled and showed his fangs, that you could tell they were not fake. Cupcake fainted. I shook my head and Kaname just glared at me.

"She knows all about you, I talk about you all the time," Liz explained.

Kaname just sighed.

"Did you have to invite all these people over?" he asked. He clearly didn't like the fact that all of these people were in his cabin.

"You have to meet all my friends," Liz said happily, paying no attention to his bad mood.

Kaname sighed again. Cupcake had eventually come back to life. Cupcake took some magical slow motion pills and sat on the couch. The party was coming to an end and people were leaving. The only people that were left was me, Liz, Kaname, and Cupcake. Liz and Kaname were arguing about something and stealing glances in my direction.

"Yes?" I asked.

"You have to leave," Kaname stated. His tone left no room for argument.

I woke up Cupcake and we headed off to the airport wondering what the world held in store for all of us.

## LGBT clubs fight for visibility in schools

By Marisol Basurto Bustos  
Viking Shield Reporter

Life in this century is quickly evolving. There are many subjects that are being viewed differently and being more and more talked about, or less taken care of. The LGBT community is being noticed more and being treated with respect and equality just like everyone else, just how it should be. But in some places the concept of LGBT rights is still being denied. According to one news.com, "the ACLU is going after a Mississippi school district that's requiring students to obtain parental permission before joining a club that advocates for homosexual rights." This is not the only school trying to deny in some form a pro-gay club in school, there are many going around but trying to find different excuses to reject it, which is not fair for the students and should be treated equally just like any other student and the club they want to start.

I wanted to see the perspective of someone other than myself, so I interviewed Evan Tomchick so see what his thoughts were on this



subject, and this is what he had to say: "I think LGBT clubs are deserving of a place in school just like any other club is, if this school is designed for communities, then we need to make sure all communities are safe." I think we all have a very strong opinion on this subject, whether its supporting it or against it, but he, as you can see felt very strongly about supporting it. When asked if it seemed fair to ask for parental permission to join an LGBT club, if other clubs weren't needing

the permission, Tomchick said "they are trying to feel safe here, because they might not feel safe at home."

This fight has gone on for many years, but seems to be reducing. Nobody is exactly sure when it will end but I'm sure we all want it gone. People might say "everyone is treated equal," but do they see the conflict going on around our schools and children? As Evan Tomchick puts it, "Students have a right to be themselves, and to express themselves."

## START | FROM 1

we would have time for extracurricular activities after school and basketball and extra stuff." Student-athletes already miss part of class time towards the end of the day to be able to compete in games, matches, meets and competitions.

Ms. Kemano said that if school end times are delayed, "Students might miss two periods at the end of the day due to transportation to other schools." This is important because students who miss time in class are subject to be behind on their work, making them stressed out when they are forced to catch up on missing assignments.

Ms. Kemano believes that a solution for high school students is a 30-minute later start for freshmen and sophomores. As for the juniors and seniors, she says, "They should start school a little bit earlier [than the underclassmen] because it would prepare them for future jobs because a lot of those jobs start early."

There are a lot of factors that contribute to schools' and districts' decision to a later school start time. Every change has its benefits and drawbacks. What students believe are important may be different than what their teachers, parents or maybe bus drivers value.

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