

## What are the unforeseen effects of junior year?

By: MOLLY BRUCE

It is the start of a new school year, a year that undoubtedly holds promise and opportunity. Juniors, you have recently applied and been accepted to one of the most prestigious high schools in the nation. Seniors, you are

as juniors do to make sure that you succeed throughout your two years at Science and Math? Without a doubt, each person takes a different approach to leaving NCSSM as a successful student, but several seniors who made the right choices share their advice

research, and participate in class. Ask questions if you are curious or do not understand because a vital part of Research is being inquisitive." Research applications are released halfway through first trimester.

Mentorship gives seniors the opportunity to travel to local universities twice a week and perform research under a professor or doctor. Interested students must apply as juniors. If they are admitted into the program, they are enrolled into a third trimester "Explorations in Mentorship" class. Mentorship applications come out at the end of first trimester.

Leadership and club positions rely heavily on the relationships fostered throughout the school

year. Here are examples of four of the leadership positions; Residential Life Assistant (RLA), Student Ambassador, Multicultural Peer Counselor (MPC), and Peer College Counselor (PCC).

Deborah Montes, an RLA on 4th Bryan, recommended that juniors get to know their Student Life Instructor (SLI) and be active on hall. "Show

up to as many hall programs as you can, not just to try and get the position but to really have fun and get to know the whole hall."

If you are considering applying to become a Student Ambassador, it is helpful to volunteer at Saturday open houses and in the admissions office to meet the staff you may potentially work with.

PCCs work with the counseling staff so building a relationship with your counselor is beneficial. Not only do you show interest, but you can also get a heads-up on the college process and get all of your questions answered.

If you have a passion for being culturally aware, you may be interested in MPC activities, such as Tea Topics. MPCs offer an abundance of activities for student participation. It is often a nice break from classes and you can build some great relationships.

As you build relationships with your teachers, it is important to develop interactions with them outside of the classroom, through tutorials and meetings.

Showing that you are dedicated to their class can help you get recommendations for leadership and research applications. Teachers are able and more willing to write strong recommendations when you have been an active and positive participant in their classroom.

The most important piece of advice is to follow what you are truly passionate about. Do not apply for a research or leadership position if you are not dedicated and enthusiastic about it. Most of all, build honest and healthy relationships; do not just use your relationships to help you succeed.

As Science and Math students, we are all being watched, not only by the staff and our peers, but also by people outside the bubble. As we embark and tackle our undertakings, whether they are Science Olympiad competitions or Choral concerts, our community is watching. It is imperative to build professional and personal relationships at NCSSM for success and health.



Courtesy of Caroline deSaussure

**Some hard-working Bryan RLAs** decorating bulletin boards for their hall.

gearing up for another year at NCSSM.

We spend most of our time at Science and Math under the microscope. When we are not applying for research or vying for leadership positions, we are still making impressions on the people that will affect our future. So what can you

that helped them succeed.

Many students at NCSSM participate in Mentorship and research. Hun Wong, a senior taking Research in Biology talks about the process.

"Apply to and pursue the subject area that you are truly interested in, let your teacher know you are interested in

## Seminars offer students opportunities outside of regular classes

By: ASHLEY JERNIGAN

NCSSM offers students the opportunity to participate in seminars, which are student-led classes that allow others students to learn about materials and topics outside of the regular curriculum. Seminars are worth half a unit of non-core elective credit. The grading scale for seminars may be letters grades or pass/fail, which is arranged at the time of registration.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs Steve Warshaw stated, "Seminars play a vital role in NCSSM's curriculum. They have been the 'seedbed' for a number of core elective courses in the Course Catalogue."

Seminars allow students at NCSSM to have unique learning experiences and are often more laid back than an actual class. Connor Smith said, "Seminars are a great way for students to teach and learn from each other about various topics without having to worry about getting credit to graduate or being graded."

Seminars are wonderful for students who aspire to explore

a career in teaching. Warshaw stated, "By providing students with the chance to organize and present whole lessons for their fellow students, seminars give a taste of what teaching is like."

Students and adults both

are simply to monitor progress and are not as stressful as they would be in a normal class.

Seminars are established each trimester and often meet weekly, after classes. Specific topics for seminars include journalism, agriculture, lan-



Courtesy of Ashley Jernigan

**Students learning in last year's agriculture seminar.**

have the chance to initiate seminars on campus. Sue Anne Lewis (SLI on 1E2E2D) is hoping to teach a seminar through Activate Good, a local nonprofit organization.

There are great opportunities to learn about things outside of your comfort zone through seminars. Although some have quizzes and homework, these

guages, and dancing, among others.

Warshaw said, "We deeply value our students' creative spirit and innovative skills, which often flourish in seminars. We are fortunate to be in a school where options such as seminars are readily available to our students and faculty."

## Pottermore site launches

By: JARET DAWSON

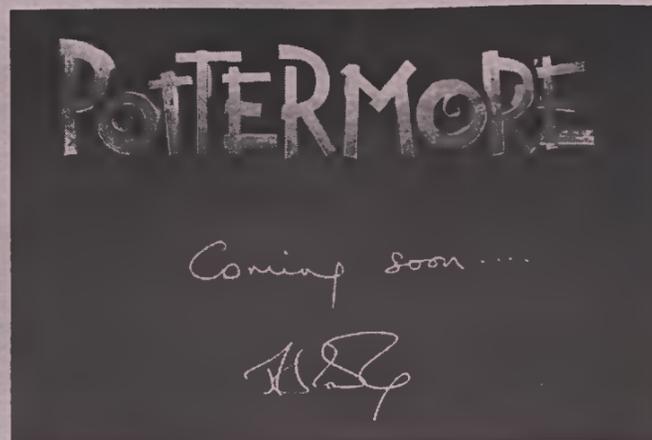
For some NCSSM students, July 31 was more important than the day that they were admitted to NCSSM. It was the opportunity for them to live their dreams: be a part of a select group that could venture where nobody had gone before. July 31 was the day that registration for Pottermore beta testing began.

Leading up to the premiere of the final movie in the Harry

out a way to become one of the first million users, two months before the general public would be allowed entry.

Upon entering the site on July 31 (through a heavy amount of traffic), diehards found the registration process would not just be a rush.

Each day for seven days, a clue pertaining to the appropriate book would be posted on the Pottermore homepage, which fans would have to solve. This would



Courtesy of the pottermore.com

**Pottermore site prior to opening for beta testing.**

Potter saga, J.K. Rowling made a mysterious announcement about her new online project, pottermore.com, which Rowling called "an online reading experience unlike any other."

She divulged very few details as to what exactly it entailed, but did say that members would be able to experience key scenes from the books and read new material.

She invited fans to return to Pottermore on July 31 to find

send them to a URL where they would complete a simple task, after which they would be allowed to register.

The clues ranged from the number of owls on the sign of Eeylop's Owl Emporium to the number of Deathly Hallows.

Over the course of the week-long signup period, at least 32 NCSSM students had created accounts and awaited the email to begin participating, though many other Potter fans throughout the school most likely registered as well.