

Just
Right

Arvada
High School
Arvada, CO

Arvadan
2023
Volume
109

WHERE EVERYTHING'S
Just Right

Arvadan 2023

Fire and Light. After the looming clouds and rain, a double rainbow appears in the sky at the Homecoming Bonfire. Weather and nearby emergencies threatened to hinder the event, but everything went off as planned. **FIND OUT WHAT ELSE MADE HOMECOMING JUST RIGHT ON PAGE 24.** **Tear it Down.** In the opening set of the marching show “The Wall,” Benjamin Sandlin (10) plays the solo that sets the others into motion. The show featured plenty of movement to tell its story of building something together. **FIND OUT WHAT ELSE MARCHING BAND DID JUST RIGHT ON PAGE 8.** **Wound Up.** Pitcher Azahnae Whipple-Medina (12) continues her four-game shutout streak at the Platte Canyon game on Sept. 13, resulting in a 16-0 win. Medina’s performance earned her a spot in the All-Star game against the team from Denver Public Schools. **FIND OUT HOW SOFTBALL MADE THEIR SEASON JUST RIGHT ON PAGE 20.** **Ready for You.** During the football game against Middle Park, cheerleader Miali Jackson (10) pumps up the crowd between downs. Cheer also performed a routine at halftime to keep the fans entertained. **FIND OUT WHAT ELSE CHEER MADE JUST RIGHT ON PAGE 26.** **Dale con el Chisme.** Outside at the tables during lunch, Madivelle Breedlove-Montez (10) chats with Keri Glynn (10) to catch up on their day. Even with walkable food options nearby, staying on campus meant more time to play street basketball or relax with friends. **FIND OUT WHAT ELSE MADE LUNCH JUST RIGHT ON PAGE 36.**



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Ninth: 170
Tenth: 196
Eleventh: 178
Twelfth: 156
Staff: 95

Total: 795



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(left) Empowered to Soar. At the September Core Value Awards, Michelle Chen (12) receives the 11th grade nomination for Empowerment from Spanish teacher Keila Castorena. As part of the nomination, assistant principal Mark Abling recognized Chen for earning her pilot license recently. “Over time, I learned to love to fly,” Chen said. “It was scary at first, but I pushed through and got [it], so I’m proud of myself.” Photo by S. Huyser. **(right) Well-Oiled Machines.** Although it wasn’t how Koah Dowling (12) had planned on spending the rest of Orientation, she still helps out with Chromebook distribution in the library. The volunteers made a system for getting stickers on computers and chargers before handing them to the incoming students in order to get everyone through during the short rotation time limit. “It was nice seeing new faces that will be around the school and to have people ask about cheer,” Dowling said. Photo by S. Huyser.



Winning just makes your day better, and just your whole week.

Gabriel Munguia (11)
Photo by C. Collins

Just when you think you’ve got it all figured out, something totally different comes up — for all the right reasons. Like when Cash Perry (10) finally gets the announcements just right and comes in celebrating his victory.

Or how Olivia Andrew has a unique voice for every character in “Lord of the Flies.” And somehow it makes sense that there is fire coming from the microwave in Corman’s class.

It’s not the bulldog statue greeting us every morning that makes this place feel welcoming. It’s knowing that you’ll get to color in another mandala today during

Academy Time. It’s trusting that Leslie will have her candy jar on her desk and stocked full at 7 a.m. sharp.

When you get here, you just have to talk to Hunter Wilson (12) to get your morning pick-me-up. And during passing periods, you know you’re going to be late because you’re catching up right outside of the library up until the minute bell.

You see, even when you’re lost it all makes sense. So, it doesn’t matter if you get stuck going around in circles on the third floor. Just stop by Flesh’s room so he can make fun of you and point you in the right direction.



(left) Sounds Right. To pump up the new ninth graders, Miriam Sanchez (10) and the rest of the marching band applaud each of the performances. “We were there to make the freshmen less nervous, so they could see other actual high schoolers there. Playing fun music helped a lot.” Photo by S. Yanes **(below) Day One, Period One.** On the first day for all students, Aug. 17, Jade Martinez (12) joins the Echo course for Nick Floerchinger’s Economics class. Martinez felt hopeful for her senior year even though the work began right away. “I want to good grades and meet new people,” Martinez said. Photo by S. Huyser.



Here is where it all happens exactly the way we want. Here is where Dalilah Aguayo (11) defends the middle on the volleyball court and trains newbies how to make it to State on the wrestling mat.

And where, in her first year, Xitlali Muñoz (9) takes the stage as the romantic lead in “Love in the Time of Standardized Testing” (you know, that play that Middleton wrote just for us?)



(Top) Coach, Counselor, Dad. At the Prospect Ridge Academy game, head coach Rod Allmon pulls Brandon Sandlin (11) aside to lift his spirits. On and off the field, Allmon relied on building connections with his players to promote team unity. “I feel like we’ve changed the culture,” Allmon said. “I tell them you have to be better than the day before. It sucks, but sometimes you’ve got to lose to win. And in order to win you have to get better and correct things.” Photo by A. Donald **(Above)**

Show Up, Build Up. Principal Shannon Vigil welcomes Victoria Baker (9) and her mom to Back to School Night. Vigil focused the event on strengthening community relationships and building family involvement. “We had really strong engagement, especially from our ninth grade families,” Vigil said. “I think it’s a good night to sort of just build community within our school.” Photo by S. Huyser **(Right)**



(Top) Small, but Mighty. For the season opener against Prospect Ridge, Miali Jackson (10) and the cheer team excite the crowds to show support for the football team. “It was my first time cheering at a football game this year. Not a lot of people showed up, but it was still fun,” Jackson said. Photo by A. Donald **(Right) Welcome Home.** At freshman orientation English teacher Joey Freeman introduces herself and helps welcome incoming students into the community. “It seemed like most of the kids that were active and participating had a good time,” Freeman said. “I think it offered them a nice opportunity to get a soft start to high school before the rest of the students came in.” Photo by S. Huyser

You don’t know exactly what you’ll get when you walk in, but you’ll know the feeling. Where everything is in its place and it feels like home —

WHERE
EVERYTHING’S

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(Top) Stone Cold. In Ceramics, Keaton Girard (9) colors and prepares his sculpture for glazing. Girard used the class as an opportunity to explore his artistic side. "It offers a lot of creative freedom and helps you express yourself," Girard said. "I love glazing and the customizability of each assignment." **(Left) Started at five.** Wide receiver Ivan Rodriguez (12) awaits the next play at the Englewood game on Sept. 10. Rodriguez has played football since kindergarten, which has helped him build his leadership qualities. "I just put in work every day, Rodriguez said. "I'm hard working, passionate and loyal." **(Opposite, Right) Tool Time.** Izaiah Ibarra (10) saws at his project in Jewelry. Students often made necklaces and rings that were personal to them. "I love just being able to use your creativity and actually use tools to make things," Ibarra said. "It's fun, and you learn another side of art."

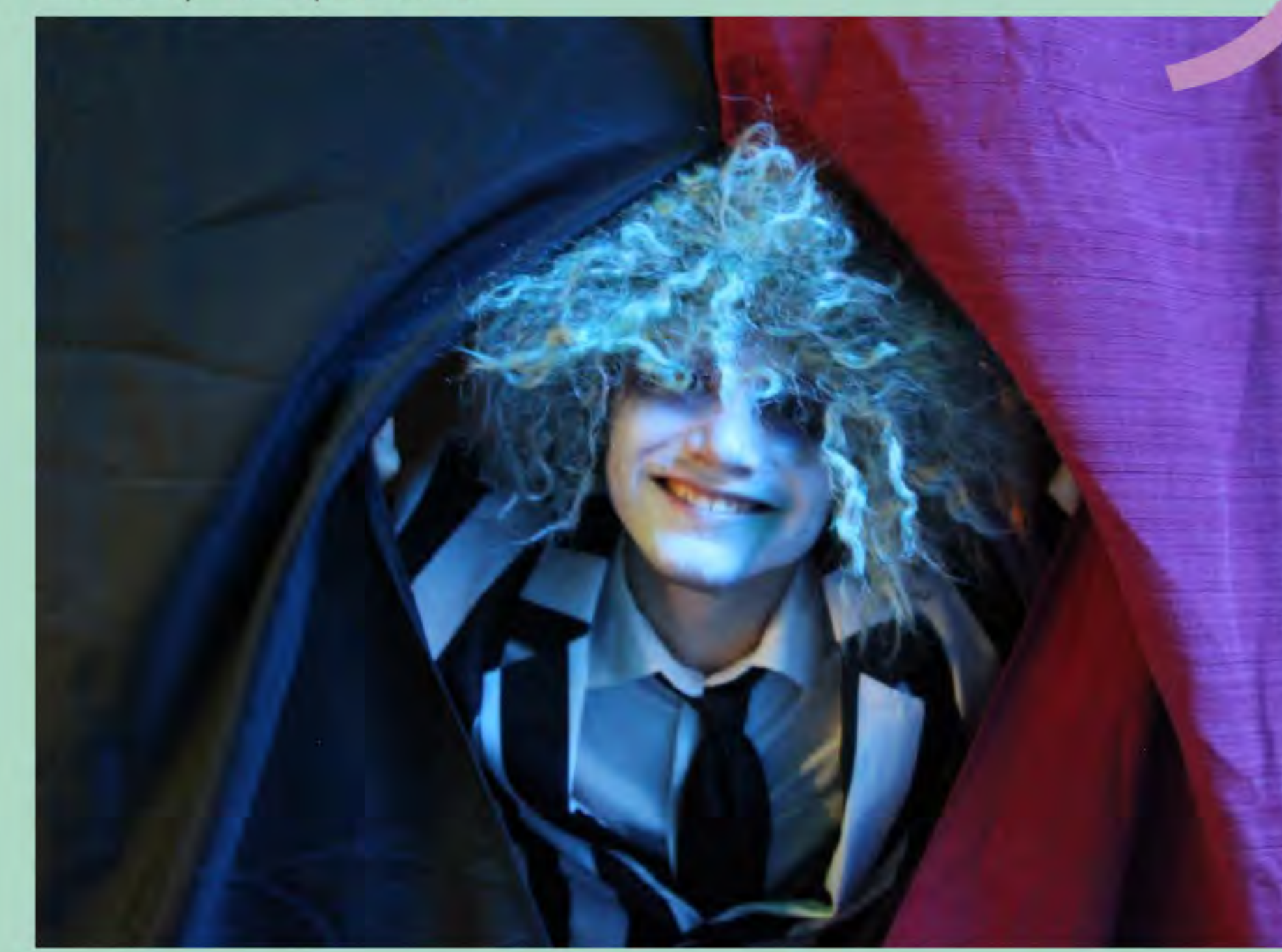


(Left) Empty Bowls and Chill-i. After buying a student-made bowl, Teachers Daniel Varda and Jason Ziegler fill up on chili at Empty Bowls. The two attended to show support for their students and the community. "The best bowls are the one made with heart," Varda said. **(Below) Push It Good.** Receiver Aaron Aragon (10) attempts to get past the block by Englewood on Sept. 10. Aragon leaned into his team bond for support. "I've been playing since second grade," Aragon said. "I like building relationships with others to getting better at the sport."



I spent all my time in the haunted house. There was a lot of jump-scaring people.

Emilio Medina (12)
Photo by A. Lopez Avila



IT'S ABOUT BEING
IN THE RIGHT PLACE
AT EXACTLY THE

Right Time

Time is weird. You figure things out just in time for it all to change again. But that's what's so great about it. It's always changing.

Christian Montez (12) relies on timing to win his boxing matches and become the State champion. One wrong moment could change that, so he waits.

But, time is also consistent and predictable. Like how Leslie Flores (10) knows it takes exactly two minutes to get to Sarah's class from Ziegler's, so she can stop and chat with friends for three.

Time will be exactly what you need it to be. Flexible or strict. And, that's how we're able to make the most of it.





(Left) Wait for It. Catcher Abigail Lopez Avila (9) lets a low ball through while she waits for a better pitch. Lopez had been playing softball for four years, so she decided to try her hand at baseball as well. "It was an easy transition, and it keeps me in shape for both sports," Lopez said. "I love being on both teams. On game days, I make sure I have everything ready, and I show up five minutes early." **(Right) Serve's Up.** At tennis practice, Meridian Garcia (11) works on her serve. Garcia followed her dad's footsteps into the sport. "It's pretty challenging," Garcia said. "But, we are good as a team, and we work well at practice." Photos by A. Baco



We have lots of creative people here. It's hilarious to see how they interpret the themes.

Counselor Suzanne Mentlik
Also pictured: Leyauna Buckley (10)
Photo by A. Rodriguez

W

Why would you want to do it alone? Especially when you can learn Italian from Filippo Carboni (12) while you plan what games to play at the next rally?

Sure, there are some things we have to do by ourselves, but there's nothing wrong with asking for a little help along the way. That's what makes Wheeler's room the place to be. You know she'll yell at you, but she'll make sure you have it all together.

It may seem like 700 bodies wandering the hallways makes it easy to get lost in the crowd. Still, we know that no matter how many people Vigil says "Hey, Hun!" to, when she says it to you it's because she sees you. That's why we work together. We see each other, and we know —

**IT MATTERS MORE
WHEN YOU HAVE THE**

Right People

Magic of the Moment.

In full spotlight, Makenzie Principali (11) belts her solo, "Where did the Rock Go?" during the spring musical, "School of Rock." Since the directors announced the show, Principali had her eyes set on one in particular. "The role of Rosalie Mullins is one I knew I wanted from the beginning," Principali said. "She's a character in the show who has so many layers that I just had to dive into." Photo by S. Yanes



(Above) Feel the Rhythm. During the Homecoming rally, Ian Quaratino and other athletes perform in the Powderpuff dance routine. "I did it to get extra credit in Spanish class," Quaratino said. "It's a fun tradition, and I had fun learning the choreography." **(Right) Take the Cake.** For Anything but a Backpack Day during the winter spirit week, Milo HiesterNesladek (9) carries a wedding cake made of cardboard hat boxes while July Madsen (9) rolls a bookcase around. The friends challenged each other to be as outlandish as possible. "The cake was my mom's idea," HiesterNesladek said. "Originally, I thought about bringing a trash can, but this ended up being way more entertaining." Photos by A. Rodriguez

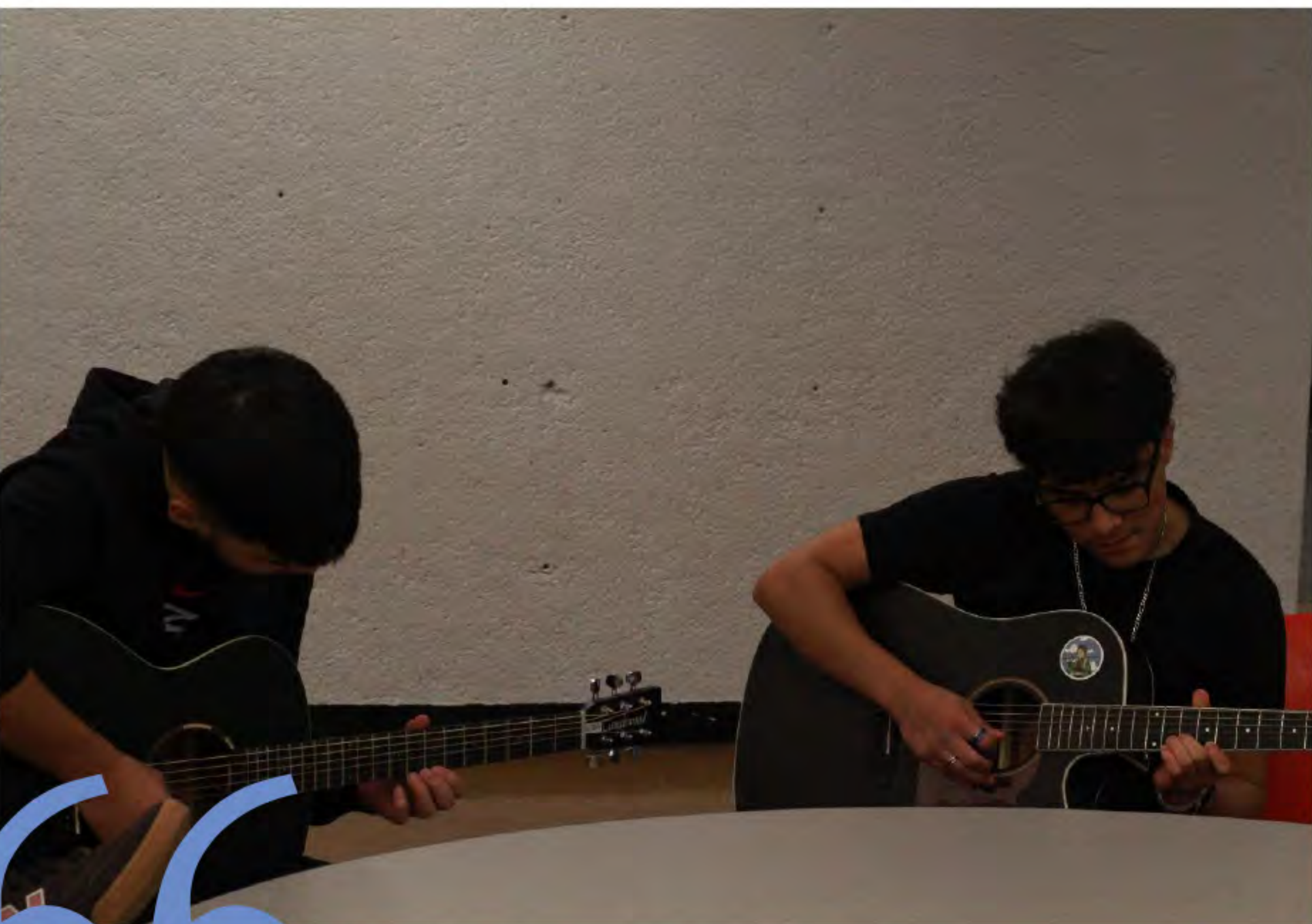




(Above) Mallets and Mayhem. Moments before the start of the Arvada Area Music Festival, Asher Questionati (12) and the Winter Percussion group warm up and practice individual lines. The group's efforts paid off when they earned first place — beating out rival Alameda by 1.5 points — at the final competition of the season before state prelims. "It's a lot of hard work, but I like the people and the community, so it's worth the effort," Questionati said. Photo by S. Yanes **(Left) It's a Breeze.** For the Windy City Tower Challenge, Giovanni Cox (10) and Gabriel Riley (10) attempt to build a tower out of paper and masking tape that can sustain high winds and pressure. "It was a tough challenge," Cox said. "We tried a couple different ideas before we settled on the this one. We were close." Photo by S. Huyser



(Left) Throw 'Em Up. Even though it is their off hour fourth period, Rubi Argaez Tun (12) and Laryssa Diaz (12) eat their lunch standing at the security desk. Argaez originally had planned on attending a different school but was grateful that she changed her mind. "I like how i can be myself," Argaez said. "Everyone understands where everyone is at, and it makes you feel like home." Photo by S. Huyser **(Right) Time for Seconds.** At Empty Bowls, Athletic Director Dan Quaratino and counselor Suzanne Mentlik go for another serving of clinical social worker Matt Teegarden's chili. Mentlik appreciated the variety of activities during the event. "There were some wonderful [pottery] pieces from the middle and high schools," Mentlik said. "I made pasta e fagioli soup to support a good cause. I had a wonderful night." Photo by A. Rodriguez



Guitar is kind of my hobby now. I spend my free time trying to perfect my favorite songs.

Eric Muñoz (12)
Photo by B. Roybal

So, take a look around. This is our time. This is our place. We really don't have to explain it to anyone to make it ours.

Here is where we figure it out together. Where just one day in Yanes' studio during Bulldog Time turns into Self-Made Productions making albums with the help of Kashmeire Ward-Ervin (10) and Lucius Hernandez (10). Where you learn geometry while working with power tools to build a tiny home.

Walk around. You're bound to see a few things. You'll see Guy zooming by on his Zamboni, but he'll stop by

and catch up with you on his way to clean the cafeteria.

And, when you find yourself in C-Hall, see if you can convince Ximena Caldera Ibarra (11) or Danika Ornelas (11) to make you some breakfast before heading up to Freeman's to figure out what her earrings are saying about her mood today.

Sometimes it's planned, like when Abing becomes a hired accomplice during the staff's Clue game. Sometimes it comes out of nowhere, like paper airplanes at a rally.

But, it's always who we are.



Get It?

WELL, YOU
DON'T HAVE TO

(Right) **The first cheer.** Paul Racinowski (10) and Jacob Risbon (10) attend the winter dance in their usual yellow suit with banana hat and highlighter yellow suit, respectively. The pair wore the recognizable outfits to every event they could. "It became our staple," Risbon said. "People call us Highlighter and Banana Boy." Photo by A. Rodriguez (Below) **Rise up and Resist 'Em.** As the rebellious Dewey Finn, Savannah Hendrick (12) leads the ensemble of "School of Rock" through the big number, "Stick it to the Man." To prepare for the lead role, Hendrick compared the musical to her actual life. "It's really different for my reality," Hendrick said. "The show is about a prep school that discourages individuality, and Arvada is not that way. But, being able to be myself here helped me bring that chaotic energy to the role of Dewey." Photo by S. Yanes



(Left) **One More Time.** To learn the music for their marching show, "Walls," Paul Racinowski practices during sectionals at band camp. Although the band practiced indoors during the hottest parts of the day, they would spend afternoons outside to get used to the differences in sounds. "When we're inside, it's a lot louder," Racinowski said, "But outdoors you really have to pay attention and listen to each other because the sound travels differently." Photo by S. Huyser (Below) **To Be Clear.** Anja Waage performs her monologue as the principal in the fall play, "Love in the Time of Standardized Testing." Waage enjoyed playing a serious character in a humorous play. "It definitely suits my sense of humor," Waage said. "Very stoic and serious, but I also was cracking up the whole time." Photo by S. Yanes



In fact, it's better if you don't. It's just our thing, and we'd like to keep it that way. It's how we make things happen. It's why we make it back day after day. It's where we eat, work, sleep (literally). We bring cozy blankets on cold days instead of bulky jackets. Then, we turn it around and get glamorous for the Beauty and the Beast Prom. It's confusing, we know. So keep guessing and trying to figure out how it all comes together if you want, but it's fine if you don't because —

That's just one more thing we got right.



(Above) **Mr. Fix-It.** With a lawnmower as a prop to draw in prospective students, Small Engine Repair teacher Mark Robinson talks to students as they pass by his table at the Curriculum Fair. He used the lawnmower to demonstrate a brief mini-lesson and gain students' interest in registering for the course. "Learning how small engines work, how to maintain them and how to repair them are valuable skills for everyone," Robinson said. Photo by A. Rodriguez

