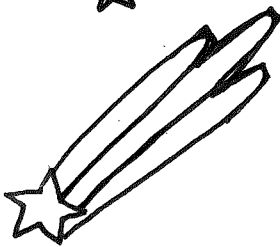
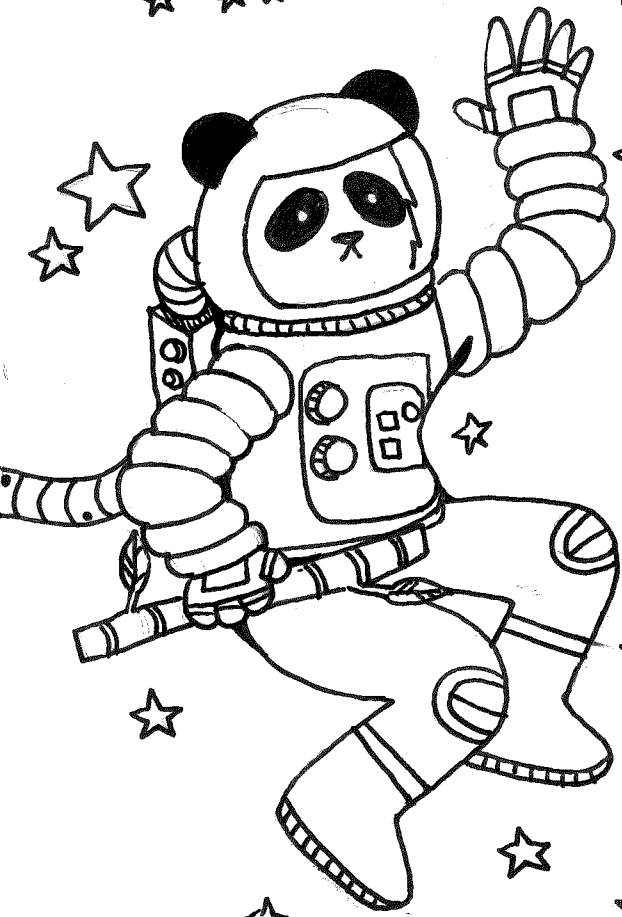


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The Underground Student Handbook

June 2018

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Introduction

We wrote this handbook to highlight H-B and why it is special. We hope to inspire others to improve the H-B community and participate in the traditions and activities.

Hopefully, you will be the one to continue the H-B Woodlawn Underground Handbook.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Christy Gill for supporting us in this project and supervising. Martha Herrmann for giving us helpful tips and interesting facts. Last but not least, we would like to thank Jacob Hall for being our teacher and encouraging us to partake in this project and learn about H-B in the process.

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Brief History/Philosophy

The H-B Woodlawn Program was founded in 1971 by Ray Anderson, a former teacher at Wakefield and CIA employee. While many other people contributed to the founding of H-B Woodlawn, Jeffrey Kallen and Bill Hale were the other main founders who wanted to form a more individualized, caring learning environment for students.

Stratford Junior High School was opened in 1951 as a neighborhood school for grades 7-9. Stratford had an array of sports teams, ranging from a successful football team to tennis and wrestling. Stratford Junior High School became the first public secondary school in the Commonwealth of Virginia to desegregate, allowing four African-American students to enroll in the school in 1959.

Woodlawn, initially did not have a principal; Ray Anderson was the head teacher. The governing body for the school was, and still is, Town Meeting which is comprised of all students and teachers in the program. Town Meeting allowed students and staff to have an equal voice within the school.

In 1972, Hoffman-Boston opened up as an alternative Junior High School, for grades seven through nine, under the supervision of Don Brandewie in the building previously known as Jefferson Elementary School.

At Hoffman-Boston, students were allowed to take their classes at their own pace. They were not required to finish in June. Students were required to attend at least six to eight twenty-five minute modules, out of sixty modules each week. Most students went to class for no more than four hours a day. Attendance wasn't enforced, and there were no bells.

In the mid 1970s, due to decreasing enrollment in APS, schools were either closed or consolidated. The then superintendent, Dr. Larry Cuban, proposed merging the Hoffman Boston and Woodlawn programs in 1977 since they had similar values. A merger proposal was approved in November 1977 for the merging of the two programs. Since there were many differences and disagreements, a Merger Committee was set into place to make the transition as smooth as possible.

As part of the solution, the committee established a teacher-advisor system. Each student was assigned a TA, who would guide their students through their schooling. Courses from both the Hoffman Boston and Woodlawn programs were offered. Ray Anderson became the Head Teacher of H-B Woodlawn, and Margery Edson, the former principal of Hoffman-Boston, became the principal of H-B Woodlawn. The administration included the principal, head teacher, assistant head teacher, and business manager. Though most classes used the standard A-E grading system, some continued to use the Credit/No Credit system, based on what students wanted. The two merging schools were moved into Stratford Junior High School.

In 1978, the year of the merging of the Woodlawn and Hoffman-Boston programs, all junior high schools in Arlington became "Intermediate Schools." Ninth graders started attending senior high schools, leaving only seventh and eighth grade students in the newly named intermediate schools. H-B Woodlawn offered grades seven through twelve from 1978-1990. Sixth graders were added to the H-B Woodlawn program as part of the Middle School Movement in 1990.

In 1979, AP classes were implemented into the H-B Woodlawn program as a request from students for a higher level of education.

By the mid 80s, due to the rising hispanic population of Arlington, all other secondary schools in Arlington had a HILT (High Intensity Language Training) program for second language learners. At the beginning of HB, there were no HILT students. In 1984 a new program was created at H-B Woodlawn for older HILT students who had recently arrived in the United States and needed additional time to learn English and acquire credits for graduation.

In 1994 Arlington County decided to move the Jackson Program to the Stratford building. The Jackson Program was renamed the Stratford Program after the original name of the school. The Stratford Program serves students ages 11-22 who have multiple disabilities and who will likely require life-long special care.

In the early years, anyone who wished to attend an Arlington public school would simply apply. Woodlawn used a lottery for several years, but the majority of students who applied were eventually offered admission.

The lottery was later reinstated, but as the numbers of minority students dropped dramatically and the socio-economic balance of the school became skewed. A new lottery was developed in which minorities were double-weighted to ensure ethnic diversity in the program.

Every couple of years, the school board asks H-B to add new students, notably in 2000. This is because of how small HB is compared to other secondary schools and the number of people on the waiting list each year.

As an addition to the program, in 2010, a new program for students with Autism was added.

The music program at H-B became very popular and space was an issue. The school board agreed and began developing plans for a new music wing in 2004.

Starting in June 2013, after AP and SOL testing, all students and teachers participate in Junetime. For four days, students and teachers participated in mixed-grade seminars enjoying hands-on, project-based learning and a different structure for the school day.

Present day, 2018, H-B is preparing for the move to Rosslyn. The decision to move H-B was made public on December 18, 2014. This was a solution for the crowding of the educational program in Arlington. H-B will be moved to the Wilson School in the years 2019-2020. The estimated capacity of the building is 775 students. The program will increase by 10% to accommodate the crowding in Arlington.

HBW Constitution: A Summary

1. Preamble

We, the community of H-B Woodlawn, in order to further the important goals of fostering mutual respect between students and teachers: recognizing the individual rights and talents of the community members; and allowing students to play an active role in the education, including taking responsibility for their actions, as embodied by the principle of Verbum Sap Sat, do ordain and establish this constitution.

2. Article 1- Relations to other institutions

H-B Woodlawn is a program, meaning that it is not considering a school. This gives H-B woodlawn the right to implement different policies than ones that are appropriate for public schools. Though it is a program is still apart of the Arlington County Public Schools and so forth must abide to their rules, and rules that the federal or state governments have applied to the education of students attending public schools.

3. Article 2-Town meeting

Town meeting is an important part of developing rules governing non curricular matters. Made up of current students, parents, teachers and administrators it is the decision-making body of H-B Woodlawn. Held at a time and place determined by town meeting, precedence over classes. Any student that wishes to attend town meeting will not be penalized for missed work and class. Any individual can bring up an issue to town meeting for decision. Decisions are passed by a majority vote with all of the H-B Woodlawn community is eligible for. Governed by the principle *Verbum Sap Sat*, anyone dissatisfied by the decisions made at town meeting can return for further resolution. Nonetheless, in a case of a disagreement, the job of the principle "*Verbum Sap Sat*" is to ensure that town meeting decision is enforced. If a town meeting decision is violated, any member of the H-B Woodlawn community has the right to tell the principle for enforcement. Town meeting also has the authority to establish standing and ad-hoc committees such as Allocation, No-Sweat, and outside teacher hiring, which all have open membership unless the motion creating the committee specifies a certain membership or size of membership. Most committees must report back to town meeting for approval of the actions. Though some committees such as the hiring committee are able to act without further approval from town meeting.

4. Article 3-Admiration

The principle and the other members of the administration are responsible for the health and safety of the H-B woodlawn community, solving schools problems, overseeing the teacher evaluation process, and facilitating the creation of an academic schedule. When it comes to the decision of town meeting, the principal is in charge of implementing decisions voted on by town meeting, and advising town meeting about the background of an issue or Arlington Public School policies. The principle does not have the authority to overrule a town meeting decision. The role of the principle is to advocate for the school, represent the position of town meeting to the Arlington Public School board, the schools board and the Parent Advisory Committee. Though, in situations of emergencies the administration may take emergency action without consulting town meeting, but must be brought up for review at the next town meeting.

5. Article 4-Non administrative stuff

The staff meeting is an important advisory group where many of the school issues are discussed, but it cannot make policies. Staff meetings are also open to students except when confidential matters, such as other individual students are being discussed. The meeting provides an assembly for discussion about schedule options, curricular initiatives and staff events. At the same time after their first year of teaching, a full time staff member must serve as a teacher advisor. Part time or first year staff may elect to serve as a teacher advisor. When it comes to the curriculum being taught, teachers have most of the control over the curriculum they are teaching. However, students have the right to question the classroom policies, but not their individual grades. If they choose to do so they can bring it to town meeting for review.

6. Parent advisory committee (PAC)

The parent teacher advisory committee allows for further parental involvement in addition to town meeting. Any parent of an H-B student is entitled to be a member of the PAC. The leadership of the PAC consists of a chair and additional officers. The leader is elected by a majority vote as well as much of the decisions made by the PAC. The PAC advises on issues of

concern. It provides a forum for parents to express their concerns and suggestions. The PAC may also fundraise, write newsletters, report about home schools and represent the views of the parents before the school board.

7. Means of amending the constitution

Town meeting may propose amendments to the constitution. The motion to amend the constitution should be agreed by at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of town meeting. Procedures and passing an amendment shall be as set forth in the document entitled *The Iterative Guide to Town Meeting Rules of Order*.

8. Bill of Rights

All members of the H-B community are expected to know and understand their rights, responsibility, and the motto Verbum Sap Sat. Students have the right to a quality education and to exercise their rights.

- Safe, Accepting Environment
 - All members of the community should feel honored and protected, in a safe and accepting school environment.
- Academic Challenge
 - It is the responsibility of the student to take advantage of their education, by attending class, putting forth their best effort, and making sure they get an education that is personal, relevant and appropriate.
- Equal Rights
 - All community members have the right to an equal say when making decision about school policies and practices. Community members are expected to to be knowledgeable about current H-B news and regularly attend town meeting.
- Freedom to Make Personal Decisions
 - All community members have the right to do what they want, make friends, go off campus, dress how they want, and more.
- Due Process
 - At any time if a community member is charged with violating one of these rights, the administration can be called upon to determine an appropriate consequence.

Traditions

Like most schools, H-B Woodlawn has many yearly traditions. What follows is a sequential list of ours. Middle school traditions have not been included, but if anyone who attended HB for middle school would like to write about them they are welcome to.

FALL

Night of Mayhem: HB seniors spend their last night of summer at school, decorating the building and preparing it for the first day. In recent years, they have competed in a scavenger hunt and created videos to show at their assembly on the next day.

First Day of School Assembly: On the first day of school, the seniors run an assembly in which they perform a play and teachers do skits. The senior class welcomes new sixth graders into the building and after that, everyone tries their best to forget about those sixth graders until they begin high school.

Turkey Bowl: Every year, just before Thanksgiving break, the high school classes face off on the football field. Grades make their own uniforms for the event. The freshmen face the sophomores, and the juniors face the seniors. Boys and Girls each get to play two quarters, and the winning classes get sweet, sweet bragging rights.

WINTER

Carols: On the morning before winter break, everyone gathers at the main entrance to the building and sings holiday carols together before going to class. Normally either Bill or a student plays the piano.

Volleyball Before Winter Break: Similar to the Turkey Bowl, on the last day before the holiday break, all high school grades compete in a volleyball match. Alumni also come back to school on this day to play a match against the teachers and to see old friends.

Hallelujah: During the chorus concert before the holiday.

Assassins: A senior-led, teacher-detested competition. Students compose themselves into teams of four. The teams must contain students of more than one grade and gender. Teams are given another team to hunt down, using crayola markers as their weapons. Targets are safe from being eliminated with markers while they are in class, in a number of safe spaces, or doing the day's "safety" activity. Such activities can range from crab-walking to carrying a teammate. As people are eliminated, the teams are assigned new targets and the safeties become more interesting. There can only be one winner. High school only.

Fab Fest: A currently three-year-old tradition, for a couple of days every February (or March, when it inevitably gets delayed), seniors lead classes on topics of their interest. Past classes have ranged from yoga to Spongebob.

SPRING

Community Day: A newer tradition, students venture out into the community for a day to try to make a positive change. Past projects have included filming movies with elementary students, making meals for the Arlington Food Assistance Center, and gardening.

Physics Fair: Physics students build group projects over the course of a week, and they are all put on display in the gym. This year at the fair, we ate homemade candy, swung from the ceiling, played (dry) ice hockey, and even rode a “magic carpet.”

Junetime: During Junetime, students spend three days taking a special elective of their choice. All of the teachers run their own Junetime, based around their own interests. Some allow students to play sports, board games, and watch movies. Many involve venturing out into Washington, DC for a themed exploration of the city. Teachers get creative with these, and they are usually a lot of fun. They used to be four days until students got bored and just wouldn't show up.

Graduation/Teacher Play: One of HB's fondest traditions is the high school graduation. The night begins with a potluck supper. The graduation ceremony is then held casually in the school gym. All of the TAs stand up and speak for one minute about their seniors. Graduates are handed leis in lieu of a diploma. The night ends with a pool party.

Senior Quotes

If you travel through the ruins of most ancient civilizations, you will see the culture, wisdom, and knowledge of generations long passed written on the walls. Like these long dead cultures and civilizations, H-B Woodlawn has a similar tradition of painting the words of the generations of seniors who leave it behind onto the walls of the building. The main difference is that at H-B, these ancient messages and scriptures contain significantly more movie quotations, philosophical rambling, and questionable advice. And they are AWESOME. If you look in the right places, you can find quotes written by the senior class of 1978, the first class to graduate from H-B's current location. I don't know where it is, but there's even a quote written by Casey Robinson, our current principal, who graduated from H-B Woodlawn in 1995. The quotes from each year are painted together, on different sections of the hallway, and these sections serve as little time capsules, mementos of what H-B was like that year.

Examples of Senior Quotes

- “Shut up, you egotistical amoebae” Paul H. -1989
- [REDACTED] Andrew Mack -2014
- “At the risk of sounding negative, NO” Will Parker -2016
- “Mike is Cool” Probably some guy named Mike -2002
- “I want your skull, I NEED your skull” ????? -2005
- “Is a hippopotamus really a hippopotamus or just a really cool opotamus?” Leslie K. -2008

Senior Quotes and the Move

Unfortunately, when H-B moves to the new building in 2019, we will have to leave the quotes behind. I asked, and apparently we aren't allowed to have the walls removed and transferred into the new building, both because it would cost a lot, and it would also destroy most of this one, which insurance would not cover. The plan for now appears to be that we will create an online database of the quotes, or a slideshow or something.

The Bad Idea

Since HB is moving into a brand new building that the school board will use for other official functions, it has been suggested that we will not be able to paint on the walls. This cannot stand. Students are very attached to the quotes and angry about this. I have already made it quite clear to school administrators that even if they don't let us do senior quotes in the new building, I'm breaking in and adding mine anyway. But I'd rather not have to get arrested over this, so I would ask that students of any class graduating from the new building (Which is almost every grade at this point) to make it clear that we want to bring senior quotes to the new building. This is one aspect of H-B Culture that should not be left behind.

Town Meeting

Town Meeting is the foundation of how H-B Woodlawn is run. Students and teachers both have an equal vote, and students have an equal opportunity to be elected as Chair, Co-chair, or Secretary for the event. Most decisions at H-B are done governmentally through Town Meeting, with county administration making decisions for us when they deem necessary. Want to propose a new class? Get outside teacher funds? Start a new club? Purpose it at Town Meeting. Many students might see the time set aside for this event as a free block, but for those who participate, it's a way to make their school what they want it to be. I personally try to attend Town Meeting whenever I can, and you should too. Attending and having a vote in the politics of the school is important. There have been some decisions over the years that have brought controversy and large numbers of attendance, including Meetings that had motions on new schedules. The most controversial in recent years was in June of 2015, when major scheduling changes were made. Every year in May, allocation brings large numbers of students and teachers. This Town Meeting is often held in the auditorium or gym due to the large attendance.

Town Meeting is one of the highlights of the H-B Woodlawn Program. People who are not familiar with HB are often confused by the idea of town meeting, and why students and teachers have equal votes.

Leadership

H-B Woodlawn has a system of leadership coordinated around involvement in Town Meeting (see above section to learn more about Town Meeting). Students at school are encouraged to go to such events to vote on important issues to take place at H-B such as re-scheduling. At these meetings, students are welcome to speak freely on important issues that will eventually be voted on. Teachers at town meeting contribute by guiding the students that are in attendance.

H-B encourages students to display good leadership qualities. Students who do well in school and show leadership abilities can be accepted into the National Honor Society. This group works with the surrounding community to create a good image of the school system. Such events like the Theodore Roosevelt Island cleanup have been great examples of how the NHS helps the community to achieve tasks. If a student cannot get into the NHS they should know that multiple clubs around the school have similar service and leadership goals.

Daily Schedule

The H-B Woodlawn class schedule gets a lot of flack from some for being confusing. Sure, the “some” in question happen to be my parents, but I’m sure this isn’t a problem unique to them, so it seems worthwhile to try and explain our system here. Hopefully, this helps clear things up for anyone having trouble understanding with the schedule.

Breaking it Down

H-B’s schedule, instead of having the traditional numbered “periods”, has an alphabetical “block” system instead. But don’t be fooled: “Blocks” and “periods” are the exact same thing. We just decided to call periods something different so we could feel special. Just like 1st period always comes first, A block is always the first class on days that it is held. The 8 blocks, A through H block, are always arranged in alphabetical order.

Here’s where it gets confusing: there are 8 different blocks on the schedule, but only 7 are held each day. Every day, at least one block is removed from the schedule. This causes certain blocks to happen at different times on each day, **but they will always stay in alphabetical order**. In addition to the removal of five blocks (one per day) from the schedule, three blocks are replaced with something else (Town Meeting or TA) a week. Each block is held four days a week.

This all sounds really confusing, and yes, it kind of is. However, you get used to it pretty fast. There is only one weekly schedule, instead of multiple that rotate over and over, and you probably won’t have to worry about breaking down how it works. Even if you do forget the schedule, remember that it’s posted everywhere. Every classroom has a copy somewhere, and

it is posted all over the hallways. So don't worry too much about forgetting the schedule, you'll probably be fine.

8:20 Classes

For any high school student who wants to take one, optional 8:20 classes are also held before school. No points for guessing what time they start. Students who take an 8:20 have to take public transportation on their own time and wake up earlier to get to them. Because of this, **it would serve you well to find out what day they are not held.** Currently, that day is wednesday, but that could be subject to change in the future, and sometimes is changed during special schedules. Stay vigilant.

Special Schedules

We have special schedules on early release days, 2-hour delay days, SOL testing days, Fabfest, Junetime, holidays, the days when all the celestial bodies in the solar system are aligned, and pretty much any other special circumstance. These special schedules are often confusing, and can break the most important rule of the normal schedule, as they can break the blocks from alphabetical order. They are confusing and usually a pain to deal with. SOL week is the worst in this regard. Just remember that on any day with a weird schedule, it will be posted on the board next to the front office. You will be okay.

Town Meeting and Interyear Schedule Changes

Next year, the 2018-19 school year, HB is adding a new "I" block to the schedule. It's a 25 minute long block that shifts the schedule around and won't appear in the schedule in alphabetical order. The period was created so that students could have more time to meet with their teachers outside of class. Few people seem to understand what "I block" is, and there was a lot of disapproval about its creation. There are people who want to further change our schedule here at H-B, and seem to think it isn't confusing enough already. We affectionately refer to these people as "crazy". They propose these ideas at town meeting, and thusly can always be stopped by a popular vote. If you don't go and vote, then you have no right to complain about any confusing and illogical changes that are made to our schedule. I've made the mistake of not attending scheduling meetings, and we wound up having our original weekly schedule reversed. I'm still not used to Tuesday having Thursday's old schedule. Don't make the same mistake. -*Owen Cullen*

Places Within H-B

Library

Our school library always has something happening in it. The library is where town meeting is held every Tuesday from 9:24 to 10:15. Before it was every Tuesday it used to be every Thursday but it was still held in the library. Most of the times people who go to the library are going to study or do homework because they have a free block. Sometimes teachers bring

their classes in to use the library and to learn about the things on the school homepage and how to use databases and stuff for projects. The person who usually teaches those things is Maggie. When people go in the library they might also go to return books or check them out. The library is also just a quiet space to relax and hangout if you want with your friends. Lots of time people go in the library with their friends to study for a test they have that day or to do their homework for the next class they have or maybe the homework for the next day. Some places you can go in the flex room or the room next to it. You have to be quiet in the rooms because Patty's room is next to it and she might kick you out. For the room next to the flex room you have to sign in because that's the way the library has made it. The library at our school has nice librarians and they will help you with anything that you need, so if you want to read, study or just hang out come on to the the H-B Woodlawn Library.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria is the social hub of the school. Students meet there in the morning for breakfast, in the afternoon for lunch, or they just hang out on the couches during freeblocks. The couches in the cafeteria are only for upperclassmen, so don't sit there if you aren't a senior or a rising senior at the end of the school year. Students play spikeball or mini basketball in the open area of the cafeteria. Other students sit at the tables and socialize and eat. The cafeteria serves different foods everyday. Some days they will serve pizza, and other days they will serve chicken sandwiches. They have everything from burgers to peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The food there isn't very good, but it is better than what you would expect from a public school cafeteria. You can buy chips and smoothies on the side, or you could even get a gatorade. Currently I owe the lunch lady 60 bucks. They are very laid back about going over your balance, as long as you pay them back eventually. A student set up his Wii in the cafeteria this year, and students played games like Mario Kart and Wii Sports. Another student once set up a GameCube to play Super Smash Bros in the cafeteria, although it isn't there anymore. In my opinion the best part of the cafeteria is the people you'll meet there. There are a lot of fun things to do in the cafeteria, and if you spend some time in there you'll probably make some pretty good friends.

Gym

At H-B Woodlawn the gym is used all the time, both during gym classes, or when someone has a free block and is playing with some friends. The gym is usually full but sometimes it gets shut down because some people (middle schoolers) want to leave food their or out in the halls and they close it for a few days. The blocks that the gym is usually full on is during Town Meeting, lunch and TA. During these blocks people go and play basketball or anything else, sometimes you might see people throwing frisbees around or with volleyballs but most of the time its basketball. There are two teachers in the gym, Sally and Stefan. Me personally I like Stefan more because I feel like his class is more chill and Sally's classes are a bit more strict. In Stefan's class the students joke around with him and he's very chill but he can have his angry moments too. If you have a free block and you want to join one of the classes to play then if the teacher lets you then you're welcome to join. The gym also gets used for things

like the halloween costume contest and graduation and other teacher related things. Other than that the other things people can do in the gym is use the weight room and cardio room, which is always locked, or just go in either Stefan's and Sally's office. The gym is open to everyone so if you want to use it go ahead.

In addition to hanging out and the actual classes that take place in the gym, it is also used for Arena Scheduling, senior auctions, allocation, and in desperate times, first and last day assemblies.

Auditorium

The auditorium is where the school has assemblies, plays, and concerts. Anything that requires a large audience happens in the auditorium. The drama department has plays every few months in the auditorium. The band and orchestra has concerts there a few times a year. Sometimes, when the school wants to get a message to all of the students, they will hold an assembly there. It could be about anything from substance abuse to a film fest. The auditorium itself is named after and dedicated to the first African American students to integrate into H B Woodlawn. Fun fact: H B Woodlawn was the first school to integrate in Virginia, even though back then it was named Stratford High School. My favorite thing that happens in the auditorium are the beginning and end of year senior assemblies. The seniors at H B Woodlawn create funny skits and do outrageous and rambunctious things during the assemblies. These rambunctious actions include (but are not limited to): Throwing condoms, throwing candy, and making fun of the school faculty. I think that this shows the true nature of H B Woodlawn, that students and teachers are equals and treat each other like peers. Whether you are in film, you are in a play, you are in band or you are trying to get a message out to your peers, the auditorium is the place where you should go to share your ideas and creativity. Without the auditorium, H B Woodlawn wouldn't be what it is today.

Programs

Music

The music program in H-B Woodlawn is not very big compared to the other high school in Arlington. There are 3 music departments, orchestra, band, and chorus. The orchestra teacher is Risa, the chorus teacher is Bill, and the band teacher is Carl. During spring every year the music department goes on a trip to wherever the teachers decide to go. Every quarter each department has a concert. The band and orchestra concert are always together but the chorus concert is on a different day. Sometimes the chorus might have a song with the band or orchestra and sometime the orchestra might have a song with the band. If you can make band, orchestra, or chorus fit your schedule you're welcome to join.

Theatre

If theatre is your kind of thing, H-B has you covered. Our drama department is full of dedicated people who work non-stop to produce plays, write scripts and build intricate sets out of all of the pieces of other intricate sets we have lying around. There is always something going on, in fact, we have so much theater stuff going on that we have two different spaces for shows to be performed: the auditorium and the blackbox. There is almost always a show being prepared in one or both of these spaces at any given time in the school year. Even when one of them is empty and does not contain a set, that doesn't tend to last very long. Because of this, there are constantly opportunities to audition to act in one of these productions, or to perform other roles on them.

In addition to shows, the drama program includes optional classes for aspiring directors that are held once a week during lunch, either in the film lab or blackbox. I've accidentally ended up in some of these meetings while doing something else entirely unrelated, and the lessons and advice provided seem like they would be helpful for someone who is actually interested in that kind of thing, so if you are interested in directing a drama production you should check it out!

Blackbox

The blackbox is a room in the basement where all of the drama department's smaller productions are held. Unsurprisingly, the room is painted completely black, as to allow the crew of the production to completely control all lighting inside the room. This makes the blackbox a great place to play hide and seek, as when the lights are off, it is impossible to see anything inside. Although there are drawbacks, for one thing it's easy to trip over stuff in the blackbox, and you also are not allowed to play hide and seek in the blackbox. I know from experience. Anyway, the blackbox doesn't just enable complete control over the lighting inside, it is also a much more flexible place for productions. The entire room has been changed drastically for some productions, with large set pieces, temporary paint jobs, and carpeting. I've seen the room be modified to look like a studio apartment, or have a strangely shaped stage constructed inside of it. It also serves as a meeting place for various different purposes.

The People Involved

The drama program is full of amazing people who work hard to get these productions off the ground. Seriously, some of the nicest people I know, I know from the times I accidentally interrupted a rehearsal looking for my computer charger. If you decide to audition for a show, or join the theatre scene in some other way, know that you will be surrounded by people who are very willing to help you out.

Honestly, I don't know that much more about the drama program because I'm not actually part of it. But if you need to know anything else about it, then you should ask one of the two major drama teachers we have at H-B: Josh Rosenblum and Tom Mallan. Josh can be found in his office, which is actually a storage closet in the backstage auditorium, and Tom can be found in the film lab, blackbox, auditorium, front office, copy room, and anywhere else he would need to go considering he runs almost the entire drama AND film program.

Film

H-B Woodlawn's film program is THE BEST! Of course there's a little bit of bias, but when it comes to the other schools in the county, there really isn't much of a contest between our film program's and others.

The film department at H-B really just consists of a group of super passionate nerds, who signed up for film class, but wound up putting so much more of our time into it. Most of the people in the film program got into via film class, probably because film class is about 90% of it. Film class at H-B is different from film class at some other schools, specifically because the focus of the class is actually making films. You form groups with your classmates, and you work together to finish a video. Then once you've finished, you'll quickly edit and show it to Tom, who will have a list of things that still need work, and send you back to editing until it's actually done. Once every semester, we have school wide film fests, where the completed films that come out of film class are shown to all of the students who wish to attend, so one can be crowned audience favorite. The audience is always mostly middle schoolers who vote for the dumbest most nonsensical ones, but at least the festivals are always entertaining.

Bigger Events

There are also a couple of bigger, more important events that are run by the film program. These events are run by H-B's film department, but they are really countywide affairs that are hosted here. Because of this, our film program's events attract and involve film students and creative individuals from across the entire county, and serve as a showcase of Arlington filmmakers, not just the ones from our school. This makes the film community in our school district feel more like one big community, and these events are always a blast to attend.

Arlington Student Screenplay Contest

Every winter, H-B Woodlawn hosts the Arlington Student Screenplay contest. Writers, many of them filmmakers, from across the county submit their screenplays to be judged. The best of them are selected to be read aloud by the judges, and the best of those in each category win an award. It's really fun just to listen to the performances the judges give, most of them are actors after all. I've noticed a severe lack of comedy screenplays at the events I attended, and the knowledge that selected screenplays are read aloud should be enough motivation to write more on it's own. But the best part of this event is that you can submit an unfinished or long abandoned film project's screenplay for credit, and even win an award with it.

Festeve

The night before the Arlington Student Film Fest (which is covered below), H-B holds Festeve. Festeve is an invitation to student filmmakers of every level from across the country, that has them split up into several small groups and try to make the best film in 4 hours. Each group is given two prompts: A line they must have in the film, and a prop they must use. To give an example, this past year one group had to use the line "Listen up, buster", and the prop they

had to include was a large inflatable banana. Festeve is a ton of fun, and it's a great way to meet new people who share your interests, unless you aren't interested in film but if you aren't why would you even attend this? And now, just to demonstrate the beauty of festeve, I'll summarize the film that resulted from the banana group. Here goes; (A middle schooler brandishing an inflatable banana as a weapon attacks another kid. Just before "killing him" the middle schooler finds out that he attacked the wrong person, believing his victim to be a particularly annoying classmate who got on his nerves. Upon finding out who was supposed to be attacked, the victim agrees that the intended target was annoying and says "I've been trying to murder that guy for weeks! We should team up." After this, they team up and successfully hit the annoying person in the face with the inflatable banana.)

Arlington Student Film Fest

This is the big one. A massive showcase of all of the best films from across the county, so large that it lasts almost an entire day, so entertaining that it's impossible to get bored (I tried), and so ambitious that setting it up nearly drives Tom insane. There are so many different films shown, from so many different schools, from every grade level, and in many genres. The Arlington Student Film Fest receives hundreds, possibly thousands of submissions every year, but they only show the best of the best, except for my films which totally should have made it in but didn't because the judges don't understand my artistic vision. There are three different groups that are judged and screened separately, elementary, middle, and high school. Between the Middle and High showings, the winner of festeve is announced and shown, and more importantly, a guest speaker comes to talk about their experience with film, answer questions, and always take longer than the people who planned the schedule think they will. The guest speakers are always amazing, and provide really good advice, and they are always so fun to listen to that nobody but Tom actually cares that they are taking too long. Overall the Arlington Student Film Fest is amazing and you should attend, even if you aren't in film, and even if they decide they can't handle my artistic vision again. -*Owen Cullen*

Grading

The grading system at HB is the traditional A through E scale. When asked about grading many students responded differently. Some say that teachers grade more strictly than other schools because they grade you according to what you are capable of, but won't overlook what your supposed to do. Others think that teachers are more lenient than traditional schools. You may be allowed to do extra work for extra credit, but it really depends on the teacher. The best thing a student can do to get good grades is well... obviously your work. If you treat your teachers like friends, and not just as people who grade you, you'll be more likely to get some extra credit. In middle school you can get away with not doing as much work. Grades don't start getting difficult you get into high school. In order to get the best grades you have to pay attention, make an honest effort, and do your homework. The best option for you if you don't like doing homework is to form a study group so you're not overwhelmed with responsibility and work. Teachers are really easy to talk to, so if you feel overloaded with work you can always have a conversation with the teacher and work out a plan to get it done. You can go to your TA

to talk about what you need to do to get the grade that you want. Your TA can help by talking to other teachers and getting you opportunities that you may need to be successful.

Grade Summaries

H-B Woodlawn is unique because almost all the students spend seven years at the school and literally grow up before teachers' eyes. Each year at HB is marked by specific feelings, experiences, and highlights.

6th

Sixth grade is a fun and crazy year. Everyone is new to the school and to each other. Every sixth grader must choose a TA, and the TA teacher serves as a friend and counselor. You will make lifelong friends and meet great teachers. There are plenty of activities that you can participate in as a new student, including town meeting, field trips, the pigeon bowl, and the middle school play(s).

7th

The second year of HB is an exciting one. Often, there is a pool party at the end of the year, and that gives you something to look forward to. Seventh graders are no longer the younger students in the school. Students are now familiar with HB, but have a lot to learn. 7th grade is similar to sixth, but you are older and more comfortable in your setting than you were before.

8th

Eighth grade is the last year of middle school. Eighth graders become linked with high school related activities. They can participate high school sports at their home schools and participate in arena scheduling for the first time, learning and experiencing the stresses and strains of the process. Eighth graders usually take more high school credit classes, with another year of a language, World Geography, and sometimes a high school math. At the end of the year, Eighth grade promotion is huge for all students experiencing it, despite the fact that their lives will not really be much different the next year. The main benefit of being in the eighth grade is that students can now go off campus. In Eighth grade, you will most likely go off campus a ton, because all of your friends go too. I personally went almost every week and bought way too much candy at 7-11.

9th

This is the first year of high school! A handful of people will decide to go to their home high schools, but many choose to stay and continue their time at HB. You will learn this year that going off-campus isn't that of a big deal, but you will see some eager 8th graders take advantage of their privileges (and later learn that candy may not be the best thing to eat everyday). This year will be very exciting for students who are into sports, because they can

compete more prominently at at their home schools. Students will also get the opportunity to have a free block if they'd like, where you they have the freedom to do whatever they want.

10th

Tenth grader take more rigorous classes. To lighten the load,they also participate in English elective classes. Those classes can be anything from a class based *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* or *The History of the Universe*. Most students opt to take AP Modern European History, although it's not advised if they hate history, because they'll probably fail. There are some other APs tenth graders can take such as APUSH, AP Government, AP Latin, and AP Psychology, although these are classes are normally taken by eleventh and twelfth graders.

11th

People might start taking a lot of APs in 11th grade to get to the next level of your academic career. This is the year where you will start competing for the spot in the Ivy league school they want. This is year where people start the rest of their lives, people start to look at colleges and colleges start to look at how you handle yourself over hard situations like the PSAT.

12th

In your senior year is when you will be applying to a lot of schools. Your TA will write letters of recommendation and help prepare you for college. After you get accepted into college, the rest of senior year is about keeping enough motivation to pass your classes. The second semester will be your easiest ever. However, you will need to complete a senior project to pass your classes. Everybody will be super sentimental by the end of the year, and this will probably be your most memorable year yet.

Academics/Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements

This might be the most boring section of the handbook, but someone has to lay down how to survive and graduate from this crazy school! H-B Woodlawn shares many similarities with the rest of the Arlington Public Schools' graduation requirements. First, you can choose between the different types of diplomas you're able to graduate with. There are different requirements you must meet for each individual diploma in order to graduate with the diploma of your choice. The most basic and common one is the Standard Diploma. You need at least two different courses among both the "Science" and "Mathematics" discipline area and you need at least three different courses among the "History & Social Sciences" discipline area. You also need at least two credits from sequential electives and at least one credit from an online course. The total amount of credits you'll need are at least twenty-two standard units of credit by passing required courses and electives and five verified credits by passing end-of-course SOL tests or other assessments approved by the Board of Education. Another type of diploma you

can graduate with is an Advanced Studies Diploma. To graduate with this diploma, you need at least three different courses among the “Science” and “Mathematics” discipline area and you need at least four different courses among the “History & Social Sciences” discipline area. You also need at least three credits from sequential electives and at least one credit from an online course. The total amount of credits you’ll need are at least twenty-two standard units of credit by passing required courses and electives and five verified credits by passing end-of-course SOL tests or other assessments approved by the Board of Education.

Arena Scheduling

Arena Scheduling is an H-B Woodlawn tradition where students are able to pick their classes for the next year. The administration doesn’t arrange schedules for each student like most other schools do. At H-B, you are randomly assigned a number and the lower the number you receive, the sooner you’re admitted into the gym to sign up for your desired classes and the blocks they’re offered in. On the day of Arena Scheduling, the gym is set up by type of class. All the english classes are together, all the science classes are together, all the social studies classes are together and so on with every subject. Before you line up to enter the gym, Casey hands you a green sheet that has 8:20-H block listed and stickers with your name on it. When permitted into the gym, you trade one of the stickers that has your name on it for a sticker of the class title you want to take next year and then you put that class title sticker on the specific block you signed up for. This can be very stressful because if you had received a higher number from the lottery, you don’t have the best chance of getting the classes in the specific blocks you want. However, no matter what number you received, you’ll still be able to get into all of the classes you’ll need in order to graduate and probably most of the classes you want as well.

Independent Studies

Since H-B is such a small school, it’s hard to request funding for many classes that may be offered at other schools. To allow for more freedom of study, teachers have offered independent studies in the past. These are unblocked classes, where students work with a teacher to learn and work on their own. As teachers have had to take on more and more responsibilities, the number of independent studies offered has dwindled. Few of them are still officially offered to this day, but if you want to take one, talk to a teacher. If they have the time, they might help you work something out.

Buses/Getting Around

There are many different school bus routes for HB, because they pull kids from all around Arlington. A lot of buses run late into the afternoon, but if yours is on time, then it will leave at 4:12 sharp. On early release days, all of the buses show up on time, so don’t doddle or you will miss it. The sports bus to the home high schools leaves at 3:10 sharp. Wakefield has a bus to itself, and WL/ Yorktown share a bus. Throughout the year, I took the bus to Wakefield, and it took around 25 minutes. Practice generally starts at 3:30, so I was only a little late.

Arlington is great because compared to other suburbs, it is very easy to get from place to place. Everyone takes Ubers, or you can beg your friends for rides. In the years prior at prom, some people's parents wouldn't show up to take them home, so the administrators would stick around to give people rides. Now everyone has Uber, and this past year, nobody was left behind. Uber is a gift from God. A bit pricey during peak hours, but it runs 24 hours. Only old people use cabs. Other than that, there's the metro that you can use to go to DC, although a lot of people just use it for getting to Tysons. The ART and Metro Buses are another great way to get around, and if you have a student card, you can ride the ART bus for a dollar. It can be a bit confusing at first, but you'll get the hang of it.

Home Schools

Home schools are your normal neighborhood middle and high schools that you would go to instead of HB. I heard many things about HB middle school and what I gathered was my home school (that I attended), Swanson is much harder school in all aspects. The biggest difference was the connection between student and teacher. At HB, the connections between teacher and student are much stronger, almost like your friend. In middle school at HB, TA's do fun things with their students such as go to 7-11, Starbucks or Metro 21 Diner, while at Swanson their TA (called a STAR) time is much more academic based with a few party type things throughout the year. By having a lot of small field trips throughout the year at HB, the TA teachers get to know their student in a more personal way than STAR teachers do at Swanson, because of their primarily academic interactions.

For high school, HB is also very different from normal home schools. One big difference is that all other high schools in Arlington have a variety of sports, but since HB is so small, we only offer frisbee. Some people want to play regular sports such as football and lacrosse at their home school, so they take the sports bus to either Yorktown, WL, or Wakefield. You can start doing that in eighth grade. Eighth graders can only play sports at a high school if that sport isn't offered at other middle schools, like football or field hockey. Playing a high school sport as an eighth grader isn't very common, although there are a few people at each school. Also, if you plan to transfer to your home school for high school, it's a good idea to take a sport at that school, to get to know the environment.

Towards the end of the year, other middle and high schools in Arlington have finals in most classes. On the contrary, at HB, people have finals in only a couple of classes while others may have none. Another difference is if you go to a neighborhood middle or high school there will be a lot more people in your class. Our 2020 graduating class will have around 100 students whereas the 2020 class of Washington-Lee will have closer to 550.

Since there are much less people at HB, your teachers will get to know you better and get to work with you more one-on-one. At WL, there are a lot more students to keep track of, so they don't have as much time to spend with you individually. In the end, HB and the neighborhood schools have some differences but all are great schools.

Transferring From Other Schools

Transferring from a different school into HB can be scary and nerve wracking, but it will end up fine, it does for most people anyway. I actually transferred to HB in the beginning of 9th grade like a lot of other students did, but I found out three days before school started. I had less than 3 days to pick where I wanted to go to high school. I had already been to the Washington-Lee orientation and all my friends were going there. I knew no one at HB but my parents really pushed me to go, so I did. If you get accepted and you aren't sure, always give it a chance because you only get one choice.

I went the day I got accepted just to talk to some teachers and one of the main things that kept getting brought up, was HB didn't really have cliques and that everyone is friendly to everyone. That's only half true. The first day of school I had no clue where to go or who to hang out with. Obviously, I saw many cliques. As time went on in the year, and even that day, even though there were cliques, people were friendly and would talk to you if you talk to them, and of course that's how you develop friends. Another thing about transferring from an Arlington middle school to HB is to keep an open mind. A lot of thing that HB does and what makes it HB can be considered weird or different but if you get past it you may really enjoy the "weirdness".

The actual academic switch was super easy. Swanson had a lot of hard nose teachers and when I came to HB the teachers were much nicer and relaxed, so it made the transition much easier. Teachers were extremely friendly and understood any problem you had with an assignment and even let you turn in things after it was due for full credit. Also since HB would be much smaller than the middle school you transferred from, the class sizes will also be not as big as the class size at your middle school. So, you will be able to get more help and more focus. Academic wise, the transition from Swanson to HB was very smooth, and freshman year was a breeze.

Knowing where to go in the building was another change that you need to get used to going in to any new school. HB wasn't that hard. Coming in as 9th graders for your core classes you stay on the top floor, the third floor. The library is also on the third floor. The cafeteria and the gym are on the second floor and the film room, band and orchestra room and the chorus room are all on the third floor which is below the middle school classrooms. All around, H-B is not a hard place to get around.

Off Campus/Places to go

There are a lot of restaurant and other places of business near HB's Vacation Lane location. The new H-B will also have good places to get food. Before we can talk about the places you can go, there are rules about going off campus. You must be in at least 8th grade to leave school grounds and you must have parent approval: a signed permission slip. Another rule is that you have to have at least one or more friend to go with you to go off campus. This rule exists because the school cares about the safety of all the kids, and doesn't want anyone to

go alone. Another rule is to be careful and courteous in stores and not do anything illegal. If you steal from a store and are caught you could get your off campus privileges taken from you. If you are caught with drugs by a teacher you also will get your privileges revoked and likely be suspended.

Now that we have talked about the rules of going off campus, we talk about the places to go. There are quite a few things to do while off campus. . There are places where you can walk to and also places that you can go by car to. Many students attend one of two local 7/11s while off campus. Students also go to Safeway and Subway. If you turn the other way down Lee Highway, you will arrive at Lee Heights, which has retail stores and dining options such as Crisp and Juicy, Starbucks, Chipotle, Upper Crust Pizzeria, and Pastries by Randolph. Crisp and Juicy is a chicken place and the food is really good. Starbucks is just overpriced coffee. Chipotle sells delicious tex-mex burritos, Upper Crust Pizzeria is always good, and Pastries by Randolph is a pastry store. Now you are old enough to get your license and have your car you want to go to other places. Once they obtain their licenses, students can drive to restaurants all around Arlington, provided they have the time.

There are many places to go around our school to get food or just to hang out. Off campus responsibilities encourage maturity, responsibility, trust as well as being a great way to get good food!

Outside Resources

We are lucky to live in the DC area, a diverse and historical area with amazing resources available to us that we need to take advantage of. We have so many learning opportunities that we can apply to both school and daily life. Here are some places to explore:

- The “Weekend” section of *The Washington Post* has a list of upcoming festivals, fairs, and exhibitions happening in the DMV
- The Smithsonian has a list of exhibitions on their website www.si.edu
- More specifically, Arlington Now (www.arlnow.com) has information about events and news in Arlington
- If you search for “Arlington, VA” in Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.com) you are given a list of musical, professional, performing arts, health and wellness, and free events happening in Arlington
- The website for Washington DC, www.washington.org, is hands down the best resources for things to do and places to go in DC. You can read about all the neighborhoods, their main attractions, places to eat and stay there. The events tab not only lists events but reasons to go to them, what types of people go, and how to get there
- Arlington Public Libraries and DC Public Libraries are both free to Arlington residents
- Teachers and parents are great resources who are always ready to answer questions!

Communicating with People

Nowadays, it seems that people use their phones to communicate more than actually talking. I guess more so at HB, people do enjoy a nice conversation with someone, but technology has really taken over our lives. Most people use Snapchat, Instagram, and texting to connect with other people. It's super convenient if you have to make plans or something, but people being on their phones all the time leads to them not knowing how to have a proper conversation. You'll probably only get calls if something is urgent or if you have some tea to spill, but otherwise you'll just get a text.

Some teachers are super strict when it comes to phones in their room. Ex: Carolyn, Stefan, Rachel, David, and Dave (don't ever have your phone out in math, you'll probably miss a week's worth of stuff). Most teachers don't care too much. Just don't be annoying about it, and don't use it when someone is talking. Facebook is pretty obsolete, and only use for making groups, like for theater and Assassins. Since Snapchat now lets you have groups, many people just use that. The Remind app is getting used more and more, for athletic teams and field trips and stuff. Email is also not really used that much; only for contacting your teachers about grades or asking for a grade raise.

Review of Restaurants in Rosslyn

In 2019, the entire school program is moving to a new site in Rosslyn. To prepare for the move here are a list of restaurants around the neighborhood.

Tupelo Honey: Southern food reimaged. With everything under \$30 you can get chicken and waffles that taste as good as they sound. With the fairly cheap budget, the restaurant has 4 stars on tripadvisor. Roughly a five or ten minute walk uphill. Dee on the website *Zagat* states "Usually that would be a great thing until your sitting on patio furniture indoors for an hour. A little uncomfortable. As for food, it was average at best."

Pho 75: Quick and casual, this cafeteria-style restaurant serves cheap, authentic Vietnamese soup. The service is great and the employees are friendly. Although it's a sit-down restaurant, an H-B student could be in and out within the 35 minutes for lunch or a free block. With vegetarian options, everyone can find something to eat here. The writers of these reviews recommend getting the pho with slices of skirt flank and iced tea (\$7.20), slices of eye-round steak and soft tendon and Vietnamese coffee with condensed milk (\$9.70), or plain noodle soup and soybean milk (\$7.00). This restaurant has great food for a great price, the only downside is that it's cash-only. But for middle and high school students, that shouldn't be a problem.

Ben's Chili Bowl: Ben's Chili Bowl is a classic DC restaurant, and is only a couple minutes walk from the new HB in Rosslyn. Get a classic hot dog for a reasonable price as well "History in

a bite.” (Mike L, Tripadvisor). Good for a quick meal in between the end of the school day and the 5:30 call for plays. They have salads too, for the vegetarians.

7-11: We already have a 7-11 by our current location. It will be right next door, and will be the perfect place to buy a cheap, well, anything you could ever want to eat, as well as a selection of two star movies. You can buy coffee from here, or from Bean Good. Bean Good has better coffee, but it is farther from the location, but during SOL week you won't want to walk that far to get even a crappy cup of coffee.

McDonald's: A classic restaurant, a place where you can get breakfast all day and two cheese burgers for 2 dollars. With mixed reviews, some people eat McDonald's everyday, while others haven't been in years. Reverend Joey claims “I bought a biscuit, I consumed half of it until I bit down on an object that was pretty large in size. It scraped my gum and I removed it from my mouth.....Therefore, with my Church as my witness, I will if necessary, allow my Church and the community, to boycott this restaurant until this is financially settled.” With this quick and cheap meal, it is probably best to go if you have a friend to drive you.

Ledo Pizza: Want just a classic, reasonable, and tasty pizza delivered (but also available for pick-up) to you? Then Ledo Pizza is the place for you. They serve a Veg-in pizza -for those vegans out there- with all sorts of veggies and no cheese. For those willing to eat meat, they also have a barbeque pizza, with sauce and chicken stacked on. They also cater.

Rolls By U: Described as a “hip counter serve for customizable Asian rice bowls, sushi & sushi burritos,” Rolls by U is very popular among teenagers because it's like Chipotle with sushi. You can create your own rolls, burritos, or bowls with rice, greens, fish, chicken, tempura, tofu, veggies and sauces. It's a little expensive for it's “meh” quality, but there are hardly ever any people in there, so the wait time for a custom meal is very short. If (when) you go to Rolls by U, we recommend the rainbow roll or blueprint sushirrito.

Bean Good: Unlike Starbucks, the classic H-B coffee place, Bean Good had real food, a charming atmosphere, and good coffee. There are many items on their menu that are both healthy and filling, like smoothies and quiche. It's often very crowded and there are limited outlets, so go ready to sit next to a stranger and bring a charged computer. Bean Good is a nice place to get work done or hang out with friends and have good food for a reasonable price.