

Letters from the Editors

Dear incoming Editors,

Welcome to the Argus family, yes family. The office will become your second home, and the people dedicating their time to create the newspaper will become your family. You'll share laughs, stories, stress, joy, etc throughout the journey, but it'll be worth it. Argus is more than a newspaper, it speaks up for the voiceless and celebrates the community. Walk in every month ready to give it your all.

It is a huge responsibility and privilege to be the editor-in-chief of Argus. I took on the role in hopes of getting the Midwood community closer. I remember the pride I felt when the first issue came out and the smiles on people's faces when they saw their accomplishments printed in the paper. The same excitement and fear I had when I first walked through the office as editor-in-chief, I carried it for nine months. Every month I would challenge myself into innovating Argus to appeal more readers because it deserves more attention.

Make sure to stay aware of the events that occur in and outside the building. It is your job to ensure the information is accurate and fair. Mistakes will be made, but don't let that get to you. Let the mistakes motivate you to do better.

Lastly, I want to thank Ms. Kaczmarek and Mr. Levinson for a wonderful year, and the many lessons they've taught me. I couldn't have done it without them. Be nice to Mr. Levinson, he is also new to the Argus experience. Don't be afraid to ask him for help or questions. Throw new ideas to him and make sure he keeps snacks in the office!

Sincerely,

Damali Ramirez, Editor-in-Chief

Dear readers and incoming editors,

Argus has become an essential part of my high school journey, and words aren't enough to express how much I've learned from this experience. Not only did I learn about the world of journalism, I was also exposed to skills like communication and time management.

I knew I wanted to be a part of Argus, but I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I stepped into Ms. Kaczmarek's journalism class on the first day of junior year. I learned about the power of the media and the strength of words. Journalism with Ms. Kaczmarek turned my world upside down, as I became more aware of world issues and grammatical errors.

Being an editor comes with a lot of responsibility, but is really exciting! The endless hours spent in the Argus office are ones I'll remember forever. From asking each other for headline ideas to asking if there are any Oreos left in the drawer, the editors have formed an unbreakable bond. The warm and supportive environment of the Argus office helped me survive my senior year. To the senior editors, you have all worked extremely hard this year and it was amazing to work with all of you. I cannot wait to see what all of you will accomplish.

To the incoming editors, be prepared to embark on an incredible rollercoaster ride. The Argus office will become your second home and the ladder will become your best friend. Enjoy every moment and good luck! Put your best foot forward and strive for nothing but the greatest.

To the readers, thank you for reading Argus! Every month, the writers and staff put a lot of hard work and hours into the creation of the paper. You make our hard work pay off!

Best,

Sarah Cen, Feature Editor

Dear Incoming Editors,

Congratulations! During my freshmen year, I made it my goal to become an editor. I have always had an interest in journalism, but I had never imagined that it would be take a lot of effort. I remember when my first article was published on the front page. Now, I get to see my name under staff. At first, I didn't really know the other editors, and I was scared. However, I've become much closer with many of them and now we're like family.

You've made this far. All of your hard work has paid off, but wait, there's more. Being an editor is a big opportunity to learn. You will be more than just editor. Be prepared to run around to confirm information, take pictures, and get quotes. It's a big responsibility, but when you all work together, it doesn't feel like a lot of work. Please make an effort to stop by to work on the issue whenever you can. You will become aware that deadlines are very important. You will learn to work under pressure. There may be times when deadlines may make you feel frustrated and worried. Students not emailing their articles can also be very frustrating, but don't stress out. Just take a breath in and out. As long as you push yourself to get your part done, there's nothing to worry about. If you finish your part early, help the others.

Communication is essential! Ask if you don't know how to do something or don't understand. It's ok to ask questions, no one is going to judge. At least they shouldn't. If you have suggestions, speak up. Overall, be responsible and have fun with it. Once again congratulations!

Sincerely,

Evelyn Perez-Ortiz, Editorial Editor

Dear incoming editors,

Your year as editors of Argus will be an aspect of your senior year you will cherish forever. With great responsibility comes so much fun! What started off as learning what a lead is with strangers turned into constant laughter and inside jokes with great friends. There are moments in the Argus office you can't recreate with any other group of amazing people. Though many of you end 5th or 6th, you'll find yourself staying until the end of 10th, oblivious to the time, as I have found myself do many times.

Being an Argus editor isn't smooth sailing; it takes concentration and precision in every page. There will be frustrations with juniors, with the layouts, and with pictures, but you guys are entirely capable of enduring any obstacle that comes your way.

You may disagree now, but if you read this again in June, I guarantee you didn't regret spending hours after school finishing a layout or creating a puzzle. I guarantee you won't regret running around school finding teachers to take pictures of for Argus. I guarantee you won't regret doing last minute interviews for critical details. I guarantee you won't regret emailing juniors who probably won't respond until the next issue.

Your time in Argus will be one that you make the most of; I guarantee you. Thank you Ms. Kaczmarek for inspiring me to continue journalism in college and major in English.

Sincerely,

Ufaq Tahir, News Editor

Dear Incoming Editors,

You did it! You took on the challenge of becoming an editor for Argus -- a position that comes with great responsibility and dedication. As an editor, you'll have the opportunity to witness how powerful words can be. You'll meet new friends and get closer to your current ones. You'll get that feeling of pride and accomplishment when you hold a fresh copy of Argus.

As you transition into senior year, there is something really important that I want you to know: it's okay to be undecided about your plans. Like me, you are probably anxious and stressed about what to major in and what career to pursue. I'm here to let you know that it's okay to not know. Discovering your passion takes time. Focus on what's important and pursue what interests you. When you're overwhelmed, take a step back and look at the bigger picture.

From one editor to another, there's a few things you should know: always follow the style sheet, be dedicated, show up, and most importantly, always remember to have fun. (There is a secret drawer in the office with snacks! Don't tell anyone.)

Sincerely,

Xin Lin, Editorial Editor

Dear Incoming Editors,

Words are the foundation of our past, our present and our future. Communication is the building block of society, knowledge and power. Journalism is a pivotal block that upholds our world by integrating all the essential elements that sustain our thoughts and freedoms.

Argus is the culmination of all those principles and has played a significant role in the way that my peers and I view our world and all that happens around us. Our newspaper is unique in the way that it is an open forum for discourse, free thoughts, and education in the form of entertainment. The Argus allows for students to participate extensively in the execution of the paper and its existence. Journalism students learn to value both their opinions and those of others around them through the platform provided in which students choose the topics and their subjects.

The joy and self accomplishment I felt when I had my first article published is unrelated to anything else. It is distinct and genuine when you understand that the hard work you put into crafting a writing is as valued as your beliefs.

Ms. Kaczmarek, along with all the people I've gotten to know over my junior and now senior year, has changed the course of my life and opened up new doors for my future. I learned of my passion for politics and debate through this class. I established friendships that spawned from intellectual discussions rather than on social media and have experienced the value of trying to maintain the authenticity of somebody's words and how important it is to have context.

Argus is incredibly interesting and challenging, and the involvement of all those reading and contributing does nothing but benefit all.

Sincerely,

Rachel Goryachkovskiy, Sports Editor

Dear Incoming Editors,

Congratulations on making it to the Argus staff. After a year of keeping up with journalism and familiarizing yourselves with the style of newspaper writing, you have constantly met deadlines and spent hours writing articles for Argus each month - and you should definitely be proud of that. When my first article was published in Argus, I was beyond speechless. It is an amazing feeling to have your work recognized and published for people to read. As managing editor, I had the wonderful opportunity to work with a team who had the same mindset as me to make Argus more enjoyable to read for our readers. I love coming to work on layouts and spending hours in the Argus Office because I just love Argus so much. Being on the Argus staff will require you to bring everything you've learned in journalism class and put it into action. I am sure it will bring you the same rewarding experience it brought me. Be determined to work hard and make the paper better than ever.

Sincerely,

Henry Mei, Managing Editor

ARGUS

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Managing Editor: Henry Mei

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Amanda McBain

Feature Editor: Sarah Cen

Sports Editor: Rachel Goryachkovskiy

Photographer: Roman Rod

Micheal McDonnell, Principal

Catherine Kaczmarek, Faculty Advisor

Casey Levinson, Associate Advisor

Matthew Fleming, Proofreader

Editorial Editors: Xin Lin
Evelyn Perez-Ortiz

Argus welcomes your contributions. If you wish to write for the newspaper or submit drawings, or you would like to work on the production of the newspaper, contact Ms. Kaczmarek or Mr. Levinson in room 343.

For more content, visit www.midwoodargus.org