



# ADAMS RECEIVES A “B” GRADE

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

This year, the Indiana Department of Education released the grades for the 2015-2016 school year. Based off of an A-F grading scale, John Adams High School received a “B” for the second time in a row. However, most of the South Bend Community School Corporation’s schools received D or F grades, and only six primary schools in the corporation received A’s.

As the only high school in the corporation to receive a B, Principal Jim Seitz believes that Adams has shown some improvement. “This year there is a difference of how the school grades were calculated as opposed to the previous five years,” he said. “We took the ISTEP test instead of the ECA exam, which we ended up scoring higher in the Math section in comparison to the State average.” According to the State of Indiana, the math section passing rate is 34.6 percent, and Adams’s passing percentage was 37.6 percent. The same results happened with the English score as well: the State average for English was 59.0 percent, and Adams’s percentage was 62.1 percent. “By being higher than the state average in both, this is definitely a good thing. But there is certainly room for improvement,” added Seitz.

When asked what the school grade comprises of, Seitz said, “Basically 75 percent of the school grade includes the graduation rate and career and college readiness.” The career and college readiness portion of the grade consists of the percentage of the graduating class that passes an IB and AP exam, receives dual credit, or an industry certification. “And 25 percent of the school rate is the test results,” added Seitz. Some of the improvements Adams has seen is an increase in the graduation rate. Seitz explained, “Our graduation rate was under 90 percent and it increased to 91 percent and we are even anticipating for it to rise to 92 percent for this year.”

But we still have to improve on test scores. “About 40 percent of the test was over 8th grade geometry standards, so it’s not just an algebra test anymore. And with now knowing that, I anticipate those scores to go up this year,” said Seitz. Other goals he would like to achieve this year include more improvements for the graduating class. “Our goals for the next years to come are a 90 percent graduation rate, 60 percent career and college readiness rate and a 30 percent passing rate in IB and AP exams.” Seitz continued, “And if we raised both our math and english scores by 8 percent, we will be up to an A.”

With the rest of the school year still to come, Principal Seitz has some advice for what he wants to see in the students and faculty. “I think we need to continue to work hard and build positive relationships with one another.” Seitz is very proud of the progress Adams has shown for being the sixth school to be above state average out of all St. Joseph County schools. With that said, Principal Seitz said, “I really think we will be an A next year.”





THE JOHN ADAMS

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## ROGUE ONE

CASEY CARROLL - COLUMNIST

Once again, the “Star Wars” franchise has created a craze with its newest edition, “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story.” The success of this film is crucial to deciding whether or not the franchise will continue making spinoff films - which are not part of the “Episode” series. I would have to agree and say, as a stand-alone “Star Wars” film, “Rogue One” was successful, although it had the potential to be better.

Set a short time before “Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope,” the storyline is based on Jyn Erso, the daughter of Galen Erso, the designer of the superweapon used by the Galactic Empire widely known as the Death Star. After being separated from her family at a young age and then being rescued and raised by the rebel Saw Gerrera, Jyn is rescued by and forced to work with the Alliance, a rebel group on a mission to restore the Republic. On a mission given to Jyn

by the Alliance, a unit forms, consisting of Jyn Erso, Captain Cassian Andon, a member of the Alliance who fought in the Galactic Civil War, Chirrut Imwe, a spiritual warrior-monk, Baze Malbus, a freelance assassin, Bodhi Rokk, a former cargo pilot, and K-2SO, a Galactic Empire droid reprogrammed by Captain Cassian Andon (because what’s “Star Wars” without a sarcastic droid?). The team ends up hunting the plans for the deadly battle station that, if not destroyed, could lead to the destruction of the Alliance and innocent lives across the Galaxy.

Overall, the film was well-made but very predictable. If viewers have seen Episodes IV, V, and VI, then the ending of the film was evident, making the whole experience feel dragged-out. With the ending already set in stone, the movie could have involved more action to make the film more exciting. Although there were quite a few amazing action scenes throughout the movie, the addition of more action scenes would have enhanced the movie as a whole. Even though the movie was predictable, Lucasfilms and Disney did an impeccable job with casting and special effects. The action in the film was exciting and kept you on your toes.

As expected, “Rogue One” rose to the top of the weekend box office, scoring the second-best December opening ever with \$155 million in estimated ticket sales. “Rogue One” opened at number one in all markets globally, but it did not beat the “Star Wars” franchise’s previous debut, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” at \$247.9 million. On the track that it is on, “Rogue One” has the capacity to top the box office for the rest of the year. The film topped “Moana”’s three week run at top of the box office at \$11.6 million. The box office results prove that “Rogue One” was a greatly anticipated, successful movie.

In conclusion, “Rogue One” was successful overall, although there were opportunities to create a more exciting movie. Even though the movie could be seen as prolonging events to come, the plot was interesting and the movie is worth seeing - if not in theaters, then when it is released to stores. If you enjoyed “Rogue One,” you can look forward to the multiple stand-alone “Star Wars” movies to come.





# CONCERTS IN CHICAGO

TAYLOR WALDRON AND HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTERS

Hunter: The Chicago modern hip hop scene is one of many different styles, cultures, and neighborhoods. Big names such as Chance the Rapper and Vic Mensa have laid the path for younger aspiring artists to follow. Such artists have many opportunities available to them in the musical melting pot that is Chicago. Countless theatres, venues, art centers, and more exist around the vast area for upcoming artists to gain experience and grow their brand. This winter break, I sought out to experience the sounds of some of Chicago's rising hip hop talent - SABA and Taylor Bennett. Both concerts were landmark shows for the two emerging stars. Taylor Bennett, who happens to be Chance the Rapper's brother, played his show, along with other fellow rappers, at the famed Metro on Chicago's north side. SABA performed at Lincoln Hall, also on the north side of Chicago. Each show, with various special guests and openers, were great experiences that I will look back on when these artists are rich and famous worldwide.

Taylor: Like Hunter, I have always admired the spirit of Chicago's music scene. There's a place for every artist and every genre in the windy city. Before we left for break, I was envious of my friend Hunter's winter concert lineup. For three weeks I had been moping over a sold out show I couldn't get tickets for. Luckily, three days before we vacated the school premises, I along with two of my friends, were able to snag three tickets to see up and coming alternative R&B artist, Blackbear at Reggie's Rock Club in Chinatown.

## Taylor Bennett at The Metro- December 23, 2016

Just around the corner from Wrigley Field is an acclaimed music venue known as The Metro. Aside from the location, the building itself just has a really interesting layout. The actual theatre is on a separate floor from the entrance, from there, there is a balcony level overlooking the stage and the rest of the theatre. The Metro has hosted countless renowned artists and now Taylor Bennett can be added to the list of rappers to sell out this amazing venue.

Dubbed "Taylor Bennett's Holiday Bash," the concert consisted of various MC's such as Taylor

Bennett himself, Supa Bwe, King Louie, and different dj's. But to only call The Holiday Bash fun would be an understatement; it was fantastic. Everyone was hoping for a Chance the Rapper appearance, but he unfortunately couldn't make it. The concert started as most hip hop concerts do with a Dj performing to pass the time. Next the openers performed - most of which I don't remember the names of. However, the rapper Supa Bwe was entertaining and gave the crowd a lot of energy. The opening acts were sufficient, but unsurprisingly, the crowd was anxious for Taylor Bennett. When he finally came out, he made quite the entrance - spitting fire bars, as the kids say. He performed most of his newest EP, Broad Shoulders, a mix of smooth sounds and intelligent lyrics. A special part of Taylor Bennett's set is that he freestyled, which to me,



showed his versatility as a rapper. He brought out special guest King Louie, notable Chicago rapper and anti-violence advocate, to perform a couple of songs. Taylor Bennett's Holiday Bash was a well organized event, worth every bit of the fifteen dollar ticket price. Hopefully there can be more all age shows like this for young folks in the midwest.

## SABA at Lincoln Hall- January 6th, 2017

In the heart of Chicago's Lincoln park district is the small but exceptional venue of Lincoln Hall. With a capacity of just over 500 people, Lincoln Hall is a perfect place for small or underground artists to make their mark. SABA did in fact sell out too, which is not an easy feat, no matter how small the venue may be.

The concert started off very slowly, to say the least. The doors opened at 6:30 PM, and people trickled in slowly while various dj's performed to

pass the time. Finally the opening MC's started playing by about 7:30. The openers were a few guys, who I'm pretty sure were SABA's friends, named Joe Chillams and Melo. They were alright, but their set seemed to drag on in my opinion, considering I attended the show to see SABA. At long last, around 9:30, the man of the night took the stage, to perform his new album - "Bucket List Project." SABA performed just about every song from his new project, as well as a couple from his previous mixtape. This man is not only a rapper, he is an entertainer. And he certainly did entertain the crowd - climbing into the crowd, talking to the audience, and jumping on the speakers. It was amazing to see his love for the city and all of his fans in it. My final thoughts are that Lincoln Hall was a great event for SABA and a big breakthrough in the West side Chicago native's musical career.

## Blackbear at Reggie's Rock Club- January 8th 2017

Over 300 anxious fans waited outside Reggie's Rock Club in near freezing temperatures for Blackbear and his entourage of opening apprentice artists, together known as Beartrap. Sunday marked Blackbear's second show of the week in Chicago. Selling out the Reggie's venue in less than an hour for his Friday night show, Blackbear, also referred to as simply Bear, decided to do a second performance.

When fans entered the venue, they were met with long awaited warmth and the first opening act, a young female DJ named Madds. She's definitely new to the scene and the crowd could tell she was nervous. Madds performed for about an hour, and considering the professional equipment and obvious knowledge of crowd favorites she possessed, it

was a bit of an underwhelming experience as she attempted to warm the crowd up for Blackbear's apprentice artists, members of Beartrap. That's not to say Madds isn't talented, but she definitely needs to build some confidence and establish more stage presence.

First up from the Beartrap team was emerging R&B vocalist, Pettros, from Boston, Massachusetts. This artist performed three songs from his new album, 'Emotional Savage' that will drop soon. Pettros was well received by the audience. He really captivated the audience and was able to excite a previously underwhelmed room. Pettros was then followed by the R&B duo surfclub. The Fremont, Ohio natives performed their month old single, Snapchat.

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After only 12 days of streaming the single on SoundCloud, surfclub reached 78,000+ plays. Blackbear himself posted the track to his own SoundCloud account, publicly endorsing the artists. Members of Beartrap all have that distinguished R&B feel, combined with modern themes and frequent interjections of rap sequences. Surfclub's performance took the energy of the room to new heights and they were the perfect act to lead into Bear's performance.

The openers finished their sets and 9 o'clock rolled around. The crowd was warmed up and anxious to see Bear. Up until four years ago, Blackbear (Matthew Musto) made his living as a singer/songwriter. His fame really took off after co-writing Justin Bieber's 'Boyfriend' in 2012. The 26 year old Los Angeles, California native opened with an old favorite from his first EP, "Dead." The crowd joyfully sang along to "Dirty Laundry." Dozens of devoted fangirls, including myself, shrieked when Bear smiled and expressed his love for the city again and again. Now, I'm definitely biased when it comes to Blackbear, I've been a fan for the last few years, but to say the show was "good" would be an understatement. As an artist, Bear's lyrics are smart and often imply some deeper meaning you can't fully comprehend with the first listen, so you go back again and again. The production of the tracks is so aesthetically pleasing to the modern R&B genre. As an audience member watching Bear as a performer, you can physically see the immense joy his music brings him. As previously stated, his smile was captivating and it was contagious throughout the room. As I looked around, I saw endless rows of smiles, laughter, and tears. There's something about the way a show can make your entire body and soul feel fluid and like you're apart of something much larger than yourself.

The set list for the show included many old favorites of the long-time fans such as myself combined with tracks from his new EP, 'Cashmere Noose' that dropped on all major music streaming sites on August 2, 2016. In five months the EP has been streamed over 27,000 times and Blackbear's name and brand are continuing to grow rapidly. Bear promised the room that he'd be back soon, hinting at a spring show this year. I seriously recommend checking him out and keeping an eye out for future tickets. You won't be disappointed.

#### Closure

Hunter: The great part about seeing live music is that you can come together with hundreds

of people who you don't even know, yet you still share the same appreciation for the artists performing. Not only that, but you get to face amazing artists in real life, while doing what they love. No one can ever experience the energy and joy of live music through just a pair of headphones.

Taylor: Like Hunter said, there's nothing like live music. Shows bring people together and celebrate one of the only pure things left in this world. Seriously get out, experience music, and try something new.

## BASKETBALL

### ABBY MYERS - REPORTERS

As many of us are coming back from winter break and snow is on the ground, we all know that winter has arrived. With winter, comes the another sports season at Adams high school. Basketball is one of these sports. While many of us were relaxing and celebrating over winter break, the girls and boys basketball teams were hard at work at tournaments, games, and practices at the height of their season. So far, the boys teams, led by Coach Milt Cooper, have had a fairly decent season this year. Each of the boys basketball teams, including varsity, junior varsity, and freshman, have pulled off surprising victories in their season. The varsity team has had an exceptional performance with several key wins throughout the season, with a record of 9-3 so far. Over break, the varsity boys competed at the Bob Wettig Memorial Tournament held annually at Richmond High School in west-central Indiana. After facing some pretty tough competition, the Adams varsity team came out on top and is now the tournament's reigning champions. The next big game for the varsity team will be against the Riley wildcats on February 17th. When asked about the Riley game, senior Mike Green stated, "It's always a great game [with] a lot of great players playing in one gym." But "bigger games" doesn't necessarily mean that the team works any less the rest of the time. As junior and combo guard Walter Ellis said, "All of them [are big games]. I think we need to come into every game like it's the biggest game of the year. Just trying to take things one game at a time."

Despite a rocky start, the boys junior varsity team has accomplished a lot with significant wins over Plymouth and Elkhart Central. Like the varsity team, the JV team competed at the Bob Wettig Memorial Tournament and got

2nd place in their division, leaving them with a tied record of 6-6. Both the JV and varsity boys teams will face Washington on January 12. The freshman team kicked off their season with major wins over John Glenn, Marian, Penn, and Riley, and, despite a couple of close losses against Michigan City and Mishawaka, has been able to pull out with a record of 8-3. Last Saturday, the team got 1st place at the Northwood High School Boys Freshman Tournament, even beating the home team. The freshman will play again next Wednesday against Jimtown.

Like the boys teams, the girls' basketball teams have been hard at work. The varsity, JV, and freshman girls' teams, led by Coach Leon Scott, have accomplished a lot this season. JA's girls' varsity team has done well this season with some surprising wins against some key competitors. Notably, the lady eagles had four wins in a row early in their season, defeating Mishawaka, Riley, Wawasee, and Bremen. What makes this team so successful? "The reason why we are doing well is because of our team chemistry. We treat each other like sisters," said Sammi Jankowski, a senior and a point guard for the team. Recently, the girls competed in the Baker's Classic Tournament held annually at Northridge High School and got

3rd place. According to Coach Scott, this is just one step toward the team's larger season goal. "The main goal for our team this year is to be sectional champs at minimum," he explained. So far, the girls have a record of 9-7 and will continue their season with a game against Jimtown on January 13.

So far, the girls' junior varsity team is off to a rocky start with a record of 3-9, however, the team is beginning to make a comeback with recent wins against Marian and Clay. These games against rival schools are key to the girls' basketball program. "The local rivalry games are always games to look forward to," said Coach Scott. The lady eagles certainly have a lot to look forward to with more games against local rivals like Washington and Elkhart Memorial. The freshman girls team got the season off to a good start with a win over Concord. Since then, the freshman team has pulled off 4 more wins against major teams including a home game against Riley. Recently, the Freshman Lady Eagles beat Michigan City at home, giving them a record of 5-2 so far. The freshman girls will play Washington on January 18.

Congratulations eagles and keep up the good work!