

The September *Spotlight* introduces and new and returning staff through our reviews of the many things we watched and did this summer. Read through to get a feel for what caught our attention, maybe you’ll find your new obsession!

Detroit: Become Human

By Rae Johnson

Video games offer an escape from the real-world, allowing players to immerse themselves into other universes and experience different stories with unique characters. One game in particular that had me playing for longer than I intended was Detroit: Become Human, a game set in the future where you decide what happens to humanity and androids. From the moment I purchased it, the game was immediately added to my favorite games list and became my new obsession.

Detroit: Become Human was made by the developers of Quantic Dream, who specialize in interactive story games. It was released on Playstation in 2018 and later for PC in 2020. Despite being released a few years ago, the game has received overwhelmingly positive user reviews and is still well played today. The game is set in Detroit—hence the title—with a cyberpunk aesthetic and modern vibe. In the near-future of 2038, highly advanced humanoid androids are used to serve humans domestically and take over labor roles alongside automatically driving cars for transportation and the technology of transparent screens, also known as OLED displays. However, Detroit: Become Human highlights themes of conflict between humankind and artificial intelligence as they gain a sense of identity and consciousness.

Deviancy is where it all starts: androids break from their coding and no longer need to obey human orders, gaining freewill. Deviancy in androids is triggered when they experience an “emotional shock” that causes software instability that can break through the red wall. Androids become overwhelmed by irrational instructions, which leads to unpredictable behavior, and often showing signs of human-like emotions.

The narrative brings together three main android characters, each with their individual story. The “first” main character to become deviant is Kara, a housemaid android under the ownership of Todd, a father to 9-year-old Alice. Driven by urgency and motherly instinct, Kara takes Alice on a journey for a new life with the absence of Todd. Meanwhile, Markus “awakens” that same night after events escalate. Markus was once the caregiver for Carl, an elderly, wealthy artist, seeks a new purpose and is given the opportunity to lead deviant androids to freedom and equality for their kind under any circumstances, peaceful or violent. Then we have the fan-favorite, Connor. He is a prototype android detective with advanced real time analysis and ability to reconstruct events. Connor’s mission is to investigate and cease the deviant androids, protecting humans alongside his grumpy partner, Lieutenant Hank Anderson. Connor is often conflicted by his programming, and the choices made by the player determine his view on deviancy. However, with the rising tension in Detroit, their stories may cross. With multiple possible outcomes, every choice matters, influencing each of their stories and shaping the fate of the humanity and android kind.

For anyone who enjoys interactive story video games and quicktime-events, I can’t recommend enough to try out Detroit: Become Human. I personally found myself wanting to discover more about other routes, so much so that I finished every possible achievable thing in the game, ranging from every flowchart to achievements, and every collectable in-game in only 2 months (I have those bragging rights now Mwahaha). Overall, Detroit: Become Human offers an unforgettable experience, being both immersive and emotionally impactful.

Ben&Ben

By Angelee Mae Badiola

Music, most would say, is a universal language. This comes from one of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s sayings “Music is the universal language of mankind.” Although this can go on with several meanings, I believe that it is something that does not need to be understood just by the language that you speak but more so the feelings that you get when you are listening to it. The way that it sparks people’s feelings and emotions without having to understand the language, I think, holds a deeper meaning. There are many music artists that hold those deeper meanings into their music, but one that resonates with me is a band called Ben&Ben.

Coming all the way from the Philippines, Ben&Ben is a band that was formed by a couple of college friends during their time. Since then, they have created countless songs together that are not only heard in the Philippines, but also in other parts of the world. The band consists of two twin brothers as the main singers, Miguel and Paolo Benjamin, but being mostly known by their stage name (Ben and Ben). Other members also include Agnes, Pat, Poch, Jam, Toni, Keifer, and Andrew. They all play different instruments that convey different emotions in their songs for their listeners.

Most of their songs are on the mellow and calmer side of music, which is generally heard in their instrumentals. This makes them belong to the indie folk genre. Listeners can relate to their music as it takes them back to their memories of being together with their family, friends, and significant others. Some of their other songs also focus on self growth and healing from any situation, making the message of “challenges don’t have to be faced alone” pop. One of Ben&Ben’s songs that started their fame was called “Kathang Isip.” (48M views, updated) They have released many other singles that became even more popular. Some of these songs are, “Araw-Araw” (37M views, updated), “Paninindigan Kita” (57M views, updated), and lastly their most streamed song—“Sa Susunod na Habang Buhay” (114M views, updated). This last song translates to “In the Next Lifetime” and goes over a story about two people that face a challenge in their lives by being together, the more they force that “togetherness”, the more pain they experience. Hence promising each other to choose each other in another lifetime. Although the meaning may be saddening, listeners are fond of the experience of possibly finding another chance with that person in another lifetime.

Ben&Ben had recently been on a tour in California over the Summer. The concert was to showcase their new album The Traveller Across Dimensions. Following a journey of a character going to different places and experiencing the ups and downs of it. Their song “Saranggola” was the main highlight, it tells a story of friends helping each other, kind of like how the band formed itself. I personally was fortunate to experience it, and saw their showing at the Thunder Valley Casino and Resort. It was the first concert that I ever wanted to go to and it was amazing! The lighting and animation they had during the show made me feel as if I was the traveler. The audience singing along made it even more enjoyable. As a person that knows the majority of the language, I was able to understand most of the lyrics. Through the melodies and instrumental during the whole concert, it made the meanings of each song deeper.

Overall, I would recommend this band to people who enjoy the emotional context of their songs. Although some people will not be able to understand the lyrics, there are also some songs that they have that are fully in English. In the end, Ben&Ben is a great band to listen to with their varied music style and honestly just to get into your feelings.

glee

By Leeah Merrill

Over this summer, I invested a lot of time in different forms of media: lots of shows, movies, videos, and so much more. My favorite thing I gave my time to was glee, a show by Ryan Murphy (creator of Nip/Tuck and American Horror Story), Brad Falchuk (creator of American Horror Story), and Ian Brennan— that aired from 2009 to 2015 and can currently be streamed on Disney+ and Hulu. glee is such a funny, cheesy show with lots of good music from musicals and artists that were popular at the time of airing. glee is a jukebox musical show that follows a show choir glee club and is a mix of comedy and drama. Each episode has a different plot point and each season has a different overall problem. For example, the first season's big problem is getting and keeping enough people in the club to meet the minimum requirement for the competitions. Though each season follows the goal of getting to and winning nationals, the result is always different. Sure, the show can be a little overly cheesy for some people’s tastes, but that is what makes it so good. They often make some jokes that are a little outdated, but the show is timeless. The show contains a wide variety of songs from Broadway hits like “Don’t Rain on My Parade” from Funny Girl to “Rumour Has it” by Adel and “Landslide” by Fleetwood Mac. It also has countless celebrity appearances, from Idina Menzel to Britney Spears to Gwyneth Paltrow, often showing up at the most unexpected times. This is truly one of the funniest shows I’ve ever seen. With 6 seasons and 121 episodes including some spinoff episodes, it can be hard to stay interesting, but glee does it well. It has the perfect mix of humor, drama, and cringe worthy moments. The show also has a good amount of serious moments and topics. In my eyes they simply don’t make shows like this anymore, and even when they try, it’s just not even close to the level of authentic cringe glee has a 6.8/10 stars on IMDb with 44k 10 star ratings and 70% rotten tomatoes. Overall, I would give it a 10/10 and 1000% recommend this show to anybody who loves those cringy 2000’s movies such as Pitch perfect and High School Musical.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT

4-5 - Club Fair

8 - PTCO Meeting 7pm

11 - Picture Day

18 - Yuba College Info Day

TBD

? - Mass Pep Band @MHS

Football

? - College Application

Workshops

One Night in Idaho: The College Murders

By Dayana Martinez Montes

Have you ever watched a show that stuck with you for days, even after it was over? That’s exactly what happened to me this summer when I watched One Night in Idaho: The College Murders, a four-episode Amazon Prime documentary released on July 11, 2025. What started as just another recommendation from my older sister ended up leaving me thinking deeply about how tragedy can occur in the most unexpected places, even when you’re surrounded by the people you love.

The documentary investigates the 2022 murders of four University of Idaho students, Madison Mogen, Kaylee Goncalves, Xana Kernodle, and Ethan Chapin, that took place inside their off-campus home on King Road in Moscow, Idaho. Instead of only focusing on the killer, the series highlights the effect the tragedy had on their families, friends, and the entire community. Through old TikToks, Instagram posts, and personal stories, you get to see who the victims really were, beyond what the news showed. The series does a great job portraying their friendships, dreams, and everyday lives, introducing each of the victims in a way that makes you feel like you already knew them. For example, Madison and Kaylee had been best friends since sixth grade and even attended the same university together. As Madison’s mom said, “We were so excited for [Madison and Kaylee] to start this new chapter of their lives.” Phrases like these remind us how quickly a bright future can be taken away.

One of the documentary’s main strengths is its emotional impact. Many true crime shows mainly focus on the horrific details of the crime or the investigation, but this one makes the victims and their families the center of the story. It reminds you that these were young people with bright futures and families who loved them. The interviews with parents, who mostly spoke about their kids’ personalities and dreams, were heartbreaking and hard to forget. Madison’s stepfather, Scott Laramie, said, “Your kid’s supposed to be safe going off to college and have a good time, you know, get an education.” That line stayed with me because it reflects a fear and sadness no parent should ever have to experience. The visuals add to the impact as well, with news clips, images of the house wrapped in caution tape, footage taken inside the house, and an illustrated layout of the house.

If I had to point out a weakness, it would be the pacing and focus. The series takes its time, highlighting emotions and personal stories instead of going straight to the killer’s actions or a detailed reporting of what happened. Some viewers may view this as a waste of time, feeling that some questions remain unanswered. But that didn’t bother me because the series focuses on remembering the victims, not every detail of the crime.

In the end, it’s a documentary that stays with you. It doesn’t just tell you what happened, it shows you the lives of the students, their friendships, their families, and the lasting impact they left behind. I’d recommend it not just to true-crime fans like me, but to anyone who wants to understand the people, not just the crime. The focus is less on the killer and more on the lives that were lost, which makes it stand out from many other documentaries.

Roblox

By Annabelle Morrish

Video games can be addicting, especially during the summer. One video game that really kept my interest over the summer and for many years is Roblox, an app that contains many games created by people. Roblox, created in 2006 by David Baszucki and Erik Cassel, has approximately 40 million different games to play. Some specific games on roblox that I have enjoyed are Grow a Garden and Dress to Impress.

Dress to Impress was created in 2023 by a Roblox user. The game is all about style and aesthetic. You get 6 minutes to turn a theme into an outfit, which is then rated on a five star scale during a red carpet fashion show, with prizes of money and points to get more clothes. People’s outfits are always so different and unique. This game is really fun because you get lots of creative freedom and can express yourself through those outfits, as well as get inspiration from other people's outfits.

Grow a Garden was made early 2025 and involves creating a garden by buying seeds and growing a garden, but with lots of interesting factors that decide how your garden grows, all of which results in money earned from your plants. The are special seeds and plants, and lots of things to learn. This game is so fun and I like to see everyone's gardens and how different they all are.

Roblox can can be played on phones, tablets, computers, and more, but don't forget to pay attention to the outside world but also have real, physically active fun once in a while.

If anyone has never played a game on roblox in general, I definitely recommend it. There are so so many different games to try out and experience, so if you don't like one, try another. You won’t regret it. Make sure to have fun.

Brand New Testament

By Genia Moretti

We all know the Bible- the good ol’ Old Testament and New Testament. But what if there were a Brand New Testament?

That’s what Jaco Van Dormael dives into in his dark comedy film “The Brand New Testament” (2015). It’s set in a world where God is a grumpy old man living in Brussels, Belgium, who only created humanity to torture. He’s abusive to his wife and young daughter, Ea- so much so that one day, Ea escapes the apartment to see the real world. With the advice of her older brother, Jesus, Ea begins her search for six apostles, consisting of a timid one-armed woman, a hopeless man with no zest for life, a sexually frustrated man stuck on his childhood crush, a murderous man obsessed with death, an older woman in a loveless marriage, and a young boy with a terminal illness, who starts to ponder his gender identity. It’s a beautiful, snappy, heartfelt, and (ridiculously) random film that leaves you extremely confused, yet satisfied.

And clearly, I wasn’t the only one left feeling fulfilled. “The Brand New Testament” won awards such as Catalanian International Film Festival Best Actress, European Film Awards Best Production Designer, Haifa International Film Festival Best Film, Norwegian International Film Festival Audience Award and Most Enjoyable Film, LUSCA Fantastic Film Fest Best International Director (IMDb), and many, many more, alongside countless nominations.

Audiences around the world appreciated the fresh, fun story in a sea full of sequels and remakes, as well as the striking visuals. The writing team had an amazing grasp on how to use spontaneousness as comedy, while keeping a rather philosophical meaning underneath. The plot is wacky and odd, with dancing severed hands, tigers in hotel rooms, and love stories between animal and human, but beneath the jokes is a valuable theme of divine intervention. The film comments on how religion is intertwined with the patriarchy, and how the divine feminine can overthrow it. It touches on morality, destiny, faith, power, human nature, identity, trust, and the need to end generational abuse, whether it affects just you or the entire universe.

Over the summer, I had the pleasure of attending a masterclass with the director, writer, and producer of the movie, Jaco Van Dormael. During the masterclass, he described his creative process and the journey that led him to make the film. He also mentioned the fact that he used to be a clown in a circus, which really shed some light on the peculiar plot points.

During the class, we had an open Q&A, so I asked him if the element of bestiality (a very prominent thing discussed by viewers) was purely for the sake of being weird, or if it had a deeper meaning. If I’m being completely honest, I couldn’t really tell what he was saying because of his thick Belgian accent, but what I did get from his answer was- yeah, it was kinda just for fun. For the shock factor. As an aspiring young filmmaker, his answer really resonated with me. When studying film and literature, I, alongside many, get so wrapped up in the idea that everything happens for a reason—that everything is a sign. We forget art is expression, and

it can be strange and fun! Sometimes things really are that deep, and sometimes they’re not. And that’s okay.

That’s what got this film stuck to me this summer. It changed my view of filmmaking and world-building, and those thoughts directly impacted a narrative project that I created comedy elements for. Not many movies genuinely change external factors in my life, but this one broke that pattern.

So, if you want to experience (yes, not watch, but experience) a film that explores authority, absurdity, and the human condition, then I can’t recommend “The Brand New Testament” enough. Whether you like the film or not, I can guarantee you that you will leave the theatre feeling some kind of emotion. A weird emotion that you can’t quite place. A pivotal one—dare I say—a brand new one.

Don’t forget
to buy your
yearbook!



Jeanetee

By Andrea Guerrero Vargas

When I thought of my summer, I thought of one of my favorite artists: Jeanette. My summer consisted mostly of diving, swimming, walking absolutely everywhere, sweating, summer nights, and doing it all with the people I loved. I feel like, out of all of the media that I associate with my summer; music was the most important and prominent one. Jeanette’s song “Sol de Verano” was what I felt like everytime I stepped out into 90+ degree weather to leave the house for hours. Jeanette is a Spanish singer and songwriter whose songs give off carefree vibes, and her voice is so soothing; I feel like that reflects my summer of relaxation in a form different from being in bed and sleeping all day. There’s a song of hers for every feeling but anger. She can’t expand as far as other artists because of her style, but she doesn’t have to because her music is for a certain mood and that mood fits perfectly with my summer. Every time I had a terrible day, I would turn on one of her songs and immediately feel better or understood. The language barrier may prove difficult for some listeners, but if I had to recommend a song for the general feel, it would have to be “Porque te Vas” and “El Muchacho de los Ojos Tristes.” The first one is actually in Russian and is a cover. Her songs are a lot better if you listen closely and if you resonate with them; which I do.

Vector

By Anthony Guzman

The future. We worry about it and wonder what may happen, and we never know for certain what lies ahead. This summer, the impact an older videogame left on me was enjoyable yet made me think about society. In a future where all decisions are already made, with freedom becoming limited, a singular clerk, out of the countless broke free of this system and has been on the run ever since.

On August 12, 2012, a parkour videogame known as Vector released for Windows, Android, and iOS on the app store. It currently has 1 million downloads on the classic version, 100 million on the remastered version and STEAM for windows by game developers known as Nekki, who have been creating games since 2002–nearly 25 years ago! Another game that they created, the Shadow Fight series, has about 1 billion downloads (Nekki.com).

Not much is known about the game’s lore and story. We can play as many characters in the remastered version released in 2023, but we start as a runner who worked for the Corporation being chased by hunters of the same Corporation who appear to be controlling the entire city or maybe even world. Our character is able to learn dozens of different tricks we can use through the levels and content continues to get added. Over time, you can see how our tricks evolve and become more complex, which may show that we’ve become adjusted to the idea of freedom and have moved away from simple movement tricks.

While running through maps such as buildings, construction yards, parks, and many more, the remastered version has an incredible soundtrack for each, as well as a hard mode, which increases the difficulty substantially. I’ve invested a lot of time into this game over the summer and I don’t think I’ll let it go any time soon. You should try it out too, you might enjoy this game as much as I do. Give it a try, the remastered (and way improved) version of the game is absolutely worth it!

Night Manta Ray Snorkeling

By Luka Swindle

Summer heat, tropical breeze, and a desire for adventure. For many of us, this is the ideal summer. What if I told you there is a way to funnel these cravings into an excursion only found in one place in the whole world: Hawaii.

Hawaii is known for lots of things. Fascinating history, delicious food, and being surrounded by beautiful, bright blue waters. Many stunning creatures fill these waters: dolphins, seahorses, many varieties of fish, and, my personal favorite, manta rays. Reef manta rays are most commonly seen in the shallower waters of the vast Ocean, these magnificent creatures can grow up to a 15 foot wingspan. Manta rays are filter feeders, this means they consume plankton, like a whale shark!

You may be wondering, why are you going on about manta rays? Let me introduce you to manta ray night snorkeling trips! It’s a fairly simple set up, hop on a boat, go out a good distance from the shore and then jump in and hold onto a flotation device. This device has metal handles to hold onto and led lights underneath, these lights attract plankton, making a buffet for the mantas! Many of these tours come with a “manta guarantee;” if you don’t see any mantas you get a free reschedule. My personal experience was absolutely incredible. The manta rays swim right up to you, often brushing into you! Our tour guide informed us that typically you might see 1-3 mantas. Throughout the entirety of the trip, we saw 11 different manta rays! Each of them have names and distinct markings which are explained by the guides. This fascinating experience with mantas is definitely worthy of a spot on the summer vibes list.

Love Island

By Addison Garcia Nystrom

Want to watch a reality tv drama that's reached #1 streamed in the USA? Love Island is the best summer show to binge watch! There's an episode every night (except for Wednesdays) at 6pm. On June 3rd, season 7 began and the season lasted for 6 weeks. But, this is just the beginning of your obsession, soon you will start binge watching all 7 seasons, streaming on Peacock. Peacock only costs \$7.99 monthly so, technically it's the cost of a Dutch or Starbucks. Even if you don't have a Peacock subscription, I’m sure your friends might and if not, I believe you could come up with the \$7.99.

The show originated in 2005 as Celebrity Love Island, and grew larger from there. The show consists of a group of contestants known as islanders that are young and single, staying in a huge villa in Fiji with an ocean front view. They are pushed into coupling up with their best connections. If they don't, they are vulnerable and are threatened with ejection from the villa. Challenges are held often during the season, which include teamwork and collaboration. The islanders will receive texts that tell them if they have a recoupling, challenge, or going on a date! On night one, they entered with five women and five men, on night two we received the first “bombshells,” which were two new islanders that arrived at the villa with the intent of stealing someone in a couple. Overall, Love Island consists of many twists and turns and will definitely keep you waiting for tomorrow's episode.

I would recommend Love Island to you because you will be fixated on which islanders are with who, what islanders have beef, friendships you love and so much more. You can yap about it forever with your friends and get their opinions on all the islanders. Send each other edits on Tiktok, and even after the villa you can keep up with the drama! I’m currently waiting for the reunion episode to launch to find out what has happened since the villa. If you started Love Island and didn't finish, this is your sign to start again and give it a full shot. This show is worth your investment, you will love the drama and juiciness of the show, and if you love season 7 you will have many other seasons to catch up on! Some may say it's not worth your time because it's just a dumb show, maybe that's true, but sometimes it's good to get a dumb escape from reality! You never know unless you try. It didn't reach #1 streamed show for no reason!

Kid Cudi

By Kingston Apperson

“I just want to make music that feels like the way I feel” –Kanye West. Signed and mentored by Kanye West, Scott Ramon Seguro Mescudi, otherwise known as Kid Cudi, is known for expressing himself throughout his music.

Cudi makes music that features and combines Dance, Electronic, Hip-Hop, Rap, and Rock. Personally, I like his rap the most. His lyrics are often autobiographical, meaning he talks about his past experiences and feelings, such as depression and loneliness.

Kid Cudi was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on January 30, 1984, to Elsie Harriet and Lindberg Styles. His first hit debut single “Day ‘N’ Night,” which pretty much every person ever has heard, came out on September 15, 2009 and sold 104,419 copies in the first week. The song currently has over 1.25 billion streams on Spotify. Kid Cudi has released 10 studio albums, three EPs, forty-four singles, and 1 compilation album. Some of Cudi’s most popular songs also include 2010’s “Mr. Rager” (655 M streams), 2009’s “Pursuit of Happiness” (684 M), and 2009’s “Memories” (825 M) (Wikipedia.com). I like his older music a lot more than the newer stuff, but that's just me. One of the major things about an artist like Cudi is that he most likely has one song that you can relate to from all his experiences, which has helped him attract more people

Cudi hasn’t had the easiest life and has been open about his battles with depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. This also includes when he was in rehab and experienced a mini-stroke after from drug use while trying to cope with his emotions. He talked about his suicidal thoughts and how he felt like drugs helped him cope with them, but later gave him an addiction, which only made his mental health and self harm struggles worse. He has also had a falling out with a good friend and mentor of his, Kanye West, whom he loved and looked up to. Cudi has taken a better pace in creating his music due to the toll of making an album every year and how much stress that was putting on his day-to-day life because of the pressure to make music on a deadline. He also testified against Diddy in the “Combs Trial,” where he said Combs destroyed his Porsche with a Molotov cocktail and also broke into his home (Medium).

If you haven’t heard of Kid Cudi or any of his music, I would strongly encourage you to give it a listen, along with Kanye West, and I guarantee you will have at least 5 songs you like from each artist. I would recommend starting from each artist's first album and working your way through the amazing music they have produced.

KATSEYE

By Elyas Herrera

Over the summer, I started obsessing over a girl group called KATSEYE. My cousin, Marisa, was already an EYEKON (KATSEYE fan), which helped nourish my love for the group, their music, and the culture.

KATSEYE is made up of six members: Manon, Lara, Megan, Daniella, Yoonchae, and Sofia. The first song KATSEYE produced was “Debut”, which was included in their first album SIS (Soft is Strong) in 2024, followed by “Flame” from the Netflix animated series Jentry Chau Vs the Underworld, and on April 30th of this year they released the song “Gnarly”, which received a great deal of backlash and a remix featuring Ice Spice on June 6th. They released their 2025 album “BEAUTIFUL CHAOS” on June 27th, which introduced us to the songs “Gameboy”, “Mean Girls,” “M.I.A”, and “Gabriella”, which also got remixed on August 6th featuring Young Miko. In July, they released the song “Time Lapse” for the K-Drama GOOD BOY and collaborated with Mattel to unleash the ghoultaastic Monster High Fright Song and a new line of Mattel dolls–each member got their own custom doll. Each doll was based off of Mythological Creatures of KATSEYE members respective cultures: Manon is depicted as a Sea Monster, Lara is a Rakshasa (a shapeshifting hindu demon), Megan is a Huli Jin (a Chinese fox spirit), Daniella is a Werewolf, Yoonchae is a Jangsanbeom (a Korean white tiger), and Sofia is a Manananggal (vampire like creature from the Philippines).

KATSEYE is the perfect group to collaborate with because of all their different ethnic backgrounds in the K-pop industry. Many labels are looking for artists who have a lighter, more pale complexion, and with some beauty brands people of color aren’t being represented at all, but since HYBE debuted KATSEYE, more beauty brands are slowly becoming more inclusive when it comes to the variations of their makeup. Sadly, this diversity has resulted in some hate being aimed at specific members of the group.

Overall I think KATSEYE is one of the BEST girl groups in the industry and anyone reading this should 100% check out their music.

Does Camp Rockin’ U... Rock?

By Kayla Cooper

Ever since I was 7 years old, I’ve spent time at Camp Rockin’ U. I don’t remember a time where I haven’t been there. This year, I was a counselor rather than a camper, so my summer consisted nearly entirely of work. So, from a behind the scenes point of view, is this place actually as amazing as it felt as a camper?

I was there for a total of 5 weeks: 4 camp sessions and 1 training week. I met hundreds of kids ages 6-14, some of which definitely made my job more difficult. Some (most, actually) made me wish I never had to leave, even if they were one of those “difficult” kids (or, “kids in difficulty,” as the camp director likes to say). I chased runaway kids, broke up fights, and ran after even more kids. I was told things a mandated reporter like myself would definitely have to report, got jabbed with a pool stick, cussed out, and filled out more incident reports than I can even keep track of. But I also was told I was a kid’s favorite counselor, danced with them at fun nights, sang (very poorly) at karaoke, and had many kids tell me they couldn’t wait to see me again next year–even those who swore they would hate it when they first arrived.

Many times through the weeks I told myself I wasn’t going to make it. I swore I wouldn’t come back the next week, but I always did, because I knew what it was like to be a camper, counting down the days left until camp. For me, that week I spent at camp was the best part of the entire summer, and I knew other kids felt the same way. And for the kids who didn’t? I wanted to help create that feeling for them.

I got to see first hand how much work it took to keep the place running, even though, as a kid, the counselors seemed like they had the easiest job in the world. Some kids told me the exact same thing, that my job was so easy–which was definitely frustrating at times, especially after I had just finished being yelled at by a kid. Looking back however, I’m glad they thought that way. That meant I was doing my job well. If my job to them felt effortless (even if it was anything but) I must’ve been doing something right.

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ENHYPEN

By Chelsea Her

Music was the start of my summer–the summer of streaming ENHYPEN 24/7 to prepare for their concert. ENHYPEN is a K-POP boy group under Belift Lab that features seven members: Heeseung, Jay, Jake, Sunghoon, Sunoo, Jungwon, and Niki.

ENHYPEN debuted on November 30, 2020, with their first mini album Border: Day One after competing in a survival show called I-LAND (kpop.fandom). Ever since the survival show, they have been gaining more and more fans through their exquisite visuals, singing, and dancing. The group has come out with three studio albums, six mini albums, two single albums, six singles, and two repackages. Just two months ago, they made a comeback with their sixth mini album Desire:Unleash on June 5, 2025 (genius). ENHYPEN is continuing to make more music and choreography to share with fans and non-fans around the world.

ENHYPEN’s songs are lovey-dovey and people love lovey-dovey, including me. Their songs have a variety of feels; chill, when you want some energy, love, longing. The melodies, harmonizing, and catchy lyrics draw you in immediately. Most of their songs are towards ENGINE (fans) to show how much they appreciate our love and support; “Highway 1009” for an example, calls for ENGINE to continue to stay, love, and support ENHYPEN until their end as they will continue to do the same. This song touched the hearts of all ENGENES.

As of right now, ENHYPEN is on their world tour Walk The Line. This tour is their third world tour and started on October 5, 2024 in Goyang, South Korea (kpop.fandom). Because of this tour, it started my summer obsession to stream their songs, hoping to go to one of their concerts. I started to beg my parents everyday to let me go to the only show they had in California and it worked–though I had to pay for my own ticket. I attended the concert in Los Angeles, California in the BMO Stadium. ENHYPEN’s visuals and amazing performances exceeded many people’s expectations, my own included. The background music, dancers, sets, and costumes were amazing. Jungwon–my bias–especially. ENHYPEN as well shared their thanks and gratitude to all ENGINE and staff. Making it a wonderful experience for me and many others.

If you haven’t listened to ENHYPEN, I highly recommend you to listen to their songs on Spotify or Apple Music or watch their variety show, EN-O’CLOCK, on Youtube. You’ll end up falling in love with them for their humour and fun personalities. Surely one of their songs or their many videos might intrigue you to start listening to their music or start liking them.

