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LOVE

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Editorial

Come what may

It was 21 years ago during a busy class that I said it out loud: "I may become a teacher". An English teacher. A teacher who would become her former English teacher's colleague. Little did I know that my thoughts from then would bring me back where it all started, and that after sixteen years of practice, I would be writing these words.

Whatever we may wish for in life, we attract. May it be good or bad, right or wrong, sooner or later, invisible threads will always bring us what we desire. I wanted to teach at the high-school where I graduated from and, somehow, even though my bucket list changed over the following years, apparently, this particular idea was stronger than others that would determine or mark my destiny. And on a beautiful May morning, a week ago, I found myself re-living memories whilst reuniting with my former classmates. I was a young girl of eighteen again, seated at my desk, in my dear classroom, chatting with the people who have marked my career and whole-heartedly feeling that I have so many things to be grateful for.

I am grateful for having the honour to follow their footsteps and for having the chance to shape, in turn, the dreams and wishes of others. We often think that if we try to control and program everything, then nothing can harm us. We imagine our future in a certain way, want immediate results and often discover that good things take time. And that the outcome, however different it may be from the initial wish, it serves us well. The universe is trying to teach us a lesson. And even though we believe that by leaving high-school we are through with learning, we never cease to be taught and to adapt. We are in a continuous process of learning, regardless of the fact that we stop studying at a certain moment.

As a former student of this prestigious College, as a current teacher of this great school, as an eternal learner, I advise you to comfort yourselves by believing that you will be fine. Whatever doors you may decide to open, whatever doors will be closed for you, accept the path that your feet will walk on. Let the disappointments be your faithful teachers, let the successes raise your spirit. And keep telling yourselves that come what may, your life book is a constant work of art under construction.

Bianca Cigan

Leaving high school

High school is one of the most important stage for almost everyone, it prepares us for college or the next step in our lives. We grew a lot in high school, both physically and mentally. A lot of us discovered our passions or what we want to do in life, but unfortunately everything must come to an end.

First of all, we can all agree that one of the most exciting but yet scariest events would be graduation. For a lot of people, graduating from high school is a goal. It takes a lot of time and effort to achieve that goal. High school isn't just about waking up every day, going to school, learning and doing homework. It involves a lot of relationships, achievements, disappointments, laughs, crying, and the most important of all, memories. It is beautiful to remember those days because one door in your life is about to be closed. Everyone is excited to leave high school but this is actually a big step in our lives and we realise that more and more, as we are getting closer to the end.

Second, saying goodbye is hard. Whether we hate high school or are dreading having to leave it, it will always have a special place in all of our hearts. The days of high school will be gone, but the memories will be with us forever. Now that graduation has finally approached, some of us feel ready, some of us feel panicked and some of us don't know what to feel. It was a lot to have to do and a lot to have to worry about, especially on top of schoolwork and activities that we couldn't just forget about. It was hard to really sit back and let it all pass. But all of us will look back at those days with nostalgia and happiness.

In conclusion, high school will certainly be a noticeable absence, as will all of the people we have come to know and love in high school. We are all thankful for all of the memories and opportunities we had in high school, and we are thankful that we have a future to look forward to.

Larisa Sima, XII D

When I came to high school I had no idea that it would be one of the most important periods of my life, where I made the best memories and I met the best people!

Now, when it is time to say "Goodbye", I realise how wrong I was to think that growing up is a good thing. No, it is not at all. As the Script's song goes, "Where is good in 'Goodbye'"? It is hard to leave a place which was like a second home and the class that was our second family. We rush to leave high school without thinking that the worst exam of them all comes: the real life. It is not about grades or teachers anymore, it is about the people we've become during these years. We learnt so many things about friendships, about listening to each other and agreeing with an opinion even if it is different from ours.

If I could turn back time I would be more thankful for the teenage years because we were so free and young! The years will pass but I will always be a CNIST!

Adelina Roib, XII D

When I think about leaving high school I get goose bumps. It's very difficult to leave the people with whom you spent almost 4 years. When you leave high school you have many uncertainties about what future brings you. In these years spent at Slavici I've made friends for life. The teachers were very smart and kind, they taught us not only their subject, but also life lessons.

Graduating makes me feel really sad because high school is said to be one the most beautiful periods of your life, and for me it really was. During these four years I have become a better person and had the chance to experience new things. Senior year was stressful, and it seemed like there was always something new that needed to be done, but it was also one of the best years because we learned to appreciate the people with whom we spent all these years and also not to take anything for granted.

Maricarmen Manolache, XII D

For the past 4 years I've been a student at this fantastic high school which taught me a lot of stuff, for example getting involved in different activities and working in teams with other students. I feel nostalgic about those years because of the atmosphere of this school where the teachers are close to us and the radio is always on during breaks. I can say that here I've made a lot of long-lasting friendships and I've found some people who are going to be a part of my life now, including my desk mate who has become my best friend and who will also be my roommate at University.

Alexandra Pop, XII D

Those four years at "Ioan Slavici" National College will be an unforgettable experience for me. Besides studying quite hard every single day, I also had a lot of fun at this school. I came to school with pleasure. On holidays I didn't feel so good because I missed my daily habit, which was going to school every day. At that time I missed all my classmates and I really wanted to see them again. Some of my classmates became my best friends and with the boys from my class we were like brothers and hopefully we will maintain our friendship for as long as possible. Unfortunately I will no longer be a student at this high school and I really regret it because those moments were the best moments of my life and I will never forget them.

Adrian Pal, XII D

High school was the best part of my entire life. I remember every single moment starting from the first day of school. For me high school means a lot. It is a part of my life I will never forget. In this period I met a lot of amazing people who taught me a lot of things. Also, I have made a friendship that I know will last forever. I have a lot of memories, and I can't forget how close me and my classmates were. We were together for bad or good. I will miss this a lot!

Denisa Chiciudean, XII D

High school is an experience that we all go through. Some of us know how to manage our time and face the deadlines totally prepared, whilst others are dominated by procrastination, like me. Procrastination runs through my veins and I have to do something about it...but later.

Spending six hours/day and five days/week for almost four years with my unresponsive, crazy, smart and funny classmates meant for me being in a big family with people with whom I walk through life. We, together, are creating our future, are trying to figure out what life is and who we really are. For these four years we have all undergone some changes, but we became a homogenous class and have created some friendships that will last for a lifetime.

Having to leave this comfortable environment, where we all have known each other and the everyday-routine, gives me chills, because these years have passed so fast that we haven't even noticed. So, it may seem a cliché, but I have to say it: "Live your life as is you'd die tomorrow. Learn today as if you'd live forever." Sometimes we don't appreciate things that we have until we lose them. We know that we are all going to miss each other, and even some teachers, because when we'll change the environment, we're always be used to the old atmosphere and the people we've seen every day for such a long period of time.

In conclusion, only by thinking about the end of this beautiful chapter in my life I get nervous. It is because we never know what the future holds for us, so we step into life with uncertainty and hoping for the best, because we all know that when a door closes, another one opens. And, to finish in style: "Carpe diem!" Follow your dreams, because if you can dream it, you can do it!

Adelina Manolache, XII D

Leaving high school is one of the saddest things in our lives. When I was a freshman I was quite afraid, and very happy and excited at the same time. I am very proud that I have been part of the team of Slavici and if I could turn back time, I surely would take more advantage of these four beautiful years, full of arguments, fights and a lot of amazing memories for a lifetime. I regret that I have to leave this amazing place, even if all of us say that we can't wait to get rid of school. I think that we still want to stay a bit more, just to be sure that we are really prepared for our biggest exam: life.

Tamara Farkas, XII D

For most people their graduation day is one of the best days of their lives: No more high school! For some it means that they are now able to move out on their own and be independent. "So, what are you doing after graduation?" That is the question of the day. I haven't even started to think about the life ahead of me. But each and every time I am asked that question, it reminds me that I am a grown up, that I am not a child anymore. I have to think about my future and to make some plans. I will miss some of my teachers, they taught us good and helpful things. I don't know what the future has reserved for me, but I am optimistic and I think positively and everything will be ok in the end.

Monica Dobroschi, XII D

Before I got to high school everyone was telling me different opinions: it would be great, high school years were totally the most beautiful years. Some people said that it was the worst period. But I learned that it depends on us how we want to remember this period. We have the power to make these years unforgettable and amazing or to leave high school with some bad memories. One thing is for sure, I will never forget my first day of high school. Even if I was nervous to see my new "family" and my new "home", all my emotions disappeared as soon as I arrived in class and I saw all of them. It was so familiar for me, as if we all had known each other very well. From the first day I knew it was going to be great and that we would build beautiful stories and memories together, especially because I was so lucky to be in a class with my best friend from middle school.

Of course that in this high school period there were some bad, black and lonely days. But all the bad and the good parts helped us grow and become mature. We all have changed so much every year. And for me the most fantastic thing is too see everyone's transformation from the first day until the last day. I believe that we have learned a lot from each other. We learned how to be a family even in difficult times and how to stay strong. We became the people that we are today because of this high school, these teachers and especially because of our unity.

This high school helped me a lot in my transformation. I came here as a child and I am leaving as a grown up. I will never forget these amazing days. I am leaving and I am taking with me all the good and bad memories, all the classes, all the breaks when we stayed in the backyard talking and laughing, all the sad moments when we weren't in a good mood and we were arguing about everything. I will never forget my family. Some people say this is not true and I am too sentimental and I will forget about my colleagues and about high school, but I just can't imagine the day when I won't talk about, miss or remember this time.

I am very thankful for all these years. It depends on you how you want them to be. My advice is to live every little moment and to enjoy them because one day all of it will be history and you will find it hard to believe, just like me right now when I am writing these words. I regret nothing from all these years because every part is important and I will carry all those memories with me for eternity.

Amalia Babotan, XII D

Essays

A powerful figure of reference

One dimension of our life that permeates all its other facets is our social network. It affects us in the most profound regards, determining our happiness and even predicting our success in seemingly unrelated areas. Particularly, it can serve as a source of inspiration, motivation, and guidance, in the form of a person, called "role model". People often cite athletes, artists, or political figures as their role models, but I ascribe this quality to someone with no claim to fame, but with tremendous significance and influence in my life, namely my English teacher.

At first glance, she does indeed appear as a figure to behold. Her dark, dovelike eyes, like the fathomless reflection of the starless night sky in the depths of an impeccable well, exude genuine warmth and compassion. Her lustrous waves and curls tumble about her shoulders as she makes each springy stride in a display of mesmerising confidence.

However, her influence on me stems from her moral probity and her exceptional ability as a teacher. I owe much of my academic success to her, as it was her encouragement that inspired me to focus intently on my academic life and to aim as high as I can. Over the years, I have improved consistently, especially in English, which has enabled me to undertake increasingly ambitious challenges and reach new heights. These were made possible by the work ethic that I have developed under my teacher's guidance and through observing her unfaltering dedication.

Secondly, my moral compass, which has served me well in all areas of life, has drawn its foundational inspiration from my teacher's judicious manner of managing the class and from her words of wisdom. These used to take the form of anecdotes and situational analyses that did ample justice to the complexities of reality without undermining morality. Her firm sense of morality, balanced by a lucid understanding of instances when practicality trumps unduly rigid principles, has established her as a moral champion in my eyes.

In conclusion, terms such as "role model" and "admiration" inevitably call my beloved English teacher to mind. She has been the wind beneath my wings and, with graduation drawing near, I treasure every moment spent with her.

Daniel Meszaros, 10th C

Benefits to a country of people spending time abroad

Every country in the world has now free access to other cultures, traditions, programs and so on. For this reason, people who travel from country to country become more open-minded, gaining new ways of looking at the world, and so the native lands gain a lot from their people.

First of all, business people travel to different states and see how things are done there represent a real treasure for the national field of business. They return to their homeland with innovative ideas, new views and far more options. They initiate profitable businesses, having original ways to create them. This is an opportunity for the development and growth of any economy.

Second of all, not as important as the field of business, but still worthy of attention, the culture of a state has to be very rich in order to make the place a lovely one to live in. Even if a country has a wonderful and interesting culture, combined with plenty of traditions, it still needs to be improved in order to be appealing to everyone. This is the reason why it is so momentous to mix it with music, fine art or cuisine from different places and states. The people who are fascinated by travelling and bringing habits from various areas are a "must" for their home town. Why? The answer is quite simple. They come back to their home place with lots of traditions brought from the areas they visited: delicious recipes, and amazing songs they heard there. In this way, they contribute with the most interesting things from different and wonderful countries, creating an amazing mixture.

As far as I am concerned, I do consider that both benefits are greatly needed in a country in order to improve the economy, the sense of life and the beauty of a place.

Florentina Chiş, 11th D

Strategies aimed at preparing young people for their future working lives

School nowadays is not as focused on providing practical skills for students as it should be. For this reason, more and more young people who graduate from high school are poorly prepared for the working life. What can be more useful for a young man who wants to prepare himself for a working life than having the necessary skills?

In my opinion, being prepared for a job requires more than just a diploma proving someone's graduation from an education institution. Even if education has reached its peak, it has some shortcomings and drawbacks to consider. It is impressive that there still are several educational programmes for the youth who are trying to train themselves in a certain field for a job. I think it would be more efficient if a programme like teaching practical skills were implemented in schools. Such classes can provide students with useful information and preparation in areas like cooking, mechanics, make-up, medicine and so on.

Another alternative solution is providing information about jobs. It would be extremely productive if schools organised annual or semestrial courses about the less visible sides of a job and what they involve (details, important facts and examples along with real-life experiences); this would bring real benefits to those interested. A course like this could help the youth decide which field of activity appeals to them and is suitable with their qualities, preparation and expectations.

To sum up, these two strategies aimed at preparing young people for their future working lives are both very important and effective because having practical skills has a great importance these days, while receiving information about jobs represents a big advantage.

Florentina Chiş, 11th D

Teens and stress

Nowadays, more and more students struggle with excessive schoolwork and examinations, which are a real source of great stress and anxiety. Apart from the parents' concern, this problem worries teachers too.

To begin with, the lack of free time can cause a lot of frustration among teenagers, especially because they do not have enough time to practice their hobbies and passions. In addition to this, their age requires more hours of sleep and recreation, but the busy schedule does not allow the necessary time to do so.

Another idea worth discussing are the expectations. Natural as it may seem for parents and teachers alike, students might find them overwhelming. As a consequence, this pressure often leads to the loss of focus and even worse, to the lack of motivation in learning.

Therefore, the solutions for these problems are many, some of them include studying only for the main subjects, allowing both more time for sleep, and also hobbies.

Florentina Chiş, 11th D

The courtyard jungle

The warm rays of sun portrayed the shadowy silhouette of me onto the concrete floor, an arched back of a fairly tall young man. That bench wasn't comfortable at all, it was as if I were sitting on nails, nails that have sat in the microwave for a good couple of minutes. It was quite the heat wave that day, having warmed up even the wooden bench.

I ran my eyes along the yard, only for them to meet the younger children, who were running like deer fleeing from a famished lion in an enraged frenzy. Their worn-out, black and white checkered ball dropped to the ground as their game started, teams already having been set prior. It was hard to focus, as the disorienting horns of the vehicles in the traffic would not cease. Looking across the yard, you could see the smaller groups that had formed, different, yet with the same principle. Miranda was there, as always, with her auburn curls running down past her shoulders, and her piercing, emerald eyes affixed on you whenever you approached her. She's always had a comfortably kind smile portrayed on her face. She was gossiping with the other girls in the group, muttering and giggling, going unnoticed by all but the bullies, who'd occasionally murder everyone's fun. With the corner of my eye, I caught Ms. Redding approaching in the distance – wearing a muted-colored slim-fit blazer, with a crimson red shirt to complement it. A tall woman, with a confident pose, she made calculated steps as she was approaching Miranda and the bullies. Her voice, hoarse as sandpaper, grated on the inside of me, and of course, the others' ears as she went wild with scolding. As expected, the bully was sent on his way to detention again, with everyone hoping he'd trip on the way there.

I glanced back at the game of football as I felt a familiar hand laid upon my shoulder, I turned to look, and my eyes met with John. The wait was over. He was finally there.

Ștefan Meszaros, 10th C

Refugee crisis in Europe

The world is facing an unprecedented displacement crisis. This refugee crisis began in 2015 when a rising number of refugees and immigrants made the journey to the European Union to search for a shelter because there are forcibly displaced as a result of violent conflicts and natural disasters. They came from areas like the Western and South Asia, Africa, and the Western Balkans. There are a lot of innocent people who are displaced from their homes, 21.3 million refugees, 3.2 million asylum seekers, and 40.8 million people internally displaced within their own countries. Most of them arrive in the EU after dangerous land or sea journeys need basic humanitarian assistance, such as provision of water, health care, emergency shelter and help. Many of these displaced people are children who have special protection needs. From a wide population of 7.4 billion people, one in every 113 people globally is now either a refugee, an asylum-seeker or internally displaced.

Our world has changed a lot in the last years. As an example, last year, up to 220,000 asylum seekers arrived in Europe by boat crossing even dangerous rivers. In 2015, even that unprecedented figure has been reduce, with more than 900,000 people landing on the beaches of Greece and Italy. The first reason is the Syrian civil war. Since the 1960s, Syria is been led by the al-Assad family, who have ruled it as quasi-dictators until the Arab Spring happened in 2011, a revolutionary wave of protests and conflicts in the Arab world that toppled many authoritarian regimes. But the Assads started a brutal civil war because they refused to step down. The civil war has killed more than 250,000 people since it began in 2011, and forced about half of Syria's 22 million people from their homes.

Secondly, there's no hope for them in other countries. For Syrians it's almost impossible to gain legal entrance to most other Arab countries. About 4 million people got to Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan – but Europe is an increasingly attractive option for them since they have no secure legal status in the countries where they now live. Many of them don't have the right to work and their children are not in school. Like 400,000 Syrian children currently in Turkey have fallen outside the education system, according to Turkish officials. The people are scared and they've given up hope for their country, because their war is not about to be finished yet.

After all, the war or persecution and all kind of conflict have forced more than 65 million people to leave their homes – about one in every 113 men, women and children on Earth. Never before, says the U.N., have so many people been on the run. The number of deaths at sea rose to record levels in April 2015, when five boats carrying almost 2,000 migrants to Europe sank in the Mediterranean Sea, with a combined death toll estimated at more than 1,200 people.

A year ago, Angela Merkel was one of the most powerful politician in Europe, by both of her longevity as Germany's Chancellor and the strength of her country's economy. Yet with one fateful decision she risked everything she had, even her reputation. Her invitation to refugees and immigrants to come to Germany last summer has arguably undermined her own government and damaged the cohesion of the EU, perhaps

terminally. The crisis has led to concessions to Turkey, from where most of the immigrants are coming, that have alarmed many Europeans. Not only will Turks have visa-free access to the Schengen area and receive some six billion euros to look after Syrian refugees, but the EU will speed up Ankara's application to join the EU, even if it is hopeless. There are indications that the numbers crossing into Greece have started to fall as the Turkish authorities stop refugees boarding boats - something they should have done long ago. But thousands remain stranded despite promises to relocate them on a quota basis. Perhaps, Mrs. Merkel can turn this crisis around.

Voluntary contributions helped the UNHCR with the costs; 86 per cent from governments and the European Union. Six per cent comes from other inter-governmental organizations and pooled funding mechanisms, while a further six per cent is from the private sector, including foundations, corporations and the public. They also received a limited subsidy (two per cent) from the UN budget for administrative costs, and accept in-kind contributions, including items such as tents, medicines and trucks. UNHCR was launched on a shoestring annual budget of US\$ 300,000 in 1950. But as their work and size have grown, so too have the costs.

The perception of the crisis around the world suddenly changed because a photo with a dead boy from Syria circulated on the internet lying face down on a beach in Turkey. So, Germany announced that it will accept all Syrian refugees and they took in 800,000 people in 2015, more than the entire EU took in 2014. After a few days, all over the West, more and more people are beginning to take action and they support for asylum seekers has mostly come from citizens, not from politicians. Most Syrian refugees already are educated. Refugees who become immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than the native population. They started to work and tend to start businesses.

Alex Kristea, 11th

Teacher's corner

Robin Williams

From all the actors that performed on a stage or in a film, Robin Williams is among the best ones. He is not just an actor who is playing a role, a character, he is a character himself.

"Good morning, Vietnam", "Good will Hunting", "Dead Poets Society", "Patch Adams" and a lot more films that change the world in a specific way, in a different way. In his childhood, he was bullied badly for being chubby and would often spend much of his time playing alone in the family's large home to avoid his tormentors. Eventually, he conquered his overweight label though by joining some sports team, and realized he could make the other children laugh as a way of gaining respect from them.

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world" was his motto. He was the ultimate "giver", as an artist. Always performing, always captivating, making us laugh until our sides hurt. We rarely heard of an interview where Robin Williams was "off puttingly quiet" or "unusually somber". He found in the middle of his struggle the power of laugh, creativity and optimism. He was "available" in any period of the day, for a small advice, a little story or just a good joke. He wanted to improve the quality of life for the one he loved and for all humans.

Robin's challenge in life was to understand the power of laugh and the influence of it, must be used for the benefit of mankind and not only for his personal gain. Otherwise, Robin Williams was bound to suffer the consequences of greed and run from the risk of losing it. We must also learn, from him, to be strong and honest in fighting for our cause and for the benefit of others.

For me, Robin Williams was a source of inspiration, a motive to hope and a landmark for my path in life.

Multiple Intelligences in eLearning

Have you ever thought about why your students react in different ways to the activities you do in the class? Or even why different groups react differently to the same activity?

Why do some students really enjoy working in groups whilst others are much more productive working alone? Why do some learners draw pictures in their vocabulary books while others seem to need to just hear a word to be able to use it themselves?

The answer is simple: because we are all different and have different styles of learning. American psychologist, Howard Gardner developed a theory of Multiple Intelligences (1983) which can go some way towards explaining different learner styles. According to the theory, there are seven leading intelligences: linguistic, logical-mathematical, spatial, musical, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal and intrapersonal.

As early as in 1983, Gardner had stated that “the potential utility of computers in the process of matching individuals to modes of instruction is substantial”. This statement has been verified by the distinct growth of eLearning, where creating eLearning activities that appeal to a variety of eLearning needs ensures that learners better understand the eLearning content in ways that are meaningful to them. In a recent Washington Post interview, Gardner also stated that the best way to take advantage of the theory of multiple intelligences is to first drop the term “learning styles”, which creates confusion, then individualize learning, suggesting a learner-centered approach, and, finally, pluralize learning by incorporating multiple methods into it, and not just one. This way, you can reach learners who learn in different ways.

The Theory of Multiple Intelligences was developed in 1983 by Howard Earl Gardner and it was first published in his book *Frames Of Mind: The Theory Of Multiple Intelligences*. Its basis opposes the idea of a single dominant type of intelligence, and instead acknowledges the existence of multiple intelligences, that compose a unique blend in each individual.

Gardner explains that his theory empowers learners and doesn't restrict them to one modality of learning, allowing multiple ways to teach, rather than just one.

Bullying in schools

The term bullying is a derived word that comes from the noun "bully", and refers to a person who likes to intimidate others.

In schools, the "bullying" phenomenon affects children as well as teenagers, not only physically but also emotionally and socially.

Bullying is a repeated action, done on purpose, that implies physical or emotional damage. Bullying can be initialized by either a person or by a group of people, called "the aggressor"; the person who is the aggressor's target is called "the victim", and then there are also the spectators or "the bystanders" of the whole scene.



The aggressor is a temperamental, inflexible, but self-confident person who defies the rules, he likes to control and deliberately hurt the victim, who is vulnerable and overwhelmed by fear. The victim is often an overweight or underweight child/teenager, poor or wealthy, he/she has no friends, lacks sports abilities, or is just being different.

The "bystanders" are the people who witness the scene, but decide not to interfere (most of the time for fear of not becoming victims themselves), or they even encourage the aggressor.

Bullying in schools is neither harmless, nor unavoidable, and it can involve anyone. It is an acquired behaviour that can take proportions if it is not controlled. Psychologists noticed that bullying is encountered in different situations, and it can be of several types, such as:

- physical
- verbal

- relational
- social
- cyber bullying (offensive messages or images on the internet or on the mobile phone)
- mobbing (group rumors that lead to intimidation and isolation)

According to the psychologist Izzy Kalemán , the most efficient way of dealing with the phenomenon is to teach the pupils how to react in different situations and what to do when faced with an aggression, without the help of an adult. This way, bullying will disappear, and the pupils will be more self-confident and eventually, happier.

The “golden rule”, recommended by Izzy Kalemán is “treat the others just the way you want to be treated”. It is a solution given to the children in order to teach them how to deal with unpleasant situations and how to avoid and even stop being victims.



The teachers who are confronted with this problem have to take firm, but calm measures, and urgent situations require the separation of the victim and the aggressor. Punishing the aggressor in front of the victim should be avoided, as this leads to a negative attention offered to the aggressor, (attention that he was actually looking for) but teachers and school councillors should stay around the pupils involved “to make sure things calmed down.” Anyway, mediating the conflict is not possible at this stage, being impossible for the victim to defend itself when confronted with the aggressor.

Research has showed that the phenomenon is unfortunately developing in our country too, the victims being mainly teenagers, (girls aged 12-17, 29%, and boys aged 12-17, 57%) and prevention measures have to be taken, as the side effects of the bullying phenomenon are behavior disorders , depression and in extreme cases even suicide.

Le Printemps de l'écriture – a contest for the francophone and francophile students

KEYWORDS: **French, writing, exchange**

I am a teacher of French and English. When I'm asked which of the two languages I teach I like best, my answer is simple: I like them both, equally, but for different reasons. This time, I'll only refer myself to the amazing language of Molière. Some of the reasons why I'm very fond of the French language have a great deal to do with the French people I've met on various occasions and one of these occasions is a contest of creative writing in French – *Le Printemps de l'écriture*.

In the late '90s, the Drôme-Ardèche Committee and a group of teachers from Valence, France, involved in an already existing school exchange, learnt about a writing contest organized by the French teachers of the "Ioan Slavici" National College, a contest which was meant to encourage the francophone students to study the French language and use it in different contexts.

At the beginning, the French decided to lend the Romanian students and teachers a hand by providing them with computers, as the winning texts needed to be typed and gathered in a brochure. Then the project takes the form of an exchange: the French students offer prizes to the Romanian students who win the contest and the winners have the chance to travel to Valence, in France, in order to pick up their prizes personally and experience a week in a French family. The following year, it's the French students who come to Satu Mare, to their Romanian correspondents. Thus, over the last 17 years, more than 2100 students and their teachers have participated in this project, which has become a beautiful tradition in many high schools in Satu Mare County. More than 120 Romanian students have won the contest and had the opportunity to spend a week in France, to test their knowledge in French and to make new friends.

This year, *Le Printemps de l'écriture* has reached its 17th edition and it was our turn to visit our French friends and so we did! It has been an extraordinary experience, given that it was a first for me as a coordinating teacher, but everything is possible when you have a strong team beside you.

- The prize award ceremony



On 3rd May, in front of a public formed of local officials, representatives of the partner high schools (Lycée Polyvalent Algoud-Laffemas, Lycée Emile Loubet, Lycée Camile Vernet), members of the Trait d'Union Valence-Satu Mare Association, teachers and students, both the Romanian and the French young writers were awarded special prizes consisting of books, art albums and the brochure presenting the winning creations.

- Meeting the French students



At the Laffemas high school, our students had the opportunity to watch their French colleagues in class, during their project presentation of a website created from scratch. Then, we took a tour of the "cité scolaire Briffaut" and found out some really interesting information about other projects that can be easily implemented in everyday life: a water-cleaning device, a solar-heating platform, a spider-robot, a digital watch etc.

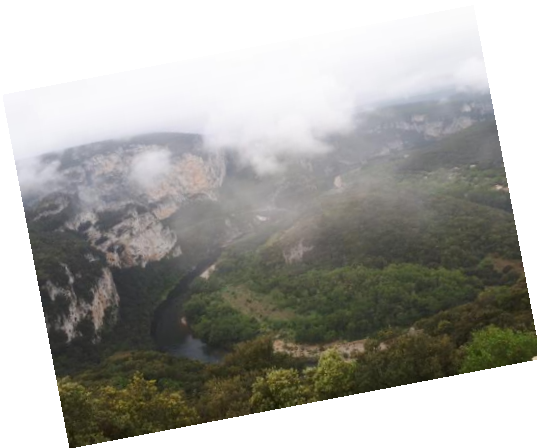
- Ecological concern



Preserving our planet, reducing pollution, using alternative energy sources are some of the French main concerns. A typical example of the

French ecologist is Mr. Jacques Vaillant, who invited us to his almost 100% environment-friendly house and taught us an unforgettable lesson of ecology.

- Sightseeing in Drôme-Ardèche



Mountains, hills, valleys, they've got it all in Drôme-Ardèche! Everywhere we looked, there were lots of amazing places to see, to visit: Le Palais Idéal - a great place to visit for a couple of hours, the product of the imagination of a postman who started building it in 1879 inspired by a magazine about far away places he received for free from the post office; Musée de Valence - an amazing combination of old and new in perfect harmony with each other; la Maison des Têtes - an amazing old house with lots of carvings of different types of heads everywhere (Roman emperors, church leaders, cherubs, winds etc.) ; Musée de la Chaussure - where shoes from all ages and cultures are exhibited, in a beautiful old convent building; Caverne du Pont-d'Arc - a project which is cultural, scientific and technological, unique in its design and in its size (3,500 m² on the ground and 8,180 m² of geological facies - floors, walls and ceilings) making it the largest decorated replica cavern in the world.

- Confessions...

“Ever since we found out about this trip and decided we were going to be a part of it, we had been looking forward to it. Despite the endless hours spent on the road, we had a great time! Living with a family allowed us to learn more about the French culture. The family we stayed at was very nice and welcoming and they managed to create a friendly environment for us. The places we visited were spectacular and breathtaking.

In the end, we must say that the trip was incredibly well planned, giving us the chance to visit, not only Valence, but some of Europe's greatest cities, too. We will never forget this week...” (Niculina Tincu and Lorena Zvunka, IX B)

“I consider myself lucky that I could be one of the 13 delegates who travelled from East to West to get to meet our new friends from Valence, France. Yes, at this very moment, I can call them friends because they did everything they could so that we could feel at ease there.

First of all, even though we didn't know each other at first, we got to understand each other and to get along very well during the trip. One thing is certain, our little adventures through Drôme-Ardèche were fascinating, but what I enjoyed the most was our relationship with our French partners; they really accepted us and it was like we had been friends for a lifetime, they really did their best, and we truly appreciated it. I can't wait to see them again next year when it's my turn to do my best so that they can feel just as well as I did!

We've seen incredible things and places since we left Romania; we passed through Hungary, Austria, Germany and then France. On our way back, we crossed Italy, Austria and Hungary. All these places where we've been, all the people we've met and everything they offered to us have a meaning. And indeed we discovered it last week. I can't wait to see if they will be able to discover it as well!” (Alex Kristea, XI A)

“Our story began on the 30th of April 2017 at 1:30 am. We were already tired when we entered the big metal box some call bus but that did not stop us from socializing with each other. We've come a long way from the strangers we were on that day, the day we left for Valence. We've practically become a team. A united team. We made friends on that bus. On the way to Valence we did not have a lot of problems but this is the beginning of our story. I can talk for hours and hours about the beautiful architecture that I saw or the beautiful view that I got to enjoy but those

are not the things that amazed me. Being a part of this thing taught me to see beyond norms. I met so many awesome people that in the end I did not want to leave that city.

This trip left a mark on us as students, as persons. The places that we visited taught us that we should take better care of our own country. We've learned that it's not about that big, big buildings or the technology that we use. It's about the authenticity of the place and the people, about the atmosphere that surrounds you." (Petra German, IX F)

À la prochaine!...

***Ramona Vagner,
Teacher***

Literary works

Daisy's doll

Daisy stopped. The doll wasn't where she had left it. She scrambled her whole room and did not find it. She went to her mother and asked her:

"Mommy, do you know where is my favourite doll? I left it on its chair in my room. Now it isn't there."

"I don't know, honey. Did you search your entire room?"

"Yes, I couldn't find it."

"Hmm... I'm going to check if it's in my room"

While her mother was checking, Daisy waited in her room. Suddenly, she saw some kind of strange creature at her window. Daisy got scared and ran to her mother screaming.

"Mommy, I saw something weird at the window."

"Let me see."

Her mum went in Daisy's room and looked out the window. She saw an animal that was black around its eyes, had a long, black-striped tail and the rest of the body was grey. It was a raccoon and next to it was Daisy's doll. The raccoon was sleeping. Daisy and her mum went outside and grabbed the doll. It was really dirty, but at least Daisy was happy.

"I'm going to wash it and it will be good as new."

"Thanks, mum. What about the raccoon?"

"Well, at least now we know not to leave out windows open overnight."

Days past and Daisy still plays with her favourite toy.

Vanessa Dari, 10th C

Spirit

“We must be free, not because we claim freedom but because we practise it” said William Faulkner. Every day we fight for our freedom, for our way we live this life and for our common destiny. And this fight should never end because life is like a river, it flows, it has ups and downs and a lot of unexpected changes.

Firstly, the concept of freedom is not something theoretical. Freedom is something that humans and animals have in common, it's something that defines every creature that breathes. And a lot of people mix up freedom with uncontrollable crazy or just some kind of madness. The animals have the capacity to be free but we can educate and tame them. And during this process we don't hurt them, we just help them to grow. But the first brick of it is respect which can be achieved with hard working and love. Like in the film when Spirit could run far from there but he came back to help the Little Creek and his horse when the general could kill them.

Secondly, although horse has been a companion and friend to man, what horse loves most of all is to run free and wild...untamed. This is the true spirit of horse. Freedom is the most sacred and spiritual meaning of what it is to be a horse. The symbolic meaning of a wild horse which is also called Mustang, is ultimate freedom, traversing the lands wild and free with the wind in his hair, completely in the moment of now, yesterday gone forever and tomorrow an eternity away. But horses have the power to be responsible and they know exactly what the time is or what food should they eat or not. They have what Tagore called “Freedom from fear.” When they need to save a companion or another animal in danger, they do not hesitate. Their actions are firm, clear and from heart. They can work with other animals or even with humans, like in the movie when Spirit and Little Creek escape from the camp where they were hostages.

Thirdly, this habit to tame horses starts when humans need to ride them. And the first time was when they were in a war and who has a bigger number of horses, would win the battle. In the civil war, horses were very important for the army of south because they were carry food or weapon with them. But the difference between the numbers of the horses

make the difference again. The north have won the war because they had more horses, food and weapon. And the funny part is that civil war started because of uncompromising differences between the free and slave states over the power of national government to prohibit slavery in the territories that had not yet become states. And again the problem with freedom appears.

In conclusion, every human needs freedom and courage to listen what the heart whispers. It can be achieved by war, education or a simple choice, every freedom has its own beautiful taste and it deserve more than a second of disparate reflection or a movie.

When you are training a horse, you need to keep in mind this sentence: "Always active, but never hurried"

George Bozga, 9th

Parasite

The days slowly slip by from my shelter, watching. The city lights seem to absorb brightness from distant, faded away, stars. It's an extremely calm evening, just as I were expecting, but something is different today, though.

There are no cars to bury me in their smother fumes, no people to laugh at my old knitted coat, calling me "parasite" only because everyone thinks I must be a bad human being for the reason that I live on the streets. I do have a home. My home are the shadows of mountains, lying on the horizon. The birds in their sleepy flight above the grey buildings that swallow almost every piece of the left blue sky. Sometimes, I find myself staring at nothing, thinking it is everything. Like a puzzle, piece by piece, my world takes contour and I can see clearly who I am and what belongs to me. The answer is that the whole world is mine.

Walking down the narrow alleys, eyes beyond the reddish walls look curiously, quietly pushing out the ancient bricks. They escape, start dancing and come over to touch my hands, feel my scars, devour the gore. I pass by, not paying attention to them, and dream of endless rivers which lead to an abandoned parking lot. There is only a car parked in this huge area. It's old and I suppose its owner had died a long time ago.

The night descends as I am trying to figure out if I'm awake, alive. Where have all the stars disappeared? Gazing at the night sky, all I can see is darkness, like an enormous eyeball. The bulky clouds came down on the arid ground, diffusing into tiny, microscopical particles, getting me high. Is this the feeling of being insane? I think so. And I feel like this psychedelic song of loneliness is never ending. Am I going to find myself again? Would it be better if I did not?

The grass is not as green as I thought, sitting here, on the side of the road. At least I can feel the sand running between my scrawny fingers. I do not ask for much. The only thing that I want is infinity. Not now, because...the sun rises and I turn into a ghost again. Perhaps...tomorrow.

Cristina Ardelean 10 D

It will be better tomorrow

The first rays of the sun arise, simultaneously the poor beggar opens his eyes to the brightness with a smile on his lips, uncovering himself from the warm blanket. Whether it is freezing, boiling hot, raining, snowing or the sun shines bright the poor beggar never leaves his place, he considers it home. You can say everything you want because, after all, this is what "Home sweet home" is for our beggar.

He is a common looking beggar. In his mid-fifties, with a short figure and thin limbs he looks like a child. If it weren't for the long messy, untidy snow white hair and beard, you could almost say he really was a child. He wears the same clothes everyday ripped, faded jeans with a red T-shirt and a brown cozy coat. Not to mention the strong smell of dirt he emits.

The bustling noises of the city enter his ears everyday and hundreds of thousands of people meet his eyes every minute. Sitting in his little place made out of cardboard with a small bowl placed in front of him begging with his rusty voice for the mercy of the passerby. Most of them give him looks of disgust and disappointment, others give him looks of empathy feeling the same pain as him and occasionally offering him some money, and others just walk past him nonchalantly, minding their own business, failing to see that being struggling to live. He never fails to notice every little piece of food falling to the ground and saying "What a waste" with his stomach rumbling at the same time.

He always thinks to himself "Why me?" "What did I do wrong to deserve something like this?" "Why is everyone so afraid of me? I'm not a monster, just a normal being after all." "Life can be so cruel sometimes, offering some everything just to take everything from someone else."

Never giving up our beggar goes to sleep every night with the same smile he wakes up with looking at the starry sky and thinking to himself "It will be better tomorrow!"

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to apply for doing some voluntary work. The offer has been suggested to me by some friends who recently found out about my interest in volunteering, and I thought I would give it a try.

Volunteering was something special to me ever since I was a child. I am eager to help with everything in my power, in order to bring happiness to the world and for myself knowing I've been doing something useful so far.

Never have I imagined how nice it was helping the community, until my first volunteering project at the age of fifteen. Up to this day I have already done numerous volunteering in all fields, and having gained enough experience to consider myself worthy for the title "skilled volunteer".

I would like to volunteer for six months in Greece, where the financial crisis is still a problem for the population. Those people being helped by me to understand better why has it come to this and overcome the situation.

I am waiting for your response and I hope my offer will be taken in consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Sam Brown

Happy Birthday, Romania!

Every year we celebrate Romania's national day on the 1st December. It's a memorable day for us because on the 1st of December the great unification of our country took place. The capital of the event was in Alba Iulia and the date 1st December 1918.

Because it wasn't a working day all my family was free and we headed for Alba Iulia to be present at the celebration. We left Satu Mare on 30th November. We spent the night in Sebes, Alba .

In the morning we drove to Alba Iulia to see the military parade. The weather was very cold and a bit windy and it didn't rain or snow. The parade began at 1 p.m and lasted for about an hour. A lot of people were interested in seeing the parade. The parade was very great, because they were marching slowly keeping the pace all the time. After the parade we visited the castle and the Museum of the Union. Between the exhibits there was the document which attested the union and the photos of the political leaders of Alba Iulia .

At 3 o'clock we went to Sebes to have lunch in a restaurant. We had a good time, the food was very delicious and the waiters were polite.

Later that afternoon we went to Sibiu to see and admire the Christmas Fair. It was a lovely fair with a lot of handmade products. People were offered amazing things. It was great.

The fair in Sibiu is the most beautiful one in Romania. The buildings were full of coloured lights.

We went to a nice hotel in Sibiu and slept there. The next morning we had breakfast and left Sibiu.

It was an adorable short holiday!!!!

Alin Rogoian, 8th

Paradise Island

I am dragging the luggage behind me as I am walking out of the airport after the splendid vacation to Hawaii, or as I call it "Paradise Island".

I have just returned from the wonderful holiday resort. This was my first flight, and apart from the enormous fear I was feeling while in the air, everything was perfect. Of course, I forgot all about that as soon as I set foot on the Island' ground. The whole place was like taken out of a fantastic story. There were some nice places worth to visit while on touring. The museum, in which I saw some ancient artefacts, belonging to the early civilization of the land. The shops, most of them souvenir shops, for tourists wanting to bring home small but meaningful gifts. The street markets, selling delicious foods.

But the place that I liked most of all and that made me widen my eyes in awe was the fantastic beach. The most wonderful place I have ever seen up to now. The golden sand is glistening in the warm sun's rays, as if sunbathing together with the people. Not to mention how smooth it felt to the touch. The turquoise water of the vast Pacific Ocean was washing away hundreds of footsteps, leaving behind just some trails of foam and some beautifully shaped and coloured seashells. A mesmerizing view I must say. The children picked up the already mentioned seashells in little plastic buckets just to happily skip back to their parents with a large smile plastered on their face. The palm trees are standing still, moving their leaves from time to time to the cool ocean breeze.

About the people in there, no one can compare to them. They are the friendliest people on Earth. Woman usually dance to local music in traditional Hawaiian leaf skirts, and men show off their incredible skills with lit torches. Also they are always ready to help with whatever you may need.

If you have ever dreamed about a place to go to for your recreation time, never leave out Hawaii from your list, you won't be disappointed, for sure.

For me, it was an unforgettable landscape that will follow me my entire life.

Stories

Christmas Eve catastrophe

It was a cold, but beautiful and calm night, when this story happened. It was strange, but somehow funny and adventurous at the same time. I am going to tell you every inch of details. Everything was peaceful and holy on Christmas Eve, everybody was so excited and happy, especially Santa Claus and his wife, Mrs. Santa Claus. Mrs. Santa Claus baked cookies and Santa Claus counted all the Christmas gifts. After that, Santa Claus wanted to talk to Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer, but he noticed that he had disappeared. He was shocked and he started to search everywhere, but he did not find him. Santa Claus was so upset and he decided to go back in the house.

There he saw Rudolph! He was in the kitchen, eating all the cookies. Everybody started laughing. It was such a funny evening!

Evelyn Şteţ, 6th

The lost reindeer

It was Christmas Eve. It was cold and it started snowing. Santa visited the reindeer to have a last look before his big mission. He counted all the reindeer and realized two of them were missing: Comet and Dasher. He was really worried about them. He needed all nine reindeer to make the sleigh work.

Then he saw some footprints and small carrot pieces. He mounted Rudolph and he took Vixen and Dancer with him. Prancer, Blixen and Cupid stayed in the village to search for Dasher and Comet.

The footprints were leading in the forest. Santa started calling their names and Rudolph, Vixen and Dancer were calling them in the reindeer language.

They soon found a house where the bad elves lived. Through the window, they saw Comet and Dasher in cages. Rudolph smashed the door and Santa went to the elves and said: "Why would you do that? It's Christmas Eve and you are stealing two of my reindeer? Well, no Christmas gifts for you!". While Santa was talking to the elves, Vixen and Dancer opened the cages.

In the end, they got back home and they started their annual adventure.

Vivien Vancea 6th

Being a freshman

Being a freshman is hard because you have to get used to the new classmates and with new teachers who are totally different from those in middle school.

In this year I've made a lot of new friends. It was hard because there are a lot of different personalities but it looks like the most different kind of people became best friends and that is very hard to understand.

For me this year was the perfect one because our class is a strong community and we are always together like a family.

Adrian Guias, IX B

I have to say that being a freshman turned out to be just like I expected...

It is exactly like being a regular student. Yes, some things have changed and some things are harder compared to middle-school, but it is not overly complicated.

When you are a freshman, you are introduced to a new set of classmates and teachers, but you also get a fresh start, which is the thing that I was looking forward to the most. It gave me the opportunity to make new friends and socialize more than ever.

Being a freshman is not rocket science...

You socialize and make friends and try your hardest to fit in (which doesn't always happen).

But for me, it was great...

Not being a sociable person I didn't spend time trying to insert myself in a certain group and that gave me time to discover all the good things that high school has to offer like trips and high school clubs.

My first year of high school was good...

But at the end of it, looking back, it was just like any other was and many more will be...

Unique in its own way...

Lorena Zvunka, IX B

High-school life is beautiful and being a freshman is so cool.

Everything is new: school, colleagues, and teachers. We start a new life, we learn new things and we make new friends. I'm a freshman and I like this school and my new friends. The teachers are funny and they want to teach us what they know.

Freshmen are sometimes treated well and sometimes they aren't. Freshman life can be difficult because older colleagues make bad jokes about the freshmen, but in the end freshman life is funny because we start a new life, we make new changes about ourselves and we do new things.

I'm a freshman and I like it.

At this school I learn new things and I make new friendships.

Sorana Iancău, IX B

Switching from middle school to high school was an important thing for me, but at the same time scary (I did not have many friends). The first days were strange, it was a new world. "Freshman" or "puffs" are just a few nicknames that at first were a little annoying. Now that I think the year is almost over, I will miss it. I have made many beautiful memories this year, such as when some older guys came with us in the classroom, or when we hit the glitter class or when the whole class had stickers on their faces and many more. These memories of the first year of high school I will never forget.

Niculina Tincu, IX B

While I was excited to make new friends and learn new things, I knew the work would be difficult, so I was dreading that. High school is supposed to be one of my greatest moments in life, so I was very afraid. I couldn't wait to meet my classmates because I was curious if I would get along with them. I'm very happy to be here and I like the teachers, and also my high school colleagues. Why this high school? Because it's great and it is one of the best.

Ștefania Maxim, IX B

Being a freshman is interesting and scary. At first I didn't really like the high school because everything was new and I knew almost no one. The first few weeks I was very scared and at the same time very curious to discover as many things as I could. Although I was very afraid, I discovered that high school wasn't as horrible as it seemed to me. The teachers were very understanding, and the classmates were very nice, so we got to know each other very quickly. High school is not so awful and difficult if you know how to look at the positive parts of it and if you learn. It's all about how you want to see it. If you see the positive side, you will love it and you will find it fun.

Even if I didn't like high school at the beginning, I realized that it teaches you much more than you think, it teaches you that not everything in life is pink and helps you socialize and exceed your limits.

Denisa Bot, IX B

A new school means many friends, many hours for studying and a lot of stress for our future. In high school we can easily see who we are and we can always bring out the best in us to show our intellectual and spiritual power. Every new high school student is called freshman for his period of flowering. As a beginner, he discovers the world which will be around for the next 4 years. Also, emotions and all states are amplified.

In high school I am the same person that I was in middle school. I think our new teachers are pretty good at what they do and try to teach us the best. I have the same opinion about my colleagues: a good class with all the elements needed. They seem so united that nothing could break them apart. The new stuff is not so complicated; it just requires attention and time. These two needs will make us wiser in time. Here nobody is bored, just looking for new experiences. Together we'll create a good future for each of us. The work I do for school is exciting and sometime practical. So I am honored to be called freshman.

Being a high school freshman is a nice thing that happens once in a lifetime. Each student has to go through this wonderful journey and enjoy it. When old age rushes over our conscience, we'll have beautiful memories from our youth.

Antonio Vant, IX B

Being a freshman is a unique period in a lifetime. After 4 years of middle school we make a decision that affects our future, and the freshman year gives us a clear indication about the decision we made, whether it's good or bad. In my case, I chose a pretty hard path to go on, the main focus being on math, chemistry and physics, but despite this I am enjoying my freshman year, even though, I must admit, the subjects are really hard. My grades are pretty good although it's difficult, but this motivates me to follow my dream in the domain of architecture.

Being a freshman really gives young students experience and maturity, so we can solve our personal problems easier.

In conclusion, I'm really happy looking at the path I took in this high school. The extra-curricular activities and interesting projects are really amazing and I am convinced that these following 3 years will be the best of my life.

Melisa Sălăjan, IX B

In my opinion being a freshman is like being a "stranger in a strange land". It takes some time to get used to high school, teachers and their expectations. You meet new people every day, sometimes you may have nothing in common with them but the desire to make friends.

High school teachers have different expectations from us. At their first appearance, teachers were like crazy people for us but after a while with them we realized they're just trying to help us.

You know that moment when you're in the hallway and the older ones are there staring at you and after that you feel like a piece of flesh thrown into a sea full of sharks? They are kind of intimidating.

The homework is way harder but it's only making us better and we will get better grades.

Everybody goes through it once, it's not easy but we can do it.

Denisa Vertes, IX B

What is it like to be a freshman? To be honest, it is not "that cool" as everyone used to say.

I think being a freshman just makes you miss your old school, which for me mattered a lot. I always studied hard back then, and I cared a lot too, but now, I feel like I'm tired of everything and I don't feel like learning or struggling anymore.

High school taught me a lot in such a short time: how people really are, that I don't need to be stressed, because teachers don't seem to care at all about us, the pupils. Only a few of them do, and those are the teachers I love the most. I feel like they are a part of that little motivation that makes me come to high school, and not drop out, but I definitely wouldn't do that. I studied too hard to be here, writing this essay, but the idea always crosses my mind. My classmates are definitely one of the most important reasons why I show up to school every day, I love them a lot, they always make me feel better when I'm upset, we have a strong bond, and I love our connection, and of course we laugh a lot and have fun. I'm sure we'll have some awesome memories together.

Back to topic, being a freshman is not that easy, but it's not that hard, definitely. I was surprised at first, I always thought that we would be mocked by others, but it did not happen. My advice for the next freshmen is: be yourself, don't let anyone bring you down, fight for your rights, and don't trust anyone, because people are not what they seem to be.

Sabina Turți, IX B

I could say that being a freshman is very hard because we are the new ones in this school and everything is new for us. When we first walked in the school, everyone was like "Look! Freshmen!" and we were shy in the beginning.

The first month was the most difficult because we didn't know things very well, but now everything's okay and we are accustomed with almost everything.

Oana Chereji, IX C

Being a student in the 9th grade is the best moment as a student for the next 4 years. You meet your new classmates, your new teachers and most importantly, you don't have any exams.

The freshman year was, for me, great. So far, I've had a great relationship with all of my classmates and my teachers, I participated for the first time in two student contests and, to be honest, I just couldn't ask for more. The best thing about the freshman year is that you make a step into the future. When you're in the 9th grade, you're already considered a semi- grown up person, and everyone treats you with more respect. And in addition, you don't have annoying classmates any more (in my case at least).

The bad thing about the freshman year is the beginning, when you don't really know anyone and you have to adapt to the situation. But after you get used to all these things, all the problems are gone.

So this is pretty much what I think about my freshman year. I hope my sophomore, junior and senior years will be as good as this year, but I sincerely doubt it!

Paul Vaşvari, IX C

Being a freshman is a very interesting experience. In the first day of high school I was so shy and I felt so excited. Being a freshman is not easy because you are new in high school and you have new classmates and for me this was a very big change. My life has changed with the beginning of high school - a lot of things have changed. I made new friends and I met some horrible people, but now I know how to choose my friends. The dynamics of high school are much more different than in primary and middle school. The start of the high school experience is an exciting time. There's no doubt that some challenges will lie ahead as you adjust to new academic and social dynamics, but it will be a fun journey.

Larisa Paşcu, IX C

High school is one of the most beautiful periods of time for a young person. It is not easy to be new in a school, it's something that fascinates and scares you at the same time. At first you have no idea where the classrooms are and how the teachers are. With the passing of time, you realise that you've made new friends, you have the opportunity to explore new interests, and you enjoy them all!

Roxana Nastai, IX C

Well, it's not very hard. In fact it's too easy because every teacher forgives us for every mistake we make because we are new in this school and we are still children even though we are sixteen. It's beautiful because we try new experiences and it's more relaxing than the middle school. You discover yourself and new things that you didn't expect such as finding out who is your true friend.

Freshman year is that year when you feel older because your life has changed a little and your classmates have a lot of different personalities. You practise becoming a human. We are the children who try to be mature.

Adriana Tărcan, IX C

In my first month of being a freshman I thought that the older students, especially the seniors, would trap or play pranks on us, but they didn't and I'm happy. I moved from a high school to another and the things are pretty similar, but the teachers, the classmates are better and nicer. The new class teacher is better too, she's so cute.

I wasn't scared to come to a new school because I had some friends here and I felt alright. Some seniors are pretty bad, but I am used to it. Sometimes I skip classes too because it is so boring to attend the chemistry or math classes. I feel like falling asleep every time I listen to these teachers.

Denisa Stan, IX C

High school is the most fascinating part of being a student, but it's also the hardest.

When I came to this school I was a little bit afraid because it was a new school, new teachers and new classmates, but our class teacher told us not to worry.

We came to our classroom and talked to each other.

In the first week I met all the teachers and I started getting on with my classmates. They're sweet and I like them a lot.

The teachers are nice. Some of them have high expectations from us but that's a good thing because it motivates us to learn.

Our class teacher is nice with us and she helped us a lot to pass over the fear of high school.

Now we are like one big family.

The school is very big and one time I got lost here. It took like one week to learn where all the laboratories and classrooms are.

We have many interesting things here like "Impact", our own radio and many more. I like this school a lot and I love being part of it.

It wasn't easy to come here but it was worth the effort.

Alexandra Chichişan, IX C

Dear Freshman year,

It's not easy to begin a new chapter in your life, especially when you are the little kid. This sentence describes the freshman year perfectly.

The emotions when you walk for the first time in the hallway, being the new one. Feeling a little anxious every time you have to talk to the students in the older classes. Meeting the new teachers and realizing which one you like or dislike, or even liking all of them. The best part of it is discovering long-lasting friendships, and most importantly, discovering yourself and experiencing everything for the first time. I remember feeling scared before the first tests, and all the laughter in the classroom.

Freshman year has been something extremely new for me and I changed a lot. I began to shape my personality and learn that my flaws are unique and beautiful. Thank you Freshman year for all the great memories. You will be a year to remember.

All my love, *Gabriella Szabo, IX C*

Being a freshman's not so bad. The pressure from last year is gone and there are no exams this year. In the summer vacation I was pretty eager to experience a new chapter in life, but surprisingly, there wasn't much of a difference. Maybe because I have been here since 5th grade or I just don't see the things I should, or there really is no big difference. It's still a dilemma to me. What I found new though, were new classmates and the relationships between us. After all there might just be something there. Anyhow, freshman year will only last until we wake up with another exam at our door.

Claudiu Băeaşu, IX C

Being a freshman was not as I expected at all. When I was in middle school I used to think that high school would be better so I was really looking forward to being a freshman.

Maybe I have a tendency to exaggerate things but the beginning of the freshman year is and will always be the worst because you are new in school and you barely know anyone (including your classmates). I was too scared to spend time in the schoolyard, and seeing not just seniors but juniors and sophomores on the hallways would make me feel shy and vulnerable even though they hadn't done anything.

In the end you gain courage and skipping classes becomes very easy because you know when and how, and you also know when and how to cheat during a test because after all every student has done it.

In my opinion and from my experience, during the 9th grade you experience different feelings and different states and if you are shy like I was in the beginning depression could "kick in". It depends on your personality, how easy you get over things, but more importantly the persons closest to you that help you in those bad moments. For instance, taking part in a volunteering club helped me integrate better and I got over my fear of speaking in public - "you just need to get out of your comfort zone" as the teacher said.

After this "hurricane" of emotions (at least for me) I can say that perhaps I overreacted and it wasn't as bad as it may sound from what I said, but still I do not think that I would go through it again.

Arianna Lucuț IX C

Being a freshman is nice. It is not difficult at school and the teachers are lenient. In the beginning it was hard for me to get used with the high school, the new class and the new teachers, but finally I've got used to it all. After this, high school seemed to me similar to the middle school. For me, this year passed well enough and I hope it will be better in the future.

Denis Cornoc, IX C

In my opinion, being a freshman varies from person to person. Some people may feel happy for reaching this level, and others may feel weird and anxious. For me, this year was very different. I have met a lot of amazing people and I have made lots of friends. However, it was hard for me in the beginning. I didn't want to come to school at all. I still feel a bit uncomfortable with the school because my life has changed ever since I came here. But we all have to go through this after all. What I have to say is that I love my classmates a lot and I'm so grateful to have them.

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