

Kicking Off the Reinvented Roosevelt High School Newspaper

Sophie Ellis ('28)
Katie Scott ('28)



Old editions of The Standard

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 7, 2025 - It has been over twenty years since Roosevelt last published a newspaper; now the school's journalism class has decided to give it another shot. After more than two decades, the Roosevelt Standard has been revived.

Roosevelt's student body has entirely forgotten about the original standard. Still, the motivation to create has prompted a new generation of young journalists to dust off the title and publish something fresh. Originally debuted in the mid 1930's, the Roosevelt standard was regularly updated until the early 2000's.

In an interview with Mr. Cousins, the Roosevelt journalism teacher, he explained that when tasked with teaching journalism class, he felt that recreating the school newspaper would be a vital opportunity to teach his students to put journalism into practice. He is eager to take on the role of advisor and watch the Roosevelt Standard come back to life through his students. The amount of newspaper content that will be released depends on how the students feel, but Mr. Cousins is hoping to print at least two issues this semester.

Schools need to have newspapers because they not only create valuable learning opportunities, but they also provide a vital platform for student self-expression and connection to their community. The school newspaper can be a place where participants can work together in classes or clubs to make something informative and entertaining for whoever chooses to read it.

Writing a school paper can teach students observational skills that they can potentially use later in life. As for students reading the newspaper, they can be up to date on everything important happening in their community, and can obtain new and helpful information while also getting free entertainment. Roosevelt school librarian Kari Hansen commented, "As a librarian and regular news reader myself, I think it is important to have a newspaper.." She also said, "It gives students valuable experience in writing a variety of non-fiction text: news reporting, opinion writing, review writing, advice writing, sports writing, etc."

Any Roosevelt High School students who want to participate in the newspaper but are not in journalism class can attend the newspaper club in room 341 during the second half of flex lunch.

What Does the Government Shutdown Mean for Roosevelt High School?

Signe Boler ('27) and Caroline Dake ('28)

On October 1st, 2025, the United States experienced its 21st government shutdown. A government shutdown is when Congress fails to pass any funding legislation signed by the president. This causes the "nonessential" federal government operations to halt.



The capitol stands prominently amidst the complexity of it's employees return to work

Some of those "nonessential" operations include national parks, museums, and monuments possibly closing or having limited services. Passports and visa processing are possibly being delayed. Small business administration loans may be suspended. Federal research labs may stop work, and the IRS may have to stop processing tax returns.

This is all because of the administration's forced limited spending and prioritizing of operations that the president declares important and necessary for public safety and national security. Such things include the military, law enforcement and emergency services, and mandatory spending programs. (This includes social security, Medicare and Medicaid, and veterans' benefits and payments.) According to Anthony Zurcher and James FitzGerald from a BBC article, staff levels have dropped as much as 50% as many workers are calling out sick and making a point to not go to work.

So what does this mean for Roosevelt?
Essentially nothing.

Public high schools are funded by state and local budgets, and Roosevelt has a stable cushion of funding to work with. Federal funding accounts for a very small percentage of K-12 education budgets. Though in the case of a very prolonged shutdown, the lines start to get blurred, and the idea of district budgets becoming strained starts to come into play.

While talk of when the government plans to reopen ends with unanswered questions, students can feel sure that school is a place that will continue to be a constant in day-to-day life. This time can certainly be confusing, and no questions are stupid questions! As far as any update, CBS News' Kaia Hubbard wrote on the morning of the 13th, "The stalemate over how to reopen the government will extend into a third week with no resolution in sight."

Is SmartPass A Smart Decision?

Jefferson Tang ('28)

Smartpass, we've all used it this year. Going from class to class? Got a headache? Need to meet a staff member? SmartPass is the way to get passes for school. However, we should get some feedback from our fellow students and staff. Is SmartPass easier to use? Does it actually help prevent skippers? Was SmartPass a smart decision?

The highest time limit for passes like going to the bathroom, the lunchroom or a different class is seven minutes. Passes like getting water have the highest time set to 3 minutes, and sports release, students get a maximum of thirty minutes. If a student were to go over the pass' time limit, it will start recording how long the student has gone past the time limit, and the school will see this. So, is this actually better than our old passes?

For starters, the old passes were usually these small pink squares— or, any piece of paper like post it notes were used. The student would write their name, where they're going and the teacher's signature on the bottom, giving students permission to leave the room. The problem with these passes was that they weren't really monitored like the SmartPasses. Students could just leave class after the ten minute wait, and they could just skip most of the class doing whatever. This was the main reason why SmartPass was implemented in the school. However, does it actually prevent skippers?

Well, other than the timer on your passes, people can still skip class. Although you are still being monitored for how long you stay out of the class, the passes don't monitor whether students actually go to the bathroom. If you repeatedly go over the time limit, you'll get in trouble. However, it's also common for people to just forget to cancel their pass when they get back into class. While the old pink passes, you could just keep it in your pocket and completely forget about it.

When interviewing students, many students have spoken negatively about SmartPass, with only a few students giving some positive feedback. However, many teachers and staff speak positively about Smartpass, saying it's more convenient, easier to monitor, while also noting the negatives. Journalism and AVID teacher Mr. Cousins states, "I think there are some benefits with the pink slips... I still don't know if I prefer the new one or not. I think if kids are gonna skip class they're gonna skip class no matter what."

Whether you like it or not, Smartpass is going to be around for the rest of the school year, and beyond that most likely.



FALL BINGO



ASK A TEACHER ABOUT THEIR HALLOWEEN COSTUME	CARVE A PUMPKIN	EAT A FALL TREAT	SEE SOME FALL FOLIAGE	DRINK SOME APPLE CIDER
DRESS WARM	TAKE A WALK	SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FREINDS	EAT SOME HALLOWEEN CANDY	WATCH A FALL OR A SCARY MOVIE
HAVE A FALL PHOTOSHOOT	SHOW ROOSEVELT PRIDE	FREE SPACE	READ A BOOK	DRINK SOME HOT CHOCOLATE
WATCH A SPORTS GAME	ASK SOMEONE WHAT THEIR FAVORITE PART ABOUT FALL IS	BAKE SOMETHING	LOOK UP DIFFERENT CULTURAL FALL TRADITIONS	TURN IN HOMEWORK EARLY
VISIT THE LIBRARY	SHOW GRATITUDE FOR THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE	RAKE LEAVES	READ THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER	GO TRICK-OR-TREATING/PASS OUT CANDY

Move Or Be Moved: The Halls of Roosevelt

Boontuu Negassa ('27)



Students weave through the halls of a highschool

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 10, 2025 - A month into school, patience is already tested in the school hallways. Just like ordinary traffic on the roads, the hallways have a similar type of tension. This tension is caused by none other than fellow classmates, students seem to be impatient with one another because of student-jams.

In between classes, the passing time is typically 5 minutes. In some lucky cases, students are fortunate enough to be right next door to their next class. However, some unlucky students have to venture across the school to get to their next class. Unfortunate students may not even risk a single trip to the bathroom or the drinking fountain. No matter what, students have probably experienced the frustration of crowded hallways.

According to Minneapolis Public Schools, Roosevelt has an enrollment of 1,240 students. This data is from October 1st, 2024. For the school year now, it can be considered that this number is more or less. Nonetheless, with so many people moving through the same hallways every day it's easy to see how space becomes limited. It can also be seen as to why traffic can build so easily. The large student body can make a short walk between periods feel hectic, especially when groups stop or block the flow of movement.

Junior Lily Tan at Roosevelt describes the hallways during passing periods as chaotic. According to Lily, people walking in the hallways should be similar to roads. For example, on the roads all cars travel on the right side of the road. She believes that students should follow the flow of traffic on the right side of the hallways, just like on the roads. That way students become more familiar with the moving in an organized and consistent direction

Lily suggests "sectioning" off the building by the same types of subjects might help traffic flow. In Roosevelt, most classes that teach similar or the same subjects are in range of each other. However, some of those similar-subject classes aren't exactly in range of each other.

Still, the matter remains, when students hold up the halls by not moving or walking, it affects people's patience. Frustration grows, tension grows, it's a small problem that reflects how people can sometimes forget to be aware of those around them. The issues reside in respect, awareness and sharing the space with others.

At the end of the day, hallway traffic at Roosevelt is just a reminder that the way people move, think and act can either help or hinder the flow of our community. Even in crowded hallways, a little consideration can go a long way.