

CARTER CORPS NEWS



A Newsletter for Students, Parents, and Community Members Who Support Carter High School

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Profile: CHS Freshman Has Unique Background

Diana Yukhimenko is a Carter High School freshman from Kazakhstan, a country located right below Russia. Diana lived in her home country for nine years before moving to America. Her mother and sister are the only ones in her family who moved with her, so her other family members are still in Kazakhstan. Diana has noticed some differences between America and Kazakhstan. One thing she says is that life is easier in America. She says that in Kazakhstan the schools are harder, there are more apartments and fewer houses, and barely anyone has a car. She also said that school hours are from 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Diana is on the CHS volleyball team and has the opportunity to play basketball; she also enjoys cooking as a side hobby. Diana's home life is

also interesting, apart from her hobbies. "I have one dog; it's a husky. His name is Bambo," she says. She also said that she lives with her mother at home, and describes her family in general as funny, caring, and strict. She and her mother speak Russian while at their house. Diana's sister graduated from the University of Florida two years ago with a degree in chemical engineering and is now at Harvard University. Diana's other family members are in her home country, which is where she might be going soon. She says that she misses her home sometimes and says, "I think I will actually go visit this summer. My whole family lives there, except my mom and my sister." Overall, Diana enjoys life in America, but loves her family in Kazakhstan.



Opinion: Activity Time Should Be Brought Back

By: Andrew Kamuto

Students used to go to the playground for activity time. But since the semester began, students have not been allowed to go to the playground or participate in activity time at all, the main reason being because of safety concerns as a result of coronavirus. I don't agree with this change. Students don't use masks in the cafeteria, but that doesn't mean we don't eat lunch. Besides, I like going to the playground to play basketball. We have about twenty minutes before going to lunch in the third period. I asked Ms. Davidson, my chemistry teacher, why we did not go to the play-

ground. She said it is because of Covid and that it is not her instructions but the school's. But many people do not see any problem in going outside. I asked Jonathan, my chemistry classmate, what his thoughts are on the topic. He said he did not like staying in class because it was boring and because chemistry is a hard subject. He also said students have adapted to the lack of activity time by playing *Among Us*, in which even Ms Davidson participates most of the time. Some students like playing *Among Us* instead of going outside. I don't disagree with playing it, but basketball is more fun, and physical

activity helps students pay attention in class. Students should be allowed to go outside to exercise so that they may be able to concentrate more in class.



Above: An empty playground where students used to go during activity time.

Trans Students Have Concerns, but Carter Admins Can Help

The transgender students of Carter High School have concerns surrounding the school procedures and how they are affected by them, but luckily, Carter High School administration is able to soothe these concerns with ease. One easily addressed issue is that of the bathroom. Zander Matthews is a junior trans student and experiences some issues with the rules that are representative of the larger community's concerns, including those with the bathroom rule. He is unable to use the men's bathroom and feels uncomfortable using the women's, as other girls are curious of his presence. Also, during P.E. he had to use the girls' changing area, and felt highly uncomfortable doing so. To combat this, he would often change in one of the stalls, so the girls would not have to see him change and he would be more comfortable. He wishes there was a gender neutral bathroom that people of all gender identities would be able to use. Thankfully, Jennifer Sullivan, one of CHS's principals, offers a simple solution to this issue. Sullivan stated that there are private bathrooms for trans students to use upon request. It seems that not many trans students know of this bathroom, so hopefully this news will help them with this issue. Another issue Zander brings up is that the online roster causes him to get dead-named more frequently than he likes. This, unfortunately, is harder to address. According to Sullivan, in order for a student's name to be changed on the roster, the student would have to go through the legal process of changing his or her name completely. This is a long process. However, any student is allowed to request the teacher call him or her by a different name than is on the roster, helping to lessen deadnaming in the

classroom. Zander also says bullying has been a large issue for him. He has been spit on, shoved into the lockers, smacked, and much more, all for being trans. He commented that the student population could "improve on accepting the trans community and needs to treat the people in it as humans." Another trans student, Jason Dassaro, says he has never been bullied while at Carter High School. The reason for this could be that Jason came to the school after he came out, while Zander came out after being at Carter. This might have made Zander a larger target than Jason and caused him to be bullied while Jason was not. As with the other concerns, Sullivan has help to offer for the bullying. There is a procedure that is followed by the admins, she said, starting with beginning an investigation on the student who is bullying others. The administrators work very hard to help the bullied student and solve the issue. "I hope every student can come to me," Sullivan commented when asked about the bullying. Zander acknowledges that the school does try its best to be helpful, but oftentimes the rule of "no bullying" is not enforced as he would like, and he sometimes gets into arguments when bullied. When he goes to higher ups about it, he says they usually just tell him to "stay away" from the people bullying him. Unfortunately, this is much easier said than done, as Zander is often bullied in the hallways, making it near impossible to just avoid them. Sullivan said that the administrators cannot do anything about bullying if they do not know about it. Like anything else, if a student needs help, they must go to the administrators and tell them what is going on so they may help. They cannot help if they do not know about it. Sullivan encourages all students of

Carter High School to go to her or another administrator about bullying, harassment, or any other issue. It is a process, but the administrators work very hard to help the bullied student, whether they are transgender or not. Angie Messer, the head principal, echoes this sentiment. Regardless of the issue, Ms. Messer says students "need to come to us when they experience a problem." Hopefully, all students can feel that their problems at school can be addressed.

This article is the second of two articles about LGBTQ life at CHS. Read Issue 10 of the newsletter to find the first entry.

Carter Corps News is a product of the CHS Journalism class.

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