Hi, I'm Salena Reeves. I'm a junior here Collegiate and I'm going to be interviewing two other students about their experience with extracurricular and how that shapes our high school career. We're going to talk and be in depth and I hope you guys enjoy.

 OK. So I'm here today with Kit. Say hello, Kit. Hi. So my first question for you is like, how did your high school plan differ from your current experience? Um, in terms of like how I planned for things to go? It's been very different, especially with COVID and the UH school shooting and everything. But UM, overall, it's been pretty much what I expected. I understand that and how I counted COVID like.

 And friends, on your plan, it definitely gave me time to think about who I wanted to be going into high school, and it gave me a chance to shed my middle school attitude, which I very much appreciate. Totally understandable.

 Active in any extracurricular activities and how did that help shape your high school experience? So I do quite a few extracurricular, but my favorite one, and the one I'm probably most active in, is speech and debate. And it's really helped me figure out like what I want to do career wise. And it's helped really kind of curate my interest in government and politics and given me the skills to be successful in that. And like, how did that help with that? Uh, what do you mean? Like, how did being active with Michigan Bay help you with your goals and politics? Because it gave me the ability to be a good public speaker and write a quick essay and come up with thoughts and figure out what I believe and think on my feet. And all of those are skills that I can use in the future that have helped me become a better student as well. How do you feel like your schedule compares to other students that don't have like, extracurricular? I am definitely more busy than they are. For example, my best friend does not do any extracurricular and she has much more free time than I do. But I think overall we're still both receiving a great education. OK? Do you feel like your extracurricular activity or like speech? And Bay adds more stress to your schedule. I think it does in the sense that there's more I have, like I still have to get a lot done and I have less time to do it. Um. But overall, I think it helps me manage my time better because I know I have to get things done and I know I'll have less time.

 I really like just forgot my last question. It's crazy.

 Ohh, it's better than five. Looking like at your high school experience so far. Would you change anything with your involvement as we should wait for the sake of less stress? I would not because, well, I definitely complain to my friends about the stress and just in general all of it. I love it and I would not change any of it. It's one of my favorite things to do. And like, how do you cope with, like, this extra stress that goes on, like with your assignments and like, juggling speech and debate and everything else?

 Usually I just kind of ignore it and ignore it. I ignore it. But like, honestly, I don't get super stressed with it. I just like, I'm like, oh, I'm stressed, OK? And then I make a list of things I need to do and I sit down with some apple juice and I get it all done.

 So, like, what makes that?

 Extra like that time and effort worth it to you. I win a lot and I enjoy winning. So definitely the want to win and prove other people wrong. Like would you recommend like involvement in speech and debate for others? Absolutely I would. Guys we're always recruiting. Seriously. Please join speech and debate. Than Today I'm here with Ella. So my first question for you is, how did your high school, like your plan for high school, differ from your current experience? Well, to be honest, I don't really like have a plan for high school.

 I like, I literally just ended up going here because my friends were going here and because I haven't really had time to, like, think through like, oh, where am I going to go and whatnot, so. So I feel like there wasn't much of an idea that I had and like gather like certain things and like I was like, Oh well, didn't expect that, but like, it's not like. There hasn't been much of a thing, if you know what I mean, and like the COVID, change anything of that for you. Not really, other than being very well, I I guess. Yeah, that did change. Like, other than being virtually though, like COVID didn't really affect my life much. Like I was still able to like connect with people and. Be with my friends and whatnot. And then like and yeah, we were virtual, but like, I was still learning and doing things, so it wasn't like. I was. I didn't expect my freshman year to be like, online. But it didn't do much to like. You know, change the expectations that I had. You activate any extracurricular activities and how did that help shape your experience? Yeah, I'm part of a lot of activities and a lot of like clubs and stuff. I'm part of the speech debate team, which. I like kind of new was it was a thing but then like I like like I actually joined it and then like at help like help me really connect with my friends And I mean like there's been like issues too but it's not like it's not been like. I don't know. Like hasn't, like, negatively impacted my experience. It's been like a positive impact of, like having something to do, having a community that I'm a part of in the school and that I'm also on the student council or student council member. Which I was actually thinking about this recently.

That is probably one of the things that I find most different. I didn't have to like really run or anything because I. Was one of the only people in my mentor group to actually like want to be on student council. So it didn't like actually change much. It just or nothing actually like big happened. I'm still in my mentor. I'm still that. But like that was probably one of the hardest things because I. So like 4th grade I ran for like student council, which is so funny that I would just go and my and I didn't. I didn't win and my my know my 43 teacher who's like oh. It'll be OK. It's more important in high school and well, I think he's right. Like, it's not like it was. It didn't feel like such like a like a big thing. How does being like instituting council and speech and debate like, how does that impact with your schedule? It makes me really busy. Is a huge commitment. Like we meet every Tuesdays and Thursdays and like also and then on top of that like like you're essentially working on cases. Forever. Like I would stay up until like past midnight working on cases and like that, effects like that. And it like it's a lot of like another homework thing and it's like fun, but it's also a lot and it's really stressful. And student council also was like, I had to rework my schedule a bunch. And like even at the beginning of the year I was working on Wednesday nights and we meet like Wednesday, like not Wednesday nights, but Wednesday evenings we meet and I was working at the same time and Because I was working. So I mean, it makes my schedule a lot busier than it would be if I didn't do anything. And like, how would you say like that impacts your, like school and personal life balance, I think. My personal life and school overlap a lot. Like I do things with like I don't know a lot of people outside of school, Like I don't interact with people outside of school that much. Even like like things that I do that are not school related, like I go to a youth group. With I go to the youth group, but like all of the people that go to that youth group are people that go here. Like in that I know because part of partially because I go here not just because I go to that church, but like so. Yeah, I don't remember what the question was. Oh, impact for life. Yeah. So yeah, I feel like. Just like school at this point kind of is my life. And not like, not that I don't have a personal life, but like my personal life overlaps with school so much that it's it's kind of easy to balance, yeah. As I said, there's like switching debate and. Council, like add more stress to your schedule, like with all your classes that you take and yeah, I mean, I'd say yeah. In particular, like, she counsels pretty chill. Like, it's like I actually like do work for that, but it's not like there's no like. Excuse me, there's not a lot of like big things that I have to do like let's feature debate in particular as a lot of stress because like on top of going to my classes, I'm working on cases all the time

. I'm. I don't know, running, practicing rounds, yadda yadda yadda. And then actually competing like we can make tournaments are like really big. There's a lot of people and you're there for like more than 24 hours. Like we have calculated it like because you're there Fridays. Typically Friday nights and all day Saturdays. So it's like you are there from three to 10 Friday, at 7 to 10 Saturday. So it's a lot. And like how do you like cope with that stress type of like trying to keep up with your grades and you still like being successful. You know and you know and like looking back on like everything you've experienced these past three years, would you change anything about your involvement in student council speech and debate for like the sake of less stress or just for like you feel like you do better without it? No, I wouldn't. I think that like. No, I like being part of all these clubs and those aren't the only clubs that I do, but those are like the big ones and so like and the ones that take up the most time. So I think that like, if I had the chance, I probably would actually have joined them earlier because I didn't join either of them until sophomore year. So I would have, like tried to be a part of them more freshman year, but it's kind of hard because from here with COVID was already, yeah. So that's why I didn't do anything, because I was like, I don't, This is why can't what is happening.

So yeah, yeah. And like, what makes that extra time and effort it takes to show up for special bait and like being active in student council that makes it like, worth it to you? Well, OK, Speedway for sure is like has like really helped with a lot of like, school stuff. Like it's actually like, I'm like pretty good at essays and presentations and like things like that. Now because I think partially speech and debate has been so helpful with that because I can do a bunch of quick research that's really good and I can find a lot of it and then compile it really well. But I think that also like and then student council like on that side of things like the actual like. Planning things for other people to enjoy is really fun for me. And like making things so that and like adding my input into things as well. So that like and just like kind of sharing that with other people is I think really important. And would you like, recommend like activities and Scoop student council and we should abate to like other like incoming freshmen or just like current students. Oh yeah, absolutely. I think, well, both. For them, there's a lot of stuff that happens. There is also like it is also like so fun and just the overall like benefits outweigh, I think the negatives of like. Just yeah, I don't know. It's speech and debate is like a cult. OK, it's like not in a bad way cult, but like, it is definitely like you ask anyone in speech and debate there will be like, yeah, just join speech and debate. So I will say that to anyone that they should join teaching debate, because it's. Fun and like it. It's like really great preparation for things. OK, well, thank you, Ella, for taking the time for this interview. Yeah, of course.y