

BOP STOP

It's clear HHS students love their music, and they are always discovering new artists and tracks. So, if you're in need of some new jams or just looking for some quick facts- we've got you covered.

- 1 in 3 HHS students polled said **COUNTRY** music is their favorite genre.



Junior Dakota Lubbers says he enjoys listening to the virtual rock band **GORILLAZ**.

- Country singer **MORGAN WALLEN** and rapper **JUICE WRLD** were the most popular artists among HHS students.

Senior Emilee Steimel spends **11** hours of her day listening to music.



- **102** minutes is the average time HHS students spend listening to music a day.



NEXT GEN RAP STAR

by sophomore Lane Rogers



Freshman Kaeden Wiersma said one of his favorite groups is rock band **AEROSMITH**.

Read freshman Drew Barber's music review at **piratepress.ONLINE**
www.hudsonpiratepress.com

It's alive! College Square Mall returns

by senior Caitlyn O'Malley

The Cedar Valley has watched College Square Mall deteriorate over the years; but, now it is seeing a rejuvenation.

According to a feature in the June 12, 2016 *Courier*, College Square Realty LLC purchased the 47-year-old mall in March of 2015. Their intent was to revive the mall and restore its potential. After five years, their dream is just now starting to be visible to the public eye.

On Dec. 30, Ashley Home Furniture, Lazy Boy, and Sleep Shop took over where Younkers once was. In addition, Lark Brewing moved into the Old Chicago restaurant on Jan. 1. But that's not all.

The new owners plan on reconstructing the interior of the mall, de-

scribing it as "downtown with a roof on" or "an indoor city park." Not only are they planning on adding a climate controlled botanical center, but 37 dessert shops, coffee shops, theme bars, wine houses, and restaurants.

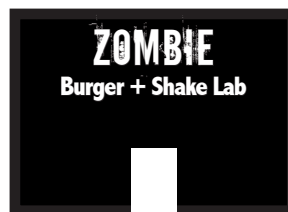
College Square Realty hopes this plan will help the struggling mall build revenue and promote further commercial development in the area. The University Avenue construction, which ended in 2019, created

1,300 parking spaces and will assist in the selling of the lots.

Said Senior Marli Reisner, "I rarely go to the mall, so I am excited to see the new businesses coming in."

74% of HHS students rarely or never go to College Square Mall.

The top three stores students would wish to see added to the mall are:



While most spent their quarantine eating, sleeping, and playing games, senior Roberto Verastegui made a name for himself.

Roberto has been listening to rap music his entire life. When his parents immigrated to the U.S. back in the early 2000s, they listened to a lot of rap music like "Hey Ya!" by Outkast and "The Real Slim Shady" by Eminem. Roberto, being just a toddler, had no choice but to listen, too- and he loved it.

As he grew older, Roberto started to memorize entire songs by Eminem because it was something that he could do, and others couldn't.

Then in 2017, when rap started to become popular once more with the rise of

Drake and Kendrick Lamar, he wrote and rapped a song called, "Mi Rancho" (My Ranch).

The track was "a huge hit" in Saltillo, the capital city of Coahuila, a Mexican state, which is a bit larger than Des Moines. There, it was the Number 1

song for one week on a local radio station.

Seeing her son's success, Roberto's mother reached out to someone from Hip Hop Literacy, a group that helps youth produce music. They brought him

in to produce a song in Spanish for Black History Month. In just 30 minutes, he had his part of the song for "Up to No Good."

This song, speaking out against the age and culture discrimination faced by many artists, was especially meaningful to Roberto since his producer had just passed shortly before its release.

Fast forward five months to the pandemic of 2020. Roberto was really stuck inside. He convinced his dad to give him an early birthday present: music production equipment. This allowed him to produce an entire two-part album, which he shared with Hip Hop Literacy. They green-lighted it for release immediately.

His goal for Catrino's Stereo, the double album he self-produced, was to get a message of equality out that reflected the events he saw happening nationwide. To get it perfect, he re-wrote every song at least five times.

Today he's taking "a small break... to overcome a minor case of writer's block" but does have plans to continue creating more music.

