

BY: LILLY JOHNS (SHE/HER), SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR IN CHIEF

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SAGE

Meet the face behind some of your favorite Challenger articles.

SPOT



Sage Johnson. Passionate, responsible, stressed, and an absolute asset to the Hoover community. Not only is she one of the most multi-faceted people to walk the halls here, but she also excels in all that she tries.

From an impressive high school journalism career to a promising future in the world of theater, her skill set is very broad.

“In school, an impactful award I have received was the Emerging Journalist Awards from the Iowa High School Press Association. It was really cool to be recognized for the articles I have written over the years,” Johnson said.

As someone very concerned with social justice, she often likes to find ways to integrate relevant world issues into her articles such as ‘Making the Switch’ where she highlights the importance of recognizing and respecting pronouns, as well as in the article ‘Why you can’t have Activism without Intersectionality.’

With outstanding skills in both fields, she finds any way she can to let the two intersect.

“So far, I have been able to include both of my passions in articles I have written. This year I wrote about the new *West Side Story* movie, and the writing all came naturally because it was about something that I love. But as for outside of newspaper class, I follow a lot of theater journalists on Twitter who review new Broadway shows or have podcasts with theater news. It’s very niche but it allows me to connect to both

aspects of my life,” Johnson said.

After her time at Hoover ends, Johnson has big plans for her future.

“I will be going to the University of Iowa next year to major in vocal performance and hoping to continue on the music therapy or the music education track,” Johnson said.

However, if you were to ask her the very same question about her college plans earlier this year, the answer would have been drastically different.

“My plan since my sophomore year was to major in journalism and communications with my time in the newspaper class. I made a last-minute decision to audition for the School of Music to study voice because I realized that I don’t want to lose that passion in my life. I had to weigh my options and see which one meant more to me - singing or writing,” Johnson said.

This is a challenge facing many seniors this year as they start to take the next steps in life and figure out what kind of impact they want to have on the world. Just because her intended major shifted directions does not mean that Johnson’s passions for activism and reporting will take a back burner.

“While I initially planned on studying journalism in college, my plans have since changed but I still want to try to stay active in the news and maybe get involved in clubs to continue the passion I have for writing,” Johnson said.

From snagging the lead in the school musical, winning student of the month, and being a keynote speaker at the Iowa High School Press Association Award ceremony, Sage Johnson has been on a roll her senior year. A trend that is sure to continue as she takes the next step.

LIGHT