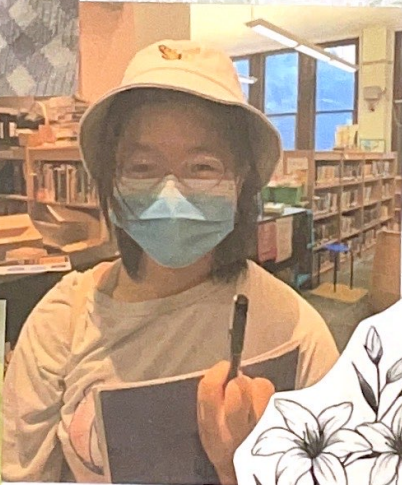


# SPEEDRUNNING

## *an identity crisis*

Written, Made, and Published by Diyu Liu



c'est la vie



## A Letter from the Editor,

Welcome to *Speedrunning An Identity Crisis*. Now you may be wondering what the title means, in which you're reading the right thing! For me, life is an ongoing identity crisis, where you'll never fully know or understand yourself. And this magazine is a compilation of who I think I am at the moment, and I'm calling this a speedrun because it was only made over the course of a week, which will never be enough to understand me or anyone else fully.

In this magazine, you'll learn a bit about me now, as well as me in the past. I believe that the person I was a year ago, or even two years ago, is still a huge part of me, and although their passions are not the same as mine, their passions got me through a lot and I still want to showcase everything they worked hard on. And who knows, maybe a part of them will come back to me one day.

But while the past me is someone I hold dear, I do have to move on to me now, as that's the person you're getting to know. So, hello! I'm Diyu, I go by any pronouns except she/her, and what have I written about myself in this magazine? Well, you'll find my passions now: running and singing and so much more.

You will also learn a few fun facts about me through an interactive crossword puzzle! Take a look (and maybe listen) to my new record, full of songs from previous years in choir. Read a little bit of the stories I tell, from both the past and now, and check out the gallery before you go!

If you have any questions, you can always email me

for any inquiries. My email is

[@sliu26@scienceleadership.org](mailto:@sliu26@scienceleadership.org).

# axolight

bonk it to make it light up!  
(bonk it gently  
don't hurt it)



cute, soft  
and stress-relieving!  
what more could  
a person want?

9/26/2021



Choir  
pics!!!



## Choir Songs 2019-2022

- Numb Little Bug  
- Em Beihold
- Move Along  
- The All-American Rejects
- Peace Train  
- Cat Stevens
- The Styx  
- Meredith Drasnin
- War Is Kind  
- Arr. by David Shapiro
- Seasons of Love  
- Rent
- Dear Theodosia  
- Hamilton
- She's Leaving Home  
- The Beatles

Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind

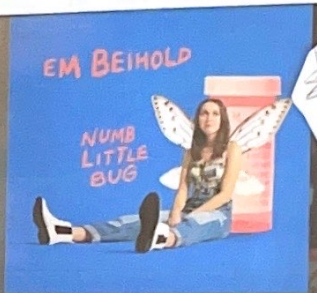
525,600 minutes, how do you measure a year in the life?

When all you got to keep is strong  
Move along, move along like I know you do

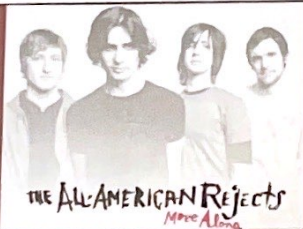
My heart still breaks in two...at how you never knew...

Do you ever get a little bit tired of life?

# Choir

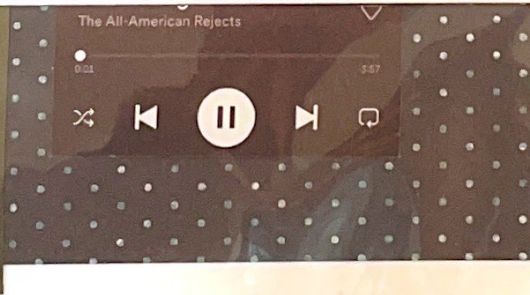


Now I've been smiling lately, thinkin' about the good things to come

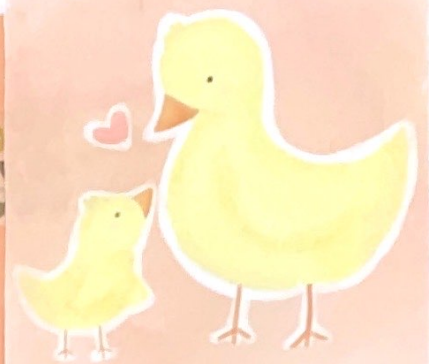


I'll do whatever it takes, I'll make a million mistakes  
I'll make the world safe and sound for you

I've been doing choir since third grade, and it made me love singing. These songs all mean a lot to me, as they're either songs that were my favorites, or were made by special people (Meredith and Doc Shapiro, a senior and the music/choir teacher). Each and every one has a special story, and although I can't fit them all into this magazine, anyone can contact [sliu26@scienceleadership.org](mailto:sliu26@scienceleadership.org) for stories.



# La Galerie des pastels



Les Canards

6/28/2021



La brique de lait

6/29/2021



Le thé à bulles

9/7/2021

## [Students Walk Philly Style]

By: Diyu Liu

Everyone has heard me talk about running or anything Students Run related. It's the thing I'm most passionate about, and something I never shut up about. I joked that I could run the Students Run table at the activities fair, but I genuinely think I could.

Students Run is a nonprofit organization that encourages students to run and train for longer races at the end of the season. I started last spring, so I was training for Broad Street, which is ten miles. In the fall, students can choose to train for the half marathon, or what I'm aiming for, the full 26.2 mile marathon.



"It's Students RUN Philly Style, not Students Run/Walk Philly Style"

Before my teacher and friends convinced me to do Students Run, I could not even entertain the idea of running. I didn't want anything to do with it, and now I love running and I'm constantly talking about it.

- Mr. Gilligan Spring 2022

Part of the reason for this is because of the community that Students Run creates. I've never had an unpleasant experience during running practice. Everyone starts out somewhere and we all grow together, and no one ever judges anyone for being too slow. In fact, we all cheer for each other. I remember this one time we made arches by creating two lines and holding hands, and then people would run through it when they got to the end.

Take me for example. I'm an extremely slow runner, and my big race: the Broad Street run was not great, but I have other achievements that I'm proud of. I got 2nd place at the Bar Association 5k in my division, and my personal favorite long run was the 8 mile loop we did before Broad Street. It doesn't matter what races you excelled at – or what races you didn't, accomplishments don't have to be big. I'm proud of the 8 miles because I didn't stop the whole way, and I'm proud of the 5k because I did it in 38 minutes and 37 seconds.

Running is incredibly rewarding. I can't describe how good it feels to go from not even being able to run a single mile, to being able to run three, then five, then eight, and then ten. You also don't need to run extremely long distances or run fast to feel accomplished.

Another plus about Students Run is that you get a lot of free stuff. I mean, a LOT of it. I've gotten two pairs of shoes, a million shirts from races, food at races, a lot of Students Run merch including bracelets and pins. I have a donut pin from my first unofficial race (the Donut Run on Lemon Hill), which is probably my favorite pin because it's adorable. We also got donuts and a \$5 Dunkin' Donuts gift card. The support at races is phenomenal and really motivating, too.



In June, Students Run hosted a Leadership Summit/Go Farther camp in Furlong, PA. It was only for a weekend, but spending time in a camp with other runners was extremely comforting. I loved camp. I had only known the people in my cabin for a total of three days, but we bonded well, and other cabins did as well. We ran a lot, we made skits (ours was about some popular kids having a spew over some Aussie Style cookies), we had a bonfire, we danced, we ate food together, and we stole a lot of croutons (but shh, don't tell anyone). I felt pretty empty when the weekend ended. Camp gave me a purpose to wake up early and socialize and make friends, something I wasn't able to do for the majority of the summer.

Students Run is very accepting of everyone, regardless of their identity. One of the programs within Students Run is OUTPace. OUTPace is the LGBTQ+ program and we meet LGBTQ+ organizations and queer businesses. I didn't start going to OUTPace until this past summer, because of scheduling with SRPS and friends, but ever since then, I've been going to every meet. The OUTPace group is pretty small, and people come and go, but I find it pleasant and cozy, in a way. It feels like we created a family at OUTPace.

My favorite OUTPace adventure was the block party sponsored by the William Way Center. The OUTPace group met at the SRPS/OUTPace table and together as a group, we moved to each booth and table and learned about so many different organizations, like GALAEI, Prevention Meets Fashion, and so many more. We took photos in a booth and I have photo strip copies as well as online photos, and I smile every time I look at them, especially when I see the photo where we're doing hearts with our hands.

In conclusion, I'm Students Run Philly Style's biggest fan (actually, I joked that my Instagram was an SRPS fanpage), and I highly encourage everyone to join Students Run. Even if you hate running, you should still give it a chance, because I also hated running, and now I love it.

# [Turn Left in 100M, In Four Years, You Will] [Have Reached Your Destination]

By: Diyu Liu

8 am, 80 degrees, 8 and a half miles by the river. The sun was merciful, holding back from blaring at all of the runners. I jogged my sunburnt self along the trail, falling behind, entertaining myself by creating patterns in the way my feet hit off the path. I was alone, but not for long, as one of the running leaders, Mr. Wiessmann ran up to me.

"Hello," he greeted.

"Hi," I replied. We made some light conversation, exchanging answers to the question, "how was your run so far?" And I thought that was it, I thought he was going to jog away and catch up to the next person. However, my assumptions were wrong, Mr. Wiessmann did not leave me in the dust.

"Are you thinking about college?" he asked.

"Kind of," I answered, following the turn in the track. "I know I'm going to college but I don't know what to major in."

"What are you interested in?" Mr. Wiessmann offered.

"I've always wanted to study psychology," I said. "But I don't think I can."

"Well, why not?" he questioned.

"It's not really a stable major." My voice was disappointed, and I knew he could tell.

His reply was immediate. "Well, you could major in something else, but if you get the chance, you should definitely not give up your dream. What colleges are you thinking about?"

I remembered my conversation with my friends about colleges, a bit ashamed of how that one conversation was the extent of my knowledge and research. "Maybe UPenn? Or Drexel."

"UPenn has an awesome psychology program," Mr. Wiessmann added as I ducked under a tree. "If you go there, you should definitely study that. Do you know what else you would want to do?"

"I actually haven't thought about that," I muttered.

"What are your strengths?" he inquired. "What skills or subjects are you good at and like?"

I thought about it for a moment. I had never truly thought about that question before. "Math," I answered, surprised that it took so long. In the middle of all of my literary burnout, I had forgotten about my love for math.

"Do computer science," suggested Mr. Wiessmann. "I teach computer science, and most people go into that field."

"I'll think about it," I said, unsure.

Mr. Wiessmann was quiet for a moment, a rare occurrence (he said it himself). "What math course are you taking?"

"I think geometry," I guessed. "I took Algebra I last year."

"Geometry is not a good course for you," Mr. Wiessmann sighed. "I mean, geometry is cool, but I don't think high school geometry is the best subject for you. You should take Algebra II instead."

I thought about it, crossing over the parking lot. "How do I do that?"

"You should contact your school about it," Mr. Wiessmann suggested.

I nodded, tucking that idea into one of the folds in my mind. Spoiler alert: I didn't get placed into Algebra II. However, talking with Mr. Wiessmann changed a lot.



Mr. Wiessmann and Martin



Instead of aimlessly navigating through high school, I was able to form some sort of plan. I narrowed down what I wanted and what I needed to research, I learned more about college that I wasn't expecting to learn. Additionally, I took the leap for a high goal. I missed it, but that wouldn't stop me from aiming for higher goals.

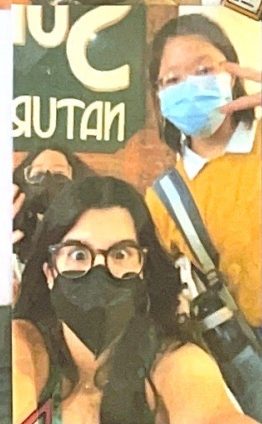
High school is an extremely long road trip, and it starts when none of us even know how to drive yet, but it's all a learning experience. It's scary, but we all have to take risks. Eventually, we'll get better at driving and we'll become more comfortable with practice.

I'm scared now to take that turn in a hundred meters, but in four years, I will confidently reach that destination.

The Delegation of Bongoor: named by Varjak Zeleniak in 8th grade, which inspired a friend group government and weirdly that bonded us.



Covid Trio: formed when the idea of taking a covid test on FaceTime together was brought up



Team Attic Youth Center: we also run with the Attic and we take team photos at races together





# NEW BOOK

(For legal reasons, this book is unfinished and will not be published, at least anytime soon)

Written 2/19/2022, edited 9/3/2022

Focus. Focus on your beauty, grace, and poise. Become the most beautiful in the world, outdo all of the other princesses who are forced into this imaginary competition. Be graceful, make every movement soft and precise, make every touch like a gentle dove's wing. Be elegant and reflect that elegance: speak educated words, act like a proper young lady, act like the pedestal that you stand on makes you better than everyone else.

Back straight, chest up, hands folded at the waist, chin up, wear an expression that lets everyone know you're important. More than important. Make the spotlight find you, focus on you until everyone has recognized your presence. Make sure to be polite, make light conversation, and smile. Always remember to smile. A smile can paint a thousand pictures, say a million words, and convey a hundred thoughts. Make sure to make the smile soft, gentle. It cannot look forced, it has to look real, genuine. Remember, a bad smile can ruin your entire reputation, and therefore, your entire life.

Never talk back. Use your manners. Say "thank you," say "sorry, pardon?" say "ma'am" or "sir" or "mx." Repeat it a million times. Engrave it into your head until it becomes nature. Always say yes, as saying no is purely rude. Rejection can ruin you, damage your reputation. Always listen to your superiors. Respect them, worship them. Know your place, stay in your league. Know that unborn princes have more value than you. Know that your only purpose is to be wed to a randomly chosen prince.

This is the guide to being a perfect princess. Live a life so full of people, yet you always seem to feel so alone, watching as others converse over disgustingly rich wine and laugh fakely. It doesn't matter how many materialistic things you have, however many people pretend they're your friend, however wealthy you are—it doesn't matter how much power your future husband will have. Live a life where every particle is in place, not one single flaw to be seen. Live a life so picture-perfect.

Basil Allopura is a picture-perfect princess. She lives a life full of pretend. Fake smiles, forced dances, awkward curtsies, pretending like not having a say makes her happy. Living life day by day, seeing as her future is already in someone else's hands. She's like a puppet doll, always listening, always being moved by someone else.

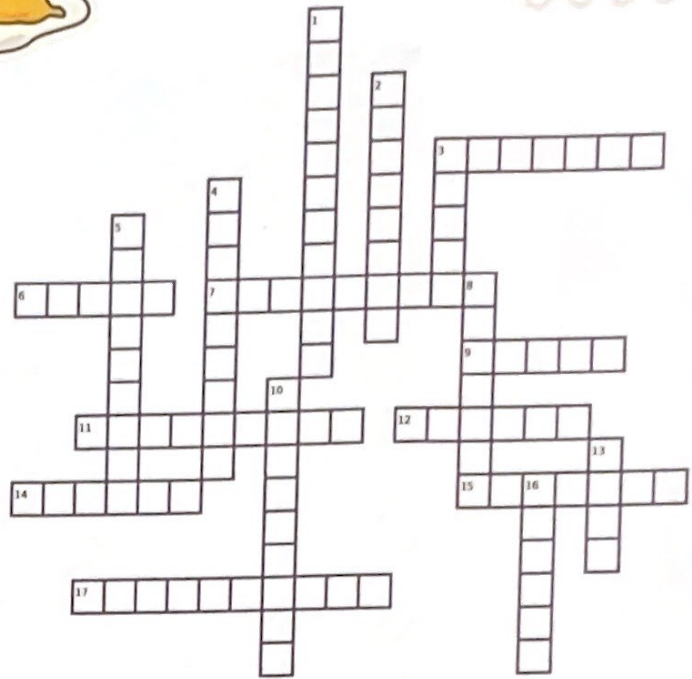
This is the guide to being a picture perfect princess.





# pop quiz!

+ additional fun facts



### Down:

1. something I wear very often - hint: I have a purple and tan one
2. the name of my product
3. the princess with the last name Allopora
4. name of the 2022 Broad Street race
5. Students Run running leader from Palumbo
8. a group chat name inspired by the song that goes, "the duck walked up to the lemonade stand"
10. a number followed by a direction, a popular store that I used to like a lot
13. my best academic subject
16. the color scheme of Masquerade

### Across:

3. the name of my 8th grade friend group
6. a 5k in miles
7. sang Numb Little Bug
9. a club where we sing
11. a song arranged by David Shapiro
12. a musical instrument that I learned in 8th grade and plan to learn
14. the language my art gallery is in (as well as the language I took for a year)
15. my vocal range
17. what I always wanted to major in college

## NEED A MATH TUTOR?

This is Fred. Fred is *amazing* at math.

They are offering to tutor kids K-M for Algebra VII at a rate of \$35,000 an hour!

Visit 123891 78th Avenue apt 1023 Gyrakia, IP 276 every Friday at 33:00 on the 32nd of each month for more details, or contact (875) 245-1996



Here is a thank you to everyone who made this magazine possible:  
Or, in other words, this is a dedication page...on the back cover.

**Izzy:** who always talks to me and who I texted so much during the making of this

**Quinn:** who deals with my insanity all of the time, has been through everything I do and they're still here

**Vicky:** who always made me laugh and listened, and made my 8th so fun

**Zoe:** who is extremely loyal and always there for me (she got me presents)

**Tova:** who ran with me until they got too good at running

**Natalia:** who is the sweetest person I know and is so fun to be around

**Amelia:** who is always there for me and inspires me

**Chris:** who ran with me and made me laugh every time I talked to him, and someone who made every event fun

**Brissa:** who is so incredibly sweet and always does favors for others (including me) and walks us home

**Sunnie:** who walks me home and makes me laugh all the time (like her pet fish)

**Oksa:** who's always there and was the inspiration behind Masquerade

**Martin:** who constantly tells us to stretch (and then I don't) and being an amazing running leader

**Letty:** who runs with me and waits for me because I'm a slow runner

**Mr. Wiessmann:** for making me have an existential crisis but also helping me plan out my life route - and getting me to train for the marathon

**Mr. Gilligan:** (who I was originally going to write about for my vignette) for being an amazing history teacher and getting me to do Student's Run

**Ms. Avelin:** who is probably the best English teacher I've ever had, always made the classroom a safe and comfortable space

**Doc. Shapiro:** who made choir so fun and so memorable

**Ms. Giknis:** for making me do this project

**Powfu:** for making *death bed (coffee for your head)* because it was the only song I listened to for multiple days

Answer Key to the Crossword:

Down:

1. Sweater Vest
2. Axolight
3. Basil
4. BlueCross
5. Wiessmann
8. Duckies
10. FiveBelow
13. Math
16. Purple

Across:

3. Bongoor
6. Three
7. Em Beihold
9. Choir
11. War Is Kind
12. Guitar
14. French
15. Soprano
17. Psychology