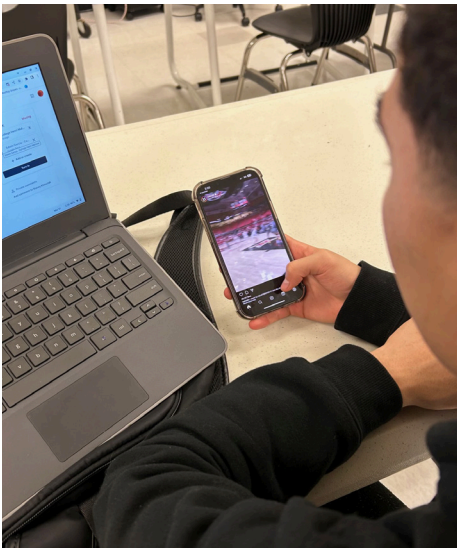


# GLOBAL COMPASS

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## IS SOCIAL MEDIA YOUR PRIORITY?

By Austin Miller

Social media has a huge impact on students' lives. Controversial subjects and unfounded rumors can result in negative backlash from peers inside and outside the classroom, but just using social media at the wrong time can result be a bad choice.

"Using our cell phones is a habit, and it becomes a distraction each time an alert dings," said senior Skylar Kumro. "Social media is a great way to connect with friends, but it can also affect academic performance and how well you do in school."

Sophomore Amira Ramos says she is always using social media because there is helpful information online, but she does recognize the downside.

"Social media can sometimes help you, cause there's things on there that can really help you with stuff that you learn in school," Ramos said. "Then there's other things in there that will not help you and teach you stuff that you really shouldn't know—explicit stuff that people should not be exposed to. So, it's like you're getting corrupted from the

## Upcoming events

**APR 27** 8th Grade signing dinner & Parent teacher conferences 5pm-7pm  
**APR 28** Early Release  
**MAY 4-7** A Midsummer Night's Dream  
(4 & 6 at 7 pm, 5 at 7:30 pm)  
**MAY 5** Taste of Global

things that you don't even know about."

English and social studies teacher Sean Petro is not a fan of social media. He said people's desire for attention gets in the way of what they need to do, especially in school.

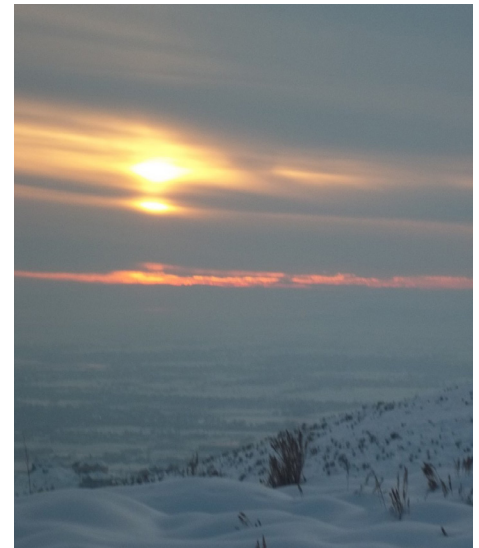
"Attention [is] probably the number one addiction in this country," Petro said. "So, what if we can't get positive attention?... Maybe if someone's feeling sorry for us, it's better than being ignored. Some people like to start drama online. Sometimes, what they'll do is they'll just post stuff to watch other people go at it and fight, and they just sit back and watch the drama like it's a TV show."

Fellow English teacher Jesse Dixon believes social media was created specifically to be addictive.

"I think social media probably has a negative effect overall on students' grades," Dixon said. "It's a big distraction in the room and I think outside of the classroom as well... it's not just kids that fall into it; adults get sucked into it too, and it's just, I would say, a poor use of our time."

Principal Tralina Middlebrooks said students put too much stock into what is posted on social media and don't seek the facts.

"[You have to] know where its coming from and then you have to investigate to see if those things are true," she said. "You have students who are more interested in seeing what other people think or see what other people think about them. So, they're looking to get likes or hearts or are looking to get advice, but they're looking for it in the wrong places."



## WINTER IN THE MOUNTAINS

By Grey Martinez

Snow laces the bare trees, high above the road. Beyond your window, pure white flakes are tightly packed due to the cloudless sun. There is barely a twitch from the flora, no sign of fauna. The car's interior is a shield from the cold you imagine accompanies the view. Warm air swiftly jumps from the vents, eager to brush past your face. Your feet are being toasted—such a comforting sensation. The car bumbles and rocks with every pile of snow that attempts to block its path. Reaching a clearing near the road, a long stretch of ice hides faintly under a dusting of fresh powder. Pine trees trace the bay, spreading sparsely but healthily. A sight of deer seeking cover under the trees, burrowed beneath the snow that flicks their ears repetitively. The car oscillates some more as you begin pulling forward, slower and slower. Finally, you return to the familiar site of trees cradling the fallen snow.

**"Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself."**

- Eleanor Roosevelt



## GLOBAL CONCEPTS TEACHER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

By Breadan Peoples

Jamie Atkins, a special education teacher here at Global Concepts Charter High School, is a recipient of the 2022 National Banner Award as part of the Special Olympics National Unified Champion School program. She received the award at a ceremony in Arizona in February.

“It’s an award given to schools that demonstrate 10 standards of excellence and inclusion in the classroom,” Atkins said. “Schools have to submit an application, showing how they include all kids in the school curriculum. The program I worked in [in Arizona] was with kids that have mild [to] moderate intellectual disabilities... we got them more integrated with their peers that they didn’t really see throughout their day-to-day life.”

Atkins was a special education teacher at Pendergast Elementary School in Phoenix, Ariz., for eight years before starting at Global Concepts. During those years, she worked with a single group of kids from the time they were in 3rd and 4th grade.

“[I] got to watch them graduate and go into high school.”

She credits the students, their families, and the support of the school for her receiving the award. Schools who

receive it are considered Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools. Only 600 schools in the United States have received this award since its inception in 2013.

Atkins came back to Buffalo, her hometown, to be closer to friends and family. Nicole Atkins, her sister who is a physical education teacher at Global, recommended she apply to this school.

“I interviewed, and I got it. I’ve enjoyed it ever since,” Jamie recalls. “I get to work with older kids... different kids every day in every class and get to interact with them, so it’s cool being able to develop new relationships.”

Jamie added she looks forward to seeing where her students from the past and present end up once they finish high school.



## STUDENTS EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES ON THEATER STAGE

By Logan Rivera

Students at Global Concepts are on stage rehearsing for a Shakespearean classic next month. Director and theater teacher Chris Kelly and his actors will put on *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at the beginning of May.

The Global theater program is part of the school curriculum, based in the Ruben Santiago-Hudson Fine Arts Learning Center, which was dedicated to the local film and television actor in 2014. The theater program started during the 2014-15 school year when Kelly came to Global Concepts. He said participating in theater gives students skills they can use in life.

“I feel theater teaches you about basically public speaking, how to work

in a group, how to be a strong, creative problem solver,” Kelly said. “[It also teaches you] how to collaborate with a team, and I think makes you confident.”

DeJuan Long Jr, a senior, has been in many plays at Global. He keeps auditioning because he has the freedom to bring his own personality to the stage.

“I get to interact with my dear friends, using my body and my creativity,” said Long. “[Mr. Kelly] lets just kind of like, do our own thing like the plays and stuff... like our own characters, portraying [them] in a different way, like how we view it, instead of how the script tells us.”

Capris Clark, a freshman, has acted in TV shows, commercials and films outside of school. This is her first play in the theater program, and she said being on-camera is different than being on stage.

“It’s definitely different because you have to see the audience more instead of having the camera always be on you,” Clark said. “I love theater and it’s a great program to join... I love being in rehearsal and watching everything come together.”

Alexis Hagelberger, a senior, is doing her first play ever after having success in a play reading class last year.

“In class we always try to have games and stuff,” Hagelberger said. “[We were] making it so it’s not just games, but it’s like helping us with our technique... I enjoyed it.”

Kelly added the theater program has blossomed over the course of nine years.

“There was no theater program before I came here at all, and it’s unique to our school that we have anything like that at all,” Kelly said. “Lots of schools don’t have theater during the day... So, we’ve gone from kids never having been too exposed to it at all to a few kids who have been in half a dozen—if not more—productions downtown. [It’s a] Huge growth.”

The theater program will perform *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* from May 4-6 at the black box theater. See the Upcoming Events tab for times.