

THE ROUNDUP

STORY OF THE WEEK - FEBRUARY 4, 2016

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

MIDTERMS WEEK: A HURRICANE SANDY-SIZED STRESSOR

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To high school students across the country, the word “midterms” induces a great deal of emotions. More specifically, Long Island students during the past two weeks have begun to stress a great deal about managing their study time. However, the students of Hills West hold a very different meaning for the term “midterms week.”

Just four years ago after Hurricane Sandy, the Half Hollow Hills School District made the decision to terminate midterms week for the school year, in order to make up for the lost time Sandy had caused. What current seniors were unaware of was that for the next three years of high school, they would miss out on what would be one of the most bragged about past times amongst high school students.

For many high schools, including Syosset, Commack, Brentwood, Deer Park and North Babylon; students only had to attend school if they had a midterm exam. The past week, however, was a very different experience for the students of Hills West. Junior Maggie Delgado from Deer Park said in regard to her school's week of exams, “We don't have tests every day of the week so it's nice to take the day off and study rather than being in class and worrying about time management.” In fact, Deer Park students only attend school during the last week of the second quarter if they have a midterm exam. Midterms are similar to final exams as they can last up to three hours, but students have to the opportunity to leave after the second hour.

While attempting to prepare for their cumulative exams in Half Hollow Hills, students were required to attend a full week

of classes, meaning homework, projects, and classwork on top of the additional studying. Students and faculty have expressed a range of different opinions regarding dismissal of the typical midterm week in Half Hollow Hills.

My Brain is Experiencing Technical Difficulties



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Although many teachers argued that the extinction of the week is beneficial and requires a great deal less of work from them, many students harbor opposing opinions.

“I really think midterms week would give students more time to study and focus on their exams,” said senior Katina Cokinos, “A lot of teachers toward the end of the quarter like to give tests and don't always follow the testing schedule

which is most definitely stressful.” Others continue to complain about how their friends from other districts have a significantly less stressful midterms week - proclaiming its practically like, “vacation.”

“Is it a bit annoying that other schools have it, yes, but when you look at it, do we really *need* a midterms week?” added senior Andrew Faber.

With essays, projects and midterms all assigned in one week, students are under enormous amounts of pressure. Time seems to be the biggest issue of all. Some exams are even taken over the course of two days as teachers attempt to pack in months of knowledge into an exam that can count for up to 15% of a student's quarter average.

Junior Robbie Flattau said, “We cover the same amount of material as on the old tests but with less time.”

Nicole Adler, in her last year at High School West, further supported Flattau's argument, “A lot of the time students don't have enough time to finish their tests.” She continued by saying, “It [the current Hills West midterm week] is unfair.”

“Midterms week” has a overwhelming negative connotation here at Hills West. It is just as stressful as, if not more stressful than, in other schools. Whether the district will decide to reinstate the testing week is unforeseeable.

For the years to come students will continue to undergo excessive amounts of stress in order to cope with the large work loads during “midterms week.”