



A Day in the Life of a House Senior

By Carter Smith
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a student at House? I got to interview Cade, a senior, about his day at House Schools. I started by asking about his morning routine before school. He answered, “I usually wake up, go to the bathroom, do hygiene stuff, put clothes on, start my truck, eat breakfast, and leave home to go to school.” That also answered my second question about how he gets to school, he drives his truck.

Next, I asked him who he sits with at breakfast and lunch. He said, “I sit with my good friends: Jalen, Aaron, Kyle, and Adam.” Then I asked how hard his work is. He

stated that his work is about a 6 out of 10. I also asked what his favorite classes were. He said his favorite classes are 4th and 6th period in the shop with Mr. Widner, our shop teacher. His least favorite class is 3rd period.

After that, I asked what his plan is for high school, and he said his goal is to graduate. When I asked about his plans after high school, he said, “To go to college and pursue Ag Business.” I also asked what he does after school. He said, “I go to practice, get home and rest my legs, then I grab some dinner, work on scholarships, and finally

shower and go to bed.” Finally, I asked who his favorite classmate is, and he replied, “Good old Howard.” Overall, this was a great explanation of a day in the life of a student at House Schools.



Submitted by Bonnie Lee:
Cade poses for his senior pictures. He has been a student at House since 6th grade, and has seen the school progress.



HAT Trip Story – p. 2
House Municipal Schools students were rewarded for strong attendance and academic effort with a House Attendance Trip (HAT) to Cinergy in Amarillo on February 4, 2026. Students shared how the trip motivated them to show up, work hard, and enjoy a fun day of games, food, and celebration with friends.



Voices of House Schools – p.2
Voices of House Schools gives students the chance to share their thoughts, creativity, and school spirit through writing and storytelling. The publication celebrates student perspectives, achievements, and the events that make House Schools such a close-knit and vibrant community.

Adela Takes First in Prepared Speech

By: Hendrina VanderMerwe
Staff Writer

House FFA leadership members traveled on Friday to compete in a leadership development event where Adela Armendariz presented her prepared speech on Saturday, earning first place. The competition brought together students from different schools, all competing to showcase their public speaking skills. Adela said she felt confident after delivering her speech and was proud of the outcome. “My speech

went really well, that’s the reason I got first place,” she said. She explained that although she was nervous before speaking, once she began her presentation she felt prepared and focused. Adela did not prepare alone. She said Mr. Widner, Maddie Kenyon, and Mrs. Armendariz all played an important role in helping her get ready for the competition. “Maddie and my mom helped me with my speech and organize it,”

Adela said. She spent time practicing, revising, and building her confidence before competition day. Their guidance helped her strengthen her delivery and stay calm under pressure. The topic of her speech was especially meaningful because of her future career goals. “This speech is important to me because one of my dreams is to become a veterinarian,” she said. Adela shared that several

members of her family are veterinarians, which has inspired her to follow a similar path and make an impact in the veterinary field. Placing first in the competition not only reflects her hard work and dedication, but also brings her one step closer to achieving her long-term goals.



Submitted by Mr. Widner:
Adela poses with her banner after winning state speech.



Phone Law Opinion Story – p. 3
A House Municipal Schools student shared their perspective on New Mexico’s phone policy, explaining that while some see it as strict, it ultimately helps students stay focused and improve their attention in class. The student also suggested allowing phones during free time or emergencies, while still keeping clear consequences for phone use during instructional time.



Archery State Tournament Story – p. 4
The House Schools archery team competed at the NASP State Tournament, where 10 of 12 students achieved their personal best scores, highlighting their dedication and growth throughout the season. Sponsor Lora Armendariz shared her excitement about expanding the program, while senior Valeria Caraveo reflected on the bittersweet end to her final year of competition.

EDITORIAL

House Attendance Trip Teaches Students Hard Work

By Maddie Kenyon
Editor

House Municipal Schools hosted a House Attendance Trip at Cinergy in Amarillo on February 4th, 2026. The day was filled with good food, arcade games, and celebration. To attend the field trip, students must have had perfect attendance, or up to five absences based on their grade point average. One of the students in attendance was Jalen Shaw, junior, said the trip was a good incentive for success.

“It encourages me to do better and show up to school and do my work,” Jalen said. “It was a great experience to have fun and explore new things.

He said he enjoyed spending time with friends.

“My favorite part was getting to play a seven dimensional game and laser tag, my team still won,” Jalen said. Elizabeth Downey, freshman, said she

appreciates the motivation of the HAT trips.que “I think it is a good incentive, knowing we get a fun field trip encourages kids to work hard,” Elizabeth said. She said she enjoyed her trip as a whole. “I had fun because I

think it was a good idea, I think it encouraged students to come to school so they can have an opportunity to do this,” Elizabeth said. Lora Armendariz, principal, said the HAT trip is a rich and unique experience.

“The success of our students is very important to us and getting to see them have fun for their hard work and academic achievement is what we are all about,” Armendariz said.

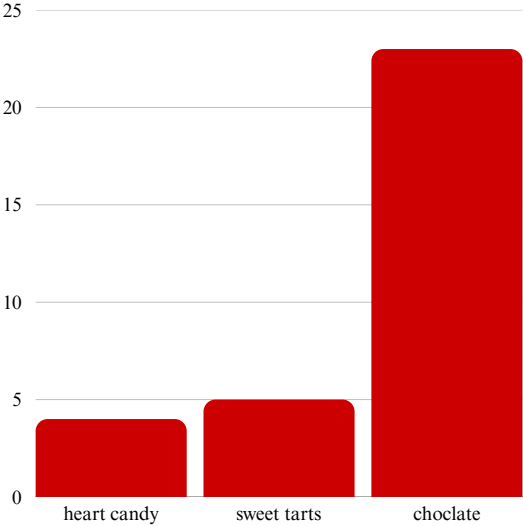


Photos taken by Mrs. Smith:
Students participate in activities during the HAT trip.

FEBRUARY CANDY FAVORITES

By: Cypress Sholtz
Staff Writer

After surveying students, chocolate was the top choice, followed by sweet tarts and heart candy.



VOICES OF HOUSE SCHOOLS

Who has already mentally checked out for Spring Break?

“Maria because she doesn’t know when someone is flirting with her or not.”
Mrs. Sieck, Teacher

Who would survive the longest if the school turned into a reality show for one week?

“I would say Izzy or Maddie.”
Mrs. Smith, Teacher

Who’s one inconvenience away from saying “I need Spring Break”?

“Zarek because he is always half asleep in class.”
Maria, 9th

If House had a secret talent show, who would shock everyone?

“I would for sure.”
Kenny, 5th

Which teacher would survive in the wild the longest?

“Mrs. Lavender.”
Bruce, 5th

Editorial on New Mexico Phone Law Impact

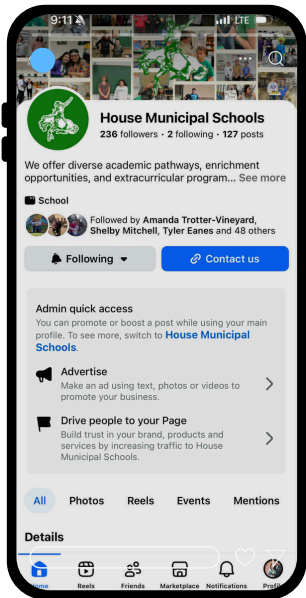
By: Annabelle Wooldridge
Staff Writer

In the state of New Mexico, we have a law that says we cannot have our phones at school. We have to turn them in during the first period. My opinion on it is that it’s okay. It’s really not that bad. I understand that the state doesn’t want phones to distract students from getting their education. Some students think the law is “overreacting.” Even if it feels that way, it actually helps students stay focused on learning.

Without being on your phone, you can grow your attention span and gain more knowledge. Phones can be very distracting, especially during class time. Some students try to sneak their phones in their backpacks or pockets. I think teachers should remind students to turn in their phones and make sure everyone is being honest. When students are on their Chromebooks, teachers can walk around to make

sure no one is hiding their phone behind the screen. If I could change the phone law, I would allow students to have their phones outside of class, like during free time or in case of an emergency. However, if a student takes their phone out during class, it should be taken away until the end of the period. Some other states allow phones, and that works for them, but this is how I think it should work here.

That is my opinion on the phone law.



House Basketball Season Begins to Wrap Up

By: Kaliah Quintana
Staff Writer

The 2025–2026 basketball season is coming to an end at House Schools, and several players took time to reflect on their experiences this year. Elizabeth Downey shared that the season has gone well and that she is looking forward to the next sport. “Basketball season is going pretty good. It’s almost over, and I’m excited to start track,” she said.

When asked how she handles pressure during games, Elizabeth explained that she focuses on staying calm and reminding herself what she is supposed to be doing. She believes her greatest strength on the court is keeping a level head and encouraging her teammates. “I try to remind them it’s okay and help them stay calm,” she said. Junior Jalen Shaw said he

also manages pressure by staying composed. “I take a deep breath and tell myself to stay calm, act like I’ve been there before, and just play basketball,” he said. Jalen added that Logan was the toughest team they faced this season because of their athleticism and height. Dawson Gamble admitted he is still learning how to handle pressure during games.

As the season wraps up, players are taking lessons from the court with them as they prepare for future competitions.



Submitted photo:
Varsity boys in action during a recent matchup.

Built by Hard Work, Driven by Heart

By: Kaylee Smith
Faculty Sponsor

Mr. Wayne Sleep is someone students see every day, but there is a lot about him they may not know. One surprising fact is that he raised three daughters as a single parent. This experience helped shape his strength, responsibility, and dedication, not just as a father but as a teacher too. In high school, Mr. Sleep described himself as a nerd and a straight A student. He was focused on his academics and took school seriously, which helped build the strong work ethic he carries today.

If he was not a teacher, Mr. Sleep said he would likely be working with the USDA, helping farmers and ranchers. His connection to agriculture does not stop there. Outside of school, he enjoys working on his farm, taking care of his orchard and garden, and building things. From hobby projects to remodeling his front porch, he enjoys creating and improving things with his hands. The people who have had the biggest impact on his life are his daughters. He shared that his job was to raise and prepare them

for life, and in many ways, they shaped him just as much in return. One of the most defining moments in his life happened when he was in 8th grade and his mom had cancer. He had to start working to help support his family, and he says he has never stopped working since. That experience taught him responsibility and resilience at a young age. Something that always makes Mr. Sleep happy is talking to his kids. His family remains one of the most important parts of his life.

His friends and family would describe him as a hard worker and someone who can do just about anything. Years from now, Mr. Sleep hopes students remember that he cared about them as people, not just about what they learned in class.



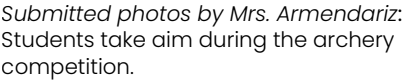
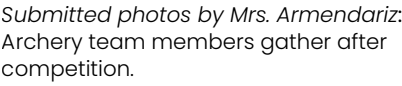
Submitted photo:
Mrs. Sleep and his family.

By: Elizabeth Downey
Staff Writer

Armendariz reflected proudly on her students' performance. "Of the 12 that competed, 10 had their official best score ever. They showed up,

Senior Valeria Caraveo shared what made this season special. “My

House Schools is extremely proud of its archers and looks forward to seeing the continued growth and success of the program in the years to come.



1. What you do when you're happy.
4. Wrapping your arms around someone.
5. Believing someone will do the right thing.
7. Doing something for someone.
8. Thinking about how others feel.
9. Being nice to others.
10. A word you say if you hurt someone.

1. Letting others use what you have.
2. A strong feeling of liking someone a lot.
3. Someone you like and spend time with.
4. Feeling good and joyful.
6. What you say when someone helps you.



Editor: Maddie Kenyon
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