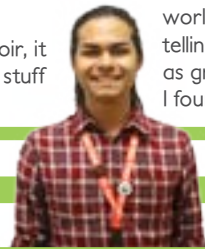


"It had to have been my memoir, it reflected a lot about personal stuff that happened to me."

"The portfolio essay was the real world slapping you in the face and telling you, 'Hey, you're actually not as great as you thought you were. I found myself after writing it.'"

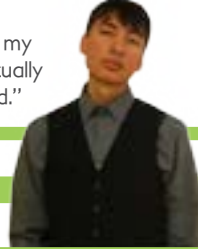
"The essay that I feel most accomplished about would be my 'Frankenstein' paper. I was actually writing about something I liked."



RUPERT RUIZ, 11



CHRISTIAN BROWN, 11



RAYMOND MARTINEZ, 12

MY GREATEST DUAL CREDIT ASSIGNMENT

DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS GO THROUGH THE TRIAL AND TRIBULATIONS OF COLLEGE COURSES INTO THE WOODS

Senior Christopher Marquez stares at a computer screen surrounded by empty water bottles and written notecards, as he remembers what the Dual Credit English teacher Paula Woods famously says, "The syllabus is your best friend."

Marquez turns back to his screen. With tired eyes, he finishes typing the last few sentences of his conclusion. Some of the challenges that juniors and seniors face taking Dual Credit classes are spending late hours writing papers, reading chapter after chapter for an upcoming assignment and checking every last detail of grammar for every personal essay.

"I joined because I thought it was a great opportunity to get some

college credit while in high school and so I can get a glimpse of how the college work would be," Marquez said.

Many students decide to enroll in this course for the benefits it offers in the long run. The program enables the students to progress in college while eliminating the cost of tuition.

"The advantages for this class are experiencing college before college, and you get tips and experience, so you don't have to suffer the consequences of not knowing what to do. (And) you're already prepared once you get to college," said senior Aibhlin Esparza.

Students get a head start in college by taking classes that are more

challenging.

"Just do all your work well, don't slack the work and stay on track. Keep an agenda on what you do and try to keep everything organized. Follow the syllabus and even though it may throw you off, just write notes on it if needed," said senior Esteban Quezada.

Although Dual Credit may seem like a course that would only pile on stress, pressure and a chance of failure, it is not all bad. Students get the chance to work with Woods, who is a challenging, but experienced college professor. Dual Credit is the type of environment that values work, organization, fast pace and rewards students with a networking society.

● "I JOINED BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GET SOME COLLEGE CREDIT WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL."
● - CHRISTOPHER MARQUEZ, 12

"It is a different protocol, a different set of rules outside of a normal high school. It's a college class and students have to learn how to meet certain expectations," Woods said.

By Yesenia Solis

Yesenia Solis



PENS UP AND PAPERS DOWN. Ideas are flowing while the time is ticking for senior Jennifer De Alba as she decides how to start her thesis statement in Professor Paula Woods' British Literature class. Thanks to classmate senior Ariel Alexander, De Alba was able to write a good essay. "Although the course was tough at times, I found it to be very enjoyable," De Alba said.



Danielle Miller

BECOMING OFFICIAL. Waiting patiently in line for his EPCC student identification card, junior Chris Brown is ecstatic to be considered an official college student. Dual Credit students must have an EPCC ID in order to take advantage of all the resources that the college offers, like their library and computer lab. "While waiting in the line, a lot of things were going on around me that I didn't understand," Brown said "It felt very foreign and I was nervous because I was about to get a college ID."



Yesenia Solis

Isabella Engkilterra

Yesenia Solis



HEADS UP. Discussing a new topic in Craig McClain's Jazz to Rock class, junior Brianna Salazar gets ready to give her opinion on a topic. Salazar does her best to make sure her notes are in order to help with studying. "Dual credit is not like the high school classes," Salazar said "You are not given paper assignments. Everything is done on Blackboard, which is an online submission forum."

NEW IDEAS. With terms and concepts from President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal on his mind, junior Gerardo Aguilar is ready to write his essay. Janet Carrillo, the coordinator for Dual Credit history, will grade Aguilar on the assignment. "Dual Credit History helps me prepare for the real experience."



Danielle Miller

POSTERS UP. Placing some tape on a student's poster presentation, junior Andres Marrufo helps his dual credit pre-calculus teacher Margaret Gutierrez put up the 'It's all About Me' assignment. The halls were decorated with colorful posters describing each student's accomplishment. "I like helping out," Marrufo said "It makes life easier for others and it makes me feel better."

HOW HELPFUL. While questions are flying junior Andres Gutierrez gives a helping hand to classmate junior Amani Scott in Pre-Calculus. Scott was able to understand the assignment well. "Dual credit is a good opportunity for students to get ahead in college," Gutierrez said "It prepares students on how to not procrastinate and to not wait to the last minute to do things."

● Juniors Andres Gutierrez, Derek Villalobos and Ruperto Ruiz formed their own study group to get through the pressures of Dual Credit assignments.

● "We created a group chat on Kik and through there we would help each other whenever we had a question or needed help making up a good topic for essays. We were also able to build up our independence and learn from each other's mistakes." - Ruperto Ruiz, 11



SURVIVAL IS STICKING TOGETHER



A DAY IN THE LIFE

ESTELA FIERRO:

7:00am.	7:50am.	8:20am.	8:25am.	8:40am.	12:00p.m.	1:20p.m.	5:00p.m.	6:00p.m.	7:00p.m.
Wake up and hop in the shower.	Make my way to my friend's house, then to school.	Arrive at school and rush for some breakfast.	Make my way to a quick class president meeting.	Once the meeting is over, I make my way to class with my friends.	Once 4th period is over, I wait for a PAC meeting in the conference room.	School day is over and now theater begins.	Cast and I get ready for a run through.	I make sure all the actors are ready for a performance.	My busy day is over and I make my way home.

THEATER FACES CHALLENGES THAT ATTRACTS NEW TALENT REBUILT THIS CITY

From before the first spotlight shone on senior Taylor Flores in "Tom Jones," the theater troupe was destined to face hurdles. First, they had to wait until they could get permission to use the script to put on their own production of "Noises Off." The finally got the rights, but performers had to rush to learn their lines with just a few weeks left until opening night. With little time left they had to work harder. Jacob Rodriguez, theater teacher, ran the show and directed an entertaining performance that opened to filled seats every night.

"We only had a few weeks with the script fully in hand to stage the

whole production," Rodriguez said. "I think the audiences enjoyed it, and I thought the performers were very dedicated and disciplined during the rehearsal process."

The much-anticipated production of "Hairspray" opened to a full house but the aftermath brought both good and bad changes to the theater company. After losing most of their star performers and a teacher, theater needed to make adjustments – and make them fast with UIL competition looming just around the corner. A call for new talent was put out as students began to try out for parts in "Tom Jones."

"We like to call the last theater

group 'Generation X' and we call the new group 'Generation Z,'" said senior Jordan Dodson, who was in the "Tom Jones" UIL production. "We got a lot of new talented underclassman, that will help us fix the bad reputation that Generation X might have brought, helping us rise from the dead."

Although, theater had a new addition of inexperienced performers, they have easily reached the bar that the previous performers set and will continue growing throughout the years.

"It's been rebuilt from the bottom up. I've worked with both sides and they're both very talented and

"IT'S BEEN REBUILT FROM THE BOTTOM UP. I'VE WORKED WITH BOTH SIDES. THEY'RE BOTH VERY TALENTED AND AMAZING."
- DANIEL HURTADO DE MENDOZA, 12

amazing," senior Daniel Hurtado De Mendoza said about the old and new performers. "I've been lucky to be a part of them."

By Danielle Miller

MOTHER KNOWS BEST. Stage mother junior Leanna Naranjo lectures junior Rebeca Arreola in "Hairspray." As her face turned sour, Arreola stayed in character as Penny Pingleton. With help from one of their theater teachers, Kira LaFoe, Arreola was able to develop a strong character. "We got a lot of help from Mrs. LaFoe," Arreola said. "Telling us how our character's mindset is."



Claudia Cardiel



Danielle Miller

WHAT WAS THAT? Trying their best to play off junior Stephan Lopez's foolish character of Selsdon Mownray, seniors Armando Saenz, Brooke Ventresca, Vivian Miller and Brandon Salgado yell at Lopez, as he gets drunk once again in the play "Noises Off." "That's the whole point of that scene," Miller said. "To make a little, hilarious scene about the old man in the show who can't see hear or understand anything."



Claudia Cardiel



Daniel Nuñez



BACK AGAINST THE WALL. Not having a lot of time to prepare blocking for the play "Noises Off," senior Daniel Hurtado De Mendoza gets surprised as junior Stephan Lopez reacts on the spot and shoves him against the wall. "Initially Stephan didn't grab me like that, but we said we were going to go all out to see what we can do with this," Hurtado De Mendoza said. "That wasn't rehearsed, like most stuff in the play, it was just off the top, like what would a character do in that position?"

SLEEPING BEAUTY. While sophomore Leslie Bernal faints on center stage after seeing her beloved Tom Jones get punched, her scene partner, senior Taylor Flores tries to wake her up using a fan. With only one rehearsal left, all the typical nerves crept up on the performers. "Some of us are used to performing," Flores said. "But some of us just get the usual performance anxiety."

Danielle Miller
MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES. In a final dress rehearsal before UIL competition, freshman Brandon Hester, as Tom Jones, cringes in pain after another character pulls his broken arm. He took on the personality of Tom Jones. "After doing it over and over again you start becoming the character," Hester said.

THE NICEST KIDS IN TOWN. With anxious smiles, junior Émilie Rasmussen and senior Brandon Salgado perform 'The Nicest Kids in Town' in the play 'Hairspray.' With chaotic practices, they were worried they weren't going to pull everything together in time. "It went a lot better than expected, everyone thought it was going to be mediocre," Rasmussen said. "But it went pretty okay."



Daniel Nuñez

See page 293 for group photo

GETTING GLAM WITH: TAYLOR FLORES

What does it take for senior Taylor Flores to achieve her performance-ready look?





RHONDA ACOSTA
Sandals

EDGAR CASTILLO
Sperry's Flats

From boots to ballet flats, what do you walk the halls in?



RAY FERNANDEZ
Chelsea Boots

VICTORIA LAWRENCE
Vans Tennis Shoes

FRESH TO DEATH JORDAN DODSON

Senior Jordan Dodson is one student who learned a thing or two from his dad, Sherman Dodson, about style. Coming from a time of neon windbreakers and terry cloth headbands, Sherman has a lot to pass down.

"My dad influences me because, well, he's my dad. There's not much to say about that, plus 80 percent of my clothes were hand-me-downs from him. My dad's style was all set in the '80s and '90s. so I do feel like my own style originates a lot from those decades," Sherman said.

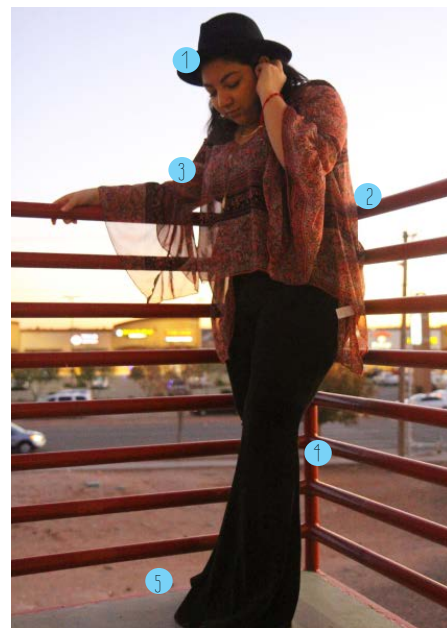
CHECK IT. Jordan Dodson's dad leans against a stairwell at a department store in 1994.



Sarah Lawrence

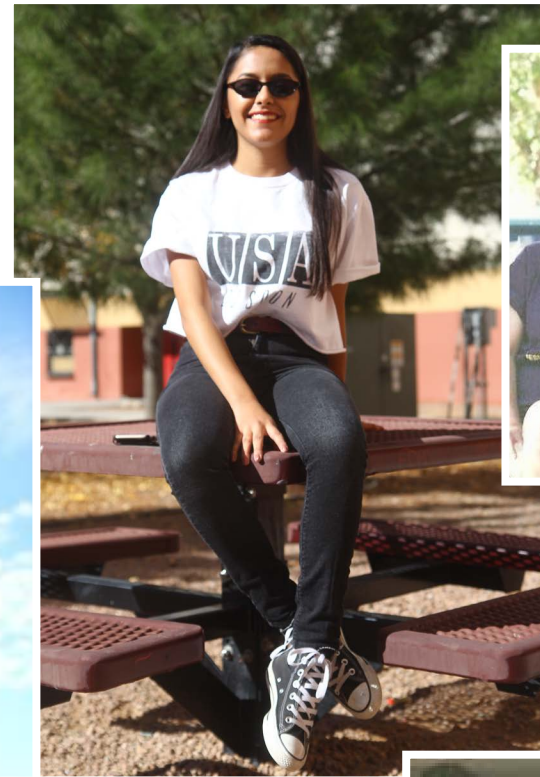
HAPPY HIPPIE OUTFIT BREAKDOWN

CLAUDIA CARDIEL



- Item: Felt tip fedora hat
Brand: Target
Price: \$30
- Item: Long Bell sleeved shirt
Brand: Charlotte Russe
Price: \$30
- Item: Dainty layered gold chain and crystal accessories
Brand: Forever 21
Price: \$8
- Item: Suede bell bottoms
Brand: Forever 21
Price: \$15
- Item: Black ankle booties
Brand: Franco Sarto
Price: \$50

Daniel Nuñez



SHADES. Luz Aguirre's mom, in a white T-shirt and sunglasses, poses with her friends in 1991.

HIP AS MOM LUZ AGUIRRE

Senior Luz Aguirre is known by for her unique throwback style. The bond Aguirre shares with her mom inspires her own style, which also dates back to the late '80s and early '90s style. She rocks the torn jeans, long earrings and a whole lot of attitude. With style inspirations from icons like Madonna, who wouldn't want to rock those vintage looks?

"I tend to borrow her clothes from time to time," said Aguirre. "When I was younger I would watch her get ready and just admire the way she chose an outfit."

SUBTLE STYLE ARMANDO MENDEZ

How does the phrase go? What goes around skips a decade and comes back around? Armando Mendez's closet proves that saying.

"My dad wore a lot of just plain blue jeans and a white T-shirt. I like to dress up mine a little bit more with current trends such as shoes and jackets or cardigans. Just add a little more style to my dad's original look," Mendez said.

According to Mendez, picking from the OG himself is the way to go as he often borrows clothing pieces from his dad's closet.



TOO COOL. Armando Mendez's dad, in a white T-shirt and red, plaid button-up, poses with family.



Sarah Lawrence

STUDENTS FIND STYLE INSPIRATION IN PARENTS' CLOSETS AND OLD PHOTOS

THROWBACK THREADS

"Back in my day,"... Blah, blah, blah. Doesn't everyone know how that goes? Kids are usually flooded with their parents' precious nostalgia. Did anyone really pay attention? It seems so, as students see more and more of their parents' fashion trends from back in their day filling the clothing racks of popular stores.

FROM TIMELESS, HIGH-WAISTED BOTTOMS AND TATTOO CHOKERS TO PLATFORM SANDALS AND FRINGE, STUDENTS ARE ROCKING THROWBACK STYLES FROM ALL THE DECADES.

By Sarah Lawrence

IN THE BAG: MAKEUP



- Translucent Powder and Powder Brush — Keeps face oil at bay
- Concealer — Helps to cover any pop-up blemishes
- Mascara — Adds length and volume to your lashes
- Lip Balm/Color- For lip touch ups

FIRST AND TEN, DO IT AGAIN. Friday night lights shine on junior Ariadna Gonzalez's face as she cheers along with her teammates at the homecoming game against the Coronado T-Birds. A smile in place, she stays in perfect sync with her team as she keeps the student section at the SAC hyped for the game. "I was really excited," Gonzalez said. "It was my very first year as a varsity cheerleader."



Claudia Cardiel



Melanie Marentes

THE FINAL ROAR. With hands in the air and a raspy, spirited yell, senior Annette Peña demonstrates her school spirit along with her senior class. Awarded the spirit stick during the pep rally, the seniors threw streamers, confetti and inflatable beach balls to achieve the title of loudest class in the gym. "We were finally on the senior side," Peña said. "It felt like an accomplishment."

THE ENTIRE SCHOOL PREPARES FOR THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH UNDER THE BIG TOP

Students were sent back to 1952 in the exciting interpretation of "American Horror Story: Freak Show" for homecoming. Teachers and students spent their Saturdays preparing the school for one of the most popular time of the year — homecoming week.

"Everyone was involved, the school was full like any other school day because of all of the organizations helping out," junior Lailah Rodriguez-Fournier said.

For new high school principal Cindy Retana, this was her first homecoming experience with El Dorado.

"It is different because as a

principal you're so proud to see the school, and everything they've worked for and established in 12 years," she said.

Thursday evening, the parade was underway. Floats carrying groups of students from different teams and organizations slowly drove into the parking lot where DJ Gavin Torres, Eric Dominguez, and Omar Diaz were awaiting to pump up all those who came to watch the traditional Burning of the "E.D."

"As we awaited the burning, we were roaring. When the actual burning happened, everyone all out screamed. It

was kind of the bass drop of the parade," senior Roberto Ramirez said.

Senior Austyn Hill, Luis Marquez, Sergio Gonzalez and Nathaniel Whitaker walked on the stage to motivate students to fill the student section at the SAC as they battled against the Coronado T-Birds. Aztecs were victorious with a score of 49-28.

"The game was very exciting and every time my brother (William Croslen) made a big tackle, the entire band would cheer for him," junior David Croslen said.

At 8 p.m. on that Saturday

• "AS WE AWAITED
• THE BURNING, WE
• WERE ROARING."
• - ROBERTO RAMIREZ, 12

night, dancing heels clicked against the wooden floor and Power 102 DJ Mike D. played popular tunes. A freaky week ended with the most spectacular of shows — the dance.

"It helped make my senior year memorable," senior Martha Perez said.

By Melanie Marentes

IT'S A TEXAS THING

Chrysanthemums, often called mums, are the traditional symbol used to represent homecoming, but only in Texas. Starting in the 1920s, mums were simply a small corsage with a flower and some ribbon, but over the decades have become more elaborate and bigger in size. Ranging in sizes, prices vary from \$15-\$190. Whether students bought their own or it was given by a boyfriend or girlfriend, mums are a form of expression for each personality.

Seniors Samantha Poole, 12 and Ailev Hernandez, 12



Eva Ramirez, 12



Jonathan Castro, 12 and Anaisa Diaz, 12



Fabian Gomez

BURN BABY, BURN. Students cheer as the E.D. stands lit at the parade and junior Karina Cortez enjoys the moment with her close friends. The crowd pushed closer to take the perfect Snapchat shot while the band played the Aztec cheerburst. "I block everything out in the moment," Cortez said. "My heart just feels so spirited."

TUG-OF-CLASS. With a slipping foot and red hands from rope burns, sophomore Shelby Valencia pulls the rope with all her might during the tug of war game at the homecoming pep rally. With one mighty tug, she gave the sophomore class a victory as the senior players lost their foot grip and slipped. "I felt like I had to win," Valencia said. "I knew that if I gave up even for a second the seniors would win."



Mia Drake

Daniel Nuñez



A FIT OF GIGGLES. Faces full of uncontrollable laughter, seniors Austyn Hill and Sergio Gonzalez wait in the lobby for the doors to open at the dance. As team players on the football field, they were able to spend their last homecoming with their mutual group of friends. "We walked in as if it was a 'quince,'" Gonzalez said. "We were laughing at our formation of walking."

ROYAL JESTERS. Poses set, seniors Leslie Betancourt and Roberto Ramirez joke around while they keep their balance on the moving truck. Chosen as IB nobility by their class, they dressed as creepy clowns to go along with the homecoming theme. "It was a privilege to be chosen as IB nobility," Betancourt said. "It's awesome to be able to represent IB to the community."

Claudia Cardiel



THE WHOLE STORY

Trapfest Black Party, held Sept. 26, brought downtown El Paso to life.

Occuring on the same day as the homecoming dance, many students attended the music tour instead.

"I just felt like going to Trap Fest this year, because I want to do everything else my senior year," sophomore Karla Ramirez said.



Photo submitted by Karla Ramirez

MELODY AVENUE

Music bounced off buildings and filled the street, as eager ravers invaded the area around Cleveland Square Park. The bright strobes and flashing lights illuminated the party from a mile away.

Senior Daniel Perez shares the essentials to make it through early-morning physical training sessions with the U.S. Army.

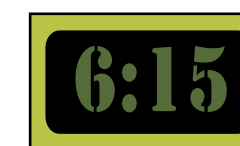
1. Sanctioned PT outfit for exercise.



2. Stay energized.



3. Wake up early.



4. Be on time, or else extra P.T.



America Lara

BRING THE BASS. Playing music at an event for I Heart Media at Kia Integrity car dealership, senior Eric Dominguez pumps up the audience on a sunny Saturday morning. His main focus is always to make people happy through his music. "I felt good knowing that the people there were jamming out and just sending positive vibes to them," Dominguez said.



America Lara

DONUT WORRY. Managing to keep a smile on his face through a busy work day, junior Jimmy Cativo hands out sweet treats at Krispy Kreme. As the holiday spirit spreads, so do customers lining up for their free donut at Krispy Kreme. By closing time only a couple trays of donuts were left. "It was so packed that it seemed like the people coming were just infinite," Cativo said.

America Lara



GIVE ME 20. Push-ups, sit ups and a 2-mile run are a typical day for senior Daniel Perez as he sweats through PT in the early morning hours on Fort Bliss with the United States Army. Not fully realizing how physically demanding the military would be, Perez actually failed to complete the push-up standard requirement. "The first time was scary because you know nothing about the military but they're actually nice and helpful," Perez said. "We went out to a high school track and I failed my first physical training test," Perez said.

ICE, ICE BABY. Managing work and school can be tough, but junior Daisy Guzman handles physics homework and making blue raspberry snow cones just fine at Bahama Bucks. "I knew having a job and going to school would be difficult but I love my job and I manage to balance my time," Guzman said.



America Lara

SOMEONE WORTH MELTING FOR. Flashing a royal smile for the camera, junior Sarah Lawrence, portraying Queen Elsa from "Frozen," poses with a baby girl at Cielo Vista Mall for Dreams Come True Princess Parties. Making children smile is Lawrence's motivation to work as a Disney princess with the company. "Even when I don't feel like going to work, I have to and the kids just make my day so much better," Lawrence said.

Danielle Miller



FROM PUSHING PLAY TO PRINCESS PRETENDING, STUDENT JOBS ARE ABOUT MORE THAN JUST WORK

PASSION FOR PLAY

It's the butterflies in your stomach. It's the ringing in your ears. It's the bass of the music in your chest — and all of the people staring, waiting, expecting. For seniors Omar Diaz and Eric Dominguez the dream of spinning records for Power 102.1 has become a reality.

"When we're performing, the whole world disappears," Dominguez said.

The young DJs perform at events for car dealerships, school rallies and festivals and bigger events such as StreetFest.

By far Diaz's favorite gig has been StreetFest, which takes place

annually in Downtown El Paso, attracting over 12,000 people. There are five main stages with music ranging from alternative to Latin.

According to Diaz, he gained exposure and experience playing for such a big crowd and it has motivated him to want to play for even bigger audiences. The feeling he gets when he's on stage is like no other.

"It's something different every time and it never disappoints," Diaz said.

As Diaz and Dominguez thrill crowds of party-goers, junior Elsa — scratch that — junior Sarah

Lawrence charms children with the magic of a Disney princess. She flawlessly brings together the hair, the makeup, the gown and the voice to become favorite Disney heroines for Dreams Come True Princess Parties.

But being a princess doesn't come easy. Wearing a constant smile is a necessity, making a wide-eyed child stare excitedly at the princess of their dreams. Luckily, it comes naturally to Lawrence. She loves being around the kids and seeing how much joy she brings them.

"Just seeing the kids reactions when they're really into whoever I am and seeing them go crazy for

● "WHEN WE'RE PERFORMING, THE WHOLE WORLD DISAPPEARS."
● - ERIC DOMINGUEZ, 12

me," Lawrence said.

No matter what is going on in her real, not-so-royal life, she puts it aside. Nothing else matters to her more than the kids she works with. Lawrence takes advice from the princess that she often plays, Elsa, from "Frozen" — conceal don't feel, don't let them know."

By America Lara



Danielle Miller

1. Always smile
2. Wig on fleek
3. Stay in character
4. Know your story
5. Clean your teeth

HOW TO BE A PRINCESS

Junior Sarah Lawrence gives five tips on how to be the perfect princess for Dreams Come True Princess Parties, a company that she works for on the weekends. Lawrence has played the role of Elsa from "Frozen," Aurora from "Sleeping Beauty," Cinderella and much more.