

Falcons rewind music taste, JoBros king of 2000s

By Payton Romans

From the revolutionary jazz period of the '20s to the progressive rock period of the '50s, America's culture can be expertly labeled with the music each generation created that shattered the social norm. Even just five years ago, the style of music changed dramatically to what is at the top of the charts today.

Senior **Noah McCullough** is a music producer who goes by the pseudonym Anson Reed. He is one of six people to be accepted to IUPUI for a new music technology/production major. He performed his original song, "Promises," from his EP (extended play) record, Empty Rooms, on WZPL's the "Smiley Morning Show." He says that music trends have influenced his own music, which is greatly inspired by Lorde, his favorite artist.

"The sound and techniques used in music culture are always changing, and it is sort of the job of the artist to keep up with those trends to prevent an outdated sound," says McCullough. "If I am unfond of the sound in my own genre, I will try to create something more unique."

Junior **Dawt Cin** says the changing of styles is what makes a popular artist consistent, and that a perfect example

of that today is Bruno Mars.

"I think there's always a stand out performer that sort of defines every generation, and for us, Bruno Mars is really becoming that icon."

According to The Top 100 on the Billboard charts, Bruno Mars has had a hit single in the top five most popular songs in 2018 and five years ago.

In 2013, 'When I Was Your Man' was number four. Today, 'Finesse' is at number three.

Sophomore **Diana Pyle** elaborated on generational stand outs.

"The '50s were all about Elvis; he started a movement. The '60s had the Beatles of course; and Led Zeppelin was the '70s; Madonna, the '80s; and Nirvana the '90s. As for the 2000s, I hate to say it but...the Jonas Brothers," says Pyle with an embarrassed smile.

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With the course of music history being filled with musical extremities and changes, what does the current generation make of its opportunity to mold its own history?

"Our generation's music is trap. Our parents think that it's just a bunch of beat drops but if they listened to the words, they'd see how meaningful it is," says junior **Beth Par**.

Like Par, other students agree that instead of the audible sound of the music, it's the lyrics behind it that make today's music so powerful.

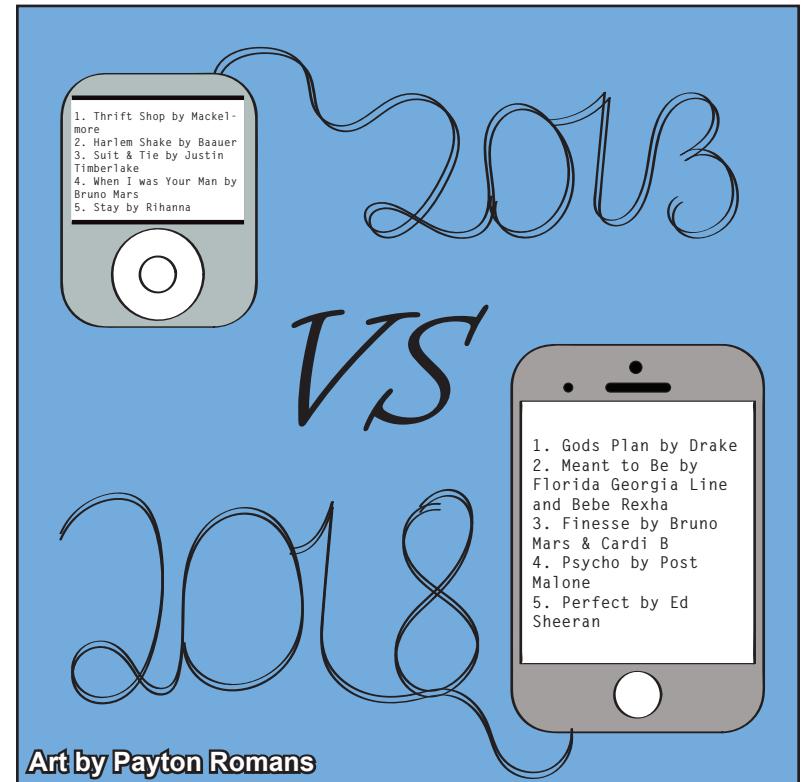
"We've made statements. Kendrick Lamar is someone everyone listens to now because of how he presents himself and the messages he writes about. It's very relatable," says Cin.

McCullough agrees that music today compared to five years ago is more progressive.

"It's become more empowering and focused on giving everyone a voice. There are more people of color, more women, more LGBT singers out there, and that diversity is part of what makes this generation of music all the better."

Senior **Alivia Shake** describes today's music as more of a political statement.

"What makes our generation's music original is that it has a real message, a political statement that represents the kids of today."



Art by Payton Romans

First SLED program lets students present leadership ideas



Juniors Alex Hooton, Rajveer Dheer, Jakob Opsahl, and Tha Phang present their ideas to the administrators (Photo provided by Nikki Knight).

By Jaelyn Reynolds

SLED, a new student leadership program standing for Students Leading Education, is starting at Perry with five female and five male students.

"To me this means that students are advocates for changes that they would like to see in their school," said biology teacher **Nikki Knight**, who is leading SLED at PMHS. The program is targeted toward students who want their voices heard. Those who join get the chance to give their opinion on administrative issues.

Those in SLED aren't already members of StuVo, but new leaders from around the school.

"We wanted to go a different route and build leadership in the students teachers recognized as having leadership skills in their classrooms," Knight said. "So a few junior teachers were asked to send a list of potential candidates. Names that came up often were invited."

SLED will allow for students to be more involved in the decisions that affect their everyday life at school, something that several students voiced interest in when given the opportunity to join.

"My favorite part of the program was being able to present our idea to everyone and actually being able to

voice our opinions," said junior **Abigail Gutierrez**.

For instance, the students involved in SLED want Perry to have a white board in each classroom dedicated to school events. The idea, targeted toward raising school spirit and involvement for those who don't have access to social media or internet outside of school, was presented to administrators.

"My favorite part was watching the students work together, gain confidence and propose great ideas that could have a huge impact on our school as early as next year," said Knight. Gutierrez, along with several other students, were pulled into principal **Kert Boedicker's** office and asked to join.

"He said there is this new leadership program I would love for you guys to be a part of and we said, 'yes,' and that was that," said Gutierrez.

School Initiative, a company working toward improving education through technology, founded SLED. **Brian Knight**, the principal of Southport High School, introduced it to Perry Township. Knight said "He wanted to include Perry students too, so he talked to Mr. Boedicker if he was interested; he was."

Junior **Katie Creager** was one of the students invited to take part in the SLED program. Creager said SLED

"trains students, teachers and administrators on how to use technology to make the community and/or school better."

The program gives students more opportunities to offer ideas on how they think administrators should handle things.

"We had to think about problems in our school and what we can do to fix it," said Gutierrez.

Another idea being presented will be geared toward the administrative aspect as the students pitch their take on the lack of real life experiences the current school curriculum has to offer, and changing that to include a more passion-based learning environment.

Not only do students present their ideas, but they also have the opportunity to talk to those who have the power to actually make a change in our school.

"My favorite part was watching the students work together, gain confidence and propose great ideas that could have a huge impact on our school as early as next year."

- Teacher Nikki Knight