

The New York Times Challenge

What is High School like in 2023?

The New York Times

What High School Is Like in 2023: A Multimedia Challenge for Teachers and Teens

What can you show or tell us to help explain what it's like to be an educator or student in secondary school right now? Submit in words, images, audio or video, from Aug. 16-Oct. 4.

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In 2022, the Times Opinion section asked "What is school for?" and the students at Fremont High School in Oakland answered with their cameras. [See their work here.](#) [Jonathan Jones Drexler](#)



CONTESTS

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How do students experience discrimination in high school?

✓ The RESTRICTIONS. ✗ ? NO ? STOP ✓

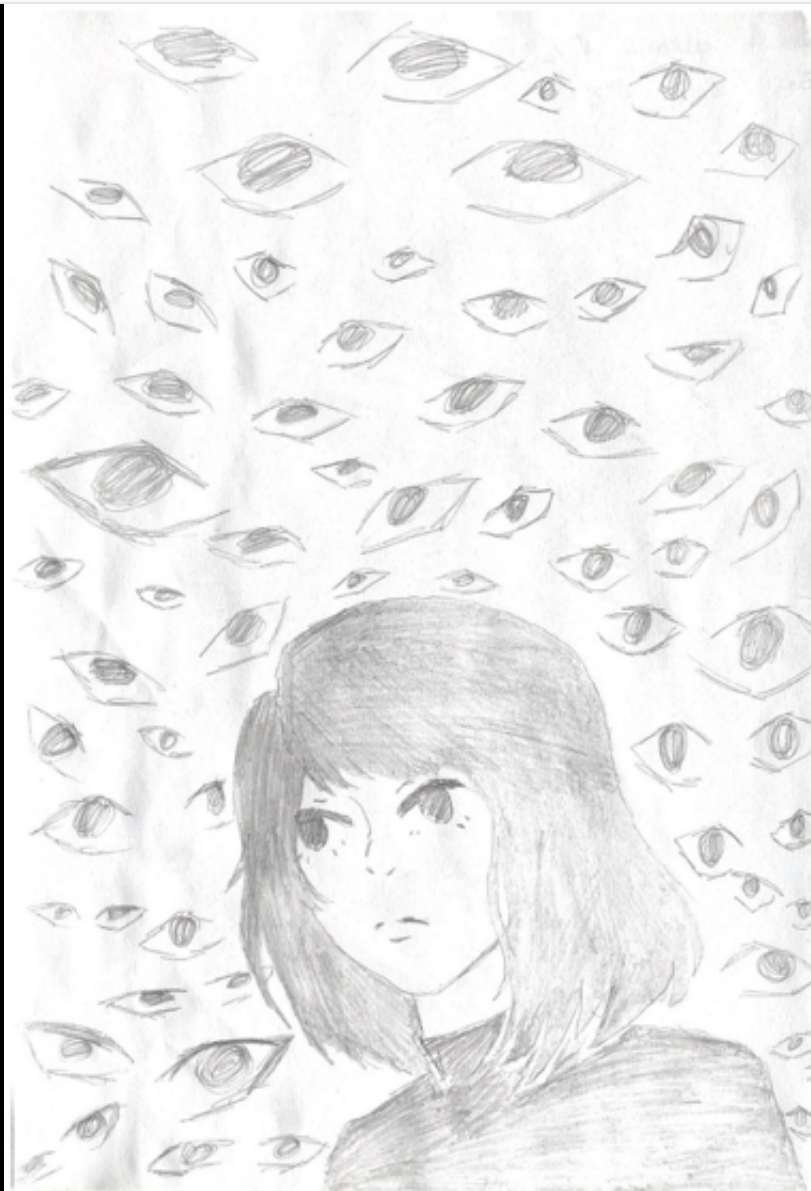
The students in France can suffer A LOT from the restrictions of the clothes! By example, we have the abaya or the hijab which can affect A LOT of lives and their liberty! This system is really different from the U.S where the tolerance is higher. ↑

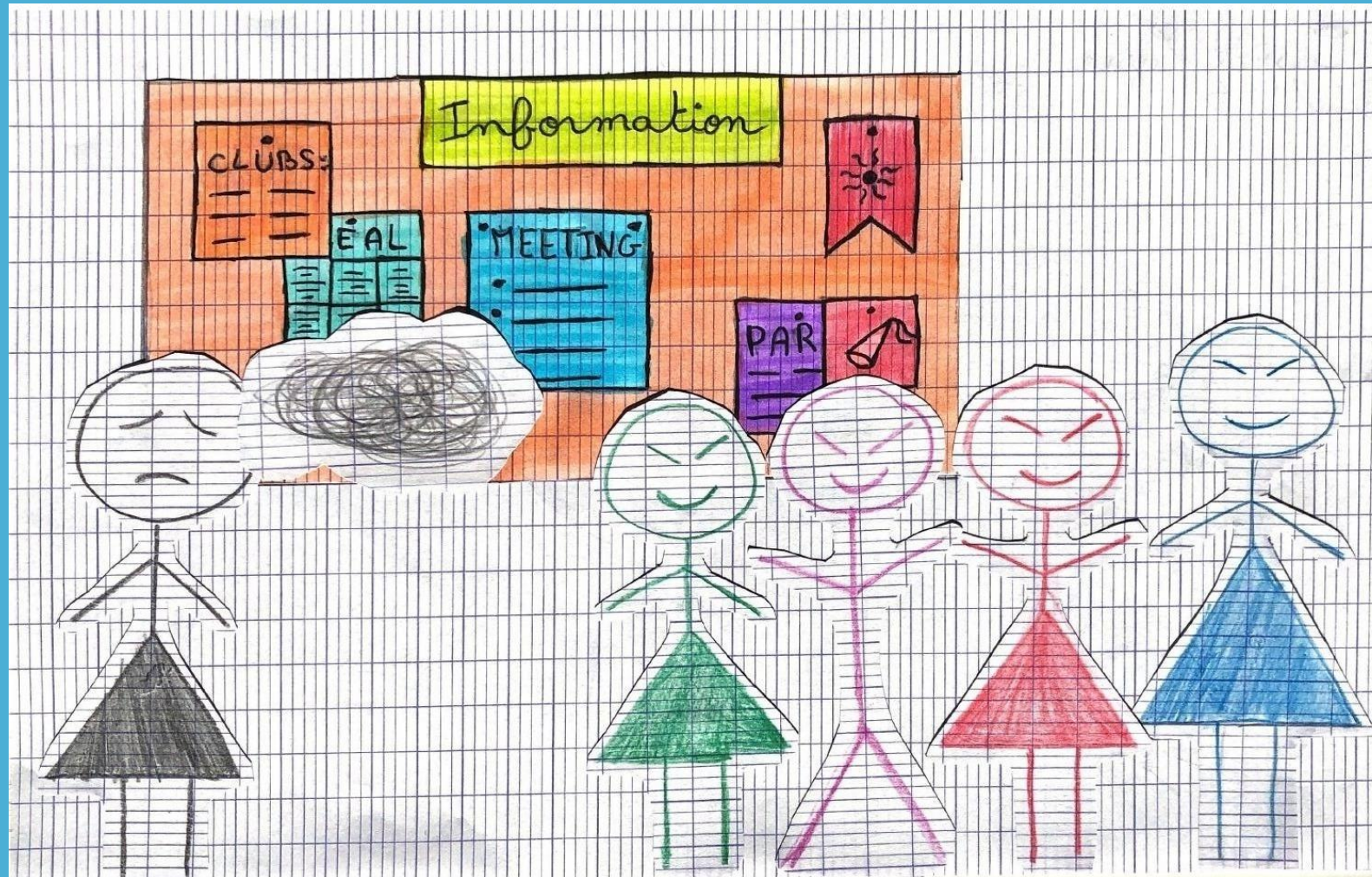
✓ The different social classes.

In every country, we find different social classes in high schools which create differences between the students about how they dress, how much their clothes cost, what is the mark of their shoes... It's a lot because of the money.

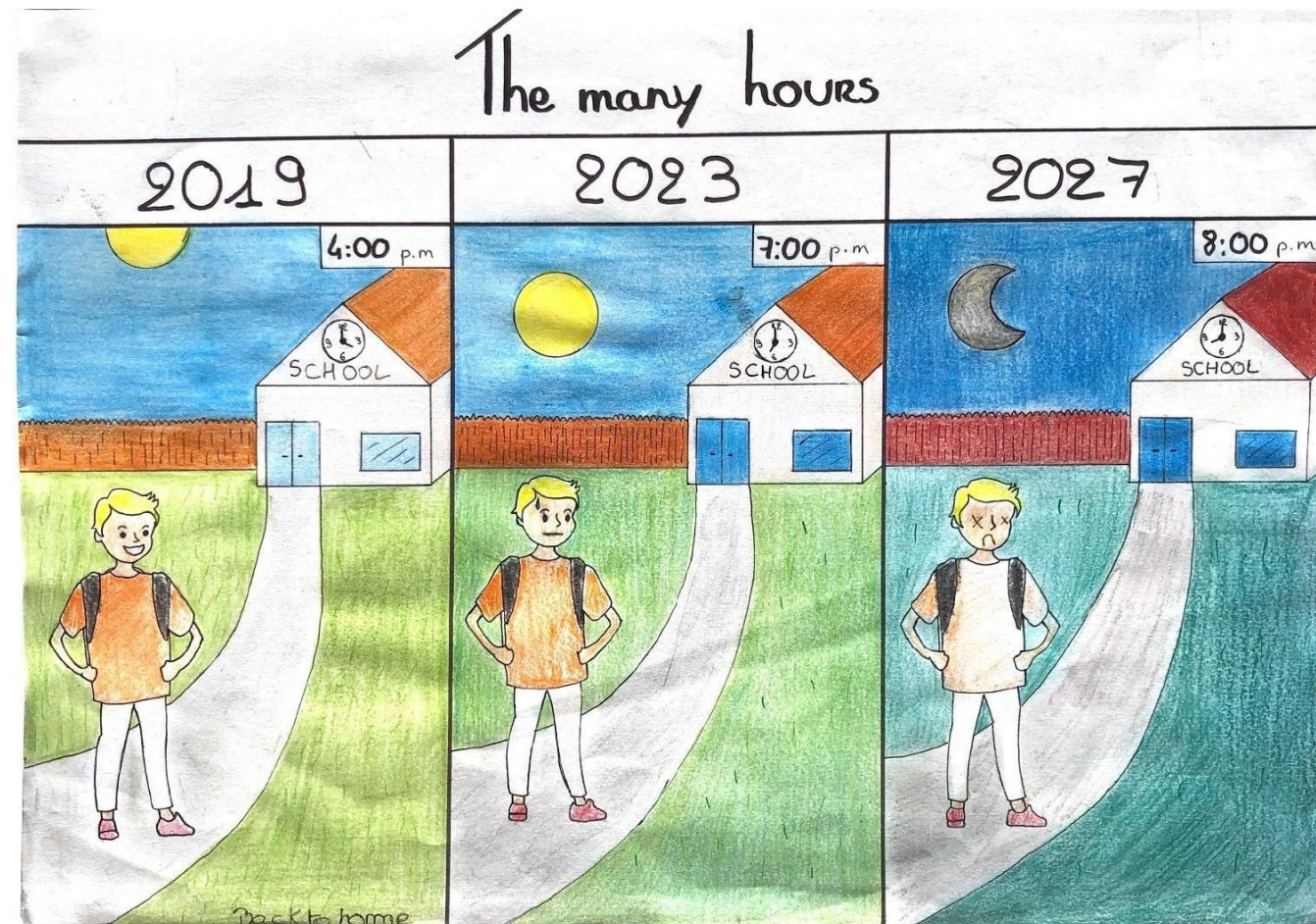
✓ Your capacities

The grades can feel like a competition between the students and sometimes persons can feel "STUPID". It can also be because of how the teachers treat their students with different treatments. In France, we have in high schools a lot of studies = the general, the technology, the professional and others... But, they're a lot of ~~Prejudices~~ where the generals are always smarter than the others... → inequality.





'You have to wake up so early in the morning, work hard all day, you finish school very late, take the bus and come back home so late that you just want to rest...'





'We feel everyone is watching us constantly.'

'I sometimes have difficulties breathing during orals.'

'I spend more time doing my homework than being with my family or taking care of myself.'



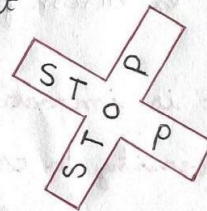


DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL

- ☐ Harassment:
- ☐ verbal
 - ☐ on social network
 - ☐ sexual
 - ☐ physical / hit

Cause

- ☐ race
- ☐ gender and sexuality
- ☐ morphology
- ☐ social environment
- ☐ solitude
- ☐ between students and teachers
- ☐ religion
- ☐ disability
- ☐ without valid reasons



Consequences for victim

- ☐ mental health affected
- ☐ school phobia
- ☐ more seriously can lead to suicide

For harassers

- ☐ punished by law
- ☐ exclusion from the school

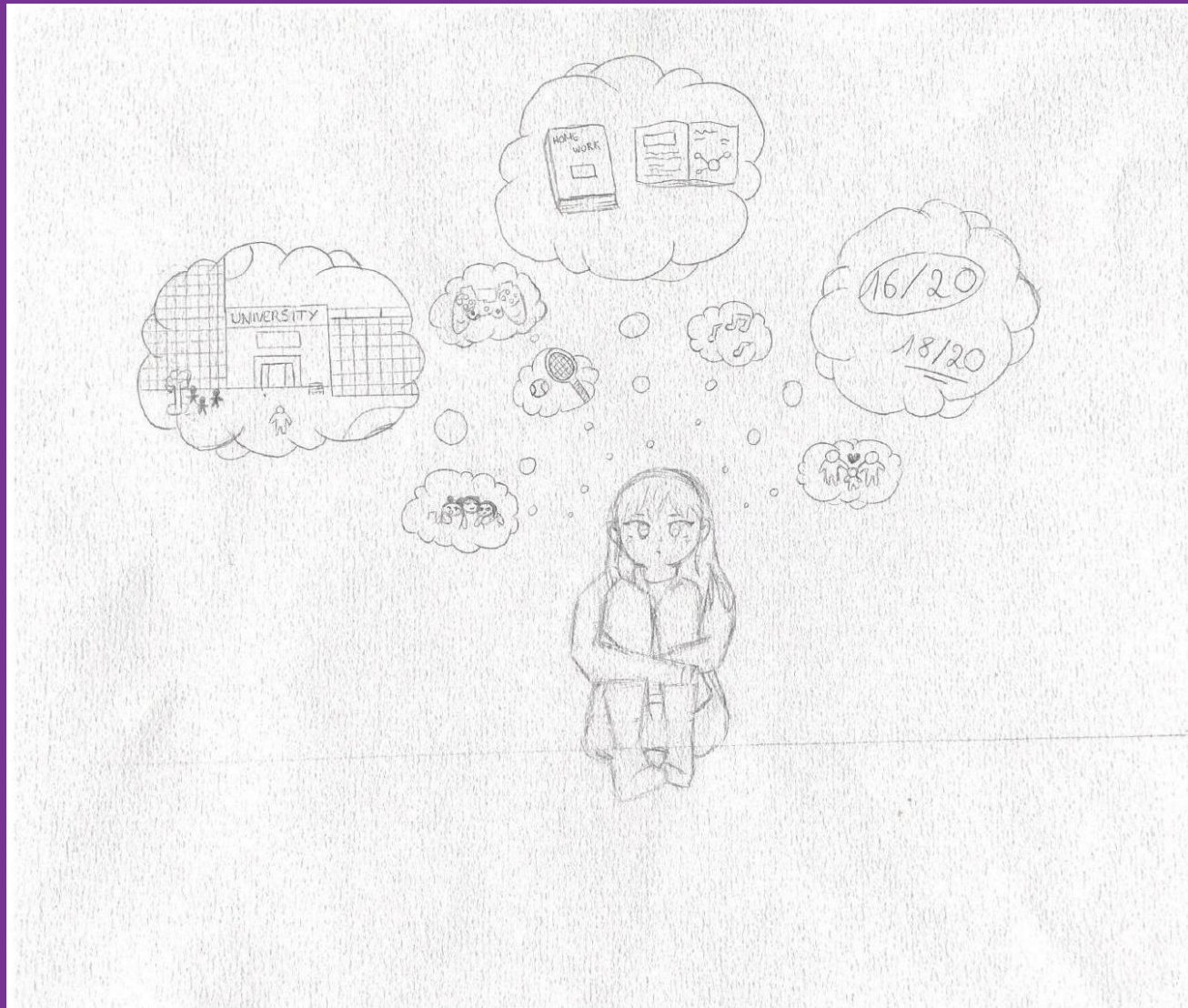
It is important to promote inclusion and diversity to create a fair educational environment for all students

Is it really necessary to harass people?

'The goal of my drawing is to show teachers or people in general what is hidden inside our head, what's in our thoughts. '

'The fear of not having time or skills or of forgetting something'

'The pressure of wanting to succeed, of having good grades.'



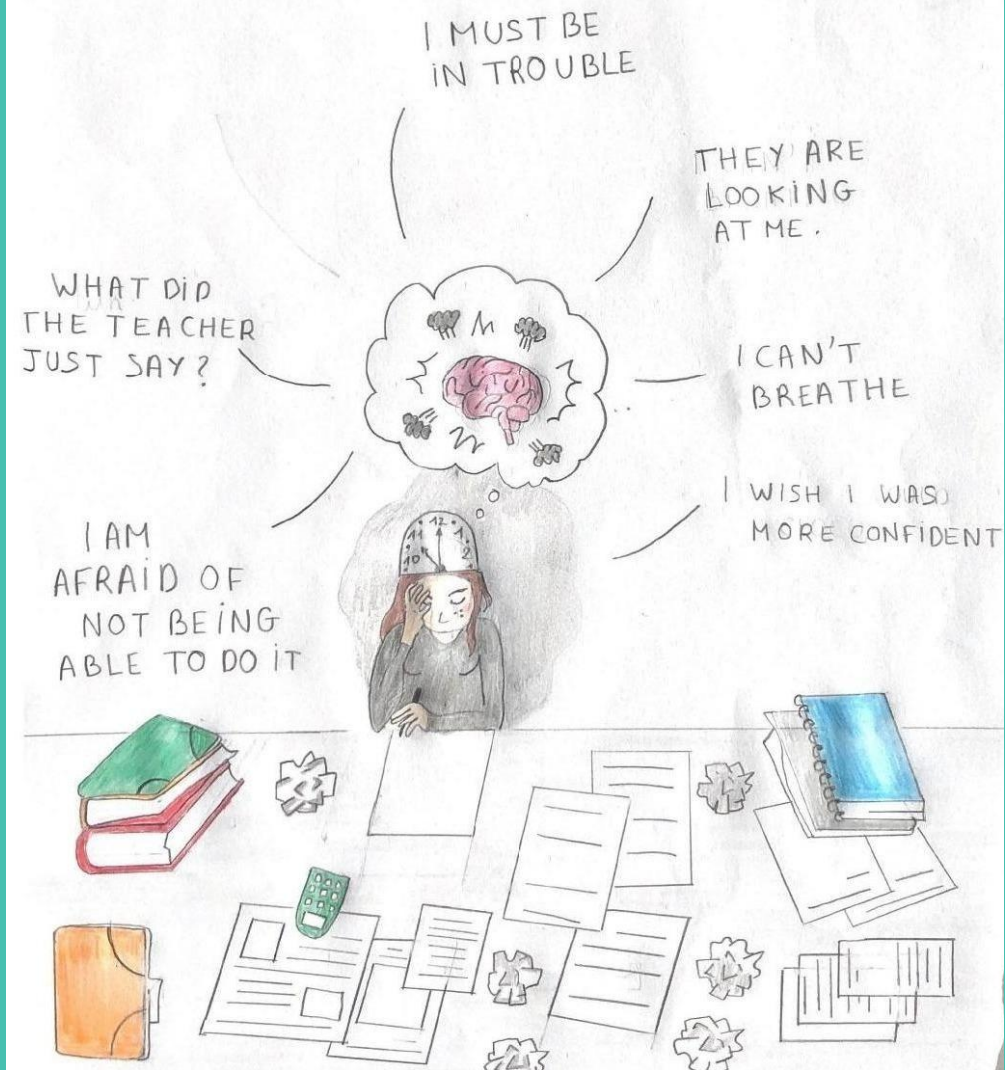
'I wish teachers understood that we aren't machines. The curriculum has changed because we now have advanced classes like advanced physics or maths so the amount of homework has doubled.'

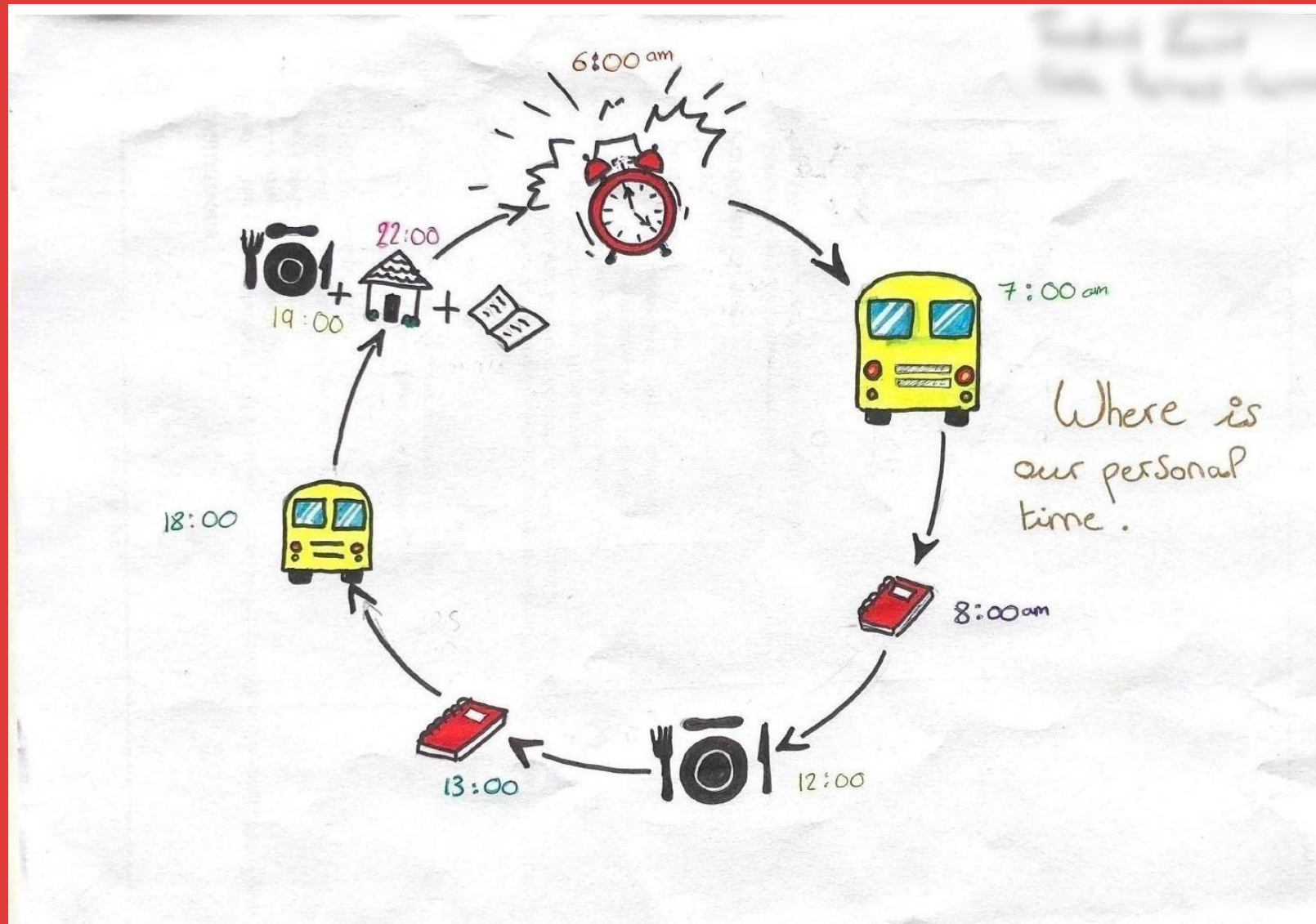
'I am so stressed that it sometimes makes me sick.'

'I wish people could have more empathy.'

'I wish I was more confident'

'The crumpled paper balls represent the doubts I feel about my work.'





This photo represents how lucky we are to be studying in Deauville and being able to admire the beach and the sea on a daily basis!

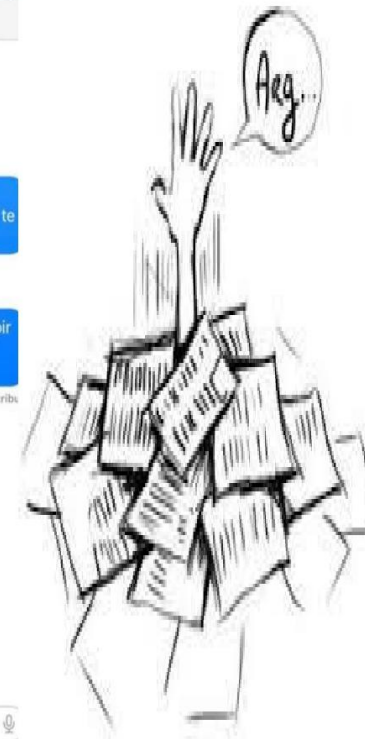
We all know being a student is hard sometimes but we have to find little things that bring us joy: the location of our school doesn't help us to stay focused but keeps us motivated!



'The best thing in school for me
is being with my friends and
having fun with them'



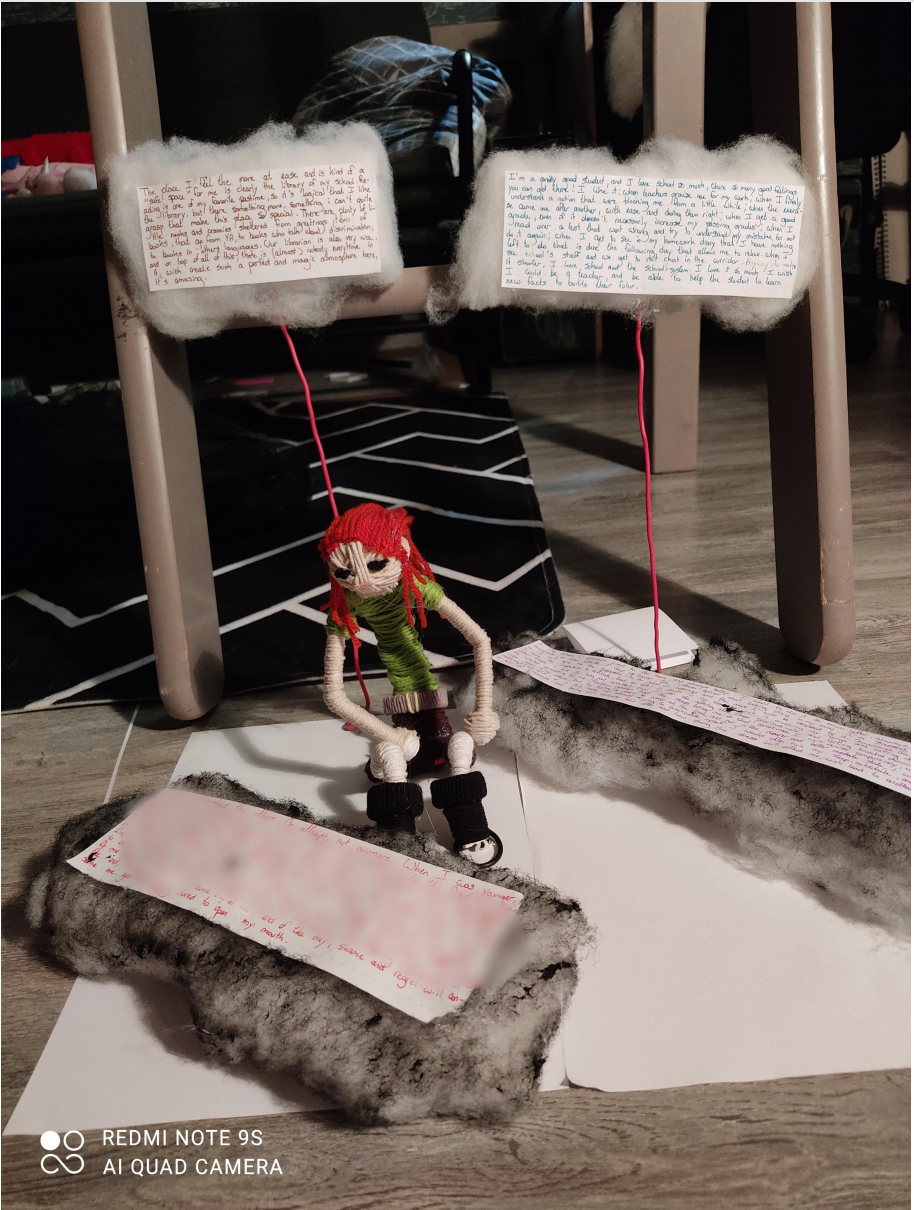
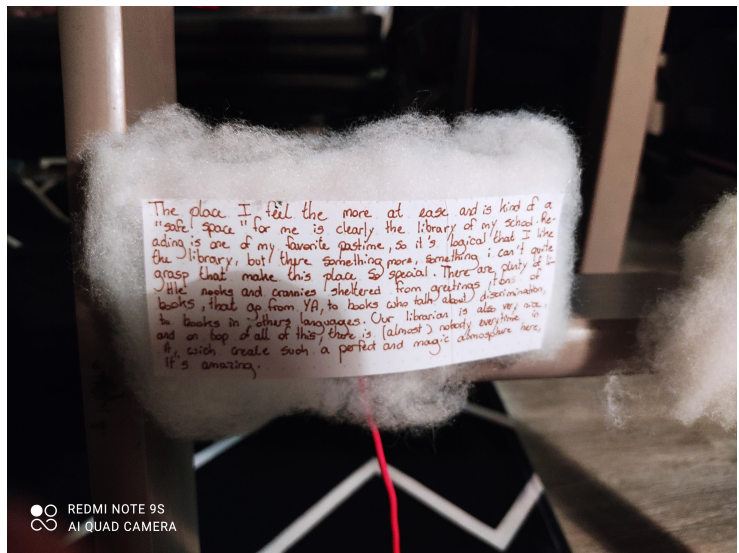
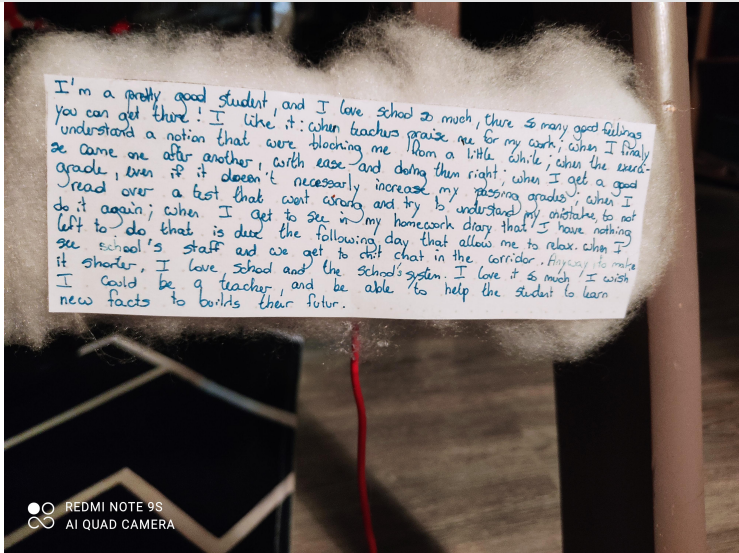
'I feel I was only born to have good grades'

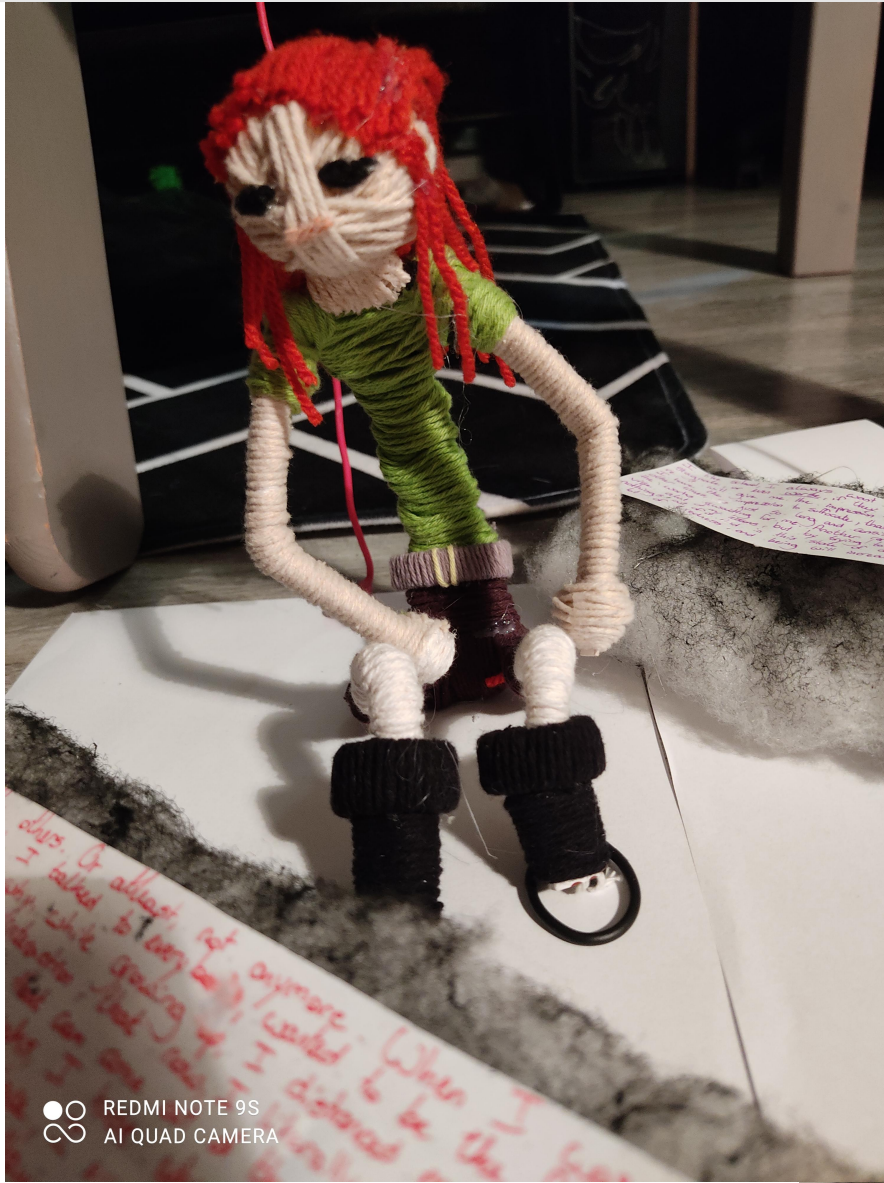




EQUALITY

Despite the fact that we are in 2023 and all the prevention there is, racism still exists. Students are bullied because they are black. We wish a school without racism, where all students respect each other. It will take time but the fight has only just begun. Don't hesitate to tell someone if you are a victim or witness of racism. It is thanks to everyone who dares to speak, who dares to be an actor in this fight. We want to win the "multimedia challenge" because we want to support everyone and fight, on our scale, against racism. We will end with a quote from Martin Luther King "The silence of the good guys is more dangerous than the brutality of the bad guys". Thank you for taking the time to read this text.







The academic pressure



Students define this subject like a consistent stress or a anxiety in relation to the grades they obtain but also with a feeling of unhappiness, depressed in school like in their house.

$$\sin(\theta) = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}}$$



A TEACHER'S POINT OF VIEW

For the challenge I decide to interview a history teacher from Marie-30.

What do you think about school system in 2023?

"This is a big question! I think that the French education system needs to be reviewed from A to Z... Depending on the levels, some curriculum are too long (and complex for the students), which puts pressure on both teachers and students. And I'm not even talking about the problems related to teaching (paperwork, nonrecognition, family life which takes a hit, etc)."

From your point of view, what do the students think about the school?

"I think that students suffer from the current system... Grading creates pressure for them and can sometimes even create unhealthy competition between students. I also think that the students do not feel listened to (their well-being generally comes last unfortunately...) no protected (because even if there are things put in place, they are not necessarily aware of it)."

Does this job bring you joy?

"Complicated question. On the one side like teaching, teaching young people, having relationships with them and seeing them evolve in life and in their learning. But on the other side there are negatives... notably because of stress, sometimes tiring parents and so on. In itself, I love my job but, I must admit that it is sometimes tiring and that I don't see myself arriving in front of a class over 60 years old..."

What do you wish more people understood?

"That the profession of teacher is an exciting profession, and that the holidays do not make us lazy since we work (lesson preparation). WE ARE NOT LAZY."

What meaning do you find in the profession of teacher?

"Communication, sharing, help, kindness, learning. These are the terms I would use to define my vision of the profession."

What is the hardest thing in school?



"For me it's finding the right balance between personal life and professional life... I know that last year I clearly sacrificed my family life because I arrived in a new establishment with new classes and missions... I worked a lot and I think it even had an impact on my health... For children, it's a bit the same I think the accumulation of assignment plus sport plus friends... But the hardest part of your schooling is finding your way."

Has the pandemic changed the way schools operate?

"In itself in my teaching practice it hasn't changed much... On the other hand from a personal point of view, it pushes me to be hyper vigilant (for my loved ones and also for me) So obviously I do tests as soon as I have symptoms and wearing a mask, etc... It still puts extra pressure."

What is the thing that should be improved?

"In the world of teaching, I would say that we should reduce the number of students in classes, promote listening and above all concentrate our work on well-being. And from a personal point of view I would like to be able to do more and more."




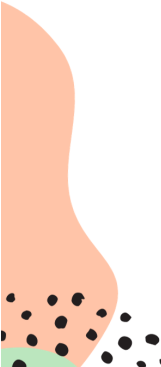
Everyone's learning,
Everyone's texting,
Everyone's smoking.
What am i doing?

Dressed the same way,
Talking the same way,
Thinking the same way.
Can we go another way ?

So many shorts,
So many skirts,
So many jeans.
So many choices !

Can we just be different ?
Can we not be judged ?
Can we be loved the way we are ?
Can we be who we are ?

Go away if you don't like me.
I'm not gonna change for you,
I need to love me
But i don't need to love you !



Be proud of you,
I know that's not easy.
Be proud of you,
Personality is the key !

The attitude of the new generation in high schools

Being a high school student in 2023 is such a scary but interesting challenge at the same time that can lead to good things in the student's education. In addition to this, technology plays an important role in his life.

One of the most notable aspects is the integration of advanced technology into the learning process. Smartboards, tablets and online platforms have become essential tools in classrooms, enabling interactive and digital learning experiences. This change allowed for more personalized and engaging lessons, as well as greater access to educational resources.

However, this technological transformation also comes with its challenges. Students use a lot of multimedia, which can cause problems due to Internet skills.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also played a role in online and blended learning. Students became adept at using video conferencing tools for virtual classrooms and collaborating with peers. While this flexibility offers comfort, it can lead to the closure of self-confidence and self-expression.

In 2023, the educational framework is trying its best to add and process the learning program for students to make it interesting and as productive as possible.

Extracurricular activities remain an integral part of secondary education, providing opportunities for personal growth and development. Sports are very important in the education of students. It takes up time and helps students to be concerned with something useful outside of multimedia.

In my opinion, being a student in secondary school in 2023 is a stain on technology and its adaptation in school life, the balance between the integration of technology and real life. It is an era of adaptability, where students must take advantage of the benefits of technology while navigating its challenges to prepare for the opportunities and challenges of the future.

