**Making New Friends!**

Welcome back from summer! I hope everyone had plenty of fun – but now you’re back in school, you might want to make friends with all the new people (or not, suit yourself)! So, here’s a few icebreakers that might be cheesy/cringey, but you must start somewhere!

* “I like your outfit/jewelry/hair! Where did you buy it/get it styled?” A common compliment, with a little more added on! Get to know your peers! If you shop at the same places or go to the same salons, you’ve already got the basis of any relationship: something common between you!
* “I love that book/author! What kinds of things do you read?” For the bookworms out there, bond with someone new over a shared favorite genre or favorite author!
* “What’s your favorite animal?” While simple, the way anyone answers can reveal a lot about them! Make sure to stay judgement-free and refrain from saying “ew” if someone has an uncommon favorite animal – it can hurt quite a bit!
* And last but not least, “What’s your name?” The simplest and most common question to ask (that you should always ask, mind you) is always a good introduction to your peers.

**Regarding Changes**

Every Cougar has heard about the new phone pouches they plan to implement as well as the whirlwind of new and confusing changes that are unwelcome to most returning students. Especially on the registration days, where I saw many 10th and 12th graders confused by the information provided by the volunteers (at no fault of their own). It is difficult to comment on the future of these pouches, especially considering the potential safety and security concerns involved on both sides of the yay-or-nay argument.

However, I would like to urge the staff and students with concerns to use your voices! Communicating your concerns with the administration and even the school board, since a few of these changes seem to be district-wide, may lead to changes being made. Organize with your fellow students to put together a well-worded petition, protest (though please be careful – do not do anything that would put others in danger!) or find your own methods (within reason). If you believe a policy is harmful to you or others, don’t be afraid to speak up!

Also, regarding Journalism, as it is a club this year, keep an eye out for flyers or information detailing meetings and talk to Mr. Philipsen, the head of the club, for further information! If you would like to write a “Potty Mouth” edition of your own, come check it out!