

Student slang is Rude, Raw, and disRespectful

by McKenzie Connell, staff writer

The medical definition of retard, according to medicinenet.com, is "The condition of having an IQ measured as below 70 to 75 and significant delays or lacks in at least two areas of adaptive skills."

It does not mean someone is "stupid" or acting inappropriately. It is not a word that should be used as an insult for someone's outfit or a school assignment.

Yet these are situations in which the word "retard" or "autistic" are often used. These two medical conditions are not the only words that are used to describe someone's life. Students use the word "bipolar" to describe someone who shows his or her emotions. Or they use "tourettes" to describe someone who started swearing. Having OCD is not wanting to be a perfectionist; it is a real condition that real people have.

Each of these scenarios occur in the hallways and classrooms of CMR, despite the fact that none of them are appropriate. During the past few weeks, we as a student body have been asked to raise awareness for mental health. Mental retardation, autism, bipolar disorder, tourettes, and OCD are not terms to be taken lightly.

On the ABC television show "Speechless," which follows the hilarious life of the DiMeo family, characters demonstrate how using the word "retard" is not appropriate. JJ DiMeo, the eldest son, has cerebral palsy. With Minnie Driver as the irrepressible mother, anyone who uses "retard" around her has a price to pay.

Since Ray and Dylan DiMeo, JJ's siblings, have grown up in this environment, they understand this concept. Throughout episode 21, Ray struggles with wanting to date a girl who uses the word "retard," and while JJ gives him permission, Ray understands the weight of the decision.

As my family watched this, we realized we are not the only ones who believe in this standard. Families with or without relations with these disabilities understand that using these words as slang or insults is rude and inconsiderate. But how does a minority change the opinion and lifestyle of the majority?

As a generation that is exposed to so much information and politically correct statements, we need to use the information we're given. Instead of raising future generations under the mindset that saying "retard" or "autistic" is acceptable, we need to raise an awareness of the minority that exists inside our community -- an awareness of the offense that could be caused.

So many students will apologize for using the word around a person who could have autism, and are truly sorry; however, these same students don't feel sorry when they are not in the company of a person with a disorder. We, as a student body, need to be aware that using retard, autism, bipolar, tourettes, and OCD, as slang terms, is not only incorrect, but wrong.

Volume in the media center is too intense

by Grace Carr, staff writer

Charles M. Russell High School has limited areas offering students the ability to efficiently study and accomplish assignments. One of the few parts of the building fitting this criteria is the media center.

"It's a busy place," media center specialist Jamie Williams said. "Some come to study and others as a place to socialize."

In the media center, students have access to a wide range of resources to make studying easier, and it provides comfortable seating arrangements for those who just need a quick nap.

However, is it the best environment for students who are trying to complete their school work?

"For the kids that need it to be quiet, it can be hard to study, and that can be kind of a drawback," Williams said. "I think sometimes it can be too loud."

Alicia Carr, another media center specialist, opens the room at 7 a.m. each day.

"From 7 to 7:30 it's usually pretty quiet," Carr said. But between 7:30 and 8, the noise level in the media center can be much louder than necessary, Carr added.

"It becomes more populated and gets louder," Carr said.

Sophomore Cody Hassell has been coming to the media center to do his homework since the beginning of his freshman year.

"There's a lot of resources," he said. "It is the only place to work [around the school]. I get distracted pretty easily at



CMR's media center offers one-on-one help and a myriad of resources, but tends to be crowded and noisy. Photo by Gauthier Paget.

home, so I probably do 90 percent of my homework here."

The media center has also become a popular gathering place. There are more private sections for friends to talk and a larger amount of sitting arrangements available.

"For the most part it is generally a quiet environment," Hassell said. "Sometimes it can get noisy."

President Trump strives for peace and progress

by Julia Gremaux, staff writer

President Donald Trump has been depicted as a sexist, racist, and overall disrespectful individual.

Although much of the country sees some of his actions as un-presidential, many Americans are unfortunately overlooking the various positive things his administration has done while in office, including the nationwide controversial topic of fighting illegal immigration.

Without his wall, President Trump has still successfully lowered the apprehension rate of the illegal immigrants on the U.S.-Mexican border by 48 percent. According to the Washington Post, these apprehension numbers haven't been this low since 1971.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, this is most likely due to the increase in enforcement around not just the border, but forces helping prevent illegal immigration inside the nation as well.

Trump has stuck to his word on diminishing illegal immigration and was truthful when he said that illegal immigration on the U.S.- Mexico border is "the lowest in 17 years."

President Trump has been seen as a "don't just talk about it, do it" kind of President. Four presidents in the past promised to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, but never followed through with that promise.

Trump in just his first 11 months made it happen just like he promised in his campaign.

"I have judged this course of action to be in the best interests of the United States of America and the pursuit of peace between Israel

and the Palestinians," Trump said. "It is also the right thing to do. It's something that has to be done."

His Commander in Chief powers (along with the approval of Congress) give him the ability to start war, but it doesn't mean he would like to use them before he tries peace. Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital was a hope for peace even though he knew he would get a lot of backlash from the United Nations and many Middle Eastern countries in order to live up to his word.

Although the nation's relationship with North Korea has been on edge since the nuclear weapons threats, recently Trump has said he is willing to consider diplomatic talks with North Korea. In hopes for peace he will try and negotiate with Kim Jong-un's government in order to find safety for both our nations.

All tweets aside, President Donald Trump will undoubtedly always put the safety of our country before any of his personal issues with another.



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