

Tik Tok takedown?

Is Tik Tok toxic?

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From Renegade and VSCO Girls, to singing challenges and comedy skits, Tik Tok has it all. Tik Tok, which was formally known as Musical.ly, has evolved from a rebranded, downloadable app, to a multi-million dollar, worldwide platform. Since Aug. 2 2018, Tik Tok has been growing more and more.

The format, content, and even the name is different from what it used to be. Tik Tok is one of the most popular apps in the world. Lately it has been having a different identity. Instead of the light hearted lip syncing and the relatable creators, Tik Tok has become such an easy way to share political opinions along with the positive and negative forms of discussion about said opinons.

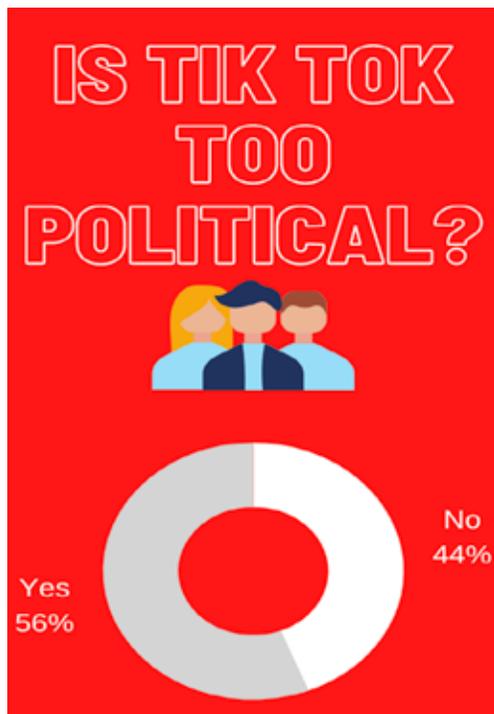
Megan Minks, sophomore, said, "I've had the app for about a year, and at first it was all about music, and spreading positivity, but now its mainly about politics." She also stated that "Its great to express your opinions but when your party becomes your identity, and you start to disrespect others, it becomes a problem." Tik Tok is such a large platform, which means there is the ability to

reach such a large audience. freshman, Larkin Holder said

"I really like the app because there are people I can relate to." Yes, Tik Tok has its really good qualities. For example, you can meet new people, find relatable content, and spread joy. Lately, joy isnt the only thing that has been spreading. "The app is very heavy now." Larken Holder, Freshman states. "Yes it's a way for our generation to

express themselves and their opinions, but in the process its becoming very toxic and driven by politics." For a few months, there has been news of Tik Tok getting shut down. It all began due to a political rally that was tampered with. Tons of people on the platform bought tickets to a rally held by President Trump, but no one showed. People can have different opinions on how much impact Tik Tok has. "The power of Tik Tok is very underestimated, look what its already

accomplished," said Minks. Even with the political aspect, and the negative influences the app may have, Tik Tok has still been such a successful, and mostly positive platform for kids, teens, and even adults. The app has changed lives, made people happier, and made its way back into the worlds heart.



Out of a convenience poll of 50 people, 56% said yes and 44% said no.

School far from home

By: Autumn Poston @autumnposton_

New faces at school each year are always a reason for excitement. While having transfers from neighboring schools are usually exciting, welcoming students from other countries takes the cake. Here at MHS, we've had our fair share of foreign exchange students, but none of them have come in times as hectic as these. Eva Arumagi and Stijn de Lang are the two foreign exchange students joining us this school year.

Arumagi came all the way from Estonia to Iowa to complete her senior year. She has thought about coming to America via the foreign exchange program for years but her thoughts were finally put into motion about a year ago. This planning and decision-making process was complicated because of COVID-19, which made the process much more difficult. "It was really iffy if I could come here at one point I really thought I was going to have to come next year, but it worked out," said Arumagi, senior. Even through COVID, Arumagi is excited for the year to come as well as meeting new friends and celebrating classic American traditions.

De Lang made a similar trip to the U.S. from The Netherlands and has also been planning to come to America for a little over a year.

His process to get here went pretty smoothly all things considered. The major difference for him this year, compared to what it would have been previously, is the masks and rules surrounding the pandemic, "The only real difference is the masks and the distancing but other than that there



Stijn de Lang and Eva Arumagi, both seniors, stand together in the hallway, miles away from home.

was nothing major," said de Lang. The pandemic has caused a lot of problems everywhere, but luckily he was still able to join us this year. He is very excited for the opportunity to be in America but definitely misses the warm temperatures at home compared to the frosty climate here in Iowa.

In the end, COVID-19 didn't stop Arumagi or de Lang from following their plans to come to America. Although this year will be a whole lot different than any other year, Marion can still carry on giving foreign exchange students a chance to have an amazing experience. The school hopes to welcome them with wide open arms and give them many wonderful memories to hold on to the rest of their lives.