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JUNIOR AARYAN SHARMA



70%

OF MVHS STUDENTS

have different tastes in media
from their parents

*According to a survey of 83 people



THE

MVHS students and staff reflect on how
different generations perceive current media

BY CORINNA KUO AND BENJAMIN ZHANG

GENERATION

The start of summer 2024 brought an influx of new music, movies and television shows. Junior Aaryan Sharma especially enjoyed listening to the new Sabrina Carpenter album “Short n’ Sweet.” To him, the songs point to a re-emergence of bubblegum pop music — pop songs with catchy choruses — and he loves the happier feeling these songs evoke. However, his parents do not share

the same enthusiasm for summertime music. While Sharma tends towards more mainstream media, his parents enjoy watching movies from the early 2000s, movies they watched when they first came to America.

“Overall, there is a gap in what they find entertaining versus what I find entertaining,” Sharma said. “They don’t like fantasy or sci-fi because they just can’t follow the plot and they find it a bit boring and recycled. Whenever I do ask my parents if they want to go see a movie, they immediately lose interest when I tell them about the plot.”

Nonetheless, Sharma says that everybody inherently has different tastes, which may contribute to the difference between what he and his parents enjoy. Senior Yuktha Prasanth also acknowledges this but says the clear difference between the way they were raised is the biggest factor in the way they perceive current media. Both Sharma and Prasanth refer to the immigrant experience of their

parents, noting how the transition from one country to another is one of the biggest factors for the disconnect.

“There’s definitely some sort of culture shock, with me growing up here in America and my parents growing up in India at a completely different time,” Prasanth said. “One of my dreams since I was in middle school is to go to see a concert live in person, and I feel like going to a concert and experiencing it with them would also help me share my love for artists or their music, but my parents aren’t really open to that kind of idea.”

Prasanth and Sharma both agree the way different generations view the explicit and more mature themes covered in recent movies and albums also contributes to the gap. Prasanth recalls her dad questioning her music taste when she played a song by rapper Megan Thee Stallion — an artist known for her vulgar lyrics — and Sharma notes a similar distaste his parents show for the more crude aspects of American music embraced by many artists.

However, counselor Sylvia Lam says her family’s interests align more closely. Being a mother of two daughters, she spends a lot of time watching TV series that are made for teenagers such as “Abbott Elementary” or based off of book series made for children like “Percy Jackson and

the Olympians,” both of which she says she enjoyed. Rather than an inherent gap between generations, Lam believes there isn’t enough understanding facilitated between parents and children, especially when it comes to more explicit themes.

“I don’t think it’s necessarily parents not being happy, but I think it really has to go back to how we educate our own children and how we ground them because they’re always going to hear things and see things that we may or may not agree with,” Lam said. “I would never shut something down without trying to understand where people or where things are coming from, unless it’s harmful to oneself or to another.”

Recently, Sharma has been purposely picking more family-friendly American media to enjoy with his parents. He embraces the idea of watching things with them to foster a deeper connection, and he hopes that they might be able to branch out and watch other current media as he grows older. To him, the key is striking a balance between what he likes and

what he can share with his family.

“I do want to bridge that gap,” Sharma

said. “I think it is important to make sure that I develop a connection with them, and media is a big part of that. But I also want to make sure that I’m not losing sight of my interests and what I find entertaining just to create that relationship because there’s a way to make sure that you can meet everyone’s needs and find something entertaining for everybody.” ■

THERE’S DEFINITELY SOME SORT OF CULTURE SHOCK.

SENIOR
YUKTHA PRASANTH



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