Welcome to Episode 12 of HoCoCast, your local podcast sponsored by the Howard County Library System... We are Abby, Ronan, Mikhail, and Taylor, bringing you local Howard County happenings from good reads to listening needs.

In our last episode, we began an exploration of local podcasts created by teens. In this episode, we talk with Claire, Michelle, and Kamila about their podcasts, “Party Size!” and “Who Cares About College?” Let’s listen locally.

As a high school junior, Claire loves to read, go on long walks, and spend time with friends when she isn’t studying for her next test. She has been co-hosting and editing "Party Size!" for a little over a year and can't wait to see what the future holds for the podcast!

Michelle is a high school junior who likes to run, take naps, and study weather forecasts! She is the co-host/creator of the podcast "Party Size!" and loves to make the fun content that you can find in every episode.

Kamila is a high school junior who loves hiking, martial arts, sleeping, and podcasting, of course! She is the host of the podcast "Who Cares About College?" where she interviews college students and college experts on the ins and outs of the college process.

Ronan: Hey, everyone, we're here with Claire, Michelle and Kamila and today we are going to be interviewing them about all their podcasts. Claire and Michelle have the podcast Party Size, and Kamila has the podcast Who Cares About College? Now let's start with each of you telling us about your podcast, the title, the subjects, like the format and your average episode length.

Michelle: Okay, so me and Claire can go first. Hi, I'm Michelle. This is my voice. And I'm a co-host of Party Size.

Abby: Hello, Michelle.

Claire: Oh, sorry. Hi, everyone. My name is Claire and I'm the other host of Party Size.

Michelle: So we have this wonderful podcast where we talk about basically everything.

Claire: Right. It's very similar to It's Like Gunder. If it were to be categorized, it would be like personal stories, and lifestyle. And yeah, separate our topics, like we usually have specific topics that we focus on, and we split them into seasons. So for example, right now, we are working on our fourth season, which is called Tell Us More In Season Four, where we are going to be
interviewing even more people. This is an extension of our season three, focus, which was where we interviewed a bunch of seniors and about their high school experiences.

Michelle: Yeah, so one of the things we love to do was, in interviews, we kind of like to— I mean, at the beginning, we kind of just, you know, stayed with us as hosts. But eventually we branched out and started talking to other people. Our episodes range from anywhere from, I would say, 15 minutes to about an hour. Right? Pretty, pretty versatile. Lots goes on.

Ronan: Wow, well, that is great. And I like the division of how you do your little subjects. That’s very smart. Tell us about your podcast, Kamila, your title, subject, format.

Kamila: My podcast is Who Cares About College. And basically, my entire thing is basically interviews. I have very few solo episodes. And I interviewed mainly college students on their college application process. So GPA, standardized test scores, extracurriculars, letters of rec, how they created their list and such. And then if they're a freshman, then we can talk about their school itself, like, you know, what is what their school has to offer. But if they're a bit ahead like a sophomore, junior, then we can talk about their actual experience. And because of COVID, people have had really weird experiences, but they still share how it was for them, and then going back onto campus. So the way it works, if I do have a section where I interview someone on their college app process, and then their actual college experience, and we get a good chunk of college experience, I just split that into two episodes. So the college app portion is usually I would say, on average, about 45 minutes to an hour. And then the college portion, like the college experience, and them telling us about their college is about 30 minutes. So interviews go on for about an hour and a half. And then I just split it into two different episodes.

Taylor: I have a question. How often do you record an episode? Like how long does it take to prepare and research and edit? Because that sounds like it's tedious. If you do do that, I could never. What methods do you use to record?

Michelle: Well, so there's not a lot of research that goes on in our recording process, we kind of just have an outline. And then we talk about the things on our outline. We like to— that's our like preparation, we reach out to guests that we have on our podcast. As for how often, whenever you have time! Claire, you want to talk about editing.

Claire: So me and Michelle, we usually split editing, but it depends on which of us has more time on our hands. And we use Audacity. It's like a free audio editing program. And we just take out all the parts that we don't like. These generally we talk a lot and so we cut down, cut it down to, you know, the most entertaining or the most informative parts. And that usually the
editing process takes I would say from a few days to like a week depending on what we're talking about. Michelle has an easier time editing.

Michelle: Yeah, I don't know. I have a speed focused editing mode where I like to go into this mode of like, and it takes me like sometimes. I want to say the longest episode took me around two days.

Claire: She's just very decisive. She knows what she wants to take out.

Michelle: Well, Claire wants to get it. All right. How about you Kamila? How often do you record an episode?

Kamila: It depends on how many replies I get saying they want to come on to my podcast, so I can't really control that. But I email every week to different people. I reach out to them, and if they reply, that's great. We schedule an interview time based on their schedule, and then we just do the interview. It's been quite a while since I've done an interview because I've had a few stuff lined up. And then how long does it take to research, prepare and edit? For me, I send them a list of questions like basic questions saying you can share this, this this. And then they tell me which questions are comfortable sharing and which questions they don't want to share. And then as I interview, new questions pop up, because it's personal to every single person; everybody's experience is different. And then what methods do I use to record? So I use Zoom to record, and then I take the audio portion, and then I put it into GarageBand. And then just like Claire, Michelle, I just added out the parts I like, and I don't like, and I add, like the music, and then an intro and an outro. And usually, if I'm really focused, it can take me just a few hours, I can finish it in one day.

Ronan: Wow. Okay, there you go. I'm fantastic. Abby, you have the next question.

Abby: Yeah. So from what I've heard so far, it seems like you guys are all very passionate about your work. You guys seem very devoted to making the practice of doing a podcast really work. So I guess that makes me bring up the next question. So why do you focus on your subject and what interests you about it? And what do you want your audience to learn?

Claire: So I think the reason why Michelle and I decided really to start our podcast was because we have always had really engaging and fun conversations. And we didn't want to limit ourselves in our podcast. So that's why we talk about a wide variety of subjects. I would say like, in the beginning, I think even like, overall, it's been an exploration into like, what topics do we really like to talk about and like, are meaningful to listeners. It's like trial and error. So like, in the
beginning, our very first season, we talked about different kinds of relationships: like friendships, family relationships, like actual relationships. And that was a little bit difficult, because it was kind of like a narrow subject for us to focus on. And again, in the beginning, we didn't have any, we didn't really have that many interviews. And then later, we chose like, too broad of a subject in our second season, which was just very general, I think it was about like, our hobbies, like things you would like to talk about, like sports.

Michelle: It was kind of wild for a while.

Claire: Yeah, but after and after, like interviewing people, like all different kinds of people, for our third season, we really discover that we really enjoy bringing different kinds of people onto our podcast, and we think it brings a lot of flavor.

Michelle: Especially during editing when I get pretty sick of just listening to myself and Claire talk, it's like, “oh, I gotta cut this out.” So it's nice having like someone else; it makes it a lot more fun to edit. And I think people really like hearing people—new voices on our podcasts. And it's, especially because we told a lot of our stories—we kind of run out of good stories, like, we don't have any more good ones. So bringing other people really helps just to expose people to just like, have a fun time. Like I know they'll just have a chuckle. I don't even know, maybe brighten up their day a little. Maybe they can learn something from other people's experiences, too.

Ronan: Well, that is great. What about you, Kamila?

Kamila: Okay, so why did I start my podcast? And like, why focus on this subject? So I think it was in seventh grade when I went on my first college tour. And I really liked it. I don't know why I liked it. But I just liked going around and listening to people talk during the info sessions, and then going on the walking tour. Neither of my parents went to college in America, they immigrated here. Well, I was actually born in Asia, and then we immigrated here. So technically, I'm the first person to go through a traditional high school and then college experience in America, because parents couldn't tell me about their experience and what I would expect. So I started my podcast, and I wasn't taking it seriously at first for basically, it was for me to learn, because I had no idea what a GPA was, I didn't understand what the LSATs and the ACT were, I didn't know like, what extracurriculars do I have to do? What are letters of rec and such? So I started that, but then I realized a lot of people are like me, and they're confused about the process. And the point is not to tell people like “this is a formula to get into college” because people say there's no formula and it is true. There's no formula to get into college. But the more aware you are the more knowledge you have on the different components of the college
process. You can increase your chances of getting into a good college and perhaps crafting your application the way you like it. So that's really why I started really, for myself to learn. But I realized as I go on, more people are like me and they can learn from other people's merits and their like, quote unquote, “failures,” but they all got into college anyways, so.

Ronan: Yeah, that is a really cool story. That's really cool. All right. Well, that's great. Um, Mikhail, this next question is for you.

Mikhail: Right. Now Clara and Michelle, how do you promote your podcast? How do you get it so that people enrolled know of podcasts?

Michelle: I think Claire can take this one, right. I'm not very involved in this.

Claire: So for social media, I am mainly in charge of it, I do everything. On our Instagram. That's our main platform, we don't really use TikTok or anything else like that. Just because Instagram, I think, is one of the best ways to promote your podcast. And also because I'm the most familiar with it. So we have an Instagram account for a podcast called It's At The Party Size Pod, make sure you go follow on there. I do. Well, I make posts, and now pretty regularly, they're basically just like updates or like when a new episode comes out, I make a new post and what's special is— okay, well one, we have a really cool color palette scheme going on. It's like blue, orange, purple. I love our color palette. It goes with our little profile picture. But another thing I think that sets us apart from other just accounts in general is that I make a little animations for every post. So most people when they make a post, it's just like a picture or like a Canva infographic copied and pasted. But, um, I use this app called Flip a Clip. I don't know if anybody knows what that is. But I just make short little animations of like, with like words or like, I don't know, but I made butterflies that are really cute.

Michelle: They're fantastic, right?

Claire: And I'm not any.. I'm not super artistic or anything. I think what's cool about it is that you can tell that I'm not very good. But I think that that adds to the charm of the podcast. I think, yeah, everybody knows, but they're so cute. And they're like, I don't know, they very much fit “the vibe,” like a very fun vibe. Right, but not very strict or anything. So yeah, that's how we go about running our social media presence.

Mikhail: Well, that does a very wonderful promotion in marketing is very important when doing anything media related. Give me a little bit about you. How do you promote your college podcast?
Kamila: Okay, I will say just to add on to what Michelle was saying about Claire's animations. They are really, really good. They're super cute. I mean, it looks really, really professional. Okay, so how do I promote my podcast, so I also have a blog. So my blog, and that, like, has much more views than my podcasts. But on that blog, there's a section that says “Podcast“ and if you go there, you'll see my podcast and all the episodes listed and such. And then I forgot to mention this, but I said, I interview college students. I also interview some like college, I would say, experts, so adults who have done like counseling or do specifically like essay editing. And a lot of times they will have their own blog, or they will have their own podcast. So when they come on to my podcast, sometimes they reach out to me like “can I come onto your podcast and be interviewed?” Sometimes I reach out to them. And so they'll come on, and then they'll put me in their podcast, or they'll put me in their blog. So therefore I'm getting to the like, I guess correct audience, because those people want to learn more about college. Like one example is Mark Stucker. He's a college coach, and he has his own podcast. And I asked him to come on, he came on to my podcast-- probably one of my favorite interviews; I learned a lot from him. And then I asked him, “can you give me a mention on one of your episodes”, because his podcast is much more famous than mine. And he actually did that a couple times. So like once a few months ago, and once recently. So that's basically how I promote. I don't have a cute professional Instagram account, like Claire and Michelle.

Taylor: I just want to say, if I found out about your podcast before this year would have saved me. Like my mom– okay, my mom and my dad are both college professors. Well, not anymore. But now they're back into teaching. But they were born in the 60s and the 50s. So they had a vastly different process than me and this would have helped more probably. I wish I knew about your podcast beforehand. Now, I know you all have your own podcast. But what strikes your fancy when you listen to podcasts? Can you give me something that I might be able to listen to, besides the one podcast that I listened to?

Michelle: So sometimes I enjoy more like, well, they're kind of like two categories of podcasts that I really enjoy. I really enjoy interesting stories that are also kind of scientific. It's kind of like, I don't really know if it's a little nerdy. So one of my favorite ones is Invisible. They talk about the human brain and like cool stuff about that. There are a lot of stories in it; I find it very interesting. And one of my favorites is called Criminals Alia, which is about Lady poisoners in history. It's so good. I love it. And one of my favorite things to do is when I would run alone, like go on runs, I would listen to podcasts and just be like, “wow, that's so cool.” So if you ever saw me running through the neighborhood laughing, it's because I was listening to some good podcasts. I also really like what else? I'm a big fan of story podcasts. That's kind of why I have
my own story podcast. Claire actually recommended a podcast to me a long time ago. It's called Modern Love. Do you remember recommending it to me?

Claire: Yes. Oh my gosh. Okay. I was gonna say that. But NPR has this podcast called Modern Love or Modern Love Stories. I think it's just called Modern Love. I think Modern Love, right. But I am in love with it. It's so good. Because it's just wholesome, cute little love stories. And every episode is different. Um, and one thing that they do is usually they have like, I know, sometimes they have like, famous people read. So yeah, please read other people's stories. And then after the person reads the story, there's like a host to interview the actual person who wrote the story, or the actual people who were in love or the person who was in love. And I think it's really unique because there's so many like, stories about different kinds of love. And it's so good. Yeah, it's really captivating. I really like it. Um, oh, wait, are you I swear I only have one more. Okay. I feel like everyone kind of listens to it. But like, Radio Lab has some interesting stuff. You know, just like interesting stories. Pretty fun. Those are probably my main podcasts I listened to.

Kamila: Okay, very nice. So, as for other podcasts I listen to, I like to listen to YouTube a lot. And there's some YouTubers I like. So like your mom, Ashley, or like Emma Chamberlain, or like, I'm Leah, from Leah's field notes. So they all have podcasts of their own and I have listened to their episodes. I don't know, I think it's really cool being able to see kind of the behind the scenes or like, hear more from people that I watched because when you watch YouTube videos, you only really see like, one side, and they usually aren't talking as much. It's more focused on visuals. But then when they're talking about, like their general life or other topics on their podcast, it's really cool to see how their mind kind of actually works or like their actual opinions on things that they might not talk about on their main YouTube channel. Okay, so obviously, I have to listen to other college podcasts. So, as I mentioned, I interviewed that guy, Mark Stucker, and he has his own podcast, it's called Your College Bound Kid and what his podcast is is so impressive, like I know he doesn't do the editing, but the editing and the different sections are really cool. They'll do a section where it's like in the news, and they'll talk about something that happened in the news. And then they'll do a section where it's like a term that's related to the college process. And then they'll do a section on that. And then they'll do a section where they interview someone, and then they'll do a section where it's like a question from a listener. So I really like his podcast. It is really informative. He has almost 200 episodes. If not, yeah, I think almost 200 episodes. It's amazing. And then another, actually people I interviewed, they reached out to me, and that's how I found out about their podcast about college admissions with Mark and Anna. They're similar to Mark, they do college coaching. And again, their podcast is really informative. Also, it's so basic, but I like true crime. I love like murder mysteries. I like it. And when they dissect it, and they're like “this, and this and this happen, and they knew this person, or it could have been them, blah, blah, blah. There were similar cases, like five years earlier.” I love that
stuff. And then another podcast I really, really like is called How I Built This by NPR, and his name is Guy Roz and he basically interviews entrepreneurs, and how they built their brand. And these are like big people. He's interviewed the guy who's like, I'm blanking on a bunch but not Kim Kardashian but the one before her, like that woman, and then Tofurkey was like the most recent episode. They've done like Zillow, stuff like that, like really big brands, like what is it? Trivago and stuff. They have things like that, like really big brands and how people built the brand from the bottom to the top. I like to listen to that because you listen to their story where they started from nothing and how they found some sort of hole where something was missing that they could create and make into a business. I find that so fascinating. So that's mainly what I was into.

Abby: That's awesome. I guess I'm coming away from this with new recommendations. So excited to listen to them. Now, as avid podcast lovers all together, I am going to ask you the question of, would you recommend making a podcast to someone else? And what are the benefits of podcasting?

Michelle: Okay, I guess I'll kick it off. So I would 100% recommend it. I know it sounds like “oh, you have your own podcast.” Of course it would. But like, no, no, no, like, trust me, making your own podcast is so much fun. So like, I'm just thinking about all of the fun, fun stories people have told me. And like, I've gotten to know some people a lot better through interviewing them on the podcast. And it's kind of very satisfying to see like, wow, you've created this thing. And it's like, look, it's so professional, and well done. And it's something you can be really proud of. So I think the benefits are, obviously, speaking skills. Talking is harder than you think. The first time I edited an episode, I was like, “why do I talk like that? Oh, my gosh, I need to stop saying all these things. So stop saying them.” And I feel like I'm a better talker now. So that's probably what I'm going to say. Isn't that right?

ClaireL Yes. Fair enough. So I completely agree with Michelle. But I would also if someone were to ask me like, should I start a podcast on XYZ? Or just in general? Should I start a podcast? I would always definitely encourage them to but also give them what is it called, like a warning or like a word of caution? Yes, so making a podcast and maintaining a podcast is much harder than one would think it is. Kamila, Michelle and I were all in high school when we started ours. And obviously high school is hard. And we also do a lot of other things outside of podcasting. So I would say time is of the essence, especially when you are recording and editing and you know, scheduling Instagram posts, etc, etc. So it's a lot of work. That's like the biggest thing I would say. But I'm sure that anyone who is really passionate about what they're doing, and what they're talking about will definitely be able to succeed if they start a podcast. And Michelle, along with Michelle, I have also just heard so many people that like I'm not super close with like,
“oh, are you that podcaster? I've listened to your podcast” or like, “don't you have a podcast? I listened to it in the morning.” And I was like, “oh my gosh, really no way.” So it's always you know, every day is a surprise, because you never know when someone’s going to bring it up. And you’re like, “wow, I never knew that my podcast could reach so far into, I don’t know, into the world.” Okay, that's all I have to say on that.

Kamila: As Michelle said, I would recommend podcasting to everyone just because it's so very loose and broad there is no need for anything to start a podcast, like you don't need to have a special skill. You don't need to be particularly talented in something. So you have to find the kind of podcasting that works for you. Claire and Michelle are co-hosts and I'm sure that works great for them. I don't know what I would do with a co-host. I don't think I would really like it. So you know, you have to decide on that. And then do you want to do solo episodes? Or would you rather do interviews? I prefer doing interviews because I already know everything about myself. Like I don't need the world to know everything. But I really like interviewing other people. And I find pure joy from interviewing, like after I do an interview it’s just like, I don't know how to explain it. But like I met this new person for the first time and they told me so much. And it's just fascinating how people have so many different interests, and how they shape their lives. I guess we can say how that's influencing them in college and what they're studying now. So to me, I love doing that. So podcasting is literally for everybody because there's no criteria for it. You just need to find what kind of podcasting works for you. You want to co-host, you don't want to co-host, you want to do mainly interviews. Who do you want to interview and stuff like that? And what are the benefits to podcasting? I agree with what Michelle said about hearing my voice for the first time. Oh my god. It's just horrible. I was like, “do I sound like that? Should I choose the tone of my voice?” And I think you become, I would say more confident. I was like, “who cares, the tone of my voice is mine, I'm not changing it for anybody.” And then another downside is, at first, you don't have any listeners. And it may be like that for some time. But after a while you do gain an audience. And it's a sort of obligation that you have to provide them with content. And for it to not be boring. So like every time I do an interview, and I feel like it was not my best interview, or I did not connect well with my interviewee, I get so disappointed. I'm like, “oh God, I'm going to have to deliver this trash episode to people and my audio is awful. I wish I could do it over again.” Back to the question. Podcasting is for everybody. And you will have your very big downsides where you’re like, “this is such a trap episode. Should I even release this?” But yeah, wow, that is much deeper than I thought it would be.

Ronan: Very, very nice. Um, and here's another somewhat deep question. Which episode are you most proud of? What are your most, your most glamorous pieces?
Michelle: So this question, actually, when I thought about it, like an answer immediately came to mind. So last year's Valentine's.

Claire: Yeah, so Michelle and I are both really proud of this one. So I think I came up with the idea for the podcast, because it's not like for the episode, this is not like most of our episodes where we had an outline is pretty structured. This one, it was just like on the fly. I was like, “Okay, well, Valentine's Day is approaching, what if we tell a bunch of people how much we love them and like, share the love so people aren't sad on Valentine's Day.” So what we did was we brought on a guest. And so the three of us, we called like, on the phone, we called a bunch of our friends. And then as a surprise, obviously, they didn't know that we were going to call them and what the call would entail, but basically, we just told them about how much we appreciate them, and how much we love them. So it was really heartwarming, especially because none of them were expecting it. And that was also one of our most popular episodes. I think just because it's such a feel good episode and like you can listen to it time and time again. And every single time you'll have a smile on your face. So that's definitely my favorite for sure.

Michelle: Yeah, I don't know where Claire came up with this episode. But like, she came up with it. And it was like, for sure. Like, I was like, “Yeah, this is gonna be so good.” And while we were doing it, it was just like, such a good feeling. It was so much fun. I mean, there weren't any stories or anything of value. Like I want to say, anything you could learn from this episode. But like, it was just very good. I think it represents what we want our audience to, come away from our podcast feeling because like, I remember we made it and I was like “this has to get out. Like it has to go out there like right now.” And Claire was like, alright, so I literally like grind-edited this episode. It didn't take me that long because it was a short one. And it was so good. It was like I think we recorded it… I can't remember if we recorded it the day before Valentine's Day. I think we think it was the day, day before day before. And then we released the day-of which was perfect. Yeah, it was. It's really nice. I got to call a lot of my friends and see other people call their friends, family, loved ones. It was a good one.

Claire: Okay, wait, you're gonna make me pick another one. That's my favorite. Okay, I know, this one actually doesn't have that many listens or views or whatever. But I really like our music episode where we talk about music and I know, I know it's not it's kind of long. It's kind of lengthy. But I think it's fun because we get to listen to music together in the podcast. Yeah. Which we don't do, we play a game. Oh, right. Okay. Everybody has seen on YouTube the E L L. E. They have a YouTube channel and they invite singers onto the channel and they like to do song associiations. So like you give someone a word like fire. And then someone seems like Set Fire to the Rain by Adele, right and then they have a certain like 10 seconds I think and they have to sing like a song lyric that has that word in it. So we played that game. That was really fun. My
only regret for that episode. Um, is that the audio editing like I think it was really hard to match like the volume of our own voices to like the actual music because oh, I guess you did it. I thought it was fun to record. It was very fun to record. But then the problem was we use Anchor to like to distribute and I have this like, it's, I think it's like connected to Spotify. And so basically, they had this little thing tool where you can insert like 30 seconds of a song from Spotify into like your episode. And so that was a very difficult one because there's so many songs to put in and I had to split the audio into so many tiny little chunks. And then also, Spotify audio was louder than ours and then I couldn't like you can't adjust it like it just there. So yeah, but what if I do it again, maybe would we do it again? Would you want to do it again? Um, I didn't know that. That was a problem. Maybe we mentioned songs. I think one of the one of our favorite things we do is we put up a Q&A, and people give song recommendations and then we would be like, Ooh, I like this one. So I thought that was fun or something really good. Yeah, it broadens the horizons of your music listening adventure.

Ronan: That's really cool. Yeah, music episodes. Sounds wonderful. And the Valentine's episode just sounds heartwarming and amazing. So I'll definitely give that one a listen. Kamila, what about you which episode are you most proud of?

Kamila: I can go but before I do, I just want to go on with Claire and Michelle said. I use this program called a phonic or something and what it does, I should have mentioned this earlier, but what because my interviewee might not have a mic, right? So my audio was very clear, very loud, but they don't obviously don't have a professional setup. So I put a phonic and it like, evens out the audio. So it's the same volume. I don't know. And it's free to use, like you have a limited amount of time. But it's like per month, you get a few hours or something. So just a suggestion I don't know if that would work for music or whatever. But yeah. Anyway, the episode I'm most proud of. I guess the goodness or how well my episode is done is really reliant on the interviewee. Like I as the interviewer have to like, I wouldn't say pry into their lives, but I have to kind of like go around. And like, you know, figure out the questions that are best for them. That's what will make the podcast most interesting. But it really depends on how much they're willing to share. And also, I have a few episodes that are super memorable to be able to say proud, proud, because a lot of it is then I'm not doing much they're sharing their story. So number one is David. He goes to MIT. God, I vibed with him so well. I don't think I've bonded with anyone in my life so well before. He was hilarious. And we went on talking and talking and talking. And on top of that he was so impressive. And he had so many accomplishments. He was an extreme couponer in high school like $800 to like $8 like stumbling. I was like, wow, why didn't you go on like TLC. And he won the Coca Cola scholarship— my mind was blown. I was like, you won that? Because it's harder to get that than literally any other college. So that and then another was a girl. She goes to the University of Houston, I believe, I think it was University of
Houston. And her story was just inspirational. She was a med student. So she was there getting her four year degree and then she would move on to medical school. But when she was younger, her dad was in a really bad car accident. And that inspired her to go into medicine. So that story for me was just really inspirational. And then another one is Mark Stucker. He cleared up so many stereotypes, because a college student can't really share the ins and outs of the college process. They can only share their experience and why they think they got into the school. But Mark soccer, he was able to like dissect it and it was just so like rich and full of like, he just cleared up so many biases, and he makes you feel so relieved when you realize how random the college processes and how you have almost no control. And if you don't get into an ivy, that doesn't mean anything. So I think that was probably my most informative episode, the one I'm most proud of. And I really like the questions I wrote for that one too. And then lastly is AMI. So he goes to I don't even know if he still goes to school. At the time I was interviewing, he went to Lehigh. And it wasn't his college process or like his college experience that was inspirational. It was just his life. When I was interviewing him, he was just traveling with his friends. He was in California, like Silicon Valley. And he was just doing entrepreneurial stuff. And he sounded like he was so into it. And I was like, and he was like, and he was a sophomore in Lehigh. When I interviewed him, I said, are you planning to drop out of college and just pursue what you're doing now? Because I think he's into music. And he's like, I may do it. And I follow him on Instagram and the guy is traveling and living his best life. He's Kiwis in Paris, right? Our life is like going all over the world and he's just living his life how he wants to not like the tradition for years and whatever. So to me, my most proudest episodes are the ones I'm most inspired by. So I would say those four are probably my favorite ones.

Ronan: That is very cool. Inspiration is definitely a great motivator. Alright Mikhail. This next one's for you.

Mikhail: Alright, and these let's go with a question that is a bit of a silly question for you guys. If you were given a whole box of chocolates, what kind of chocolate would you eat first?

Michelle: I'm gonna jump on this one. Because I have a philosophy where I eat my least favorite first so that I can eat my favorite last. Honestly though, that's like that is the secret to life. So my least favorites are probably going to be the really heavy ones. If it's like dark chocolate or white. Ooh, definitely the white chocolate. It is probably my least favorite, even though they're all really good. So I eat them all. And then it's probably the crunchy ones. That crunchy stuff that does taste kind of burnt. I'll know what's inside the chocolate, but it's crunchy with, I don't know, some kind of sugar. And then probably like the dark chocolate, then I'll probably eat the caramels more than the coconuts and then finally, I save like the raspberries and strawberries last. Those are good. So good. Yeah, yeah.
Claire: Um, I would not eat the ones I like the least. My strategy is to eat the ones I like and then ask my brother or my other favorite friends and family would you like to eat the rest or would you like these? No one wants to eat the peanut butter ones, so I give these away. Though, everybody has different tastes— I pick the raspberry ones and then I go around lunchtime and in the classroom and be like oh do you want one and then afterwards I greedily keep them all to myself. In summary, share the chocolate you have. I also really like— it's called, I'm probably gonna butcher this, but it's like Ferrero Rocher. But those are addictive. Love them. And I think dark chocolate is better than milk chocolate.

Kamila: I agree. 100%. I kind of follow the same system as Claire except I don't really share. I look at the box and if I don't like chocolates I just avoid them. I don't care who gets them after. If I don't like them then I'll just leave them there. And I don't know what kind of box of chocolates you guys are getting but like coconut raspberry. Gross. I guess my mom just buys like assorted dark and milk chocolate ones. And I would say my favorite ones are caramel. I really liked caramel filling. Hate white chocolate. If it has white chocolate, even if it has a glaze on top then I don't eat it. I hate white chocolate. It's not chocolate. Yeah, you can't even consider it a chocolate. It's not chocolate. Okay. So I love caramel and I don't know if this is what Michelle was talking about, but I like when they put crunchy stuff on the top and their stuff inside. I like those. And I agree dark chocolate is better than milk chocolate. It just can't be too dark. So that's how I eat. I don't know what kind of chocolates y'all are getting. And I hate the raspberry strawberry ones.

Ronan: Oh, controversy kicks in. Okay. Well, you might be able to hear more of this controversy in our conversation segment. Everyone, thank you so much for coming to interview with us. It has been a pleasure and we'll see you soon.

Kamila: Thank you for having us.

Michelle: Yay. Thank you.

Claire: Loved being here.

Instrumental Music Clip: Hardboil, by Blue Dot Sessions
https://freemusicarchive.org/music/Blue_Dot_Sessions/Banana_Cream/Hardboil

From favorite books to top tier playlists, there are various ways to consume media and experience the joy of comfort and relaxation. Here are some recommendations from our HoCoCast team.
Abby: As an avid movie viewer, I always try to broaden my film selections whenever I’m choosing something to watch. Whether it be psychological horror, cheesy romance, or slap-stick humor, I’ll always indulge myself to the fullest. I don’t care for which country or company it comes from, as long as there’s entertainment value in the piece then I’ll enjoy it. Nowhere does this apply more than it does in CJ Enterntainment’s 2021 film, Pipeline.

Taking place in the middle of South Korea, Pipeline follows a gang of oil drillers— a type of thief who illegally steals oil to sell on the black market— as they tackle an impossible heist, all the while fighting back against the evils of corporate greed. If that sounds strange in itself, wait until you watch the actual movie— the twists and turns that make up your ride in the plot are both pleasantly satisfying yet nauseating, and the entire time you’re just rooting for this band of robbers to make it to the end. As such, this South Korean film, directed by Director Yoo Ha, is probably one of the most fun adventures I’ve seen this year. It’s filled with a stellar cast: from veteran actor Seo In-Guk to up-and-coming YG actor Lee Soo-hyuck, every bit of this film is full of bombastic acting and typical Korean-media fun.

With all the praise I have for this movie however, I feel like I need to clarify that it’s the type of movie more suitable for casual viewings— it’s not something meant for deliberation, for contemplation about the philosophies of life. The best way I can describe it is that it's a particular kind of camp: there’s a mix of hero’s journey, stereotypical “friendship can solve anything” message, and the “bad-boy but soft at heart” protagonist. Pipeline is a fun movie, and it doesn’t try to delve into anything else.

If you are up for a casual Friday night though, and you’re just waiting for something to take up space in your mind for an hour or two, I’d say Pipeline is the perfect choice.

Ronan: I love movies that mess with your mind. Those movies you have to watch more than once to completely understand what’s happening and get the whole movie. Christopher Nolan is a director well known for his complicated and intricate sci-fi films. So, today, I’ll suggest 3 psychologically tricky Christopher Nolan movies.

Number 1 is Inception. This is my favorite movie; the concept is amazing, the acting is fantastic, and the visual effects and cinematography is intense and deep. Inception is a movie that discusses the idea of manipulating someone through their dreams and the idea of having a dream inside of a dream. Now, just hearing this is confusing, and it’s amazing how it’s tied into the deep subplot of the film. But, wait- no spoilers here. The visual effects are also amazing, and as the movie is about dreams, tons of really odd and crazy things happen visuals-wise. The casting is also great; Leonardo DiCaprio is the protagonist, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Tom Hardy, Marion Cotillard, Elliot Page, on and on, the cast list is huge.

Number 2 is Tenet. This film is 10 times more confusing than Inception. The film talks about the concept of reversing the entropy of something. In physics, entropy is the direction in time in
which something flows. Right now, my entropy is moving forward in time, as you can hear me talking normally. If my entropy was reversed, my speech would sound like this:

*play that sentence again but in reverse, then continue normally*

If I were reversed, when I jumped in a puddle it would look like the water would be coming towards my feet then falling back down. This is simply mind-boggling just thinking about it, and this is magnified in the film. But after you watch the movie a few times, you realize something: the whole plot is a closed loop. As characters are reversed and re-reversed, something that happens at the very beginning of the movie ends up happening at the end but from another perspective. It’s truly amazing how intricate the plot is and how ingenious the whole movie is. Casting is also great, starring John David Washington, Elizabeth Debicki, Robert Pattinson, and Kenneth Branagh. I highly suggest Tenet to anyone that has the time to watch it multiple times.

Number 3 is The Prestige. In the utmost simplest definition, the Prestige is about two magicians who try to out-illusion each other. Now, the plot of this movie is a bit confusing. In Christopher Nolan style, we see a scene from later in the film happen at the beginning to foreshadow future events. The film constantly jumps back between the future and past, and so it’s quite confusing timeline-wise. Now, the cinematography is fantastic. The camera angles are deep and entrancing, and yet they still manage to hide many of the details the viewers yearn to see. The best part of the film has to be the opening scene, where Michael Caine is explaining the process of a magic trick. A few shots happen that seem to make no sense, but it’s all cleared up by the end of the film. That brings me neatly onto the next topic. The casting in this movie is fantastic. Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Scarlet Johansson, and Michael Caine all star in the Prestige, and the acting is amazing. Many of the scenes are non-verbal, especially those that happen while performing on stage, and the sheer amount of emotion expressed by the actors while saying nothing is truly a spectacle. I highly suggest the Prestige to those who love magic and especially the cast.

Mikhail: ...we’re suggesting movies? Ronan took my idea of featuring sci-fi films… odd, I would’ve chosen same movies to feature. Very large coincidence. Anyways, movie I will be featuring is Cruella. Cruella is origin story of Cruella de Vil, primary antagonist in classic Disney film 101 Dalmatians. Cast is just amazing, with Emma Stone playing Cruella and Emma Thompson as antagonist. Acting is phenomenal, with Emma Thompson’s character being the evilest yet funniest throughout entire film. Soundtrack is also amazing, using many British 70s songs during punk uprising. There are also many twists in Cruella, and watching it for first time is mind-blowing. I highly suggest Cruella to fans of original Disney films, as there are also many throwbacks.

Taylor:

While I watch and enjoy movies from all different genres, my favorite type of movies have gotta be horror comedies. It’s definitely something about the direness of the situations the characters
are put in combined with the intent of the director to highlight their absurdity that makes me enjoy them so much.

My favorite movie of all time, ever, forever, and always is the 2019 movie “The Dead Don’t Die”. Directed by Jim Jaramusch, with a theme song by the same name written by country artist Sturgil Simpson, the Dead Don’t Die is honestly one of the funniest movies I’ve ever watched. Jim Jaramusch takes the horrifying idea of the zombie apocalypse, and puts it in small town rural America, where everybody knows everybody else. The Dead Don’t Die has a lot of characters, all with their own unique subplots (see: surviving the zombie apocalypse) but the main story follows Officer Ronald Peterson, played by Adam Driver, and Chief Cliff Ronalds, played by Bill Murray, as they try to, well the more that I think about it they aren’t really trying to do much anything but their standard jobs as policemen. They show up to investigate the first few deaths (that to the audience were obviously caused by zombies), but most of the time spent shadowing these characters just follows them and other officer, Mindy Morrison, played by Chloe Sevigny, as they calmly comment about how “this isn’t going to end well” and just seem to wait for their impending doom. This movies has a very dry sense of humor, there are lots of deadpan stares and long awkward silences, this can really be seen in how most of the characters seem almost indifferent to the odd changes happening around them, leading for a very blasé and slow paced movie, despite the subject matter that is so often associated with high energy action. The general consensus I’ve seen from reading reviews of the Dead Don’t Die is that the movie is too low energy, it’s too slow, and not funny at all but I must contest. While the pacing is slow, it works in the movie’s benefit, I believe that the reason the Dead Don’t Die is disliked is because most of the people going into the theater, or renting the movie at home to watch believe it is going to be a fast paced action movie. The Dead Don’t Die is not an action movie, it is intentionally very slow to put the watcher in the slow world of Centerville, Virginia (the setting of the movie), and have them react as someone in a small town would react to a tragedy like the zombie apocalypse. I am really not the best at critiquing, and I can’t explain anymore about this movie without spoiling the everliving heck out of it, but just please, please, pretty, pretty, pretty please with a cherry on top, take my word for it. It’s a absurdist comedy horror and I love and adore absolutely everything about it, and you should give it a chance if it sounds like it’s your style (cuz it’s a really good movie)

**Instrumental Music Clip: Hardboil, by Blue Dot Sessions**
https://freemusicarchive.org/music/Blue_Dot_Sessions/Banana_Cream/Hardboil

In today’s conversation segment, Claire, Michelle, and Kamila join us to talk about parties, snacks, and school.
Ronan: All right, so we are here in the conversation segment with our interviewees. Now, I have a very deep question for all of you. What's your favorite party snack? What is the perfect—the ideal snack to take to a party?

Kamila: I'm sorry, one question. What kind of parties are we talking about? I've never been to a high school party. Like what kind of party are you talking about? Like I've been to family events where they're all adults and stuff.

Ronan: A snack that works for any party, any sort of gathering of human beings. And you could serve some sort of food that you know, everyone will enjoy.

Claire: I know Michelle has the same answer as me.

Michelle: Oh my gosh, do we have the same answer? I'll say it and you let me know if you have the same answer. Salt and vinegar chips.

Claire: Yes!!

Michelle: Yeah. I thought so! Anyway, yes. I love some vinegar chips. They are my favorite snack. And the reason why I like to go to parties is because first of all, if you like salt and vinegar chips, we are immediately like best friends. Second of all, if you don't, then I can eat all the salt and vinegar chips, and we're still best friends. So like, okay, fine. Either way. Also, I feel like it's just like a really good bonding point. Like, if you like, I feel like you either love it, or you hate it. Like there's no in between. So if you meet someone who also loves it, it's like a chef’s kiss moment. Like, that's just my vibe,

Mikhail: That is great. Um, alright, Kamila. What about you? What is your favorite party snack?

Kamila: I gotta say I almost hate salt and vinegar chips. I thought I heard you say like Sun Co. or whatever that brand is of chips. And I was like— Okay, that seems like a decent party snack. But he said salt and vinegar. I was like—

Ronan: Oh, no no. Oh, God, I—

Kamila: I hate what you guys love so much stuff. Okay, I can't do salt and vinegar chips. Um, this is why I asked what kind of party because the only parties I've been to are gatherings with my parents and friends. And my mom does all the cooking. I don't really do anything. Never brought snacks to anyone or anywhere in my life. So I don't really have much to give on that.
Ronan  02:07  
That is fine. Um, Taylor and Abby. What about you?

Abby: Oh, um, well, for me, I'm like Kamila. I'm very introverted. And I don't party so but um–

Claire: You can party by yourself!

Abby: That's true!

Claire: Anything could be a party.

Abby: Yes. But um, if I were to bring one party snack, it would be Flaming Hot Cheetos.

Kamila: Classic.

Abby: Yes.

Kamila: Wait, does a gathering with your friends count as a party?

Michelle: Yeah.

Kamila: Oh. Well, my answer is that I don't really bring anything; no snacks.

Ronan: Kamila! Oh my goodness. Outrageous.

Kamila: Okay. I thought it was like a big high school party. I was like I've never been to one of those.

Ronan: Oh, well neither have I so we're in the same boat. Taylor, what about you?

Taylor: If I had to choose for me and my one friend that I only ever hang out with? It would be–this is very location-based–but Tous Les Jours, the Korean bakery.

Michelle: Oh my gosh. Exactly. Okay, those are fire.

Taylor: Yeah. So I went there with my friend. She can drive me places—I can drive now but she could drive me places when I was a junior because she is of age. And so yeah. If I had to choose to hang out with my friend and bring a snack, it would be the curry croquettes at Tous Les Jours. Those things are very good.
Ronan: Very nice. Um, I have to say, me, myself and I would bring chocolate covered pretzels. It's just the salt and sweet mixture that is just so pleasing. Mikhail, what about you?

Mikhail: Oh, you know, I just can't get enough of deviled eggs. I just-- deviled eggs are so delicious. They slide onto the tongue. It's a perfect blend of very bitter with a very basic flavor, and the paprika on top is just the cherry on top, or the top of the deviled egg.

Taylor: Quickly, I just want to say, I love you McHale

Claire: I'm a huge fan.

Mikhail: Okay. Oh yes, this is very nice to know, everyone's favorite part is I'm going to ask a school related question. What is the biggest issue you have encountered in school? Whether it be with grading, or whether it be with, you know, annoying teachers and whatnot. So what might it be?

Michelle: I have to say, I think the biggest problem I encounter in school is--

Ronan: Oh, wait, for the sake of privacy. Please don't share any names.

Michelle: Oh, yeah. Okay. So I often get very bored during class. I don't know. It's just, I sit there. And it's just like, maybe it was like in my, in my pandemic world, I didn't really have anyone to talk to, but in person has been--

Claire: What? What about chemistry class where we talked?

Michelle: Okay, fine. We talked in chemistry class, but other than that, it was just like this. I was literally sitting right here in this very spot with nothing to do. So I didn't really pay attention. Okay, I paid attention, but sometimes it was very dry. And I think that being back in the building has been fantastic. Because I can be less bored. Talk to my friends and enjoy class to its fullest. Anyway.

Ronan: I can feel that 100% What about you Claire?

Claire: Yeah, so on the topic of friends, um, pandemic world, you can choose really who you want to talk to, I think, like, I can choose to talk to my friends. And then if I don't want to talk to someone, I don't have to talk to someone. But back in the real world, you have to deal with all different kinds of people in your classes. And I think that has been a little bit of a challenge. But I think it's been good and bad, like obviously being able to see everybody in person, and everything is great. But sometimes you just can't mute people or like mute your tab anymore.
You have to listen to everybody. This makes me seem kind of mean, but this is my honest opinion.

Ronan: No, no, I get that. All right Kamila. Give me a little about you.

Kamila: Claire, Michelle, and I go to the same high school and when I was on Claire Michelle's podcast, we talked about this. And I think you guys either disagreed with me or you weren't like 100% on board with me when I said this, but the atmosphere in our school and I would just say like Howard County, it's such a competitive county, but there are a lot of good schools and you know, obviously there are high achieving students. The atmosphere in our school gets so annoying. Because this is after I learned this is all thanks to like, the stuff I learned through my podcasts and like researching about college, I have understood how like, I cannot emphasize this enough, the college process is just so random. And you have no you can do the best you can to become like a good student do these extracurriculars. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. But at the end of the day, there's really nothing you can guarantee. And I see these people like they make it their life's mission to get into these top schools. And I'm like, Do you have any other personality traits? Is there anything else that you have any passion or any joy and like this, and it's so annoying, because you're going to see them crumble when they inevitably don't get into these top schools. And 'm just like, it's just like, it's so annoying. Maybe it's because I have the knowledge. Whatever I do, there's nothing to guarantee my position but they're like, I'm saying my chances are low just like everybody else. So I'm like, and I look at the atmosphere as just like, What are you striving for? You do all these extracurriculars that you don't even like, right? Being impressive for a college that honestly is gonna look at you for 15 minutes, and just throw away your application. And I get so sick of the atmosphere. Everyone's like that. And then you get the people who are like, Oh my god, I got a 92 on the test.

Claire: No, I completely agree that, like especially right now especially going back and being surrounded by all this, like all the people at our school, you are completely right. I think before I was a little bit in denial, I was like, No, it's really not that bad. But when you are actually there in that kind of environment, it is very obvious.

Kamila: And it's just I would annoy me and I like Claire said, you can't really mute those people out anymore. Honestly, I kind of do. Like, don't talk to me. But um, it's annoying at first, but then you kind of start to feel pity because I feel so free now that I know so much about the college process. I just do what I want to do now, knowing that like I don't care, Harvard, they don't accept me. That's their loss. Like honestly, True. True. I'm so so so done with them. But like and you just feel so pity you feel like pity for them. Like they're annoying as hell but you kind of look you're like, Bro. There's so much more to life than what you're striving for. And like, I don't know, I would say that's the thing that annoys me so much about school. And I wouldn't say for all schools, our school in particular, like every– so many students are high achieving, like you
will talk to people and they'll be like these clubs and they'll have these positions and they do this outside of school and that outside of school. You know what also annoys me? When people think that sleep deprivation is like a personality trait. They're like, Oh my god, I went to bed at like 4am. I only got two hours of sleep. Does that make you cool, like, what? Yeah. And I'm like, I got three hours. But I got two hours like, No, I pulled an all nighter. Okay?

Ronan: And that's just bad? Okay, exactly. Um, I mean, going back to your conversation, the previous topic is I think narcissism is the solution to that. It's like, you're like narcissism is bad, in a sense. But like, in many senses, there's a fine line between narcissism and selfishness, which are two very similar things. But sometimes you need to be selfish in order to succeed in life. So like, yes, very deep things. Moving on. Um, Abby and Taylor. What about you?

Abby: Oh, um, well, I was actually gonna say something about Camille's comment, because I feel like she was attacking me shade on. Sorry, sorry. Um, oh, yeah. So I'm a senior. So I'm in the middle of getting done with all of my applications. And I think, yeah, I kind of treat it as a personality trait at this point. Because, I mean, it's so enraptured in all my different aspects of life. So it's kind of hard to not talk about it at the same time. So I see where you're coming from. But also, it's like, I'm boring anyway. So why not talk about what I have. So.

Kamila: It's not that, it's not just the person who does it. Like it's your, for example, it could be your parents. And like this, our school, I don't know which school you go to, but our school day, like, definitely, I remember our like, came on an announcement when it was like, not announcement, it was like SAT or something. I don't know if it was some standardized test. It's like, remember, you are carrying the reputation of our school. And I was like, that is just so messed up. Why are you putting that like, kind of like pressure on students, like, you're carrying the reputation about our school, you better make sure our school keeps their reputation as the grades, test scores, takers. And it's when you're constantly surrounded, there's no way that you're not going to be affected by it. So I was not trying to attack you by any means you

Claire: Also, by the way, Abby, how was or is your college application process going?

Abby: Um, fun tea okay. Um, it's definitely stressful. I mean, like, from what I've heard over the years about the process, it's very much true. You kind of get overwhelmed by everything. And I mean, especially for me, I'm focusing on specifically liberal arts schools. So like, all that I'm doing right now is like, trying to appeal to that kind of narrative. If you can say that, like, in essays and everything you need, I'm trying to make myself cater towards that kind of aspect as much as I can. So, um, it's definitely hard. But it's almost over anyway. So we gotta keep trying, you know, so. Yeah.

Ronan: Taylor, what about you?
Taylor: My first period physics class. That's it. It's the first period, I am this from in my opinion, I am the stupidest person in that class.

Ronan: It's really fun. Again, narcissism.

Taylor: Oh, no, I'm awesome. And wonderful. Okay, there you go. I'm the most awesome person I've ever talked to in my entire life. Don't get me wrong. I hate being there.

Ronan: You know what? Everyone has that one class that they're like, this is my personal hell. isn't all you had to say about that? Just first period physics class.

Taylor: No. Something else that really bothers me about school is all those several things. I got a work release because I work as a barista. But I got work release, like three weeks into school because the 10th graders act like ninth graders, and the tenth graders act like ninth graders. So I took this art class, I took art one as an elective. I already have three Fine Arts credits in theater. But I took our one as an elective, just for fun. And then I got like, it doesn't bother me. But I got bullied by the 10th graders who are basically ninth graders. And that really bugged me. So I just left like, Why do I have to put up with it? I don't have to. Luckily, it was my sixth period. So I get out early every day.

Ronan: I see. I see myself personally, um, I had a teacher in fourth grade that did not like me at all. And the issue is that this teacher was very good friends with both the principal of the school and one of the fifth grade teachers. And so when I got to fifth grade, this other teacher was not as nice to me either. And I say that with much sarcasm, I'll give an example. I was in the middle of class and the kids were crazy, because you know, it's right after recess. This is elementary school. It's right after recess. And like everyone's it's so a bit crazy. And so she asked him to settle down, but they didn't. And so there's this one kid who's always like, he is the teacher's pet. He always sits very quietly and very neatly and always does his work just on time. And so she says, Everyone, intimidate him and point to him. Now, here's the thing she meant to imitate. But she said intimidate. And so it was very confusing for them. So I think the five of us went up in like, pretending to speak, I was in a bunch, because at this point, I was scared of this teacher, like this teacher kind of terrified me, and like kind of pretended to scare him or something. We were just beyond confused the whole time. And so she takes us out on the hallway. And it's like, what were you doing? I asked you to intimidate him. And then he did. And so I did something very passive aggressive that I am to this day, and still very proud that I took the dictionary. And I took a little sticky note and wrote the definition of intimidate and wrote the definition of imitate, and stuck that sticky note on her door on the end of the Friday, before Thanksgiving break. In hopes that she would forget it ever happened before we came back from the break. And the principal got quite angry at me. But to this day, I regret nothing.
Abby: Um, wow, that's an amazing story. It is.

Ronan: It is an epic. I have many others like that. Not many others. I have some others there. Every single one of them is glorious. So that was a great one. Um, what about you Mikhail?

Mikhail: Well, I simply do not have public school experience. I was homeschooled my whole life. Because you know, especially the public school system, it is very questionable. If you stop, Oh, this is a very depressing topic. Let's move to more, more, more happy questions. Let's talk about the craziest party you've ever been to? What is your favorite party or just gathering of sorts that you have ever been to? We can start with Claire?

Claire: Well, like I said before, I think that everyday's a party, okay? It doesn't matter. Really. If you're sad or stressed, every day is a party because I think every day, you will go to school now. Right? So like, every day, seeing your friends, seeing people you like, and there's always like small moments in the day that just get to you like in a good way. That just like, you know, like maybe like you laugh about something like an accident or whatever. Like, like, I think those kinds of small moments are worth throwing a party over. So especially being able to see my friends during school or like I would say even like lunch, like everyday lunch. Lunch is definitely a party. Let me tell you yesterday, I think okay, that's kind of embarrassing to admit, but I think because I was laughing so hard during lunch. I had like, my stomach hurt like for the rest of the day. And it wasn't just like, oh, like my tummy kind of hurts. No, it was like someone was grabbing my intestines.

Abby: Ab exercises.

Claire: Yes! Ab exercises.

Ronan: Well, there you go. That's great. Um, what about you, Abby?

Abby: Oh, um, the question was like, the most extreme party right?

Ronan: Um, not just an extreme party, but just your favorite party. What is your personal favorite that you've ever been into? Like? Whether something that happened today or just like, just favorite in general?

Abby: Oh, well I said this earlier, but yes, I am very introverted. But um, I do enjoy my me-time. So a party to me is like sitting down and watching a movie or like a K drama or anime or whatever. Yeah, I think the most recent time I had a lot of fun was like 1 am in the morning. Oh,
yeah. And then all of a sudden, oh, this was after like, working on my college essays and whatever.

Claire: Yes– just had to clarify.

Abby: Yes. But yeah, so it's one am and all sudden, I’m like, hey, I want to watch Dune.

Claire: So was it good?

Abby: It was pretty good. The visuals are on another level.

Ronan: The new one?

Abby: Yeah, the new one with Tim--Timothee…

Ronan: Timothee Chalamet?

Abby: Yes, that person. The visuals are really good. It's very aesthetically pleasing. I will say, Taylor said this too, but um, it's very Zendaya click-baity. If you're gonna watch it, and just keep in mind, she is only in there for like 10 or 15 minutes.

Ronan: Zendaya click-baity. I've never heard that before.

Taylor: 15 minutes? She's in there for less. And she's just in those cuts. It's like– I'm sorry. I have a problem with Dune.

Claire: Okay, cool. I'm so excited. There we go.

Taylor: There are five female characters in Dune. All of them? Well, two of them I will give no spoilers. Two of them have like three lines of dialogue and they immediately die. One of them is the big evil bad lady who has a line of dialogue and dies. One of them is Zendaya and she has two lines. And she's like, there's wind blowing in my hair. And I'm dramatically looking into the camera and walking around in slow motion for like, what, 10 minutes of the film. That's what she does. And then the last one is, she doesn't die. But she's not in the film. She's just like, the three scenes that you see in the trailer, or the three scenes that she's in the movie. And then and then this is the worst part. Timothy shallow may is the main character. The main character's name is Paul. No, that's not my problem. The main character's mom, all she does is whine and complain and cry. And I mean it. She's very strong. My dad's read the books. She's very strong. She's like, She's the daughter who is related to the evil bad lady. She's just like, Oh, my God.
Ronan: Oh. So she's represented in a bad way. See, that's the thing. I just kind of derailed. But anyways. That's it. But anyway, like everyone talks about, oh, the Harry Potter books and movies are so good. And it's like, guys, are you serious? There's like one, or there's one, two, maybe three female leads. And then all the non white characters have like three lines and then disappear.

Claire: Because let me tell you, I rewatched the movies, I re-watched the last four movies, and I was like, This is no cinematic masterpiece. Yeah, this is something that bothered me most. Okay, like the kiss scenes. I don't know how to describe it. But literally, like, Ginny. Okay, so like for one of them like Ginny and Harry, they're like in the room with like, like the you can put something in this like, little cabinet thing appears. And they're literally like, just standing there. And they're just like looking at each other, and she just CLOSES in. And just like– it's just the two of them and this is like a random room with this cabinet. Just standing there. And it's like, why? Like, what was the like, the reason there was it was just so weird and so awkward.

Ronan: That is so awkward.

Abby: Oh um, we were talking about?

Ronan: Parties.

Abby: Yes.

Ronan: Yes. So you were talking about movies, and then we got to Dune. And then Taylor was talking about female characters and then we sort of started talking about Harry Potter. Okay, we're good. Back online. Okay, Taylor. What is your favorite party or gathering that you've been to?

Taylor: One time when I was seven years old. I went to my kindergarten friends. So the way my education worked was pre K to kindergarten. I was like in the Montessori School, a totally different thing. They teach their kids in a different way. I was in this Montessori school. And I was transferring over to my friends there. Since it's a private school, I was going to a public school. They didn't transfer over, obviously. So I think two years later, we were talking to my brother and my best friend in kindergarten, and he was having a birthday party. I think it was a seventh birthday party. And we went to laser tag. I got immediately sick because of all the, like the smoke machine stuff. I just could not breathe. But I went outside and then the mothers or the fathers or everyone who was congregating outside while the kids played laser tag, gave me this giant bag of quarters. And there was one of those little gacha machines. For non-weeb speakers. And Japanese lingo. I'm not Japanese. But they're those little twisty things where you get little prizes out there. Yeah, local machine, but they had like these cute little rubber animals. They were tiny, tiny, tiny things. But I got this bag of quarters that was huge. And I just kept twisting. I
kept getting more and more. That was the best. And there was also ice cream cake. I don't like ice cream cake, but it was Oreo ice cream. So wow, that was kind of epic.

Ronan: That's memorable. Very epic. Um, there you go. That's great. Um, Best party I've been to was so I moved here–

Claire: I was gonna say something, but I'm really happy that I got to come here and be interviewed by you guys today. Um, also shout out to Ms. Conforti because I'm really grateful for Ms. Conforti because she's the teen advisory board advisor. Yeah, I think Glenwood and I met her through a virtual tab and then we met in person over the summer, and then we got to talking about podcasts and then boom interview. A podcast was born. Yeah, there you go. That's great. Yeah. So that's a really cool thing that happened over the summer and I'm looking where we are now and I got to meet everybody here!

Ronan: There you go, that was a wonderful answer. Or we have two more people, myself and Mikhail. I'll do this quickly cuz we don't have much time left. But for myself, it was this. So we moved here, as I just said, 11 months ago, December of 2020. And right before we left, we had this party with tons of my Alabama friends. It was very cool. Oh, yeah. Forgot to mention. I'm from Alabama.

Taylor: Yeehaw!

Ronan: Yes! So we had a party with very close friends. And like, it was great, goodbye party. It was very deep. And there were some other things that happened. But it takes forever to explain why it was very personal in my heart. Yes, very heartwarming. Um, what about you Mikhail?

Mikhail: Okay, let's see. Oh, there was this one. Very, very long time ago. I went to a friend's house to play Monopoly. And after what seemed like forever, we started playing Risk, which was a very bad idea. Because we stayed much longer than we should have. And this was during a summer break. And my parents were out of town. And so I was like, staying with this family over the summer. Right. And so we start playing Risk and Monopoly and that's what we did for like two weeks straight. And it was wonderful. A great time. So yeah, this is my totally real story. That definitely happened. All right, well, Abby, Claire Taylor, Kamila and Michelle. Well, Kamila and Michelle are not here anymore. But thank you so much for coming. It was a pleasure to talk with all of you, and happy holidays, and have a wonderful winter time.

Claire: Toodaloo.

Abby: Bye.
Thanks for listening to HoCoCast. We enjoy featuring local teens like Claire, Michelle, and Kamila who share their talents and interests with the community. If you’d like to be part of an upcoming episode, please contact our advisor, Lori Conforti, using the link in the show notes. Though most of us are engaged in the hectic holiday season, we hope that our HocoCast and our fellow podcasts peers offer you a bit of comfort, a bit of joy, and a bit of love. Catch you next time!

Instrumental Music Clip: Hardboil, by Blue Dot Sessions
https://freemusicarchive.org/music/Blue_Dot_Sessions/Banana_Cream/Hardboil

Show Notes

Descriptor Paragraph for the website:
The HoCoCast team interviews the creators of the podcasts, Party Size! and “Who Cares About College?” in the second part of their exploration of local teen voices. Be inspired by this in-depth segment with Claire, Michelle, and Kamila as we learn the secrets to their podcasting success (1:18). Discover a variety of great movies to watch over winter break with our team’s reviews (40:15) and listen in on our fun conversation segment that covers wide ranging topics such as parties, snacks, and school plus bonus a discussion covering very strong opinions about the movie, Dune and the Harry Potter movie series (49:27).

Episode 12 Show Notes:

Interview Links:
Party Size Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/thepartysizepod/
Party Size Website: https://cmpodcast20.wixsite.com/partysize
Who Cares About College? Website: https://collegerealitycheck.com/podcast/

Podcast Tools:
Audacity
GarageBand
Auphonic
Anchor
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Podcast Listening Recommendations:
Invisibilia
Criminalia
Modern Love
Radiolab
ur mom ashley
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Leah’s Field Notes
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Interested in contributing to HoCoCast? Contact library advisor, Lori Conforti for details.
Service hours available.

Transcript Link: