

ARIES | 3/21-4/19

bold & ambitious

8.86% of Aragon student body is Aries

TAURUS | 4/20-5/20

perseverant & indulgent

9.03% of Aragon student body is Taurus

GEMINI | 5/21-6/20

spontaneous & curious

8.63% of Aragon student body is Gemini

BIG THREE

SUN Sun signs represent people's identities and their general personalities. It is said to determine one's nature and preferences. This sign is determined by the position of the sun at one's birth, which is calculated by one's date of birth.

MOON Moon signs represent people's emotional sides or one's "inner self" or subconscious. This sign is determined by the position of the moon at one's birth, which is calculated by one's exact time of birth, day of birth and geographic location.

RISING Rising signs represent how people see others and how others perceive them. This sign is determined by the sign that was rising on the eastern horizon at one's birth, which is calculated by one's exact time of birth.

SCIENCE OR BELIEF?

Though some believe that astrology has the power to determine people's personality traits and daily lives, according to Scientific American, there is no science to support this. Although some descriptions of personality traits may sound familiar, many of these descriptions are broad and can apply to many people, regardless of their zodiac sign.

40.4% of Aragon students believe in astrology*

PERCEPTION

A large part of astrology focuses on the connection between personality and individual zodiac signs. Astrology also offers horoscopes, or predictions to guide daily life. Aragon students range in how much they believe in the concept, and some, like junior Kelsey Mallard, find that these predictions are accurate in their life.

"I feel like I've seen characteristics in people that match exactly what their zodiac signs are," said Mallard. "When I look at horoscopes, or when I go on apps, I can actually relate to the things it tells me. Every book I [read] said my best friend was going to be a Taurus and I never believed it, and my best friend ended up being a Taurus."

Other students are less certain about the credibility of astrology, believing that there is no evidence to support the concept. "Some people are just trying to take more control over their life," said junior Cyrus Hayden-Gephart. "A lot of people are superstitious."

Overall, each person perceives astrology differently, with some drawing more meaning from the concept than others. "My mom is the only person I know who uses [astrology] for intellectual purposes," said junior Tara Sardana. "When [she] talks about it, I see it as more of a sense of direction. When other people talk about it, it's a categorization of people. It changes depending on the people I'm talking to." Some students believe that different traits may be associated with different signs, but accept that the prediction might not always be

accurate. "I love seeing when things are actually relatable," said Astrology club treasurer and junior Aria Khanna. "I'm a Pisces [and] I'm really emotional. I don't believe [in astrology] because I have a twin brother and he's also a Pisces, obviously, [but] he's not an emotional person at all." Some students agree with the stereotypes associated with their zodiac sign, even if they don't believe in the concept itself. "It's fun to see what they say about my personality," said sophomore Frankie Mayor. "I'm a Taurus, [and] I am lazy and I am a foodie. I don't think it's because of my zodiac sign but it's funny seeing it reflected in something that's so widespread." However, the idea that astrology governs people's personalities may lead to judgment of a person based on their astrological sign. "People think I'm very aggressive just because I'm an Aries, but once you get to know me I'm nice and not aggressive," said junior Janelle Jee. In some cases, astrology can also change how people perceive their own abilities.

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POP CULTURE / SOCIAL MEDIA

Over the past few years, astrology has gained increasing popularity among younger generations, largely due to social media. Posts about astrology seem to squeeze their way into almost every young adult's social media page, propagating a variety of perceptions.

"It became a trend on TikTok," said junior Maya Rozenberg. "Last year, I loved [astrology] because it was super trendy and this year I don't care as much because it's not trending."

While some posts are more serious and garner the attention of those genuinely interested in astrology, others are largely a result of meme culture. Seeing posts that assign viewers an aesthetic, a song or even an outfit based on their zodiac sign is not particularly uncommon today.

Another result of the increase in coverage of astrology on social media is that more people have started to identify their zodiac signs on their social media profiles, giving followers an insight into their beliefs.

"What I've noticed is there seems to be a big divide between the things people say online and then their actions in real life," said junior Finley Patterson. "A lot of people ... will say [they believe in astrology online], and then in real life, they have no opinion on it whatsoever."

Senior Catie Mullins was initially exposed to astrology in sixth grade through Snapchat. Since then, she started getting more interested in the aspects of astrology that are perhaps not as well-known today, like the "big three" signs and the deeper implications they may have in her life.

However, despite occasionally checking her horoscope and being exposed to astrology early on, she displays skepticism toward it.

"For the most part, I think [horoscopes] are going to be inaccurate," Mullins said. "How does [it] know what I'm going to experience?"

Others discovered their interest in astrology during quarantine and furthered their interest through mobile applications. Senior Geneva Williams downloaded CoStar, a mobile application that provides users with detailed horoscope readings pertaining to their star sign.

"[Astrology] was fun during the pandemic," Williams said. "There wasn't a lot going on ... [and] my days [were] meaningless. [Astrology] gave them a little flair."

Astrology has started to gain more significance in pop culture as well. Prominent celebrities like Madonna and Jennifer Lopez have openly admitted to making important decisions based on their star signs, even refusing to collaborate with other artists because of the compatibility of their zodiac signs. Jennifer Lopez allegedly cut potential dancers from an audition process for her 2022 tour because of their zodiac signs.

Consciously or not, celebrities play a significant role in the rising popularity of astrology today because of their large influence on society.

From funny memes to popular mobile applications, astrology today has gained a widespread audience. Whether as a source of entertainment or a way of finding belonging, astrology plays a significant role in today's society as social media and pop culture continue to perpetuate its prevalence.

HISTORY

The idea of astrology originated in Mesopotamia. In these times, the concept was heavily connected to astronomy, the study of celestial objects and space. The Babylonians used the stars to predict large events and seasonal recurrences. As it developed, astrology focused more on how the stars and planets could help interpret human life, and was viewed as a scholarly concept rather than one left to interpretation. The concept of astrology later spread to other cultures and was used in a variety of ways.

Initially, astrology was used to help guide the course of life, similar to how horoscopes are used today. Horoscopes are determined based on planets' positions in the sky, as well as their distance from one another. Mathematical calculations are used to decipher these meanings.

"This is [a] science developed by the ancient Indians, and we consider it a practically wonderful science," said astrologer Satya Prakash Gupta. "[With] each mathematical calculation in space, in respect to the particular planet, we can predict the planet's effect. If you do the calculations [in] more [detail], you will be able to [better predict] the impact of that particular planet." Through modern technology, astrologers believe calculations are improving in accuracy. "[Computers help] a lot," Gupta said. "Calculations are being done in seconds, therefore it is becoming more popular because the complicated calculations become very easy." In this way, as astrology becomes a more popular concept among modern youth, it builds on the ideas of the past.

* based on data from surveys conducted in-person and on Canvas

PISCES | 2/19-3/20

sensitive & empathetic

7.94%

AQUARIUS | 1/20-2/18

innovative & progressive

7.37%

CAPRICORN | 12/22-1/19

patient & dedicated

8.80%

SAGITTARIUS | 11/22-12/21

knowledge-seeking & passionate

8.11%

SCORPIO | 10/23-11/21

persistent & loyal

5.77%

LIBRA | 9/23-10/22

well-balanced & empathetic

8.23%

CANCER | 6/21-7/22

8.29%

LEO | 7/23-8/22

10.34%

VIRGO | 8/23-9/22

8.63%

of Aragon student body is Pisces

of Aragon student body is Aquarius

of Aragon student body is Capricorn

of Aragon student body is Sagittarius

of Aragon student body is Scorpio

of Aragon student body is Libra

of Aragon student body is Cancer

of Aragon student body is Leo

of Aragon student body is Virgo

intuitive & self-protective

confident & theatrical

logical & systematic