

History of the World our Senior Year at Longview High School September 1971 – June 1972

September 1971

- September 3 Qatar gains independence from the United Kingdom. Unlike most nearby emirates, Qatar declines to become part of either the United Arab Emirates or Saudi Arabia.
- Manlio Brosio resigns as NATO Secretary General.
- September 4 – A Boeing 727 (Alaska Airlines Flight 1866) crashes into the side of a mountain near Juneau, Alaska, killing all 111 people on board.
- September 8 – In Washington, DC, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is inaugurated, with the opening feature being the premiere of Leonard Bernstein's Mass.
- September 9 – September 13 – Attica Prison riots: – A revolt breaks out at the maximum-security prison in Attica, New York. In the end, state police and the United States National Guard storm the facility; 42 are killed, 10 of them hostages.
- September 19 – Ballarat's electric tram system closes in the city of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.
- September 21 – Pakistan declares a state of emergency.
- September 24 – Britain expels 90 KGB and GRU officials; 15 are not allowed to return.
- September 27–October 11 – Japanese Emperor Hirohito travels abroad.
- September 28 – Cardinal József Mindszenty, who has taken refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Budapest since 1956, is allowed to leave Hungary.
- September 29 – A cyclone in the Bay of Bengal, in Orissa State in India, kills 10,000.

October 1971

- October 1 – Walt Disney World opens in Orlando, Florida
- October 15 – The 2,500 Year Celebration of Iran begins, celebrating the birth of Persia.
- October 17 – The Pittsburgh Pirates win the World Series in 7 games against the Baltimore Orioles. The Pirates' Roberto Clemente, who turned into a one-man gang in the Series, became the first Latino player to earn World Series MVP honors. Game 4 of the Series was also the first night game ever to be played in the World Series.
- October 18 – In New York City, the Knapp Commission begins public hearings on police corruption.
- October 21 U.S. President Richard Nixon nominates Lewis Franklin Powell, Jr. and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- The Clarkston explosion in Scotland kills 22 people.
- October 25 – The United Nations General Assembly admits the People's Republic of China and expels the Republic of China (or Taiwan).
- October 27 – The Democratic Republic of the Congo is renamed Zaire.
- October 28 The British House of Commons votes 356–244 in favour of joining the European Economic Community.
- The United Kingdom becomes the 6th nation to launch a satellite into orbit, the Prospero X-3, using a Black Arrow carrier rocket.

- The Egyptian Opera House (Khedivial Opera House) burns down in Cairo.
- October 29 – Vietnam War – Vietnamization: The total number of American troops still in Vietnam drops to a record low of 196,700 (the lowest since January 1966).
- October 30 – Rev. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party is founded in Northern Ireland.
- October 31 – A bomb explodes at the top of the Post Office Tower in London.

November 1971

- November 3 – The UNIX Programmer's Manual is published.
- November 6 – Operation Grommet: The U.S. tests a thermonuclear warhead at Amchitka Island in Alaska, code-named Project Cannikin. At around 5 megatons, it is the largest ever U.S. underground detonation.
- November 8 – Led Zeppelin releases their Fourth Studio album "Led Zeppelin IV" which goes on to sell 23,000,000 copies.
- November 9 – A British Royal Air Force C-130 crashes into the Ligurian Sea near Leghorn, Italy, killing all 51 people on board.
- November 10 – In Cambodia, Khmer Rouge forces attack Phnom Penh and its airport, killing 44, wounding at least 30 and damaging 9 airplanes.
- November 12 – Vietnam War – Vietnamization: U.S. President Richard M. Nixon sets February 1, 1972, as the deadline for the removal of another 45,000 American troops from Vietnam.
- November 13 – Mariner program: Mariner 9 becomes the first spacecraft to enter Mars orbit successfully.
- November 14 – Pope Shenouda III of Alexandria is enthroned.
- November 15 Intel releases the world's first microprocessor, the Intel 4004.
- International Organization and System of Space Communications (Intersputnik) (effective 12 July 1972).
- November 20 – A bridge still in construction, called Elevado Engenheiro Freyssinet, falls over the Paulo de Frontin Avenue, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 48 people are killed and several injured. Reconstructed, the bridge is currently a part of the Linha Vermelha elevate.
- November 23 – The People's Republic of China takes the Republic of China's seat on the United Nations Security Council (see China and the United Nations).
- November 24 During a severe thunderstorm over Washington, a man calling himself D. B. Cooper parachutes from the Northwest Orient Airlines plane he hijacked, with US\$200,000 in ransom money, and is never seen again (as of March 2008, this case remains the only unsolved skyjacking in history).
- A Brussels court sentences pretender Alexis Brimeyer to 18 months in jail for falsely using a noble title; Brimeyer has already fled to Greece.
- November 28 – 59th Grey Cup Game sees the Calgary Stampeders beat the Toronto Argonauts 14 to 11.

December 1971

- December 1 – Cambodian Civil War: Khmer Rouge rebels intensify assaults on Cambodian government positions, forcing their retreat from Kompong Thmar and nearby Ba Ray, 10 kilometers northeast of Phnom Penh.
- December 2 – Six Persian Gulf sheikdoms found the United Arab Emirates.
- December 3 – The Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 begins as Pakistan launches preemptive attacks 9 Indian airbases. The next day India launches a massive invasion of East Pakistan.
- December 3–December 4 – The Pakistani submarine PNS Ghazi (former USS Diablo) sinks mysteriously near Indian coast while laying mines.
- December 4 The Montreux Casino burns down during a Frank Zappa concert. The event is memorialized in the Deep Purple song "Smoke on the Water." The casino is rebuilt in 1975.
- The McGurk's Bar bombing by the UVF in Belfast kills 15.
- December 8 – U.S. President Richard Nixon orders the 7th Fleet to move towards the Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean.
- December 11 – Nihat Erim forms the new government of Turkey (34th government, Nihat Erim had served two times as a prime minister)
- December 16 – Victory Day of Bangladesh: The Pakistan Army in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) surrenders to the Indian Armed Forces, ending the Bangladesh Liberation War.
- December 18 The U.S. dollar is devalued for the second time in history.
- The world's largest hydroelectric plant in Krasnoyarsk, Soviet Union, begins operations.
- December 19 The Clube Atletico Mineiro wins the Brazil Football Championship.
- Intelsat IV (F3) is launched; it enters commercial service over the Atlantic Ocean February 18, 1972.
- December 24 Giovanni Leone is elected President of the Italian Republic.
- Juliane Koepcke survives a fall of 10,000 feet following disintegration of LANSA Flight 508.
- December 25 In the longest game in NFL history, the Miami Dolphins beat the Kansas City Chiefs.
- Fire at a 22-story hotel in Seoul, South Korea kills 158 people.
- December 29 – The United Kingdom gives up its military bases in Malta.

January 1972

- January 1 Kurt Waldheim becomes Secretary General of the United Nations.
- Pierre Hotel Robbery: Six men rob the safety deposit boxes of The Pierre Hotel in New York City of at least \$4 million.
- January 3 MGM's 1951 Show Boat is presented on television by NBC for the first time. This marks the first complete network telecast of any version of Show Boat (it had already been filmed as a part-talkie in 1929, and as a full-sound musical in 1936).
- January 4 The first scientific hand-held calculator (HP-35) is introduced (price \$395).
- Rose Heilbron becomes the first woman judge at the Old Bailey in London.
- January 5 – U.S. President Richard Nixon orders the development of a space shuttle program.

- January 7 An Iberian Airlines passenger plane crashes into a 250-meter peak on the island of Ibiza; 104 are killed.
- Howard Hughes speaks by telephone to denounce Clifford Irving's supposed biography of him.
- January 9 – The RMS Queen Elizabeth is destroyed by fire in Hong Kong harbor.
- January 10 – Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returns Bangladesh from Pakistan
- January 13 – Prime Minister of Ghana Kofi Abrefa Busia is overthrown in a military coup.
- January 14 – Queen Margrethe II of Denmark succeeds her father, King Frederick IX, on the throne of Denmark.
- January 16 – Super Bowl VI: The Dallas Cowboys defeat the Miami Dolphins 24–3.
- January 19 – The Libertarian enclave Minerva on a platform in the South Pacific, sponsored by the Phoenix Foundation, declares independence. Soon neighboring Tonga annexes the area and dismantles the platform.
- January 20 – President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto announces that Pakistan will immediately begin a nuclear weapons programme.
- Fears are growing about the economy of the United Kingdom, where unemployment is now exceeding 1 million for the first time since World War II.
- January 21 – A New Delhi bootlegger sells wood alcohol to a wedding party; 100 die.
- January 24 – Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi is discovered in Guam; he had spent 28 years in the jungle.
- January 25 – Shirley Chisholm, the first African American Congresswoman, announces her candidacy for President.
- January 26 Yugoslavian air stewardess Vesna Vulović is the only survivor when her plane crashes in Czechoslovakia. She survives after falling 10,160 meters (33,330 feet) in the tail section of the aircraft.
- The Aboriginal Tent Embassy is set up on the lawn of Parliament House in Canberra.
- January 28 – Richard Chanfray claims he is the Count of St Germain on French television.
- January 30 Bloody Sunday: The British Army kills 14 unarmed nationalist civil rights marchers in Derry, Northern Ireland.
- Pakistan withdraws from the Commonwealth of Nations.
- January 31 – King Birendra succeeds his father as King of Nepal.

February 1972

- February 2 A bomb explodes at the British Yacht Club in West Berlin, killing Irwin Beelitz, a German boat builder.
- The German militant group Movement 2 June announces its support of the Provisional Irish Republican Army.
- Anti-British riots take place throughout Ireland. The British Embassy in Dublin is burned to the ground, as are several British-owned businesses.
- February 3 – February 13 – The 1972 Winter Olympics are held in Sapporo, Japan.
- February 4 – Mariner 9 sends pictures from Mars.
- February 5 U.S. airlines begin mandatory inspection of passengers and baggage.
- Bob Douglas becomes the first African American elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame.

- February 9 – The British government declares a state of emergency over a miners' strike.
- February 15 President of Ecuador José María Velasco Ibarra is deposed for the fourth time.
- Phonorecords are granted U.S. federal copyright protection for the first time.
- February 17 – Volkswagen Beetle sales exceed those of the Ford Model-T when the 15,007,034th Beetle is produced.
- February 18 – The California Supreme Court voids the state's death penalty, commuting all death sentences to life in prison.
- February 19 – Asama-Sansō incident: Five United Red Army members break into a lodge below Mount Asama, taking the wife of the lodge keeper hostage.
- February 21 – The Soviet unmanned spaceship Luna 20 lands on the Moon.
- February 21 – February 28 – U.S. President Richard M. Nixon makes an unprecedented 8-day visit to the People's Republic of China and meets with Mao Zedong.
- February 22 Aldershot bombing: An Official IRA bomb kills 7 in Aldershot, England.
- A Lufthansa plane is hijacked and taken to Aden. Passengers are released after a ransom of 16 million German marks is agreed.
- February 23 – Angela Davis is released from jail. A Caruthers, California farmer, Rodger McAfee, helps her make bail.
- February 24 – North Vietnamese negotiators walk out of the Paris Peace Talks to protest U.S. air raids.
- February 26 A coal sludge spill kills 125 people in Buffalo Creek, West Virginia.
- Luna 20 comes back to Earth with 55 grams (1.94 oz) of lunar soil.
- February 28 – The Asama-Sanso incident ends in a standoff between 5 members of the Japanese United Red Army and the authorities, in which 2 policemen are killed and 12 injured.

March 1972

- March 1 The Thai province Yasothon is created after being split off from the Ubon Ratchathani Province.
- The Club of Rome publishes its report Limits to Growth.
- March 2 The Pioneer 10 spacecraft is launched from Cape Kennedy, to be the first man-made satellite to leave the solar system.
- Jean-Bédél Bokassa becomes President of the Central African Republic.
- March 3 – Sculpted figures of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and Stonewall Jackson are completed at Stone Mountain in the U.S. state of Georgia.
- March 4 Libya and the Soviet Union sign a cooperation treaty.
- The Organisation of the Islamic Conference Charter is signed (effective 28 February 1973).
- March 5 – Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis leaves the Greek Communist Party.
- March 13 The United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China elevate diplomatic exchanges to the ambassadorial level after 22 years.
- Clifford Irving admits to a New York court that he had fabricated Howard Hughes' "autobiography".
- March 16 – The first building of the Pruitt–Igoe housing development is destroyed.
- March 19 – India and Bangladesh sign a friendship treaty.

- March 22 – The 92nd U.S. Congress votes to send the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification.
- March 24 The Godfather is released in cinemas in the United States.
- The British government announces the prorogation of the Parliament of Northern Ireland and the introduction of 'Direct Rule' of Northern Ireland, after the Unionist government refuses to cede security powers.
- March 25 *Après Toi* sung by Vicky Leandros (music by Klaus Munro & Mario Panas, lyric by Klaus Munro & Yves Dessca) wins the Eurovision Song Contest 1972 for Luxembourg.
- Bewitched starring Elizabeth Montgomery and Dick Sargent aired its final episode, "The Truth, Nothing but the Truth, So Help Me Sam" on ABC.
- March 26 An avalanche on Mount Fuji kills 19 climbers.
- The last trolleybus system in the United Kingdom closes in Bradford, West Riding of Yorkshire after over 60 years of operation.
- After fourteen years, the last of Leonard Bernstein's Young People's Concerts is telecast by CBS. This last concert is devoted to Gustav Holst's *The Planets*.
- March 30 – Vietnam War: The Easter Offensive begins after North Vietnamese forces cross into the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) of South Vietnam.

April 1972

- April 7 – Vietnam War veteran Richard McCoy, Jr. hijacks a United Airlines jet and extorts \$500,000; he is later captured.
- April 10 The U.S. and the Soviet Union join some 70 nations in signing the Biological Weapons Convention, an agreement to ban biological warfare.
- A 7.0 Richter scale earthquake kills 5,000 people in the Iranian province of Fars.
- The 44th Annual Academy Awards are held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles.
- April 13 – The Universal Postal Union decides to recognize the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate Chinese representative, effectively expelling the Republic of China administering Taiwan.
- April 16 Apollo 16 (John Young, Ken Mattingly, Charlie Duke) is launched. During the mission, the astronauts achieve a lunar rover speed record of 18 km/h.
- Vietnam War – Nguyen Hue Offensive: Prompted by the North Vietnamese offensive, the United States resumes bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong.
- April 17 – The first Boston Marathon in which women are officially allowed to compete.
- April 22 – Sylvia Cook and John Fairfax finish rowing across the Pacific.
- April 26 – The Lockheed L-1011 Tristar enters service with Eastern Airlines.
- April 27 – A no-confidence vote against German Chancellor Willy Brandt fails under obscure circumstances.
- April 29 – The fourth anniversary of the Broadway musical *Hair* is celebrated with a free concert at a Central Park bandshell, followed by dinner at the Four Seasons. There, 13 Black Panther protesters and the show's co-author, Jim Rado, are arrested for disturbing the peace and for using marijuana.

May 1972

- May The Burundian Genocide against the Hutu begins; more than 500,000 Hutus die.
- May 2 – Fire in a silver mine in Idaho kills 91.
- May 5 – An Alitalia DC-8 crashes west of Palermo, Sicily; 115 die.
- May 7 – General elections are held in Italy.
- May 8 – U.S. President Richard Nixon orders the mining of Haiphong Harbor in Vietnam.
- May 13 – Fire in a nightclub atop the Sennichi department store in Osaka, Japan, kills 115.
- May 15 Okinawa is returned to Japan after 27 years of United States Military occupation.
- Governor George C. Wallace of Alabama is shot by Arthur Herman Bremer at a Laurel, Maryland political rally.
- May 16 – The first financial derivatives exchange, the International Monetary Market (IMM), opens on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.
- May 18 – Four troopers of both SAS and SBS are parachuted onto the RMS Queen Elizabeth 2, 1,000 miles (1,600 km) off Britain in the Atlantic, after a bomb threat and ransom demand, which turns out to be bogus.
- May 19 – Three out of 6 bombs explode in the Springer Press building in Hamburg, Germany, injuring 17; the Red Army Faction claims responsibility.
- May 21 – In Rome, Laszlo Toth attacks Michelangelo's "Pietà" statue with a sledgehammer, shouting that he is Jesus Christ.
- May 22 Ceylon becomes the republic of Sri Lanka under prime minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, when its new constitution is ratified.
- Ferit Melen forms the new (interim) government of Turkey (35th government)
- May 23 – The Tamil United Front (now known as Tamil United Liberation Front), a pro-Tamil organization, is founded.
- May 24 Rangers lift the Cup Winners Cup, defeating Dynamo Moscow in the final at the Nou Camp. Their supporters invade the pitch, with the team banned from defending the trophy the following season.
- A Red Army Faction bomb explodes in the Campbell Barracks of the U.S. Army Supreme European Command in Heidelberg, West Germany; 3 U.S. soldiers (Clyde Bonner, Ronald Woodard and Charles Peck) are killed.
- The Magnavox Odyssey video game system is first demoed, marking the dawn of the video game age; it goes on sale to the public in August.
- May 26 Richard Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev sign the SALT I treaty in Moscow, as well as the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and other agreements.
- The Watergate first break-in, the "Ameritas dinner", fails.
- Wernher von Braun retires from NASA, frustrated by the agency's unwillingness to pursue a manned trans-orbital space program.
- Willandra National Park is established in Australia.
- May 27 – A second Watergate break-in attempt fails.
- May 30 The Angry Brigade goes on trial in the United Kingdom.
- Three Japanese Red Army members kill 24 and injure 100 in Lod Airport, Israel.

June 1972

- June – Iraq nationalizes the Iraq Petroleum Company.

- June 2 – Andreas Baader, Jan-Carl Raspe, Holger Meins and some other members of Red Army Faction are arrested in Frankfurt am Main after a shootout.
- June 3 – Sally Priesand becomes the first female U.S. rabbi.
- June 4 – Angela Davis is found not guilty of murder.
- June 5 – June 16 – The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment is held in Stockholm, Sweden
- June 8 – Seven men and 3 women hijack a plane from Czechoslovakia to West Germany.
- June 9 – The Black Hills flood kills 238 in South Dakota.
- June 14 – June 23 – Hurricane Agnes kills 117 on the U.S. East Coast.
- June 15 – Ulrike Meinhof and Gerhard Müller of the Red Army Faction are arrested in a teacher's apartment in Langenhagen, West Germany.
- June 15 – June 18 – The first U.S. Libertarian Party National Convention is held in Denver, Colorado.
- June 16 – 108 die as two passenger trains hit the debris of a collapsed railway tunnel near Soissons, France.
- June 17 Watergate scandal: Five White House operatives are arrested for burglarizing the offices of the Democratic National Committee.
- The United States returns Okinawa, occupied and governed since the World War II Battle of Okinawa, to Japan.
- Chilean president Salvador Allende forms a new government.
- June 18 Staines air disaster: 118 die when a Trident 1 jet airliner crashes 2 minutes after take off from London Heathrow Airport.
- West Germany beats the Soviet Union 3–0 to win Euro 72.
- June 23 – Watergate Scandal: U.S. President Richard M. Nixon and White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman are taped talking about using the C.I.A. to obstruct the F.B.I.'s investigation into the Watergate break-ins.
- June 26 – Nolan Bushnell and Ted Dabney co-found Atari.
- June 28 – U.S. President Richard Nixon announces that no new draftees will be sent to Vietnam.
- June 29 – Furman v. Georgia: The Supreme Court of the United States rules that the death penalty is unconstitutional.
- June 30 – An extra leap second (23:59:60) is added to end the month.