

WHAT'S INSIDE



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Staffing cuts affect student body

vladapitner
news editor

Schedule changes have gone into effect due to district wide staffing adjustments.

Many students have been given new teachers and class assignments have been altered for some teachers.

"My first period teacher left and my third period is being dissolved," Allison Beiser, a senior, said.

There has been some negative feedback from students as a result of this change halfway through the first semester.

"It's really unfair to the students who have already been through so much with COVID," Beiser said. "Having to get a completely different schedule in the second quarter is awful as it makes this academic year even more difficult than it already is."

According to an email sent to employees by superintendent Addison Davis, this large-scale staffing change was brought later in the academic year due to complications from the coronavirus.

"The amount of teachers leaving is ridiculous, especially during these difficult times," Beiser said. "They all have families to take care of."

Some teachers were not as affected by this adjustment as others.

"My schedule stayed the same," Michelle Both, a social studies teacher, said. "I just have more students and more classes. For me, it's fine, because my classes



PHOTO BY • OLIVIA LEDUC

STAFFED- Staffing cuts have been in place due to the negative effects of the global pandemic. These cuts were said to improve the starting salaries of classroom teachers.

were smaller to begin with."

However, other teachers suffered great revisions to their schedules.

"My schedule was really affected," Nancy McDonald, a social studies teacher, said. "I now have mostly e-learners, and I lost several classes I loved to teach. But I am looking forward to my next adventure with my new students and to building stronger relationships with them."

Adjustments are going to be made by teachers in regards to

different learning methods and the use of different tools to move forward with these new rearranged schedules.

"I am going to be sad not having kids in my physical classroom," McDonald said. "I enjoy being super social. It's going to be different, but I will still find a way to greatly interact with students online in order to help them learn the best way possible from home."

According to Davis, 424 vacant positions will not be filled this

year, along with 333 more positions that are being eliminated.

Teachers that were part of this large cut are placed into a hiring pool in which they are reassigned to different schools.

In a press release, Davis mentioned that this massive shift is said to save the district \$45 million, which is supposed to be directed to boost starting pay for classroom teachers to \$47,500.

However, he added that this funding shift had nothing to do with the staff cuts.

Hillsborough County's school calendar changes due to COVID-19 pandemic

brookereif
staff writer

The school calendar for this year has changed along with many other things effected by COVID-19.

Early release Mondays, the number of non-student days and the dates of Semester 1 exams have all been altered because of the coronavirus.

"I know this school calendar had to change because we started school two weeks late," Mike Rowan,

school principal, said. "There's a state mandate in order to get credit for your classes you have to be sitting in a class for so many minutes."

Pushing back the start of school by three weeks forced the school district to make the changes to in-

crease the number of minutes in class with minimal changes to the final day of school.

"I saw the school calendar and I don't agree with it," Wes Newton, a science teacher, said.

Newton also added that every early release Mondays should remain. He also said COVID-19 forced a reduction in staff as students went to oth-

er education options, so teachers should not lose planning time in addition.

MIKE ROWAN
PRINCIPAL

to this school year because of how much the virus has effected the world.

Some changes to the calendar include first semester exams mov-

ing to after winter break, which hasn't happened in two years.

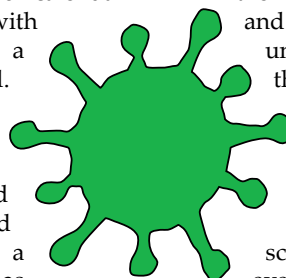
As for early release Mondays, the number that will be cut and the exact dates are still undecided, according to the Hillsborough county school district website.

Not only has the coronavirus affected the calendar, but many school related sports and events have suffered by being canceled or forced to continue with various alterations, such as having to wear masks while practicing in close contact or limiting the number of people who can attend games.

"The schedule changed due to us not finishing the school year because of the coronavirus and starting school late this year," Jackye Kelley, a senior said.

Almost halfway through the school year and no one knows how the end to seniors final high school year will look.

"This whole year has been effected because of COVID-19 and its 2020," Newton said.



Non-student Days for Second Semester

-January 15

-January 18

-February 12

-March 8

-March 15-19

-April 2

Increase in students forced into quarantine after recent outbreaks

izzyspeer
staff writer

A recent outbreak of the coronavirus has resulted in many students being sent home to be quarantined. This has sparked worries across the campus, as students and teachers fear for their health.

“So many people are being sent home,” Heather Johnson, a senior, said. “The entire band did.”

Some unfortunate students have experienced this fate first-hand, describing it as stressful.

“I was upset when I was sent home because I could have a virus that could affect me,” Johnson said.

Most students sent home did not have the coronavirus; they were just exposed to a person who tested positive, such as junior Jordan Gormley.

“I was quarantined because one of my friends I sit with at lunch tested positive for COVID-19,”

Gormley said.

Once sent home, students were tested, but most results came back negative. Eager to come back, they were faced with the fact that they still had to wait out the two-week quarantining period.

“I was negative, but I had to stay home for 14 whole days,” Dylan

Klinger, a sophomore, said. “My sister was already back at college while I still had to stay home, and I shouldn’t have had to.”

SCOTT VOMAKA
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Some students were extremely annoyed with having to stay home, and said it was pointless.

“I don’t think it’s necessary to self-isolate for two weeks in your room if you’re negative,” Johnson said. “That’s stupid.”

However, there are many aspects taken into consideration before a student is sent home.

“We’re following district protocol,” Scott Vomaka, an assistant principal, said. “There are a number of factors that determine if a student can come back or stay home, as far as contact tracing

and depending on if they test or don’t test.”

Recently, Hillsborough County Superintendent Addison Davis sent out the revised COVID-19 Response Protocol. The guidelines that determine if a student must be quarantined have been made more elaborate.

Close contact was previously defined as someone who was within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more.

Now, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have further defined it as someone who is within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from two days before illness onset until the time the person is isolated.

The COVID-19 response protocol considers proximity, duration of exposure and symptoms, when contact-tracing is performed, according to Davis’ press release.

“I think contact-tracing is effective,” Vomaka said. “Our numbers are better than most schools.”

School board officials have assured that the new and improved protocol shouldn’t result in any new students being sent back to their homes.

“Because of our measured approach with contact tracing, we do not believe this clarification from CDC will result in more individuals from schools required to quarantine,” Davis said.

What happens if you’re exposed to COVID-19?

- Exposure entails:
 - sitting within 6 feet of range from a person who has COVID-19
 - being in contact for 15 minutes or more with a person who has COVID-19

What happens if you test positive for COVID-19?

- Alert the school so they can take immediate action
- The classes you are in will be sanitized
- You and the students & staff who have been in close contact with you will have to quarantine for 14 days

*source: Hillsborough County Schools Infographic designed by: Izzy Speer

Amy Barret tapped in as new Supreme Court Justice

vladapitner
news editor

After the unfortunate passing of former Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a new justice, Amy Coney Barrett, was confirmed on Oct. 26.

Some, including senior Jacob McLaughlin, said they support the nomination.

“She has every qualification to fill the position and based on her hearings, I trust that she will make informed and non-partisan decisions,” McLaughlin said.

She is currently 48 years old, leaving her to have plenty of room to serve for her lifetime appointment.

“There’s no doubt she’s young,” Chad Reed, a social studies teacher, said. “She could be serving for a very long time. The only question is how long will her influence exist on the court. Historically, the average age of the nominees has been 40 years.”

Some controversy has arisen regarding the proximity of her nomination to the 2020 presidential election.

“The nomination and appointment process was well within the purview of the constitution,” Reed said. “The President has a constitutional responsibility to

nominate justices as those positions become available, and the senate saw fit to confirm her. There’s no question on the legitimacy of it.”

In 2016, then President Obama tried to fill a vacant Supreme Court justice seat with Merrick Garland. However, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell denied this appointment, claiming that the next justice should be chosen by the next sitting president.

There has been speculation regarding her nomination and the similarity of this presidential election to the Bush v. Gore case in 2000 surrounding ballot recounts.

“That case did not determine the presidency; that case told Florida to confirm their election,” Reed said. “The Supreme Court isn’t in the business of appointing or electing the President. They’re in the business of interpreting decisions and making decisions in cases that are brought before them.”

Some students have said they wonder what impacts she will have on certain court cases.

“Her impact is something that you can’t really predict,” Mc-



PHOTO COURTESY OF • GETTY IMAGES

CONFIRMED- Amy Coney Barrett has been confirmed as the new Supreme Court Justice. The vacancy opened up after previous Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away.

Laughlin said. “If she makes non-partisan decisions for the good of the country, she’ll have a long-lasting positive impact. If she makes political decisions based off of her bias, she’ll have a poor impact. If Biden packs the court, she’ll have no impact.”

Each justice tends to be unique in character. When Justice Barrett was confirmed, the question of what she’ll bring to court arose.

“The confirmation hearings gave me the impression that she will bring civil politics and decency to the court,” McLaughlin said. “Not that it wasn’t there before,

but that she’ll bring rational evaluations of constitutionality.”

As a Supreme Court Justice, her job entails interpreting the U.S. Constitution.

“We know her ideology, but we don’t know her interpretation of the constitution,” Reed said. “These are not political people; these are people who interpret the law. The most political aspect is the appointment process. Yes, she does tend to be conservative in her leanings and tends to be a strict constructionist in her interpretation, but we never know how a judge is going to make their

decision in any particular case.”

There are differing opinions on how Justice Barrett will rule and if it is the role of the court. Many influential cases are at stake, such as *Roe v. Wade* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which affect abortion and gay marriage rights. However, some also have said she is a positive addition to the highest court of the land.

“I believe that she does add youth and a different perspective to the supreme court,” Reed said. “She is a mother and she is a wife. She’s got a lot of experiences that she will bring to the table.”

JINGGLE LIFE

Providing the most engaging story of the edition

New life brought to TV production with Barber announced as instructor

tarynbartley
associate editor-in-chief

From yearbook to newspaper, there are various journalism programs at the school, but there is one that has been in the shadows – TV production.

Eric Barber is here to change that.

“Mr. (Mike) Rowan contacted me over the summer to see if I was interested,” Barber, the new TV production teacher, said. “He knew that I had some background with doing videos and we had talked about that a couple years ago, so when the position opened up, he contacted me and asked if I was interested. I said yes, and the rest is history.”

Barber has taken this year as an opportunity to transform the program for the benefit of the students of the school as a whole, as well as the students in the classroom.

“Mr. Barber has improved TV production as a whole by making it more out of the box,” Emanuel Camacho, a junior, said. “We edit videos and film clips and he helps teach us how to do that and better techniques to use.”

Barber’s experience allows him to teach the class and engage students to use video filming, processing and composition.

In years past, the TV production class was seen by some as an “easy A” with few intricacies to it. Barber’s vision is to greatly expand the scope of the class.

“I’ve learned that we have a lot of work to do, but we’re making great progress,” Barber said. “The final vision is students being able to both film and put together really well produced projects, so we’re learning.”

The class has sparked new interests for video and editing, as well as cultivated pre-existing enthusiasm towards the subject.

“I’m trying to gain the ability to edit videos because it is a passion of mine personally,” Christopher Young, a junior, said. “We go out and film and use Premier Pro to edit our videos.”

The program is one that is in high demand and hoping to exponentially increase in recognition within the school itself.

“Hopefully we can improve by continuing to learn these composition elements and putting them in practice,” Barber said.

Barber has been a community member for years with the school and area as a whole.

He was previously a fifth-grade teacher at Hunter’s Green Elementary and has been involved with the volleyball program at this school for some time. Because of this, he knows how to engage kids and really captivate everyone in his classes.

“He made it a lot more interesting,” Young said. “I remember thinking it was going to be boring, but he makes the class really engaging and exciting. Every day I go in knowing I’m going to learn something new, and you don’t get that in every class. He’s real-



PHOTO BY • PAYTON KENNY

A NEW APPROACH- Eric Barber is teaching his students by studying film. Barber has taken many new approaches in an attempt to amplify the TV production program and to help students reach their full potential.

ly cool, and he always knows the answers to any questions I may have.”

The program may not be as well known as others at the school, but Barber said he hopes to make it a well known program for all.

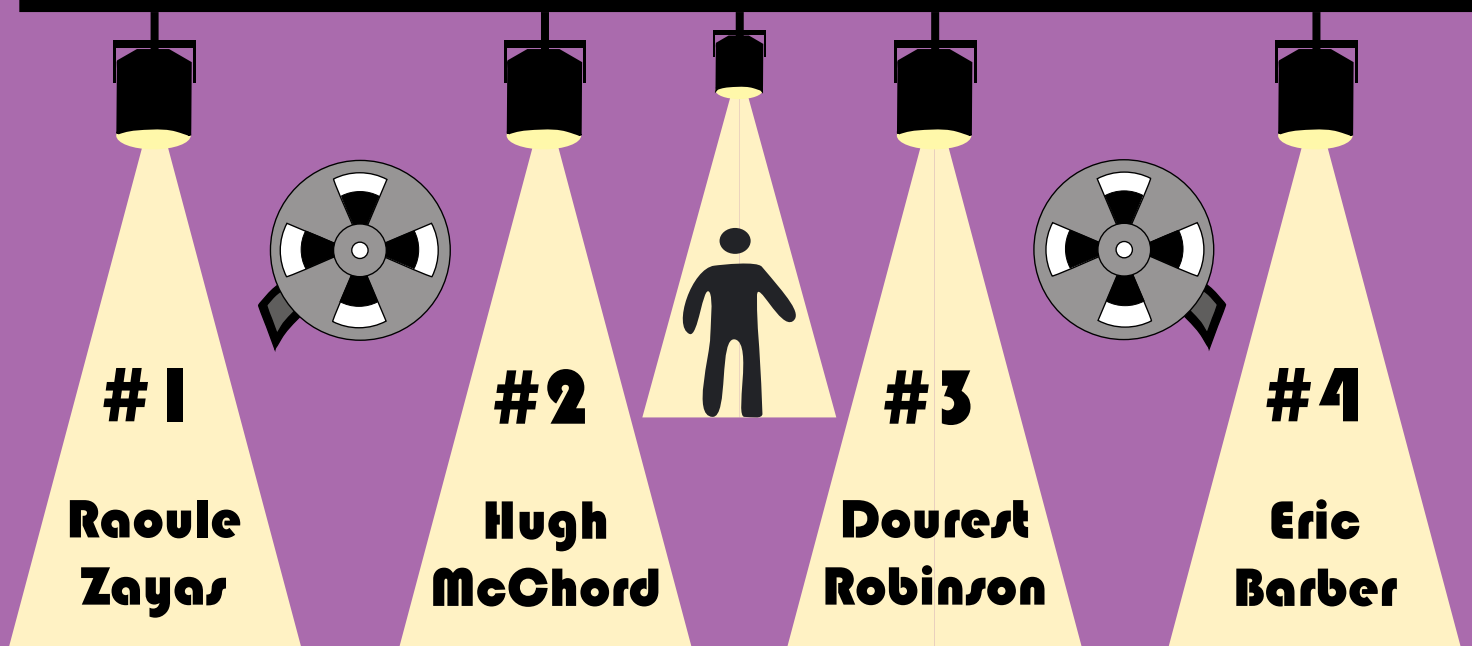
He added how he wants to rev-

olutionize the application of filming and editing methods these students are taught in order to make the most out of the class.

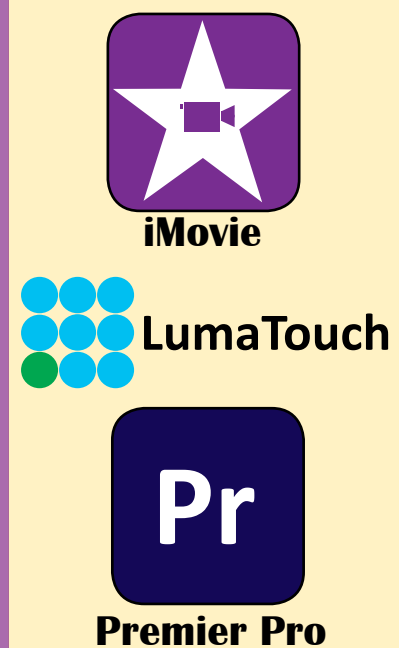
“If done correctly, this can really be the type of program that continues to build school cohesiveness,” Barber said. “Along with

being able to read about it in the newspaper or hear about it, now you get to see what’s happening in different students’ lives. Whether it’s athletics or academics, the idea is we’re starting to be able to share that with the student body.”

TV Production Instructors Over the Years



Popular Video Editing Apps



*source: Taryn Anello

infographic designed by: Taryn Bartley

COVID-19 inspires changes in band

olivialeduc
staff writer

COVID-19 has caused the band program to modify the way they practice, perform and simply come together as a group whether in class or at performances.

"We have had to adapt as a large group of people," Zariyah Grover, a senior, said. "We have to figure out how to do everything we did prior to the pandemic safely, and with there not being a lot of time and certainty, not everything has been able to be planned around it."

The bands practices have had to change due to social distancing and through limiting contact between players.

"Our practices have been mainly in smaller groups and outdoors to reduce the spread," Grover said.

It's difficult for leaders and players to have to make these difficult decisions for band when so many people are affected by them, including their players, audience and staff.

The pandemic has also caused players to take on more responsibility as an individual since the players aren't able to come together as a group as often as usual.

"We don't play as much music because we have a lot of parts missing," Stephen Maggio, a senior, said. "You really have to make sure you know your parts of the music."

Along with not as many practices together, many of the band students are e-learning, so it has been difficult for them to participate in class while at home.

"Only half the students that are enrolled in band are physically in school every day," Justin Swaim, the band director, said. "It makes a huge difference when trying to put music together."

The band director has found a program that allows online students to play simultaneously with students in brick and mortar.

"The way we assign music to students this year is different, we're using a program this year called Smart Music," Swaim said.

Smart Music is a platform that allows students to be assigned music and to be graded on their performance and make corrections while e-learning at home.

The band program has also been wearing masks and social distance whenever possible, but this is a challenge because most band instruments require you to use your mouth to play them, meaning this can present more risks



PHOTO COURTESY OF • KARL GREESON

JAZZ HANDS - Jazz band practices during 7th period with the chairs spread out as much as possible. Band had made these changes due to COVID-19 to keep everyone safe.

when they're practicing.

"Band is making sure people don't come in contact with each other," Jeya Williams, a sophomore, said. "Wind players keep their masks on when they're not playing, and drumline keeps their masks on at all times."

The band's Music Performance Assessment (MPA) was also canceled, so the band is uncertain on how they'll be assessed on their performances. However, many players are just glad to be able to play and come together as a group.

"I'm just happy I can see my friends, however there's lots of precautions we have to take like wearing masks and washing our hands," Williams said.

Band has made the best of the circumstances and has made the changes to stay safe.



Fall Time Fun



- 1.** 

PHOTO BY • BROOKE REIF

3. 

PHOTO COURTESY OF • MADDIE STONEHOUSE
- 2.** 

PHOTO BY • BROOKE REIF

4. 

PHOTO BY • OLIVIA LEDUC

1. Students in culinary carve out pumpkins in fun patterns for fall time.

2. Culinary students carve out pumpkin seeds to bake.

3. Sophomores Ndeye Thiam and Maddie Stonehouse go to an Autumn festival with a corn maze.

4. Teacher Julie Darland styles her door for fall time.

infographic designed by: Olivia Leduc

Democracy lies at stake for U.S.

tarynbartley
associate editor-in-chief

Following an extensive lead-up to the presidential election that took place on Nov. 3, Joe Biden was announced the winner on Nov. 7 by most major news outlets. It appears the election will end with 306 electoral votes for Biden and 232 for incumbent Donald Trump.

This election serves as a victory for nearly all Americans, and it signifies a win for all minorities, whether that be based on gender, ethnicity, race or religion.

As of Nov. 15, there have been over 250 thousand deaths due to COVID-19.

This pandemic will be in much better hands under President-elect Joe Biden.

Biden plans to pass a national mask mandate, which at this point in time, will be more action than the current President has taken in the past eight months. This gross negligence from our government has caused the loss of jobs, normal lives and, most importantly, American lives.

Despite a clear victory, the election is still far from over. Trump, his administration and his supporters are now assuming the role of the boy who cried wolf. They are now claiming that there was voter fraud throughout the United States. There is absolutely zero evidence of any voter fraud, especially enough to cause a significant difference to change the outcome of the election.

To "flip" the election, Trump would have to overturn the results of three entire states, or even more. This has never been done and this election will not be the first. Trump lawsuits are already being thrown out in states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia and many more.

There are still two very important dates left before we as the

American people can confidently say that our democracy has been preserved and Biden is President. The first is Dec. 14. This is when the Electoral College votes. At this point in time, it will be official that Biden is the President-elect. The second is Jan. 20. This is the actual inauguration day. It is not until that day that we can be certain that Trump will leave office peacefully.

Another high concern regarding the election at this point is the Electoral College. Despite Biden winning by 5.7 million votes as of Nov. 15, the United States still elects our presidents through the archaic process of the Electoral College, which does not equally

represent the population and minimizes the votes of say, Democrats in Mississippi or Republicans in California.

This is because electoral votes per state is not equal to the population of states.

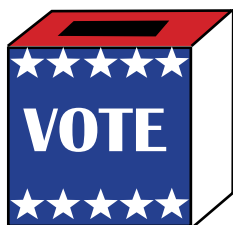
However, the main concern regarding the Electoral College at this point in time is: will Trump try to make state electors vote against their state's popular vote?

This question arises because although many states require the electors to vote based upon how the state did, not all have these laws. Because of this, it is not out of the realm of possibility that Trump may convince or force state legislatures that have republican control (i.e. Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, etc.) to vote for him instead of Biden.

This election is entirely unprecedented and our democracy is at stake. The people of our nation have spoken. They have spoken against racism and sexism, they have spoken against disrespect of our vet-

"This election serves as a victory for nearly all Americans, and it signifies a win for all minorities."

TARYN BARTLEY



erans, they have spoken against all the warning signs of blooming fascism, they have spoken against Donald Trump.

We as a people have determined it is time to truly make America great again, and we as a people have determined that means bringing dignity, decency and humility back into the oval office.

We as a people have spoken and rightfully elected Joe Biden as our 46th President of the United States of America.

Election results

dana robinson
staff writer

The 2020 Presidential election was, and still is, a long process with no clear conclusion.

Many media outlets have declared Joseph Biden the winner of the election, even though states have yet to certify the results.

"The media doesn't get to declare the president," David Aldred, an AP U.S. History teacher, said. "And simply the candidates stating that he is the president isn't enough either."

The controversy over the media calling Biden the winner comes from the unfinished vote counting, which stems from the increase in mail-in ballots.

"The pandemic ultimately changed everything," Aldred said. "If we wouldn't have had a pandemic, we wouldn't have had a push for mail-in voting."

Incumbent President Trump has been voicing his concerns over the validity of this election with the amount of mail-in votes cast. He continues this language after the election, although most officials have disputed these claims.

"You have people that are registered, who are dead and who are illegals," Trump, in an interview with news anchor David Muir, said. "You have people registered in two states. They're

registered in New York and New Jersey. They vote twice. There are millions of votes, in my opinion. Now I'm going to do an investigation."

COVID-19 shaped how this election was held, and with a lot of change comes uncertainty and confusion.

"Ballots were essentially mailed out without people requesting them, and they went out on the basis of voter rolls which are infamously not accurate," Aldred said. "We had a lot of ballots going to dead people or going to addresses where they didn't need to be."

Trump was not the only presidential candidate to speak about voter fraud. Biden talked about dealing with voter fraud as vice president.

"We're in a situation where we have put together, and you guys did it for our administration — President Obama's administration before this — we have put together I think the most extensive and inclusive voter fraud organization in the history of American politics," Biden, on the podcast "Pod Save America," said.

With the electors meeting on Dec. 14 to elect the president and vice president, the election is nearing its end. If they select Biden as the winner, Kamala Harris would become the first woman, black and Asian vice president.

Flu shares in COVID-19 spotlight

hannahcraig
staff writer

COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, and the country has been trying to get the coronavirus cases under control ever since. As soon as the pandemic seems to be minimized in the Sunshine State, a secondary health concern has risen—the flu.

“The biggest problem with the flu now with COVID is lots of people are going to get sick,” Trinity Cruz, a sophomore, said. “Not to mention that the spread is going to be easier.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a list of common flu symptoms, including: fever, cough, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue. These warning signs are similar to those of COVID-19.

“I think that people may think they have the flu when it’s actually COVID,” Maddison Boyd, a junior, said. “They have similar symptoms.”

The CDC states on its website, “Some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, making it hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. Diagnostic testing can help determine if you are sick with the flu or COVID-19.”

Many fear that people will feel sick, but may just assume they

have the flu, and not COVID-19. This could create an even larger spike in cases.

“I truly think as well as COVID, the flu is going to add on to the scare of people unsure if they have it, and no one wants to be the kid with COVID-19, and just says it’s the flu,” Ashlynn Cotello, a sophomore, said. “People are put at more danger due to people who don’t think it’s necessary to stay home when they’re sick which is also a problem.”

Many people have decided to get a vaccination to help protect themselves this flu season.

“I have gotten a flu shot; I usually get one every year,” Gabrielle Greenwood, a freshman, said. “It still is important because even though it doesn’t prevent the coronavirus, it prevents the flu itself.”

The CDC also states, “getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-21 to protect yourself and people around you from the flu and help reduce strain on healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Another concern with the spike in COVID-19 cases, now with the flu, is that hospitals may fill up very quickly. In 2019, the CDC estimates that around 490,000 hospitalizations were flu related. Now, with cases surging, hospital and ICU beds could overflow.

“Peoples’ bodies might have to fight the flu and COVID, which could cause more deaths,” Je-

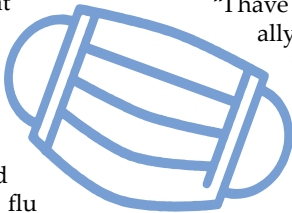


PHOTO BY • BROOKE REIF

CHECK-UP- Nurse Alicia Robertson takes care of a student. The clinic has been very important this school year to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the flu.

la Simmons, a sophomore, said. “Also, the way hospitals could fill up again is concerning.”

Many states are seeing a spike, not only in hospitalizations, but in COVID-19 cases and deaths. In Hillsborough County alone, cases are up 20 percent, and hospitalizations are up by 60 percent, within the past seven days, according to the Hillsborough County COVID-19 Dashboard.

“We didn’t really prepare properly for the first wave,” Jesus Arozamena, a sophomore, said. “As a result, we’ve had a large number

of cases, and it’s going to exponentially increase our total.”

Many are worried about how much this second health concern will impact their daily lives.

“Sports have gotten canceled, and you can’t go out and do things you would normally do,” Boyd said. “You also have to take extra precautions, like washing your hands and social distancing.”

There is hope for many, that a vaccine may be available sometime soon. However, many experts say that a COVID-19 vaccine

will most likely not be available for everyone until the middle of next year.

To ensure that the immunization is safe, it must go through three trial phases. According to Stanford Medicine, it will enroll about 60,000 participants in their Phase 3 trial phase.

“In a way, I believe a COVID vaccine would minimize the spread, but has the possibility of not reaching everyone,” Costello said. “These two sicknesses have death counts. Just be respectful to the people around you.”

Pandemic brings new unexpected health risk to young adults and teens: maskne

paulinagiraldo
staff writer

This pandemic has brought about unexpected side effects due to face coverings — maskne.

This new skin condition is a form of acne or irritation due to wearing a mask or facial covering.

Caused by the uprising of COVID-19, wearing masks have been essential to slowing the spread. Acne has been a consequence of wearing your mask all day.

According to news.llu.edu, “The medical term for ‘maskne’ is acne mechanica, a skin condition brought on by prolonged wear of facial personal protective equipment. Masks impose heat, friction and occlusion on the skin and when combined with a moist environment from breathing, talking or sweating, this is a recipe for

“I’ve been trying new skin care routines to help prevent me from breaking out,”

breakouts.”

Acne is extremely common in high school aged kids. With these new changes of wearing masks daily, people are more prone to getting acne because of their face being covered all day.

Not only that, but there are several types of acne or skin types that could be affected more from

being covered. Not washing or wearing clean masks affects how your face reacts, contributing to maskne.

According to healthline.com, “Acne occurs when the pores of your skin become blocked with oil, dead skin or bacteria.”

Wearing masks covers your pores which often leads to people getting maskne in the first place.

Students at school have been experiencing maskne firsthand. They claim that masks have been

irritating their skin.

“You have it on all day,” Mia Giraldo, a freshman, said. “You’re just breathing into it, so you’re getting a lot of bacteria inside your mask, so it probably just irritates your skin a lot.”

Students also think that since masks take up big portions of your skin, it affects how irritated faces can get.

“It’s covering all of my pores which causes big pimples,” Mi-

kayla Velazquez, a senior, said.

Cleaning your face is important to try to put a stop to having maskne, people have been putting in an effort to wash or change their mask every day.

“I try to wear a different mask every day, and then I wash them at the end of the week,” Isabella Ancheta, a sophomore, said.

Not only have teens been trying to change their masks daily, but they are also switching up their

skin care routine.

“I’ve been trying new skin care routines to help prevent me from breaking out,” Brooke Bell, a sophomore, said.

By taking all of these steps students have been trying to reduce the amount of acne they get from their masks.

The uprise of issues like maskne has shown some of the many smaller issues this pandemic has caused.



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Increased Testing

paytonkenny
education editor

In the past nine months, not only have students had to adjust to the new normal of the coronavirus, but they have also had to adapt to a new increased testing schedule.

The coronavirus can affect so much more than just people's health. Last school year, when the virus first started to spread, schools closed on March 13 for spring break. Many thought students and faculty would go back after the week break or that there may be an extra week off. Instead, schools shut down nationwide for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

Due to this nationwide shut down, students were forced to learn from home in a remote setting and adjust to this new normal. As a result, all of the end of the year testing was canceled, including end of course (EOC) exams, Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) and the AP exam format was changed dramatically.

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors are required to take their previous year's FSAs and EOCs. This is a potentially detrimental idea considering these students haven't reviewed the material since the previous school year.

Students are under so much pressure since they have to pass to graduate. Also, there is a new school schedule due to testing, so these students are missing their current classes to make up last year's testing.

Teachers' schedules have also changed because they are needed to cover testing rooms and proctor exams, so their classes are being split. This means that overall, many teachers' instructional time has been taken away.

E-learners have to come onto campus to make up their missed tests and cannot take them from their remote platform at home. This defeats the purpose of e-learning because these students do not feel safe coming to school due to the virus, but are forced to come to take their exams.

One day of testing was devoted fully to e-learners only, giving them their own testing date, ensuring that they would not be thrown into the mix with the brick and mortar students, to meet the guidelines of e-learning.

This new testing should be rethought due to logistical problems, as well as the time that has passed since students have taken these courses.

Rowan approaches three-year mark as school principal

paytonkenny
education editor

Michael Rowan came in as principal three years ago with a very simple goal — change how this school is viewed in the community.

Rowan is approaching his 3-year mark since becoming school principal. Not only has he improved the look of the school, but he also set a goal of getting out of negative media headlines.

"I wanted to get our name out of the media, Wharton High School, and that was one goal to get rid of that negative image," Rowan said. "The second goal was to change some of the mindset of our students and parents. Everyone was a little different, and I needed the average kid to know that the expectations were higher; that everybody needed to push themselves."

Rowan has gone to great lengths to help improve the school through beautification, new tardy policies and greatly improving relationships with staff, helping them to feel more included and part of the school.

"I much prefer having Mike as my principal," Wesley Newton, a long-time science teacher, said. "He is more of a people person and Mike has more empathy for his teachers and the people he works with. I think he pretty much puts himself onto the level of everyone else rather than above everyone else."

The current seniors have had both Bradley Woods as their prin-



PHOTO BY • PAYTON KENNY

THREE YEARS- Rowan approaches his three years as the school principal. He first started in 2018, and he replaced Mr. Woods.

icipal their freshman year and now Rowan for their sophomore through senior years. Many of them have said Rowan has not only improved staff relationships, but they feel more connected with him than they did with their old principal, Woods.

"I feel like the love and respect for Wharton that the students have is greater now," Jackson Perkins, a senior, said. "Mr. Rowan has improved the general mood amongst students and I also think people are wanting to come to

school more now than they did when Mr. Woods was our principal."

When Woods was principal, the rules around school were seemingly more loosely enforced, which led to kids skipping class and roaming the halls. There were a lot of fights, and at one point outside police officers were even seen around campus.

Rowan came in as Principal wanting to fix things and better Wharton as a whole. He has made progress in accomplishing this

goal.

After Rowan became principal, the numbers of kids skipping in the hallways got cut down and the police have not been needed to be stationed at school corners.

"I think the main thing he has improved is student tardiness and discipline because the hallways used to be full of people and there were lots of fights," Newton said. "I also think Mike has done a really good job on the campus with lots of different Wildcat signs and taking care of the beautification."

Learning options debated for next semester, exams canceled

reeseavery
staff writer

As the end of the first semester approaches, so does the question of when e-learners will return.

As of Oct. 28 more than half the student body is brick and mortar.

Many of those who haven't returned, like sophomore Keria Finnegan, have said they plan on next semester.

"The only reason I'm not coming back is because I have asthma, so I'm at higher risk of getting COVID," Finnegan said.

Although other students reason might not be asthma, many of them have said it has to do with medical reasons.

Administration is also planning for students to come back: "As we move through the second nine weeks, more and more students will come back on campus," Mike Rowan, school principal, said.

But as of right now this wish from administration is all just a hope, as there is no plan set in place to force students back from the school district. It is just an expectation.

If and when all e-learners come back there will not be schedule changes because students and teachers will come back at the

same time. However, "It won't go back to normal; students will still have to wear masks and socially distance when needed," Rowan said.

It will be like this until the school board votes other wise.

For some teachers, when their e-learners return they may not have class space for them.

However, English teacher Elizabeth Ignatius said, "I will make room." She added that she wants students to come back whole heartedly, especially her seniors because she wants them all to have a that final year experience.

Rowan said at the beginning of the school year many teachers had "a fear of the unknown." He added most of the school staff have come to realize there are advantages and disadvantages to e-learning and traditional learning combined in one class.

"Nothing can compare to discussions and in class learning," Ignatius said.

One positive is that kids who have to miss part of the school day can Zoom into their classes instead of missing all of them for things like doctor appointments or other excused absences.

"Even if I'm absent I can still join class and do work," Amelia Brown, a sophomore, said.

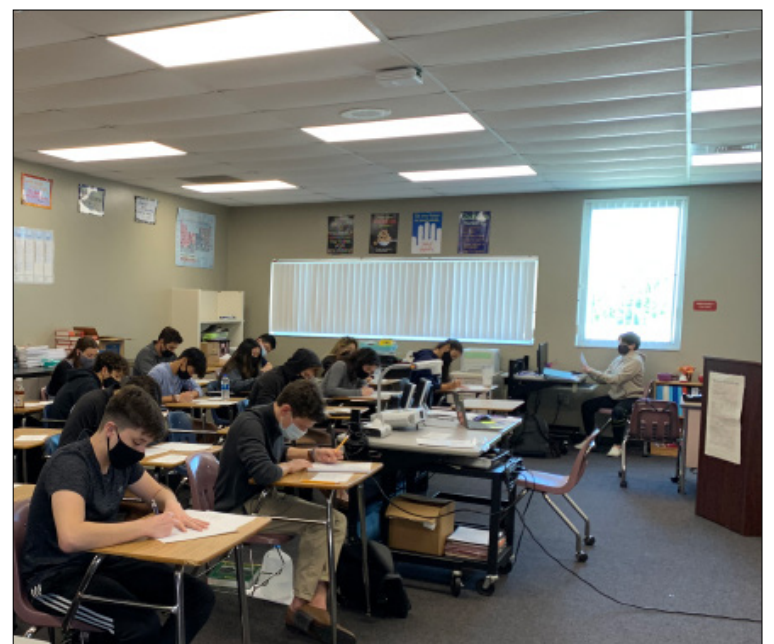


PHOTO BY • HANNAH CRAIG

CLASS TOO FULL- Teachers do not have enough space to correctly social distance their students. Elizabeth Ignatius tried as best as she could to safely distance them.

School events will also be impacted when students return to campus fully.

"I think we will get more participation with spirit weeks," Brown said.

The county school board has not yet set a date to vote on when e-learners will return to brick and mortar education.

Midterms canceled:

All are canceled except for:

- Achieve 3000 level-set(9-10)
- Algebra 1 midyear
- Geometry midyear
- US History midyear
- Biology midyear



GAME ON DURING

Fall Guys obsession dies quickly

calliezack

editor-in-chief

A recent fad in the gaming community came in the form of an easy to learn, but hard to master party game — Fall Guys.

The video game was released on Aug. 4 for the PlayStation 4 and Microsoft Windows computers. It quickly gained popularity, as various gamers enjoyed controlling the comical characters, making them run through obstacle courses and battle friends in team challenges.

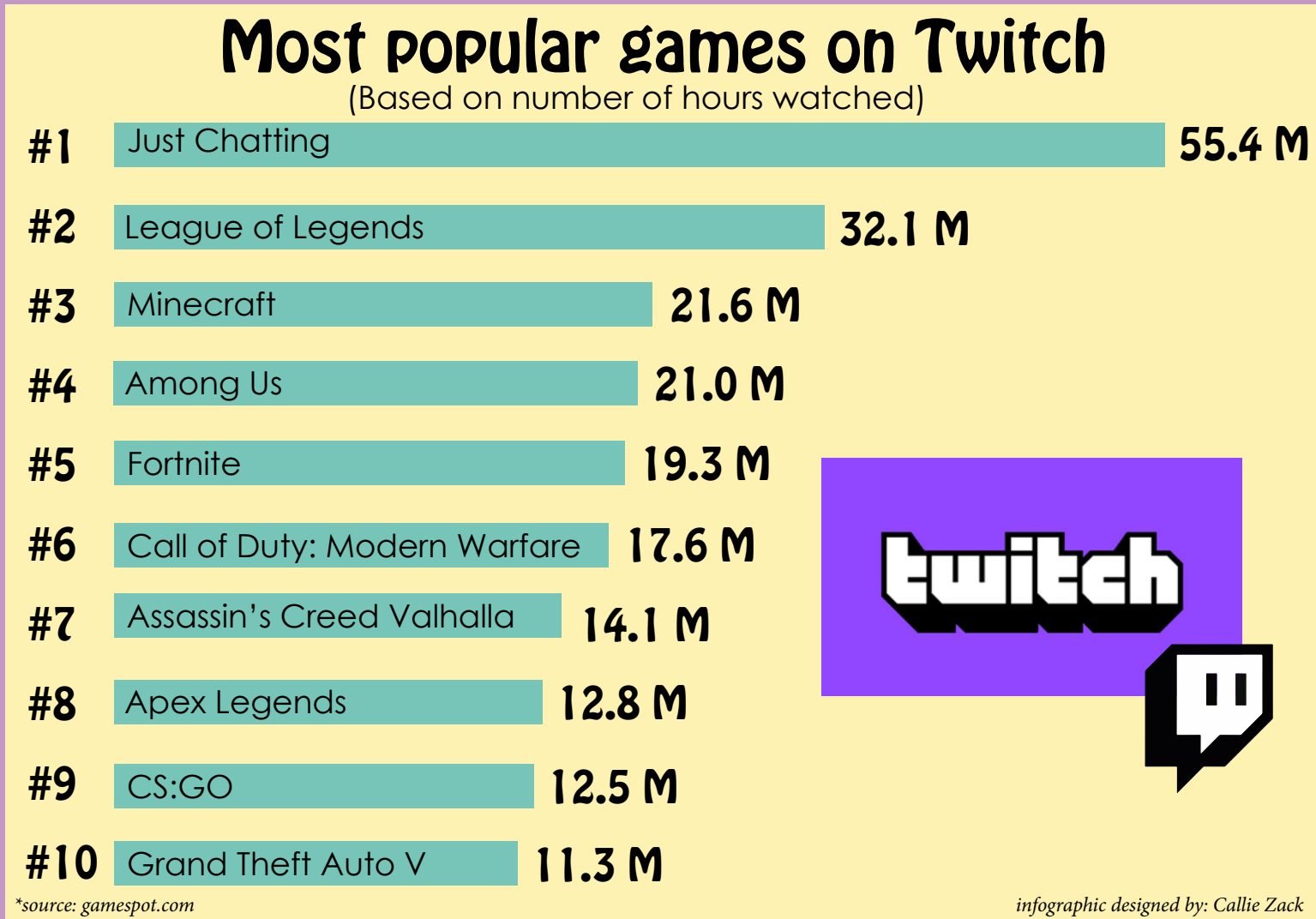
The controls of the game are simple and easy to learn, because there are only four motions or actions to perform: run, jump, grab and dive.

"I like the game because it is simple and straight to action," Zion Flavien, a senior, said. "It allows the player to have a fair advantage in a competitive game."

Fall Guys has 25 different mini-games which players might end up competing in. Each begins with 60 players, and at the end of each round, players are eliminated based on their performance. If they didn't complete the course in time, were thrown off the map, or their team scored the least amount of points, then they are out of the game.

"I like the seesaw mini game because it can either be really hard or really easy depending on who you're playing with," Brooke Carter, a freshman, said.

If a player is skilled enough to make it to the final round, there are only four different games they may compete in for the crown: Hex-A-Gone, Fall Mountain, Royal Fumble or Jump



Showdown. Hex-A-Gone consists of a map with multiple hexagonal platforms hovering on top of one another. Players run or jump from hexagon to hexagon, removing the tile they left from the sky and replacing it with a gaping hole. The object of the game is to be the last player standing.

"I like the final game mode, Hex-

A-Gone, because I am pretty good at it," Luis Dorsal, a freshman, said. "Seesaw was definitely my least favorite because people were so dumb and I'd get out because the other players would purposely sabotage me."

Fall Mountain is a mad dash to reach the top of the map and grab onto the floating crown before the rest of the players. As players

sprint up, projectiles are thrown at them and spinning hammers attempt to knock them out.

"Fall Mountain is the hardest for sure, because a lot of it is just luck and trying to not get smacked down by a hammer," Dorsal said. Royal Fumble is a simple tail tag game, in which the objective is to be the last player with a tail on. They must attempt to avoid the

other players if they're wearing it, or try and swipe it from whoever has it on.

The last final round game is Jump Showdown, which imitates one of the games on the former popular show Wipe Out. Three rotating pillars spinning at different speeds attempt to knock players off of the circular platform. As the game progresses, segments of the

Counterstrike: Beginning of an Era

peterchandler

staff editor

During its prime, Counterstrike: Global Offensive (CS: GO) became the biggest piece of the gaming puzzle. It influenced many different innovative ways for the developers to continue to produce successful video games.

CS: GO is a multiplayer first person shooter (FPS) video game with two teams of five pinned against each other. These two teams, the Terrorists and the Counter-Terrorists, each must eliminate the other team or complete the objective to win a round.

The Terrorists are tasked with planting a bomb at a site while attacking the Counter-Terrorists. They can either arm the bomb on Site A or Site B.

The Counter-Terrorists must terminate the other team or dif-

fuse the bomb once it is planted. Whichever team the player is on, they must communicate with their teammates to develop and execute a strategy to win.

"We wanted to create a game where the way to play was up to the player," David Johnston, a developer for CS: GO, said. "Keeping this in mind while creating increases the life of the game."

Counter Strike entered the Esports community in 1999. Over the years, it has become one of the biggest games in the industry, selling over 25 million units.

Some Professional Esport players have proven to be the best by

winning tournaments with their team for money, with prize pools reaching up to \$22 million.

"You always understand that the more you win, the more money that you make," Aleksandr "s1mple" Kostyliev, a professional Counter Strike player, said. "So, when talking about monetary motivation, it never really loosens."

RICHARD "BANKS" BENGSON
OWNER OF FAZE CLAN

"I came up with this idea for a different way to do it. We branded it the right way."

Although competing in tournaments is one way to make money, loot-crate gambling has become the more popular option.

In CS: GO, a player can earn cosmetic gun skins that enhance the weapon's appearance, but don't improve the gun's abilities. These

skins come in cases which can either be bought with real currency or random drops during game play.

Keys for these cases are purchased for \$2.49 to actually receive the skin. The gun/knife skins earned from these cases can be gambled on third party sites in casino-type betting.

This is controversial because many of these third-party gambling sites pay influencers to advertise their site to young fans. These highly impressionable children lost real life money betting on in game currency.

Sometimes these controversial sites were advertised by the actual site owners, allowing them to make up to \$200,000 per day.

"People started creating these

gambling sites where you can gamble with these skins, and it's kind of a gray area because it's a skin in a game, and there's no actual, real-life monetary value to it," Richard "Banks" Bengston, co-owner of a team called FaZe Clan, said. "Like, the government puts absolutely no value to it."

Banks admitted to owning the gambling site CSGOWild, but never to the fact that advertising to kids was wrong.

"We came up with this idea with these kids," Banks said. "I came up with this idea for a different way to do it. We branded it the right way."

CS: GO is available to play on multiple platforms including Windows, Mac OS, PlayStation 3, and Xbox 360. The game just recently became free to play for computers through steam.com.



ING PANDEMIC

New VR game spooks streamers

alliemassey
associate editor-in-chief

Phasmophobia is known as the fear of ghosts. Now, in a video game under the same title, players can explore that fear on a whole new level.

This four-player virtual reality (VR) game requires players to team up and solve a paranormal mystery by hunting for ghosts.

Since its early access release in September, the horror game has risen in popularity.

What sets Phasmophobia apart from other video games in its genre are its unique features that allow the player to engage and interact with the ghosts.

"I've watched a lot of videos about it, but haven't gotten to play it yet," Andy Hoy, a senior, said. "If I could, I would definitely buy it. Being able to play at night with your friends and actually get killed by the ghost looks really

fun."

As with many video games, Phasmophobia gained popularity after many well-known YouTubers uploaded gameplay videos of them trying it out with their friends.

"It's crazy to think you'd be able to find a game like this on YouTube," Boknevit said. "That's the way I heard about it. I was looking at it when it first came out, but after watching people play it, I thought it was go-time."

Phasmophobia's features, such as VR, standard mode compatibility and voice interaction, truly create an immersive experience for the player.

"I prefer feeling like I'm in the game," Zack Boknevit, a senior, said. "Being able to play it in VR has upped the ante. It makes it a lot better than just sitting here and looking at the screen. I think that's what makes it different from other horror games."

"Being able to play it in VR has upped the ante. It makes it a lot better than just sitting here and looking at the screen."

ZACK BOKNEVITZ
SENIOR

"If you play in VR you can glitch through most of the walls in the suburban house," Evan Pruitt, a senior, said. "I can get away from the ghost quickly so it can't kill me. Plus, I get to jump-scare my friends by walking from the walls out on them."

Some fans have found ways to take advantage of the VR experience to make the most out of their gameplay.

The game's early access status allows the public to play and give feedback while it is in its developmental phase. Despite gameplay being limited in this state, there is a variety of equipment, maps and characters to explore.

Players have access to seven different maps, that vary in size and aesthetic, as well as 22 items to hunt with. There are 12 different ghost types, each with their own backstories, strengths, weaknesses and behaviors.

While many have praised the wide array of options the game has offered so far, some look forward to possible features that will soon be made available and have some ideas of their own.

"I hope the creators add more features to the game," Pruitt said. "The suburban house is my fa-

vorite map, the bigger maps can be boring to get through. If they add the ability to sprint it would be faster. They should also have the ghosts roam the entire house as the difficulty increases."

Even though some players may feel the game lacks in some aspects, this hasn't stopped them from sharing the game with friends.

"I recommended it to my friends and they ended up getting the game," Pruitt said. "We played together and they all enjoyed it as well."

The game will be officially released in 2021 but is subject to change according to store.steampowered.com.

Phasmophobia is available for early access on Steam for \$13.99, however the price will raise upon official release.



Among Us takes gaming community by storm

calliezack
editor-in-chief

As the game loads, the word Impostor flashes across the screen in bright red letters. The duo smiles in anticipation, as the two killers have the fun task of trying to sabotage the map and get away with murder.

Among Us is a mobile and PC video game that recently increased in popularity, despite having been released over two years ago. There are two simple objectives for the game, depending on whether someone is assigned the role of crewmate or impostor.

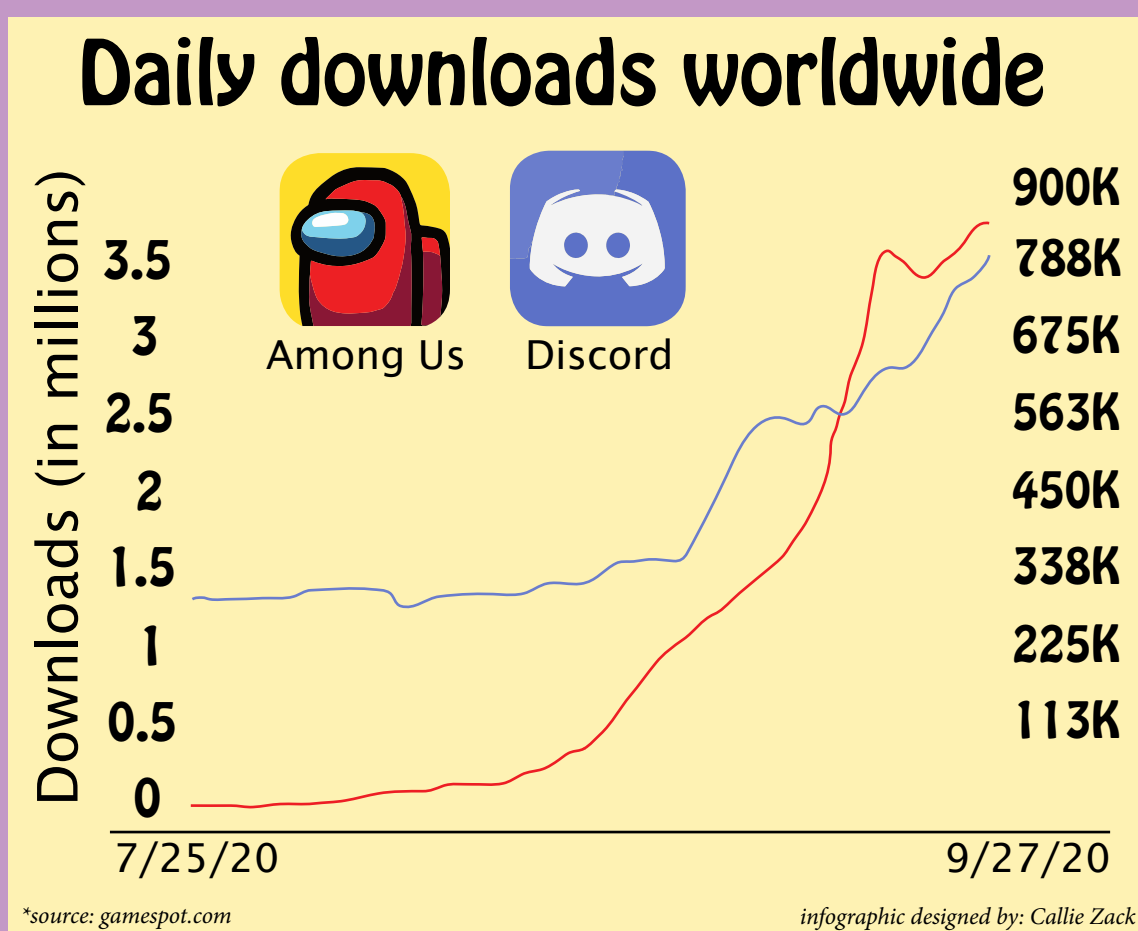
As a crewmate, the goal is to finish all the tasks before the ratio of killers to crewmates is equal to one. Or, the crewmates can simply win by correctly voting off all the impostors.

As an impostor, the objective is to sabotage different areas of the map and successfully kill all the crewmates without getting caught.

"I like impostor more because it's less likely to get," Zack Chandler, a freshman, said. "It's more of a thrill trying to kill people and run away or act like something you're not."

There are three different maps to choose from: The Skeld, Polus and MIRA HQ. Depending on the number of players in a lobby, which can range from four to 10 people, players can choose to have one, two or three impostors in a game.

The Skeld is set on a spaceship, where impostors can sabotage either oxygen or reactors. For O2, crewmates must split up and en-



ter the code found in the admin room and oxygen room or they will face a quick death. For reactors, crewmates must run to the reactor room and have two people place their hands on the two pads to stabilize them.

"I like the classic map (The Skeld) because it's fun and less confusing than the others," Daniela Álvarez, a freshman, said.

Polus is set on a planet, and impostors have the option of sabotaging the seismic stabilizers, which are both found on the top

of the map at opposite ends. Similar to the reactors on The Skeld map, two people must place their hands on the stabilizers or the impostors will win.

"Polus is my favorite map because when it gets to a few people you can sabotage the seismic stabilizers, which splits up the people and makes it easier to finish the game," Ryan Godbold, a junior, said.

The last map that players can choose from is MIRA HQ, which is set up high in the Earth's atmo-

sphere. Just like The Skeld map, the impostors can sabotage the reactor and O2.

On all three maps, the impostors can cut the lights and attempt to murder some of the crewmates in the dark, as their vision isn't affected by this sabotage.

Using a combination of all of the aforementioned sabotages and the handy vents which are displaced across all three maps, most players have said how they prefer the thrill of being an impostor as opposed to a crewmate.

"I like playing as an impostor more because I feel like you have more control of the game," Godbold said.

Players can choose to either join a public lobby or host a private one with only their friends. A popular app gamers communicate on is Discord, as it allows players to easily mute themselves and deafen, which mutes all the other players as well, while playing the game.

"I play with friends a lot, but sometimes I go on the public one when I'm bored," Chandler said. "I like playing with friends more because you can communicate and hear them on call rather than typing it out. It's definitely easier to figure out who the impostor is that way."

Among Us has become a fad in the gaming community, with well-known streamers such as xQc, Corpse Husband and Pokimane regularly broadcasting videos to Twitch and YouTube.

The game is so popular as of late that U.S. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez decided to livestream her playing it on Twitch on Oct. 20 as a way to reach younger audiences and encourage them to vote in the 2020 election.

"I thought it was pretty funny, because obviously she didn't really know what was going on as much as the rest of the people she was playing with," Godbold said. "I liked watching her try to figure it out."

For those who are interested in playing Among Us, they can download the app on their iOS or Android device for free, or they can buy the game for \$4.99 and play on their PC.

HOTSPOT:

Main Event opens up by the outlets

fallonlavine
staff writer

A new entertainment option that opened their doors on July 17; has become everyone's new favorite hangout spot.

Main Event offers fun for families and friends to enjoy a combination of several entertainment games as well as different types of food.

"The main thing that attracted me to the Main Event was that it was the same thing as Dave & Buster's but just closer by," Angelina Gonzalez, a senior, said. "My favorite activities that they had were the racing games, basketball games and the games that helped you earn tickets."

The amusement center is located in the Tampa Premium Outlets and has many things to offer. With all the new restaurants that have been opening up around Main Event, making it a spot that lives up to its name the "Fun Zone."

There are many activities that are open to visitors which include mini golf, bowling, laser tag and so much more. The building also has a restaurant and a bar which serve things

such as chicken wings, pizza and burgers.

Main event is open every day of the week, but hours vary. It allows guests to reserve an event for birthday parties, group events, and company events. It's a great way to bring family and friends together and enjoy a combination of food and activities.

According to the Main Event website, the venue offers activities such as, "22 bowling lanes, billiards, laser tag, a zip line, shuffle boards, 130+ games and two banquet rooms." The wide variety of things that are open for guests to enjoy has attracted so many people making it everyone's favorite hangout spot.

There are many different deals that the amusement center offers to their guests. According to the website, some of the prices are: Kids eat free Tuesdays, all you can play after 9 p.m. for \$14.99 and Mondays all you can play for \$10.95 after 4 p.m. Or it's \$7.99 for each activity that you do.

"I wanted to go because I'd heard great things about all of the activities and general environment," Jackson Raitt, a sophomore, said. "They are handling it by requiring masks and, when possible, enforcing social distancing."



PHOTO BY - FALLON LAVINE

FUN ZONE- Main Event has caught many people's attention after it opened on July 17. It's now been a new hot spot for friends and family to go and enjoy a combination of entertainment games.

Many guests were concerned if it would be safe to go to the amusement center, because of COVID-19. However, many different precautions are being taken to ensure that it's a safe place for people to visit.

A couple of the steps the enter-

tainment venue has made to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 including a sanitation center, social distance markers, face masks required and limited capacity.

The amusement center has gone above and beyond with their protocols to ensure they're keeping

guests safe.

The entertainment venue is close by which can be another advantage for guests.

"One thing I was attracted to was the laser tag," Michael Rivera, a senior, said. "It's a nice place to go with friends."

MAIN EVENT

activities:

- ★ laser tag
- ★ arcade
- ★ bowling
- ★ gravity ropes

foods:

- ★ burgers
- ★ pizza
- ★ wings
- ★ quesadillas

prices:

- ★ 7.99 for each activity
- ★ daily deals

Address: 2839 Creek Grass Way, Lutz, FL 33559

Changing roles at Cobb movie theatre

lorenafilgueira
entertainment editor

After being forced to close doors due to the outbreak of the pandemic, the Cobb movie theater has opened back up to the public.

The Cobb has become a well-known cinematic chain. They are not only known for their presentation of movies, but also for their CinéBistro, which allows guests to enjoy dinner while watching a film.

One huge change to the Cobb theater involves the CinéBistro. The Bistro is being transformed into a center where children can be dropped off so that their guardians have the ability to view a film with-

out having to be concerned about their kids.

"I think it is a good thing that the CinéBistro is becoming a daycare center," Zhaniya Hopkins, sophomore, said. "Now parents do not have to make their kids sit through a movie that they are not going to watch and bother others who are watching the film."

Though this may be a solution for adults that are unable to get a sitter for the night, it is a disad-

vantage to those that do not have a child to care for and would like to peacefully enjoy dinner during the movie.

"I do not want the CinéBistro to become a child day care center," Alivia Vaughn, a freshman, said. "I want to be able to enjoy a nice meal while watching a movie."

Not only have changes happened on the inside of the theaters, but alterations are also being made on the outside.

The theater's transition in owners has inspired several new ideas for events around the area, such as carnivals and festivals.

"I like the idea of festivals and carnivals coming more frequently to the area," Katrina Halpern, a freshman said. "When you live

in Florida for so long there is only so much you can do, so it gives us one more thing to do when we get bored."

Living in the Tampa Bay area has its benefits, however, some of its most popular events, including the state fair, only remain in town for a short amount of time.

Having access to events that are not too far to drive out to is just one of the advantages of this area.

"It is annoying having to drive unnecessary lengths just to enjoy

"It is annoying having to drive unnecessary lengths just to enjoy a festival or carnival."

ZHANIYA HOPKINS
SOPHOMORE



PHOTO BY • LORENA FILGUEIRA

PLOT TWIST- The Cobb theatre, located at the Grove is undergoing several changes. These changes began during quarantine.

a festival or carnival," Hopkins said.

Although these events have come to the area, it does not necessarily mean that they will be deemed safe for the environment and enjoyable by the public.

"I think they should keep the theatre the way it was originally," Vaughn said. "Personally, I do not like the festivals the new

owner has put up. I went to the most recent one and it was really boring. They are damaging the land by putting up carnivals and festivals."

These changes appear as if they will benefit different aspects of the theatre, however, the transitions are being made during a pandemic.

"Having the festivals and car-

nivals open during a pandemic probably is not the greatest idea, just because we are supposed to be social distancing, and we all know that during a festival or carnival people are not concerned with whether or not they are social distancing," Halpern said. "I think the owner should wait until the coronavirus subsides or settles down more."

Apple releases new, improved phones

lorenafilgueira
entertainment editor

Annually there is an updated version of an Apple Product, on Oct. 16, 2020, the release of the newest iPhone occurred.

With a 7.44 millimeter-wide screen, the iPhone 12 has become a well known product throughout the entire nation.

Throughout Apple's history, the company's goal has always been to create excellent products and services within a specified time frame.

"Apple is very intuitive, and they are not going to make something that is going to be degenerative, it is going to all be upscale," Wesley Newton, a science teacher, said.

The iPhone 12 has several different upgrades, including a thinner screen, a higher quality camera, and a stronger connection.

"The shape of the phone does not necessarily affect a lot of things," Lana Alutby, a junior, said. "As long as the phone has the ability to fit in your hand comfortably and can fit in your back pocket with no problems."

Having the newer model of the phone resort back to its more original style was a surprise considering that Apple has always been the type of company to look forward to altering their products.

"I feel like the curved edges are better than the sharper edges," Newton said. "I am not sure why Apple decided to go back to the older model's design, other than the idea that it might be easier to hold the phone, and it might be less likely to slip out of your hands."

In addition to the changes in the shape of the new iPhone 12, there have been improvements to the camera.

Customers are eager to utilize the new photographic camera.

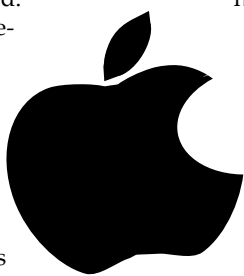
"The camera is better; I love how the camera continues to improve with each iPhone," Newton said. "I tend to use the camera for everything really."

When receiving a phone with several innovative upgrades, the expectation is that the device will be able to hold itself together no matter the circumstances it is put through.

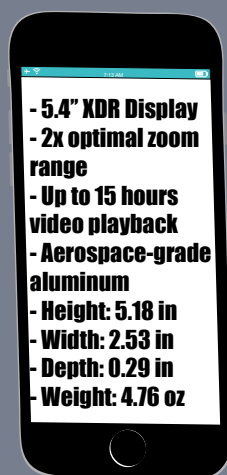
The iPhone has happened to have the notorious trend of the product's screen shattering after the first fall from one of its users hands.

However, the latest version has been made with nanoceramic crystals, which Apple is calling Ceramic Shield. The purpose of the shield is to protect the front screen of the phone from cracking as much as possible.

"Even though that the newest model has a different structure, like the sharper edges and the



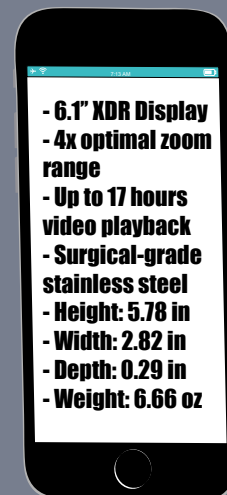
iPhone 12 Comparisons



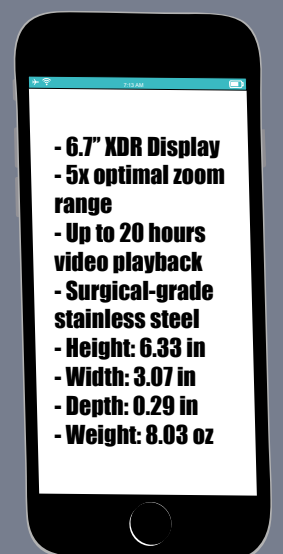
iPhone 12 Mini



iPhone 12



iPhone 12 Pro



iPhone 12 Pro Max

*source: apple.com

infographic designed by: Lorena Filgueira

Ceramic Shield, the phone will most likely still be as fragile as the rest, if not more breakable," Alutby said. "Though, as long as you have a protective case on it, you should be able to keep your phone intact."

To use the phone to its full potential, it must be in working condition.

One of the most marketed advancements that Apple has been emphasizing with the iPhone 12 is the 5G network. This means that the connection of the phone should have a faster speed than before.

"The faster, the better," Newton said. "In today's society we need our connection to be quick in or-

der to get important information out."

There are four models in the iPhone 12 family, which includes the iPhone 12 Mini, iPhone 12, iPhone 12 Pro, and the iPhone 12 Pro Max.

The Mini is selling at \$699, the iPhone 12 at \$799, the Pro at \$999, and the Pro Max at \$1,099.

Movies delayed due to the coronavirus

Mulan

Release Date: Sept. 4 2020

Rebecca

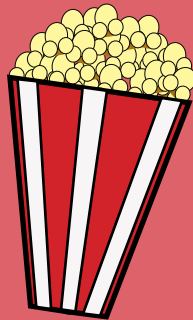
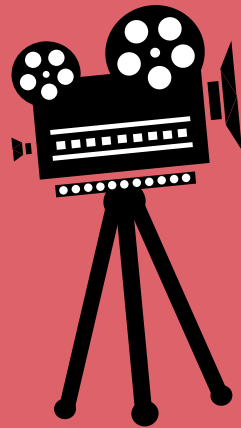
Release Date: Oct 21 2020

Black Widow

Release Date: May 7 2021

The Witches

Release Date: Oct. 22 2020



Tenet

Release Date: Sept. 3 2020

Venom 2

Release Date: June 25 2020

Free Guy

Release Date: Dec. 10 2020

Soul

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*source: cnet.com

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Students face schedule changes yet again

bellarittle
staff writer

After nine weeks of trying to get back to normal life during a global pandemic, students were struck with another blow by finding out many of their schedules were changed.

Over the first quarter, students have been adjusting to their schedules, teachers and classmates for each class period. Shortly after the quarter ended, kids reported to homeroom to receive a possible schedule change.

For students to look down at their schedules and see that their daily routine has changed must have been overwhelming.

Each day, children remember where to walk and which hallways to go on the way to their classes. Now, it's almost like it's the first day of school.

Learning new classmates, teachers and routes in school is all a part of going to school on the first day. Schedule changes during the school year have caused this to happen all over again.

Especially for underclassmen, this could cause a dramatic change in their day. These stu-

dents already have a whole new high school environment, then having to adjust again with new schedules adds more on their plate.

Coming into high school as a freshman can be stressful enough. On top of that, having to learn a whole new schedule after you've already memorized your original one, can be very difficult.

During the first couple weeks of school, schedules already had been a problem. Students were missing classes, doubling up on periods and so much more frustrating factors that kids have already gone through.

To have schedule changes sneak up on you during the middle of the school year can be unbearable.

Over the past few months, nothing has been normal for students. Our 2020 has consisted of a global pandemic that completely changed our way of life.

The one thing that students have relied on to stay the same has now changed and they have nothing stable to hold onto.

As well, our guidance counselors should be more focused on setting up students for success than to be rearranging their lives

"Our 2020 has consisted of a global pandemic that completely changed our way of life."

BELLA RITTE

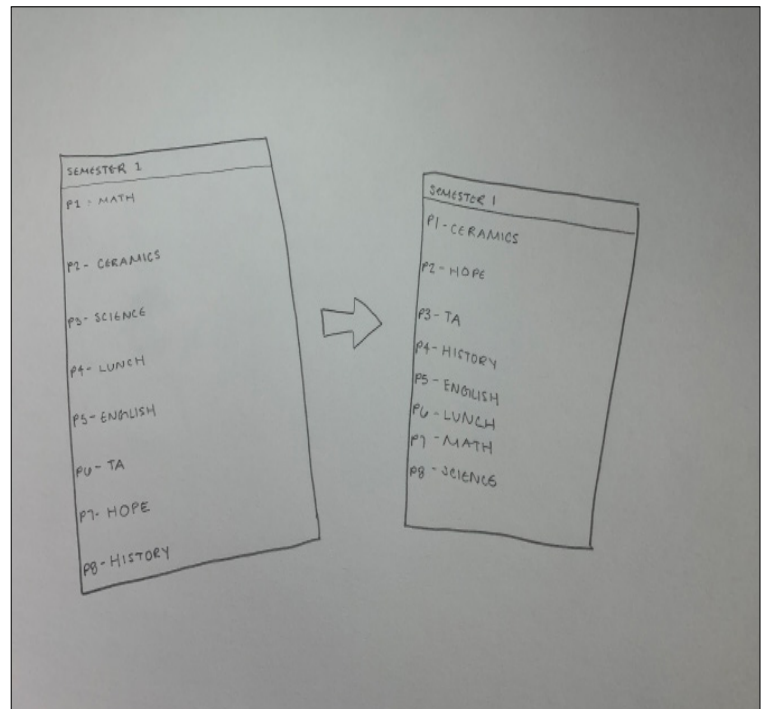


ILLUSTRATION BY • TAYLOR KALISZEWSKI

at school. The happiness and amount of stress their kids have should be much more important.

There are also new protocols that the whole school must follow.

Each day, students still have a hard time knowing which hallway doors to enter due to new COVID-19 rules; and with these hallway changes implemented on a yellow piece of paper, it can make it tougher to arrive to class on time.

Not only are the new schedule

changes giving odd directions to students, but it is enabling the students to see unfamiliar faces in their newly strange environment.

Just as kids get familiar with their teachers' faces, personality and even grading habits, they are informed that they will lose that teacher.

Some students even develop a student-teacher bond. Once someone finds out their favorite teacher is leaving the school, they become devastated.

Alternate learning options should continue

bellarittle
staff writer

With the coronavirus pandemic in full effect, some students chose to take their first semester of education online. This is a choice they made because they weren't comfortable coming back in person.

The students who were comfortable coming back, did, and this was based on personal preference.

Giving students the right to have a choice expands their free will. It makes kids feel they have a say in their education.

Students who chose e-learning have been able to get a hang of it over the past few months. Going through a switch again will put unneeded stress on them.

E-learners have now mastered their school schedule at home. They have gotten used to logging in and out of zooms from their computer and doing every assignment online.

Once the school forces them to change that, kids will lose their organization. Students will have to set up a whole new routine and have to get used to things that they haven't seen at home.

Once students feel comfortable enough to come back to school after the first semester, they should be able to. The school should allow them to come back as they feel fit, rather than forcing them.

Despite the decrease of brick and mortar students due to e-learning, the school has had a substantial number of COVID-19 cases since the school year started back in August.

If e-learners were to come back after the first semester, it would put students more at risk due to the massive increase of infection

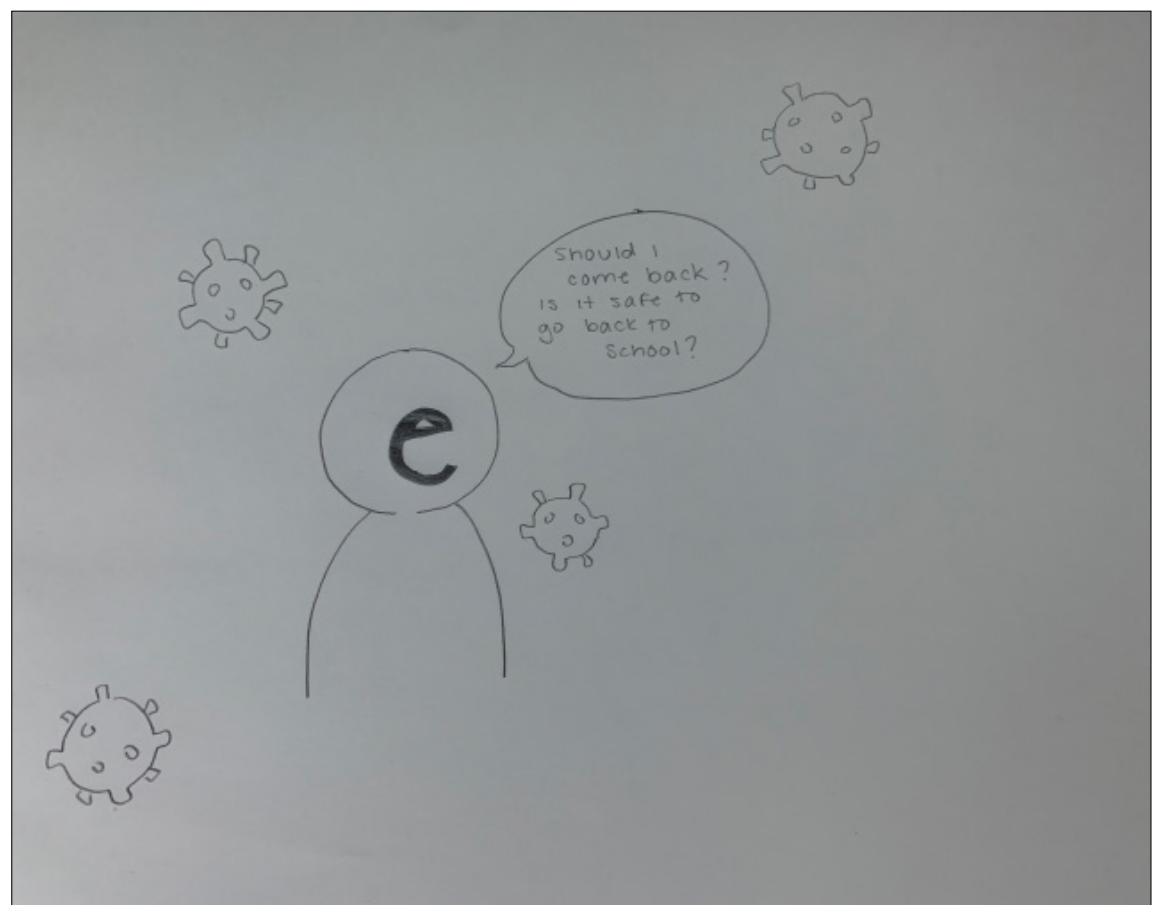


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in kids.

Not only did the district give students the choice to stay home so that they could be safe and comfortable, but it was also because of the amount of kids who would be attending school in person.

If the amount of students attending the school were to drastically increase, it would be dangerous. Schools still have to follow social distancing guidelines, and those would be much harder to achieve with more students.

The school would also have to worry about the seating in classes

and lunches, as well as the quantity of cleaning supplies, papers, wipes, waters and masks to give out to teachers and students while still staying cautious of the virus.

Each class has a certain amount of desks that must be spread out or skipped while seating students. When the population of the in person school increases again, this will be a problem that has to be dealt with.

Classrooms will be filled, desks will be close to one another and the school will have a hard time social distancing and following

guidelines with that many people.

The difficult decision whether or not students should come back to school should be between only the student and their parents, not the school district. It provides families some wiggle room to see what's comfortable for them.

If all students were forced to come back to school, students would then lose their free will regarding the COVID-19 precautions, and the school would have an ongoing problem with the increasing student population occurring at the school.

Removal of college counselor position causes dramatic stress increase this year

luluarteaga
staff writer

The class of 2021 is experiencing the school's first year without college counselor Magda Rodriguez. Veteran college counselor retired at the end of the 2019-20 school year, leaving most seniors clueless as to certain vital processes that must be completed to apply to colleges.

A new college counselor has not been hired, creating a build-up of not only stress, but anxiety for the 2021 seniors that are trying to navigate themselves through college applications.

Many students have expressed severe confusion regarding applying to colleges as a whole and the many confusing deadlines that go along with it.

In past years, Rodriguez was excellent at consistently updating seniors on application deadlines and certain requirements that came along with it. The lack of a college counselor figure is significantly affecting seniors as many are finding out about deadlines last minute or missing out on

them completely.

Some colleges have high financial requirements to be able to attend, hence why many, if not all, students strive toward applying to as many scholarships possible, as well as financial aid to potentially minimize the monetary burden of college. However, many deadlines and prerequisites are required in order to apply for scholarships, and most importantly, be awarded the scholarship.

Many students have shown significant confusion regarding how to apply to certain scholarships. Again, in past years, Rodriguez was constantly on

top of updating seniors on scholarship deadlines and including every single type of scholarship one could possibly apply for.

This year, many seniors are clueless as to what scholarships to apply for and the endless number of scholarship opportunities that exist for just about any circumstance, denying them the opportunity to save money.

Along with applying to colleges and scholarships comes the necessity to have to submit college essays, which is a vital role re-

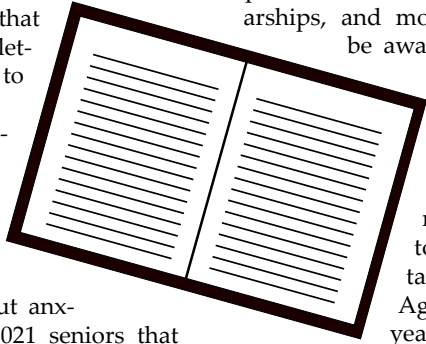


PHOTO BY • LULU ARTEAGA

SENIOR STRESS- Magda Rodriguez poses with last year's seniors. The school has yet to fill this position with a new college counselor for the 2020-21 school year.

garding the submission process. Rodriguez offered free workshops and advice on writing essays that substantially helped students improve their college essays.

Many students are struggling with picking topics for their essays, as well as planning and revising them. This setback has caused many students to either

submit essays that have not been written to their full potential or to simply not be able to submit college essays due to the confusion and the stress that comes along with having no sort of proper guidance.

Students for the first time since our school first opened its doors to the public are experiencing

a school year without a college counselor actively working on campus.

Although many are struggling, other students are successfully maneuvering their way towards staying on top of college applications and being consistent with the hard work that comes along with it.

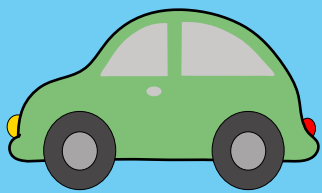


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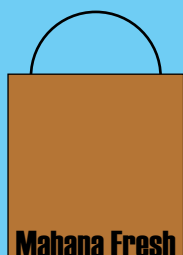
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GAME DAY:

Cross country runner breaks campus record, becoming fastest male in school

alliemassey

associate editor-in-chief

Jared Hammill, a senior, has become the new fastest male cross-country (XC) runner in school history.

By breaking the 5k record that was previously set by alumnus Tre Rivers, the achievement has had a significant impact on not only himself, but his team as well.

Hammill topped off his senior night with a time of 15:34, clearing Rivers' 15:45 record by 11 seconds, on Oct. 22 at the Hillsborough County Championships XC meet, .

"It feels pretty good to break the school record," Hammill said. "It's been something I've wanted to do for a while now. I looked up to the guys who held the previous records, so it felt like more of an honor to break it because they were my mentors."

The moment came full circle as he fulfilled the legacy of the former teammate he looked up to.

According to Hammill, Rivers also expressed to him just how proud he was of his accomplishment.

Despite having less training than those at his caliber,

"It really fills me with pride that he did all the right things and has the kind of belief and determination in himself to make this kind of thing happen."



PHOTO COURTESY OF • KYLE LOJACONO

TAKING THE LEAD- Senior runner Jared Hammill leads ahead of a component at a regional race. Hammill broke the school record for fastest male cross country runner after seasons of hard work and dedication.

his hard work and dedication has led Hammill to excel in the sport.

"A lot of these great runners ran all through middle school; Jared never ran competitively until track season his freshman year," Kyle LoJacono, boys and girls cross country coach and newspaper advisor, said. "He didn't even run cross country his freshman year. He only ran three seasons and got the school record. It's really impressive that he was able to do that."

During his first cross country season as a sophomore, Hammill ran a promising 5k time of 17:09. As he progressed through the years, he continued to shave minutes off his pace, oftentimes training on his own, ahead of his team.

As a result of this, the runner had to rely upon his own self-motivation to grow— a value he wishes to pass on to his teammates.

"Something I've taken away from this achievement is that hard work really does pay off," Hammill said. "Being consistent with anything is going to ultimately help you in the long run. I hope my teammates never stop chasing their goals. We have so many talented guys on our team and they all have so much potential. They can do the same thing and go even faster than I did."

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The support Hammill has for his team has been reciprocated by those he trains with. He has become a key part of the team over the years.

"Having Jared as a teammate has always kept things very entertaining," Thomas Walter, a senior, said. "His work ethic, drive and good sense of humor have made him a natural born leader. I think the entire team was able learn that consistency pays off."

Throughout the rest of his cross country and track seasons, Hammill has said he is going to keep pushing himself to improve. He plans to continue running in college as well.

"For somebody to come in who is already that good and keep working like this says a lot about the quality of his character," LoJacono said. "It really fills me with pride that he did all the right things and has that kind of belief and determination in himself to make this kind of thing happen."

Hammill added more achievements to his career total by claiming the first ever individual regional championship for a boy in school history on Nov. 7. He followed that up at the Class 4A state meet Nov. 14 by finishing third, matching the best place in finish for a boy in school history.

"Knowing that staying focused and working hard is going to pay off has helped me grow," Hammill said. "Even in school, this accomplishment has definitely grown my character a lot."

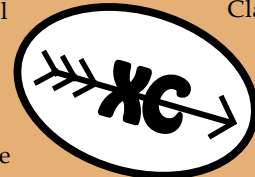






PHOTO COURTESY OF • KYLE LOJACONO

SHOWING SOME LOVE- Hammill celebrates his senior night alongside his team and supporters. Hammill's teammates described the runner as a natural leader.

Hammill's Highlights

-  **Second boy in school history to win district championship**
-  **Currently seeded 5th with his time**
-  **Longest runs during training are 12 miles, ran in under 90 minutes**
-  **Runs between 50-55 miles a week, high-end weeks total 60 miles**

*source: Kyle LoJacono

infographic designed by: Allie Massey

**Audrey's
Answers**



**Tampa's top
sports**

audreybest
sports editor

Tom Brady was officially signed to the Buccaneers (Bucs) on Mar. 20. Whether the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Brady go on to win the Super Bowl, the change was a success.

Brady has raised the Bucs' championship odds from nothing to something. He is playing as well right now, at 43 years old, as he has in the past five years.

Brady is still playing to the same level with the same style as he did in his final stretch with the New England Patriots.

All quarterbacks perform better when they have more time to make a play compared to when they are pressured. But the best quarterbacks are able to rise above pressure and still perform at close to being unpressured.

Brady, when pressured, would slip and slide and weave away from danger, and when needed, he would step into a big shot if it meant allowing himself an extra second so that he could deliver the ball on time.

That had changed his last two years while on the Patriots and has continued into this season. He has become averse to taking hits. If Brady feels like he is going to take a clean hit, he now bails on an entire play.

It is a restricting style, but Brady can still be relentlessly efficient when given just enough coverage.

It takes a collaborative effort for this team to work efficiently. The Buccaneers offensive line is talented and the team's run-game is good enough to help keep the offense unpredictable.

The improvement in Buccaneers output has corresponded with the team reverting back to some of Brady's traditional concepts that he ran for two decades with the Patriots.

Within the first couple of weeks of the season, the team was running more of Bruce Arian's slow-developing concepts as the coach and quarterback looked to fuse their two styles into one. Some of Arian's staples still make up parts, but there has been more and more of Brady's imprint on things. The concepts that he ran to such success in New England from 2007-2020 have become the backbone of Tampa's offense.

The Brady-Bucs partnership is going as well as anyone in Tampa could have hoped for and those in New England feared.

Wildcats have well-earned season

audreybest
sports editor

When the clock hit zero on Oct. 23, the 2020 football team came out victorious against Plant High, winning 10-0.

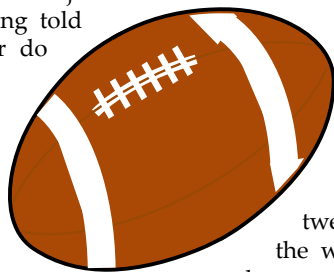
This one victory illustrated just how far the team has come in only a year, with their 7-1 record and moving into the playoffs.

New coach Mike Williams has worked to change the atmosphere of both the coaching staff and football team this year.

"We have an environment of accountability and responsibility," Williams said. "Everyone has to know and do their job and can't be above being told to work harder or do more."

Williams said he maintains this environment with the leadership from the players and through everyone having transparency and knowing exactly where they stand.

"As a first-year player, it's nice to have someone, such as Emery Floyd, to look up to," Dijon Johnson, a wide receiver, said. "He motivates me and keeps me pushing throughout games and practices."



Williams was given the position of head football coach beginning of this year. Thanks to the work previously put into the team by former coach David Mitchell during his last years coaching and the cooperation made by the team this year, the transformation was made much easier for Williams.

"Coach Mitchell did a great job building a hard work mentality with the team, so it helps to build from that," Williams said.

Not only is the coaching staff working hard this season, but they are motivating their players to develop a better sense of self discipline and to reach their full potential while playing.

Floyd credits the reason for having such a strong team this season to the versatility between the players and the work ethic put into the team by Williams.

"Coach Mike has made a huge impact in my high school career in such little time by helping me to better my skills and showing me that there is always room for improvement," Johnnie Cason, a running back, said.

Williams wouldn't have been able to coach this team as well as he has done so without the want



PHOTO BY • AUDREY BEST

DETERMINED CATS- Players work with quarterback Emery Floyd. The team did their best during the game.

and the will from each of the players to win this season.

"There are too many players that have contributed to our success so far to name," Williams said. "I would say Davion Crouch leads an elite defense, and on offense quarterback Emery Floyd

is improving every week along with the one-two-punch of Johnnie Cason and Keith Morris in the backfield."

This team has conquered COVID-19, adjusted to a new coach and still has managed a 7-2 this season.

Tampa teams achieve success through seasonal accommodations

williamhine
staff writer

After more than a three-month hiatus in professional sports, Tampa Bay's teams have come back stronger than ever.

Two of the three Tampa Bay teams, the Rays and Lightning, have made it to their respective finals and the third team, the Buccaneers (Bucs), has pleased fans with their off-season decisions and early victories.

"(The Buccaneers) are playing a lot better than before with some of their new players," Brett Brown, a sophomore, said.

During the 2020 preseason, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers signed 28 new players to their team. Among those new players included 21-year veteran Tom Brady.

"I'm excited because we finally have a quarterback who understands the game and can control the team," Brown said.

Brady started his Buccaneers career, throwing for 239 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. He kicked off the season with six touchdowns and three interceptions in his first three games. Since then, he has played to many people's expectations, throwing for eight touchdowns and one interception in the next three games.

"I was expecting to watch better games from the Bucs, and that's

what I've received," Brown said.

The Bucs are 6-2 in the regular season leading the NFC South.

While the Bucs are continuing to play through their season, the Tampa Bay Rays managed to compete in the Major League Baseball (MLB) World Series.

"It's great to see the Rays' strategy finally have success in the playoffs," Sean Newborn, a reading coach, said.

The Rays finished the 2020-21 regular season with a 40-20 record, winning the East Division for the third time in program history.

"The Rays have always done a good job building a team around lesser known players," Newborn said. "They could never win in the playoffs."

Rays rookie outfielder Randy Arozarena broke the MLB record for most post-season home-runs with a total of 9. He also tied the record for most hits in the post-season with 26.

The Rays finished the MLB season as the World Series runner up, losing to the LA Dodgers 4-2 in the final series.

"The fan base is very solid for the Rays, especially with the location of their stadium," Newborn said.

A location change for the Rays stadium has been a big debate for a long time.

A month before the Rays played in the World Series, the Tampa Bay Lightning competed in the



PHOTO BY • WILLIAM HINE

ROAD TO GLORY- Zack Chandler and Zach Mulligan celebrate the Lightning's championship with the Stanley Cup trophy. Both have been fans their whole life.

Stanley Cup finals.

After defeating the Dallas Stars in the final series 4-2, the Lightning finished their season as crowned champions.

"Since having the best record in the league and then getting swept in the first round, I was feeling confident going into this year's playoffs," Tyler Mulligan, a senior, said.

Finishing second in their conference with a 43-21-6 record, the Lightning had a successful regular season.

The Tampa Bay Lightning fin-

ished the post season scoring a total of 70 goals, and a record of 16-6.

The team had watch parties during the playoffs to include the fans.

"The fan base has been extremely devoted every year and it's good to finally get the win," Mulligan said.

As Tampa Bay sports continue, fans wait to see if they can produce the same results again.

"I'm very excited to watch my home town teams next year," Brown said.