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2020 election: A deciding moment for America



Written by:
Isabelle Butera

If elections reflect the attitudes of the people, then this November may define what America represents. The United States is in the midst of a global pandemic that caused more than 200,000 deaths and an economic downturn worse since the Great Depression, a nationwide movement for racial justice, and an increase of natural disasters and wildfires. As Americans have already seen with an unconventional debate and the President himself testing positive for COVID-19, the 2020 election, like everything else this year, is uniquely unprecedented, and moreover, bound to impact our country for years to come.

The main focus of the election season thus far has revolved around the race between President Donald Trump and former Vice-President, Joe Biden. Incumbent candidates (the current president) tend to have an advantage as they have a clear record of policy and demonstrated ability (and only 10 Presidents in U.S history lost their reelection campaigns), but Trump is also the first president to run for reelection after impeachment. Both parties press the high stakes of this election, each proclaiming that a vote for their opponent would be disastrous for America. The Trump campaign is utilizing a "law and order" message as a safeguard against a dangerous and turbulent America, while Biden's campaign paints Trump as a danger to democracy and blames him for the high death toll of the pandemic.

Trump's campaign, "America First," focuses on continuing his first term policies by building the economy through tax cuts and bringing manufacturing jobs back to the US, renegotiating trade deals and international agree-



Joe Biden and Kamala Harris celebrate after the official nomination at the DNC.
Photo: CNBC.com

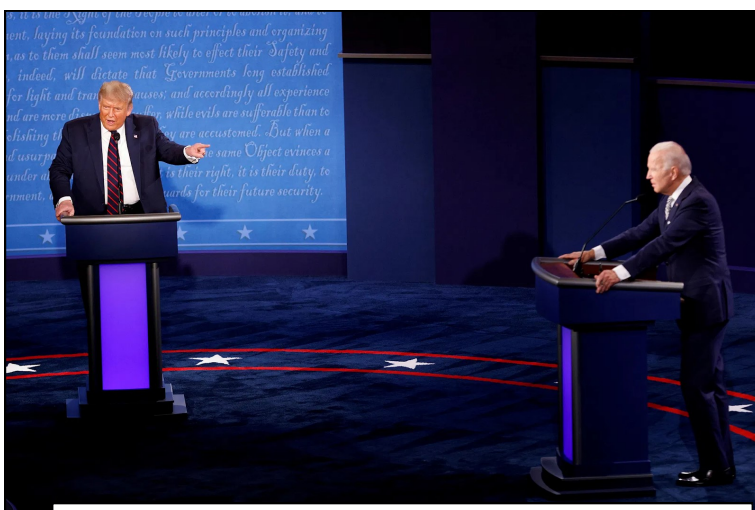
ments, removing environmental regulations to promote business, and reducing illegal immigration. With a Supreme Court vacancy after the death of Justice Ginsburg, the Trump Administration already nominated Amy Coney Barrett, a

minimum wage, a plan for 100% clean energy by 2050, expanding coverage of Obamacare, and tax increases only on those earning more than \$400,000 annually. Also, if elected, Biden's running mate California Senator Kamala

and state legislation of the next several years. Democrats are likely to maintain (if not increase) their majority in the House, but at least ten incumbent Senators are running tight races, so the Senate majority may be up for grabs. Locally, Phoenixville voters will see state attorney general, state representatives and possibly (depending which district you live in) state senator; positions with the power to shape state laws such as reopening policies, criminal justice or reproductive rights.

As with everything in 2020, the continued dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic complicate how voters cast their ballots this election. In some state primaries, voters experienced hours-long wait times to vote in person, due to closures of polling places and distancing restrictions. Several states have expanded vote-by mail and early voting opportunities in order to reduce crowds and wait times on election day. Voting by mail (also known as absentee voting) has long been used by those living out of state, serving in the military, or dealing with an illness or disability. However, this method has become highly controversial as the Trump administration repeatedly claims that mail-in ballots are easily tampered or fraudulent, and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy worked to defund the post office (the only system able to deliver mail-in ballots).

Regardless of one's ideology, voting in this election carries an enormous weight. The presidential race does not only determine who goes to the White House, but the next president will determine the leadership of bureaucracies such as the Departments of Justice, Education, Environmental Protection, all of which have the power to create long-lasting programs. Federal and State legislatures will shape the country's economic and environmental policies, and all parts of the government still must address the persisting pandemic and the rising death toll. If it isn't already abundantly clear: your vote matters. Don't waste it.



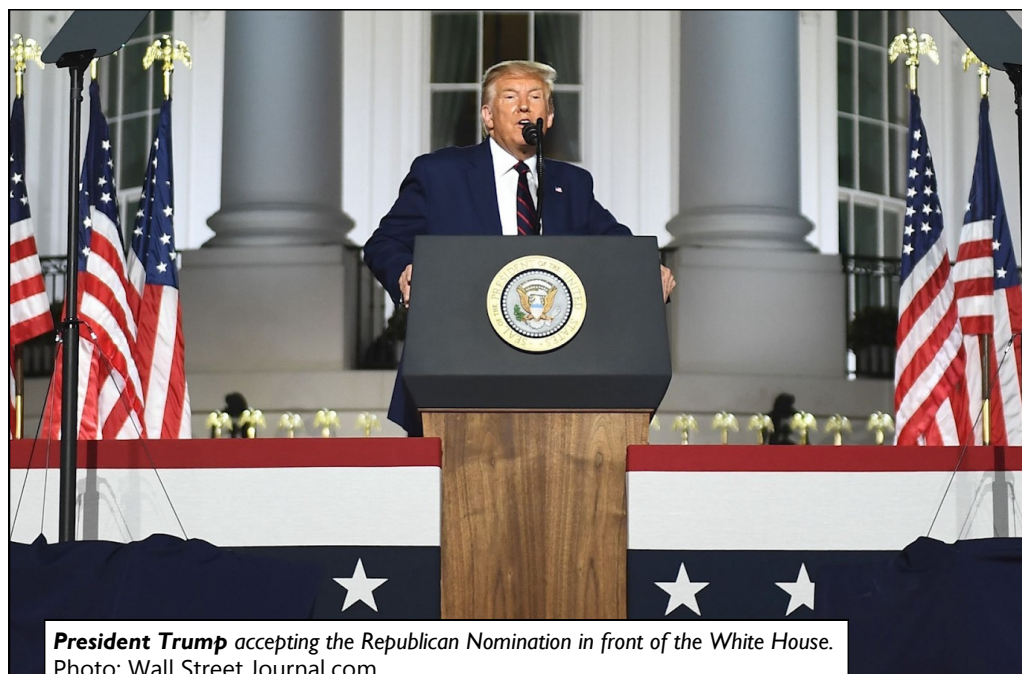
Biden and Trump face off during a uniquely chaotic presidential debate
Photos: NYpost.com

choice that will most likely be confirmed if Trump is reelected, if not possibly before then.

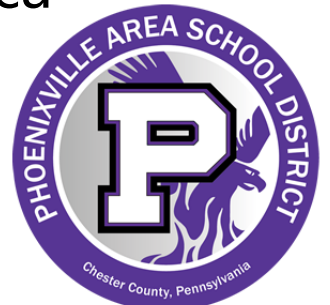
Biden's policy balances the demands of both the leftists and centrists of the Democratic party, including policies such as a \$15

Harris would be the first woman and person of color to serve as vice president.

While the presidential election dominates most news cycles, races further down the ballot still tremendously impact the national



President Trump accepting the Republican Nomination in front of the White House.
Photo: Wall Street Journal.com



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Running on optimism: Madison O'Neill



Written by:
Isabelle Butera

As the Phoenixville community grapples with the challenges of an unusual school year, we turn to our school leaders for an example of what to do. Although her senior year looks nothing like she anticipated, National Honor Society President and cross country star Madison O'Neill is taking this year in stride.

A passionate runner, Madison is a co-captain of the Boys Cross Country team and runs winter and spring track. After a long delay due to the quarantine, cross country received the greenlight to practice in late September (with social distancing and masks between runs). How-



Madison posing with her teammates (**Landon Connett, Nate Gale, Nick Guido and Rowan Martnishin**) after a run

ever, due to the delay they couldn't play their normal full competitive season in the PAC, with the exception of two conference meets.

"It doesn't really bother me," Madison said. "I'm just grateful to be able to practice with my team. She's optimistic about returning to a normal winter and spring season for track."

Additionally, Madison runs one of the largest student organizations in the high school: National Honor Society. Beyond the typical responsibilities of NHS president, Madison and the other officers found that this year asks for even more creativity and effort from them than expected. Madison relies on texts, emails and Zooms to communicate with NHS members, in addition to frequent meetings with Dr. Parkinson to determine what type of events the club can host.

Nonetheless, the NHS will continue its community service this year, as Madison explained: "We're always communicating with the community to see how we can help."

The officers planned

family movie nights on Washington Field, Bingo and Karaoke nights, a socially distanced trick or treat, and an outdoor induction ceremony for new members. In September, NHS hosted a Kindness Day, Cornhole Tournament and a Cardiomyopathy Walk in honor of Noah Skinner, a local child who passed from the disease.

Madison is starting her senior year with a full schedule including Allied Health classes, AP Statistics, AP Literature, AP Psychology, Physics, and Beginner Piano. She's enthusiastic about her Allied Health classes (even though hospital rotations aren't due to start until January) because, as she explained, "I'm super passionate about the healthcare field, and I love getting to work in the hospital and getting to work with the patients."

Madison plans to continue studying this passion in college, where she hopes to study biology on the Pre-Med track, possibly aiming for a career in orthopedics. She's also described her excitement for AP literature, saying "I like how it's pushing me out of my comfort zone and challenging me to do stuff I wouldn't normally."

When the pandemic forced everyone into lockdown back in March, Madison decided to make the best of her time, spending her free time running and reading. She's also appreciated the extra time with her parents Jodi and Justin, her brothers Cole (20), Jason (15), and Trevor (13), and her dog Barley and cat Mia. She admits it can be a little hectic with everyone home, but she

enjoys the extra time together. Despite the untraditional start to her senior year, Madison remains optimistic that she and her classmates can make the best of the situation. She said, "At first I was pretty upset but now I don't think it's too terrible. I get to see everyone with their camera and see my teachers." She hopes for "one final year together as seniors. I wanted our class to be in person with everyone and I wanted us to be influential role models because I know our grade is like that."

She advises her fellow seniors to put their best foot forward and make the most out of the year. To any freshmen nervous about what's ahead of them, Madison has these words: "Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. And don't let the next four years slip away, because they go by really fast."



Madison posing with her brothers **Cole, Jason and Trevor** and her parents **Jodi and Justin**.



Madison visiting Nashville Tennessee. Photos: Madison O'Neill

Kate Roberts: Golfer extraordinaire



Written by:
Ariana Ortlip

As she steps up to putt, you see her chest go in and out as she breathes deeply, knowing that this last hole might just get her the tournament victory. She putts and the ball rolls slowly toward the hole, curving at the last second, just as she thought it would... IT'S IN!!

You may be asking who this professional golfer is: is it Michelle Wie? Or is it Paige Spiranac? Well it's none other than Kate Roberts. Kate, a freshman here at PAHS, has been playing golf competitively for three years now. Golf is a huge part of her life right now and will be in the future



Kate holds a trophy for winning the PKBGT (Peggy Kirk Bell Golf Tour) tour finale at Raven's Claw Golf Club. She shot 80 to win by four shots.



Kayley and Kate sit on a tree with their mom and dad after hiking in Valley Forge.

Photos: Kate Roberts

as well as she hopes to turn professional someday.

Just like any other person playing a sport, Kate has some strengths and weaknesses in golf. Some of her strengths in golf include putting, along with "the ability to think positive in negative situations," she said. She feels she can improve on playing from the rough, and hitting more greens in regulation. In past seasons Kate has had some great scores, including 75 (18 holes) at Turtle Creek, 76 at Rivercrest, and 78 at Ravenclaw.

Since golf is something Kate really enjoys, she looks up and admires several men and women golfers. A few of her favorite men golfers are Collin Morikawa, Justin Thomas, and Tiger Woods, while her favorite women players would be Lydia Ko, Danielle Kang, Nelly Korda, and Brooke Henderson.

Kate had some great accomplishments this season. She finished tenth in Districts, and she

was the highest placed ninth grader in the tournament. Kate also happened to be the second best golfer in the PAC, not to mention she was the highest place showing for a Phoenixville girl golfer ever. Kate played well enough to get to Districts day 2.

She said, "As a golfer, I am always looking to get better, so I won't say I played really well. It was a wonderful experience, however, getting to go to Districts Day 2 as a freshman, so I know what to expect in the coming years. Looking forward to the future, I am trying to get better everyday, so next year I will be able to beat my score, and go further than I did this year."

Kate's family is very supportive of her amazing golf skills. She has a sister, Kayley, who is 12 and also an avid golfer. Their favorite place to play is Turtle Creek. Before Covid-19, Kate and her family have traveled to a few amazing places including California, India, and Grenada.

Aside from golf, Kate is a great student. She stated some of her favorite classes are English and Techniques of Writing. Virtual school has been tough for everyone, but it's even tough-

er for many freshmen having to do it all online. Kate says that it is very interesting switching between Zooms, but the difficulties uploading work is straining.

She stated, "It is very different because you are comparing how it would be in school using paper and pencil, but now we are always on the computer typing everything up. You get a little smart technology wise."

Kate also has some academic goals in life as well, one being to get into a good college. She would love to go to Harvard, Stanford, or Duke. Both Stanford and Duke have great golf teams.

Aside from being an extraordinary golfer and an exceptional student. Kate is a great person with many great attributes that you would want in any friend. If you ever want to learn how to play golf from a soon-to-be professional, just talk to Kate Roberts, the younger, female version of Tiger Woods.



Kate and her sister **Kayley** posing for a photo outside of Rivercrest Golf Club and Preserve, their home course

PAHS gained four new staff members this year, and we are glad to have them on our team. We wish them the best of luck this school year! Let's learn a little about them...

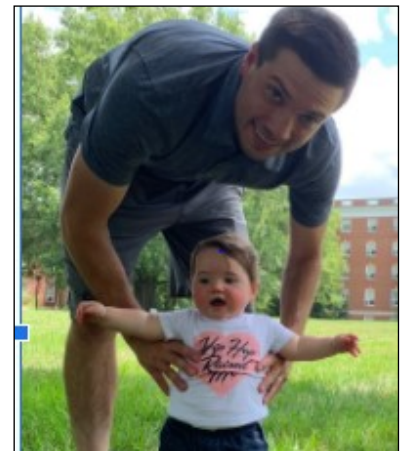
Mrs. Johnson-Chilla

Mrs. Johnson-Chilla is a new science teacher at Phoenixville Area High School. She lived in Elverson, PA, where she attended Twin Valley High School, and later attended Penn State and got her Bachelors in Secondary Education. She also has a Master's degree from Wilkes University (Education Development and Strategies) and Nova Southeastern University (Education Law). Previous teaching experience she has is at Palisades School District in Kintnersville, PA. Mrs. Johnson-Chilla decided to move to Phoenixville because she and her husband love the community and location of Phoenixville, and the school district is challenging for the students. Plus, her children will attend the district so she wanted to contribute to their schooling and make PASD the best it can be. Classes she is teaching this year are biology and chemistry. So far she has been impressed with Phoenixville and how amazing the students and faculty are, especially during this difficult time. Everyone has really come together and made the best of it. Online teaching for her is a completely new experience; she was not a teacher in the spring so this is her first time teaching virtually. She says she really likes it, but it is also VERY challenging to get to know her students and have fun lab experiences in the virtual setting, claiming: "Science is more fun in person!" During Mrs. Johnson-Chilla's free time she loves to run and explore the outdoors with her kids. She and her husband also love DIY home projects. Besides her wonderfully supportive husband she has two incredibly cute, awesome, and hilarious kids. Her daughter is three and her son is seven months old. They also have two cats, Darwin and Minnie; when they aren't Zoom-bombing her classes they're snuggled up on her lap or at her feet. The Johnson-Chilla family loves to travel. They've been to six countries together and their goal is to visit every continent, but due to COVID restrictions over the past summer they just had a beach trip. Welcome to PAHS Mrs. Johnson-Chilla!



Mr. Baver

Mr. Riley Baver is the newest addition to the history department at Phoenixville. He graduated from Radnor High School in 2008, earned a Bachelor's in history from the University of Mary Washington in 2012, and received his teaching certification from Cabrini College in 2014. He has taught at Olney Charter High School in North Philadelphia for three years, ACT Academy Charter High School for two years, and has also taught English as a foreign language in Spain for a year. This year Mr. Baver is teaching Government/Economics and American History. Unlike his previous two positions, Mr. Baver decided to come to Phoenixville for the stability of a job instead of a state charter being renewed. So far he is impressed with his students' willingness to go with the flow during this transition to virtual learning and with students actively reaching out to inform him of any issues they are going through. In his free time, he enjoys playing tennis, doing CrossFit, spending time with his family and watching TV. Mr. Baver and his wife Emily have been married for two and a half years and have a daughter, Orla, who is about to turn one. They also have a dog named Reptar and a cat named Arnold. Over the summer they traveled to Lake Gaston in North Carolina for a week with his family, spent a week at Cape May with his wife's family, and with the lack of sports to watch, he got into marble racing. Mr. Baver is excited to teach at Phoenixville cannot wait to be back at PAHS teaching in person, once it is safe to do so.



Mrs. Eberly

Whenever a new teacher arrives at Phoenixville Area High School, there is always a lot of excitement, and with the arrival of Mrs. Eberly, there is good reason to be excited. An Upper Darby High School and University of Virginia alumni, Mrs. Eberly is here to teach an impressive number of subjects that include American History, American Government, Economics, and World History. The town of Phoenixville is so diverse and holds many opportunities, which drew Mrs. Eberly to become a teacher here after previously teaching at Coatesville. She has been married for 24 years and has four children, three girls and one boy. She is also an avid runner who competed in the 1996 Track and Field Olympic Trials in Atlanta (Heptathlon) and was a professional athlete who ran for Adidas for six years. Along with that she has also been training in martial arts for 17 years and holds black belts in both TaeKwonDo and TangSooDo. Nowadays, she runs with her summer track club where they put on track clinics all over the country, and she also enjoys traveling to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. It is a great pleasure to have the multi-talented and high-energy Mrs. Eberly as a new member of our teaching staff as well as our community.



Mrs. Winters

We welcome Mrs. Carrie Winters into the math department this year at PAHS. Mrs Winters went to Great Valley High School and furthered her education at University of Delaware. She was previously a teacher in Maryland for 11 years. Mrs. Winters is teaching Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry. She decided to come to PAHS because she has a baby and family here, and a family member who works at PAHS (Mr. Acosta). Mrs. Winters says she is impressed so far with the students and that she misses being in her classroom during quarantine. In her free time she enjoys hiking, exercising, reading, and spending time with family. Mrs. Winters has been married to her husband Doug for two years, has an 11 month old daughter, Isla, and a 10 year old dog, Peanut. Mrs. Winters has close to 40 first cousins because of her dad's 10 siblings! We wish Mrs. Winters many successful years at PAHS.



Farewell Ms. Ballantine!

Ms. Ballantine has been working at Phoenixville for twenty years before announcing her retirement in June. She has not only been a huge influence for students studying science, but also as a producer of many fall play productions at PAHS. The Purple Press interviewed Ms. Ballantine to get her thoughts on her career, both past and future. Her comments showcase her passions, caring spirit, and witty personality.

Q: Where did you attend high school and college?

A: I went to a small rural high school in Ohio called West Branch. Go Warriors! I spent my junior year at Girls High School in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa—this was during apartheid, and was eye-opening and life-changing—through a student exchange program (AFS.) And then I went to THE Ohio State University—GO BUCKS!

Q: Were you working anywhere prior to PAHS?

A: Before I became a teacher, I worked in molecular biology labs. Before I was married, I worked in a research lab studying DNA damage and repair. It was where I learned how to use a rat guillotine. Enough said.

After I was married, I moved to Philadelphia and did work at Children's Hospital where we discovered the specific DNA defect that results in Beta-Thalassemia, a blood disorder. After that, I worked at Wistar Institute where we were trying to sequence the gene for Band-3 protein which we thought might be involved in cystic fibrosis. (It wasn't. Otherwise I'd be famous.)

Q: How long have you been working at PAHS?

A: For a long time! I started as a substitute over 20 years ago

Q: Describe the classes you taught over the years.



Ms. Ballantine shows (now alumni) Michelle McCaleb how to use a saber saw when they were renovating the prop room.

A: I've taught all levels of biology except AP, and I've also taught Earth and Space classes, analytical science, and a class we no longer have, Earth and Environmental Science. I'll be forever sad that they discontinued that class, as I think that it was one of the best ones that we had!

Q: What are your favorite memories from working at PAHS as a science teacher?

A: The fact that nobody passed out when we were dissecting frogs.

But seriously, there were so many I don't think that I can pick. I had the privilege of teaching a lot of fantastic students through the years, and they all brought special things to the table.

Maybe the best was that I once had a student who was frequently mean and very prickly—but she absolutely loved the hamster that we had in the class, and I could get to see a side of her that otherwise I would never have known existed.

She was so gentle with that creature!

Other things that I will miss—the German exchange program! It was wonderful to be able to make new friends in Germany and see where the teaching styles were similar—and where they were different, as well to be able to chaperone the best groups of “schüler und schülerinnen” that anyone could ask for!

Q: What are your favorite memories from working at PAHS with the theatre department?

A: So—we try to teach students all kinds of things that will help them in real life, and I wanted to get one of our leads to sew a patch onto his shirt costume. I showed him how to thread the needle and knot the end, and how to make the stitches. He looked like he was doing a terrific job—until he stood up and the shirt (along with the patch) was sewn onto his pants...

And then there was the time that we had a fuse for a prop bomb and we couldn't get it to go out...that was fun.

And teaching everyone how to use the power tools to make props and set—particularly enjoyable to teach the girls who never saw themselves doing that before.

Fortunately, I get to continue on with the Fall Play productions—so I can keep my hand

in!

Q: Why have you chosen to leave PAHS?

A: It was time to get to work on the long list of things that I have been putting off for 20 years, plus spend more time with family that are far away.

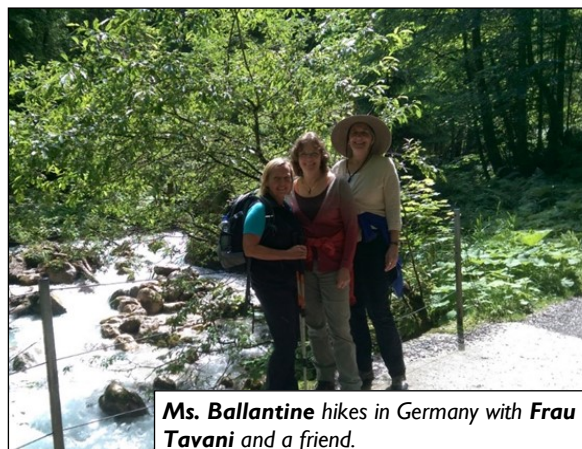
Q: Tell me about your family.

A: My husband and I have one daughter, two grandchildren who live in upstate New York. I also have a sister and niece who live in Louisville Kentucky, a sister who lives in Alexandria, Virginia, a brother who lives in Napa, California, a nephew who is living in Maine, and another who is in Wisconsin—along with numerous other cousins scattered to the four corners.

Q: What will you miss the most about PAHS?

A: I'll miss the teacher friends that I have here, and the chance to see students' faces when they finally see and understand something complicated. I love those AHA! Moments. Plus laughing to myself when they say something that they don't realize is funny.

We wish you all the best Ms. Ballantine, and we'll see you at the next theatre production!



Ms. Ballantine hikes in Germany with Frau Tavani and a friend.

Photos courtesy of Ms. Ballantine

Farewell Mr. Coyne!

Mr. Coyne has been a legend at PAHS since 1992. Some students think he seems intimidating at first, but they soon realize that under his stern exterior he is a caring, friendly person with years of experience as a teacher, coach, father, and friend to all. His sudden retirement in June of 2020 saddened many, so The Purple Press reached out to him for an interview. Here is what Mr. Coyne shared about his many years at PAHS.

Q: Where did you attend high school and college?

A: I attended Cumberland Valley High School outside Harrisburg and graduated in 1979. I then attended a post-graduate year at Cushing Academy, not far from Boston, to improve my grades and SAT scores. I graduated from there in 1980. I then attended Juniata College, near Penn State, graduating in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in pre law/secondary education. In 1988, I graduated from Villanova University with a Master's Degree in Education, and in 1992 I graduated from Penn State – Great Valley with a principal certificate.

Q: Were you working anywhere prior to PAHS?

A: In 1984 I tried to obtain a teaching position back in my home town area. However, there were none to be had. So, I attended a teaching consortium (job fair) at the Valley Forge Sheraton. While I was there, the only school district who had a Social Studies position was Phoenixville, and it was for a long term substitute position. Needless to say, I took it, and began my teaching career at Phoenixville Area Junior High School in the fall of 1984. I remained at the Junior High until 1992, and then transferred to the high school for the



There's a big warm smile behind that familiar face.

rest of my career.

Q: How long have you been working at PAHS? Describe the classes you taught over the years.

A: I taught in the Phoenixville Area School District for 36 years. When I was in the junior high I taught 7th grade US History and 9th grade World Cultures. In the high school I taught 9th grade World History, 10th grade US History, and 11th grade Economics and Government.

Q: What are your favorite memories from working at PAHS with the social studies department?

A: Some of my favorite memories I have teaching is seeing a student who did not like History/Social Studies say to me at the end of the year that my class was his/her favorite of the year, and they hope to have me again as their teacher next year. I also appreciated hearing from former students in college emailing me saying that they are using the study skill I taught in my class,

(Read, Highlight, Outline, Summarize) was helping them succeed in college. A final good thought I have is seeing former students/athletes of mine go into the teaching profession (Laurie Frost, Tyler Gubanich, Tony Stavenski, Matt Varady, and Steve Winnick) just to name a few.

Q: Why have you chosen to leave PAHS?

A: I had all intentional purposes of returning to PAHS and go 40 years and retire then. However, the educational shut down due to the pandemic changed my mind. Teaching through a computer is not the same as teaching in front of a classroom of students. I missed the rapport of the classroom, the give and take of being with stu-

Q: Tell me about your family.

A: I been married to my lovely wife Linda for 27 years. Linda works at St. Eleanor's in Collegeville. I have two children, Hank IV and Emily. Hank works at a public accounting firm in Philadelphia named Marcum and Emily works for Pepsi as a supply change manager in Chicago. I am very proud of them. We also have a high energy dog named Cooper that keeps us on our toes. I look forward to doing some traveling and spending time with my family.

Q: What will you miss the most about PAHS?

A: What I will miss most about teaching are the students and my colleagues. Each day in the classroom was a new adventure

for me. Sure, I would have my lesson plans, but if we got off the subject and the students wanted to discuss something, I was more than willing to let the conversation grow. My colleagues in the Social Studies department were so supportive of each other. If one of us was short on some information on a topic, someone in the department could fill the void. I will also miss all the activities that I/we established through our Student Government. Those activities were the Wall of Fame, The Veterans Day Program, The Impact Awards, The Chick-Fil-A days just to name a few. Through these activities I watched the officers of Student Government grow and take ownership of these activities through their speeches and organizational skills. It was pleasure to watch them mature.

To sum everything up. I enjoyed my teaching and coaching career at PASD



Mr. Coyne presents awards to the new Wall of Fame recipients in 2019: Robert Morrison and Patrice Banks.

dents, and the satisfaction that I knew that my students were learning. Some retired teacher friends of mine told me that you will know when it is your time to retire. My time had come to retire last June.

Club offerings may change a lot when we finally return to school, but some clubs are already meeting virtually! Many seniors have said that their most important piece of advice for incoming freshmen is to get involved in sports, activities and clubs. Phoenixville Area High School offers a wide range of clubs to choose from, so it's time for you to get involved!

Academic Team

The Academic Team competes in fast-paced knowledge tournaments in local matches against teams in the Chester County league. During competitions, teams answer questions in categories including American and world history, science, literature, current events, geography, fine arts, and more. Students who wish to learn more about the team should email Mr. Sprenkle at sprenklee@pasd.com.

Activism Club

The Phoenixville Activism Club is a group of students devoted to increasing political participation in our school and educating ourselves about current events. Throughout the year, we work on activism projects within the school and community, hold debates about current events and political issues, and meet with local political leaders. We encourage students of all political ideologies and levels of experience to join at any point in the year. Contact Ms. Bicker or Isabelle Butera for more information, or follow us on Instagram at [@phoenixvilleactivism](https://www.instagram.com/phoenixvilleactivism).

Astronomy Club

The Astronomy Club is for students interested in observational astronomy. The club arranges 2-3 Star Night events in both the fall and the spring. During the Star Night events, we utilize our two telescopes to view the night sky on the upper turf. Students will learn how to use telescopes with and without tracking devices to observe features of the night sky. The club will be meeting online on Tuesday's at 11:25 a.m. with one meeting per month occurring during observing hours. If you would like to be included, email bankeesp@pasd.com (Mr. Bankes) and you will be added to the Canvas club page.

Best Buddies

Best Buddies is a nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing volunteers that creates one-to-one friendships and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (DD). This program helps students with disabilities by pairing a special education student with a regular education student. The goal is to help make lifelong friendships, have some fun with people your own age, and to help others. The advisor is Ms. Lamb, and Josh White is the president. Email Ms. Nolan at nolana@pasd.com for more information.

Book Club

The Book Club is for avid readers in all grades. Students meet every Thursday immediately after 8th period via Zoom to discuss a variety of novels and genres. We focus on literature that is typically not read in the academic classroom and have lively discussions. All members have input into our reading selections regardless of seniority. If you love to read, analyze, and talk about books, this is the club for you. Email Mrs. Howard at howardl@pasd.com for the Zoom link for meetings!

Debate Club

The goal of Debate Club is to research, prepare, and practice debates in order to compete in local and district competitions. There are many different formats of debate that the club will practice as a whole or in smaller groups. Members are expected to contribute to the research process required to speak knowledgeably about the debate topics. Students who wish to learn more about the club should email Mr. Sprenkle at sprenklee@pasd.com.

Destinations with Direction

DWD is a program designed to increase awareness and motivate high potential, economically disadvantaged students to pursue opportunities in higher education, or improve work & life skills. The 30 students selected for DWD annually receive additional supports including extended school days, counseling, college mentors, tutors, weekly workshops and college tours. By giving the students these additional supports, they will become empowered to pursue a college education. DWD is advised by Mr. Madyun and Mrs. Lewis. The club is meeting online Tuesday afternoons from 3:45-4:45 p.m. Students can contact Mrs. Lewis for the zoom link and more information via e-mail at lewisa@pasd.com.

Dungeons and Dragons/Magic: The Gathering Club

Do you enjoy role-playing? Challenge yourself and your friends and join the D&D/Magic: The Gathering Club! Meetings will be held three Wednesdays a month from 3:30-4:30. If you are interested in joining, please contact Miss Quinn at quinnme@pasd.com and she will send you a Zoom invitation.

Environmental Club

The Environmental Club is a service-oriented club that has been in motion for the past eight years. This year, we are looking for a fresh, new club ready for new members. We intend on cleaning up the parking lots/areas around local business in Phoenixville, partaking in tree planting, and providing community service. With your help, we can make an even bigger difference in our town! The club will be meeting online on Tuesday's at 3:25. If you would like to be included email bankeesp@pasd.com (Mr. Bankes) and you will be added to the Canvas club page.

Expressive Arts Therapy Club: (formerly known as Art Club)

The Expressive Arts Therapy Club will infuse the arts and creativity into promoting health and well-being. The use of the expressive arts, which combines dance, drama, visual art, writing, and music, is proven to enhance the recovery from physical and emotional stress. This club will motivate its members in discovering how to integrate the healing power of creative expression into the care and development of their academic enhancement and social well-being. The club is offered to *any* PAHS student interested in using a variety of creative art forms that aid in mindful expression. We will incorporate a combination of expressive writing, poetry, artistic collage, meditation, yoga, and cooking in the club. Email Mrs. Knabb at knabbe@pasd.com for more information, meeting dates, and times.

FBLA

Future Business Leaders of America is an academic club that prepares students for careers in and outside of business. It teaches networking, interview skills and puts an emphasis on community service. FBLA is the largest student organization in the country and the largest club at PAHS with over 100 members. While we are virtual, FBLA will meet every other Thursday at 3:30 on Zoom. If you have any questions please email any officer or adviser: Ally Tezak, Eloise Woodall, Liz Kunz, Bella Cruz, Katy Dietrich, Mrs. Wilbert, or Miss Goodwin (goodwink@pasd.com).

French Club (Le Cercle Francophone)

The "Cercle Francophone" (French Club) meets once a month and is open to all students. Some of our discussions include promotion of the French Program, trips to French-speaking countries, and fundraising. The purpose of French Club is to explore and learn about the Francophone cultures through cooking lessons, outings to restaurants, trips to museums, and more. The faculty advisor is Madame Gasbara and the club meets virtually for now. Email gasbarav@pasd.com for more information. The co-presidents are Oliver Gordon and Luke Hihi.

Gazebo Literary Magazine

Gazebo is a student-led writing circle dedicated to cultivating and sharing the artistic talents of students at the high school. Writers of all abilities are welcome to meet in a supportive setting to compose and receive feedback on poems and short stories. Our work culminates in the publishing of a literary magazine at the end of the year showcasing the creative writing and visual art of the school. The club meets on Wednesdays at 3:30 on Zoom. Email Mr. LaLuna at lalunag@pasd.com if you would like to join.

Gender and Sexuality Alliance

The PAHS Gender and Sexuality Alliance is a club devoted to providing a welcoming space for community building and social interaction with a focus on freedom of gender and sexual orientation. Each year the club undertakes projects designed to educate the student body and improve the culture of PAHS. Anyone interested in promoting the acceptance of all PAHS students can join the GSA. Email the advisor, Mr. Chwiecko, for more information at chwieckom@pasd.com.

German Club

Deutschklub exists to further the knowledge and education for students who wish to pursue German outside the classroom and beyond the scope of school instruction; to meet other German speakers with whom a student may not have class; as a forum for students who are not currently enrolled in a German class to keep up and develop their German skills; as a forum to which to invite native speakers; to plan exchanges, visits, trips; for German cultural experiences, such as food, movies and conversation; to support the German program at the high school. It is open to all current and past German students at PAHS. Email Mrs. Tavani at tavanic@pasd.com for online meeting dates and times.

Government Club

The purpose of Government Club is to discuss pertinent current event issues of the day in an analytical and comprehensive manner. All political ideologies are welcome to join and add to our mature debate forum. We also plan to participate in some service activities. Natalie White and Margaux Van der Veer are the co-leaders. For more information about meetings, contact Mrs. Kabatt at kabattm@pasd.com.

Junior Classical League/Latin Club

Also known as the Latin Club, this organization focuses on the ancient Latin language and Greco-Roman culture to anyone interested in the Classics. One doesn't have to be a Latin student to join the group. The club holds many Roman-style activities, and strives each year to involve students in the Philadelphia Classical Society's Latin Week Competition. Meetings are held on designated dates at 3:30-4:30 p.m. The two "consuls" are Abby Walton and Emery Cole. So *carpe diem* and join the Latin Club! Email Ms. Quinn for more information.

Mini-THON

The students at Phoenixville Area High School spend 12 hours on their feet through the night to benefit Four Diamonds at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, Hershey, PA. The PHX "Mini-THON" is based on the Penn State Dance Marathon---the largest student-run philanthropy in the nation where dancers spend 46 hours awake and on their feet to raise money for pediatric cancer patients. Phoenixville students organize, run, and fundraise for this event throughout the year. This year's Mini-THON date is still to be decided. PHX Mini-THON is looking for committee members to serve and welcomes all to join us to dance the night F.T.K.—For The Kids. For more information, email Ms. Kurtz, the advisor, at kurtzm@pasd.com, or contact Caroline Schwartz or Peyton McDonnell, the overall chairs of the event.

Model U.N.

Model United Nations is a club dedicated to expanding students' minds beyond the community. Students meet once a week to discuss, debate and resolve world issues. The club is modeled after the real world United Nations and gives students the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of a delegate. Throughout the year, we will travel across the country to compete, debate and grow with some of the most talented minds from across the world. Mr. Winters and Ms. Waltz are the advisors and this year's officer is Kellen Narke. The club meets virtually for now, so email wintersj@pasd.com for meeting days and times.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society serves to honor those students who demonstrate scholarship, leadership, service, and character in both the school and community. Students in good standing with at least a 3.5 GPA are invited to submit their credentials for membership. The advisor is Mr. Winters and the president of NHS is Madison O'Neill.

Phantom Ambassadors

Phantom Ambassadors are a group of students in grades 9-12 who serve as a support to the students and community of Phoenixville Area High School. The Phantom Ambassadors assist in some of the high school events in the building, and also those that involve community partnerships. Contact Ms. Davies or Penelope Pappas, the club president, for more information. The Ambassadors' mission is to volunteer and help out wherever there is a need in the community, district, or school building. Meetings will take place on certain Mondays each month, at 3:30 pm. While virtual, email Mrs. Davies at daviesk@pasd.com for meeting dates.

Phoenixville Platform for Service

Platform for Service is a community service club dedicated to volunteering and improving the community of Phoenixville. Platform for Service is a great way to get involved, have fun, earn service credits, and raise money to support families in need. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Heather Cirino or club advisor Mr. McLaughlin at mclaughlind@pasd.com. While virtual, the club meets every other Monday.

Reading Olympics

The Reading Olympics Club is often described fondly by our members as "competitive book club." The purpose of the club is to unite students who enjoy reading for pleasure and discussing books with peers. We select books from a variety of genres to read based on a list released each year, culminating in a countywide competition with other schools in the spring. Contact Ms. Bicker for more information at bickerj@pasd.com.

Science Club

The goal of the Science Club is to bring together people that have a passion for science, inquiry and different ways of thinking! The club provides hands-on experiences to enhance scientific thinking and skills on a regular basis as well as the opportunity to compete against other like-minded individuals for scholarship, recognition and academic opportunities. Mr. Winters is the advisor and the club president is Colin Murphy. All are welcome and encouraged to take part, so email wintersj@pasd.com for meeting days and times.

Spanish Club

The goal of this club is to further the understanding of the language and customs of the Hispanic world. The club does a variety of events including fundraisers for cultural-based field trips, organizing Hispanic cultural celebrations, and using the Spanish language in their meetings. The members also serve as tutors for students who need extra help in Spanish class. Mr. Acosta is the advisor; email him for more information at acostan@pasd.com.

Technology Student Association

The Technology Student Association (TSA) fosters Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education. Middle and high school members apply and integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts for the challenges of a dynamic world through co-curricular activities, problem solving, competitive events and related programs resulting in academic development and endless possibilities in our global society. The club president is Leah Kerry and the advisor is Mr. Leinhauser. Email him at leinhauser@pasd.com for more information about meeting dates.

Theatre Guild Players

The Theatre Guild exists for the promotion of all facets of the performing arts of PAHS, including, but not limited to the Fall Play and Spring Musical. It explores all areas of Theatre, including direction, scriptwriting, producing, lighting, advertising, critiquing, singing, dancing, and of course, acting. It provides a forum where individuals can learn more about participating in any area of theater that interests them. Leaders are Phoebe Groves (president), Sullivan Nowak and Ocean Swomley, with Frau Tavani and Ms. Ballantine as advisors. Email Mrs. Tavani at tavanic@pasd.com for online meeting dates and times.

World Cultures and Cooking Club

Do you like to cook? Do you like trying foods from different cultures? Then this club is for you! The purpose of this club is to learn about different cultures and sample their cuisine. The president of this club is Peyton McDonnell and the club advisor is Mrs. Knaster. If you would like to learn more about this club's meeting dates and times, email Mrs. Knaster at knasterm@pasd.com.

Yearbook

The yearbook staff is looking for writers, designers, photographers, and editors to create and design the yearbook. Any student (grades 9-12) interested in designing this year's yearbook should contact Mrs. Weinstein for details at weinsteina@pasd.com. Yearbook is meeting every Monday at 3:30 on Zoom.

The Purple Press is written, edited, produced and distributed monthly by the Phoenixville Area High School Journalism class (Period 1).

Advisor: Mr. Zittel
Layout editor: Angeli Genovese

Staff: Gloria Andrews, Kade Breisblatt, Isabelle Butera, Alex Duffy, Eryn Gasser, Chloe Johns, Katie Kramer, Alana Lathan, Ray Lewandowski, Jocelyn Martielli, Tessa Martielli, Max McMinn, Savanna Muller, Sully Nowak, Ariana Ortlip, Penelope Pappas, Caleb Pearl, Halee Reiman, Riley Shillinger, Eli Stevenson, Maggie Welsh.

The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of school administration and/or faculty members.

If you have a comment, question, correction, or letter to the editor, please e-mail the advisor, Mr. Zittel, at zittelj@pasd.com.

The newspaper can also be accessed online at: http://pahs.pasd.com/clubs/iteracy_publications/purple_press

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TikTok: Time's up?



Written by:
Angeli Genovese

Over the past few months the viral video app

TikTok has been taking over news screens (and phones) all over the U.S. The social media site, owned by ByteDance, a Chinese owned company, has been embroiled in a legal suit with the Trump administration over whether the app is giving away its users' private information over to the Chinese Communist Party.

The administration claimed that the app was giving away federal employees' information, including their location. President Trump first mentioned the ban of the app in early July by confirming they were "looking into it," but still has

yet to set any banning in motion yet. The president gave the company until September 15th to find a buyer and after that, if no buyer has been found, the app will be permanently removed from the app store in the U.S.

Security is important to everyone, but I feel that the danger of TikTok giving away personal information of their users is ridiculous. Everyone should be aware of the possibilities that come with the internet, including the risk of people stealing your information. People could end up using that information for things such as fraud and false credit card usage. However, the information that TikTok is supposedly collecting is related to location and data networking, not bank accounts.

For instance, personal information can be found just by typing a person's first and last name into Google. By searching my own name

I was able to find my hometown, my school, all of my social media, and a website with a picture of myself petting a frog when I was five years old. The information that TikTok is collecting is no different than information that other social media apps like Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram collect.

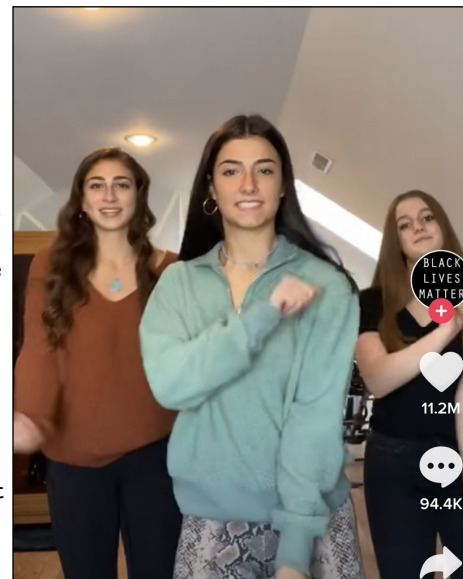
Speaking as one of the users who use TikTok as a creative outlet, I use this app for inspiration for my own art and it gives me an inside look at what people like to see.

Many users, including myself, rely on the app for a quick break from reality to focus on something entertaining other than school or work. Tiktok allows users, known as creators, to express themselves through making short videos and for many creators, this app is a job and source of income. The creators can make up entertaining dances to catchy songs, show off their artistic talents, or even just post funny videos to make people laugh.

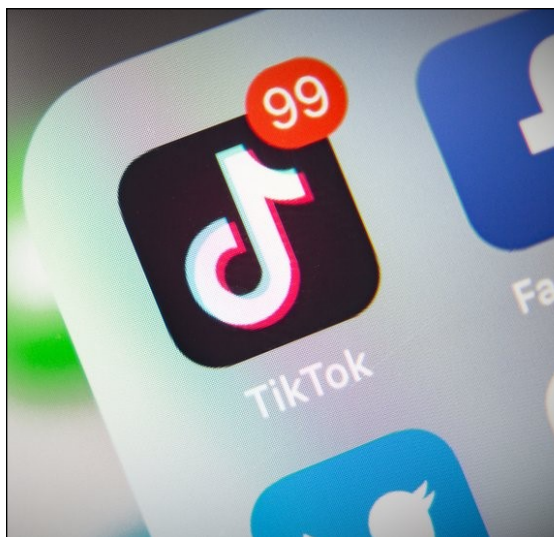
My personal favorite part about this app is the designated "For You Page" that pops up when you open the app, which puts together a bunch of viral videos "for you" to enjoy. These videos are based off other videos you have liked before or something that is recently popular. This information is taken from the algorithm which is based on the amount of likes or comments used specifically for entertainment of its viewers and does not help foreign countries. With over 500 million users worldwide, the possibilities within the app are creative, fun and cause no harm to the government.

The good news is that there were buyers lining up to buy back the app from the original owners of

TikTok. According to the Trump Administration, the app must now be owned by an American run company and we've seen in the news that the corporations,



Popular dance creator, **Charli D'Amelio**, dancing "the Renegade" with some friends.



Microsoft and Walmart were the biggest buyers wanting to purchase the app. However, after the bid on Sunday, September 13th, TikTok decided to partner with Oracle, a database management company, over Microsoft. This purchase put a halt on the app's ban in the U.S. with the expected cost of the app being around 20-30 million dollars.

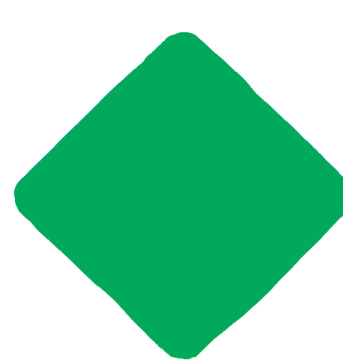
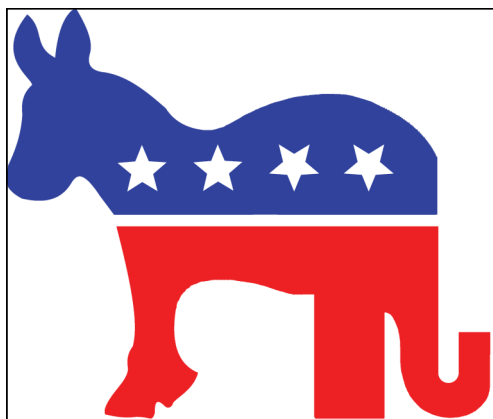
Whether you feel the app's potential danger is serious or not, you cannot deny that this app has an abundance of bubbling creativity and a loving community among the users.

American elections: Politics on a spin cycle



Written by:
Alex Duffy

Year after year, political advertisements have been getting more toxic and spiteful. Campaign ads have become personal attacks, public debates have become shouting matches, and cooperation between political parties feels impossible. I'm sure you've seen adverts running everywhere you turn telling you about why voting for the other guy will be the death of America. Both the Republican and Democratic parties have been converging on this campaign strategy for years, slinging mud harder and faster every election cycle. What's Donald Trump's campaign platform in 2020? What's Joe Biden's? The only thing that I could tell you based on their campaign adverts is "I'm not the other guy." If the message of both campaigns boils down to "Don't vote for the other guy,"



The symbols of the Movement for a People's Party, Libertarian Party, and Green Party
Photos: peoplesparty.org, my.lp.org, and www.gp.org

why would you want to vote for either?

The sheer deadlock of our political situation has led to a culture of political cults and factionalism, where debates and arguments between the two parties often feel like an argument between two preachers, each sticking to the gospel of the party line. As the political parties have solidified into their current forms over the past century, the party members have become more dead-set in their views, deadlocking Congress and leading to our current situation of nothing getting done. However, there may be a way to break the political monopoly that the Republican-Democratic mainstream has over politics.

It can feel unthinkable to vote for anyone outside of the R-D parties, and both parties know that you only have two options. They realized that it was much easier to make your opponent look bad rather than make your candidate look good. So began the era of endless attack ads, because everyone knows that voting third party means you'll never win, right? Well, in a pres-

idential election that may be the case, but that doesn't mean that third parties can't succeed in local elections. Voting for a third party locally can meaningfully impact the outcome of an election. For example, the Vermont Progressive Party holds seats in the national senate, state senate, and state house, along with seats on city councils and mayoral positions.

How do I vote third party? How do I even know who they are? Well, let me give you a rundown on the most important parties outside of the R-D block. The Green Party is a largely environmentalist and left-wing party, supporting grassroots democracy, pacifism, and civil rights. The Libertarian Party is a right-wing party with a platform of small government, total non-interventionism, and deregulation of the economy. The Movement for a People's Party (MPP) is an up-and-coming organization, brand new in American politics, and is hoping to have candidates running in the 2022 midterms. Their platform is eliminating corporate money in politics, helping small business-

es by breaking up massive monopolies, and establishing any type of opposition party to the R-D mainstream. There are dozens of parties in America (some states even have their own local political parties), and I can't possibly cover all of them here, so go find out which one you like best.

So, should I vote third party in a presidential election? Now that really is the million dollar question. My answer, with our current voting system, is no. While I do think that voting third party can be effective on a local level, I don't think they can break the presidential deadlock yet. If you live in a swing state, you have to vote strategically. But hey, if third parties can take some percentage of the vote in local or congressional elections, we could see a future R-D presidential candidate taking a third party VP to tap into that voting base. That doesn't help in 2020 though. But speaking of 2020, the most important thing in any election is making sure that your voice is heard, so remember to vote!

We can't do four more years...Vote Biden



Written by:
Isabelle Butera

If in the last four years you've experienced a growing sense of dread and cynicism, reaching a peak in this disastrous year, know that these emotions are both valid and explicable. Since 2016, our nation has failed to handle a climate crisis, experienced rising tensions with foreign adversaries, called for racial justice and most recently, and suffered through a pandemic like never seen before. Before you blame the insanity of recent years on some cosmic tragedy of fate, instead take a hard look at the polarizing, unparalleled presidency of Donald Trump. This November, we face possibly the most crucial election in our nation's history, because, to say it quite plainly: America as we know it will not survive four more years under the Trump Administration.



With only 4% of the World's population but 22% of the Covid Deaths, the US response to contain the virus failed as compared to other countries
Photo: NYtimes.com

Perhaps the most obvious and cataclysmic failure of the Trump administration is the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite inside knowledge of the danger and severity of the disease back in January, Trump admits he intentionally downplayed the risk of the virus, hoping Americans would remain calm (Washington Post). His inaction directly resulted in American deaths, as a one week earlier lockdown or national mask mandate starting April first potentially would have saved an estimated 36,000 and 40,000 lives respectively. The Biden Harris campaign proposes a national mask mandate, increased funding for contact tracing, financial relief to Americans and small businesses, and quickly and equitably creating and distributing a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Trump Administration's policies leading to the removal of protections and violations of human rights are too numerous to cover completely. Most notably, the Trump Administration enacted policies of detaining authorized immigrants in inhuman conditions and nearly eliminating

asylum options. Additionally, this president sent the National Guard to detain Black Lives Matter protesters, banned transgender Americans from serving in the military, appointed federal and Supreme Court judges actively opposing Roe v. Wade and legalization of same-sex marriage, repeatedly using racist rhetoric, and refusing to denounce white supremacist groups. The Biden Harris

campaign plans to sign the Equality Act, ban conversion therapy, reverse Trump's limited asylum and child separation policies, and support communities of color through new housing, education and economic plans.

Beyond attacking marginalized groups, the Trump Administration directly threatens all of our rights to a sustainable future by removing the United States from the Paris Climate accord, rolling back restrictions of carbon emissions and air pollution, and allowing drilling and logging in national lands. With less than 10 years before increased greenhouse emissions leads to irreparable damage to the climate (worsening natural disasters, threatening food and water supply, and reducing biodiversity among other things), the Biden Harris plan to invest in green infrastructure to have net carbon zero by 2050 is the only path towards a livable future.

The most terrifying aspect of the Trump administration supersedes partisan politics and instead lies in the blatant disregard for the Constitution that sets a dangerous precedent. Let us not forget that Donald Trump faced impeachment charges for abuse of power and obstruction of justice for threatening to withhold aid from Ukraine in exchange for providing inflammatory information about Joe Biden to aid in Trump's reelection. His inability to compromise with Congress, attacking the sanctity of voting by mail, repeatedly lying to the American people,



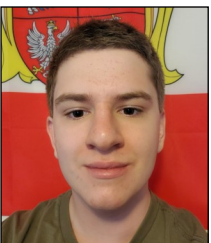
Former Vice President Joe Biden and California Senator Kamala Harris appear after the Democratic National Convention, properly masked of course.
Photo: Boston Globe

refusing to agree to a peaceful transfer of power, and insulting the free press and political opponents all suggest an authoritarian behavior which the American people cannot afford for four more years.

With ample time to prove himself worthy, Donald Trump utterly failed to demonstrate to the American people that he is capable of running the country. Any positive impacts of his policy on the economy (such as the tax cuts which mainly aid the wealthy), or foreign policy (that was arguably equally disastrous as successful), are completely overshadowed by the dismal state of our nation.

Even if you personally benefited from the policies of the Trump administration, I beg of you to employ a shred of empathy for your fellow Americans who will be deprived of their rights, their futures, and possibly their lives in another four years with Trump as President. Vote for Joe Biden- the future of our nation depends on it.

Why the Republicans deserve four more years - Vote Trump



Written by:
Ray Lewandowski

As November 3rd grows near, Americans are getting ready for Election Day, with President Donald Trump facing off against Barack Obama's former Vice President, Joe Biden. There has been absolutely no shortage of topics to debate for what the president or his opposition need to tackle, such as a possible recession, the coronavirus, and all the controversy surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement and the growing racial tensions in America. It's a strange time we live in, and we need to choose a president to guide us through it. I very firmly believe that our best choice is President Donald Trump.

The president's time in office so far has been filled with nothing but controversy. The hatred he has received feels completely unjustified, primarily because it has been popping up ever since his election and it doesn't show any signs of either being true, or stopping. The biggest one of these accusations is the idea he colluded with Russia in order to secure the presidency. He has already been put through an impeachment trial because of this, and has been found innocent. I've seen this kind of stuff happen again when Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi tried to use the 25th Amendment to remove the president from office ever since his diagnosis with coronavirus.

Another reason I believe your vote for the presidency should go to the Republicans this year is the opposition: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Both of the Demo-



While Joe Biden struggles to fit even 100 supporters into a town hall rally, President Trump holds a rally like this one in Nevada to attract tens of thousands of people.
Photo: The Wall Street Journal

cratic nominees this year are extremely controversial for several reasons. Biden in 1977 said he opposed busing for desegregation of public schools, claiming he didn't want his kids growing up in a "racial jungle," and was also a big part of passing the 1994 crime bill, which has imprisoned large numbers of minorities for small crimes such as marijuana possession. There's also Biden's words and actions on the presidential campaign trail, such as saying that if you have trouble deciding to vote for either him or Trump, "You ain't black," and also playing "Despacito" on his phone during a rally for his Hispanic voters. These actions have caused outrage among both communities, with popular influencers such as Bryon Moreland on YouTube pledging his vote to President Trump.

Kamala Harris had previously denounced Joe Biden as a politician before accepting his offer to become his VP. She's also a senator from California, one of America's most controversial states right now from its environmental disas-

ters to the almost Socialist policies of cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco. Harris has also had a few slips, such as when she referred to the possible next four years as the "Harris Presidency," making it seem a bit sketchy as to what a potential "Joe Biden" presidency could involve.

President Trump, on the other hand, has been a force for good in the four years he's been president, creating millions of jobs, an economic boom, and having one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation's history before the coronavirus hit. We should also not forget some of President Trump's work internationally, one of the most significant in my opinion being when he brokered a peace deal between Israel and the United Arab Emir-

ates, who have been historic enemies for almost the entire history of the modern Middle East.

President Trump's handling of the coronavirus has also been the best he could possibly do at the job, even after his diagnosis and speedy recovery after four days from the experimental treatments. Before all this though, his halting of travel from China to the United States in late January was no doubt the right call, and also his declaration calling mask-wearing to be patriotic. The stimulus checks were also a wise choice for the pandemic situation, allowing poorer families to get by and allowing families better off to add it to their bank accounts for the future.

Trump's "America First" belief is something I believe absolutely needs to be stressed to the maximum, since when America is able to prosper in its own borders, we can help other nations share the prosperity of our country. All these reasons and more is why I say to both myself and the reader: Vote for President Donald Trump this election.



President Trump and Vice-President Pence on stage together at a rally.
Photo: Photo: QZ.com

NEWS

COVID-19: The real reality



Written by:
Nadya Dato

I've been in quarantine since the beginning of March - which is now about eight months. And, honestly, these months of quarantining have been exhausting. I haven't been able to see most of my friends in person, my motivation to log into Zoom everyday is slowly dwindling, and I'm still trying to find a daily schedule that I can stick to.

However, every once in a while I've discovered something new about myself. For instance, I've found that the more time I spend at home, the more articles about the pandemic I read. Titles like "Which mask works the best?" or "How to exercise during the pandemic" have, admittedly, caught my eye. But the articles that really sparked my interests were the ones discussing the belief that the coronavirus isn't as horrible as it's made out to be. Why do people still believe the conspiracies circulating the web? Can they be convinced of the truth - that COVID-19 IS dangerously real and we all have the responsibility of keeping not only ourselves and our families safe, but our communities safe as well?

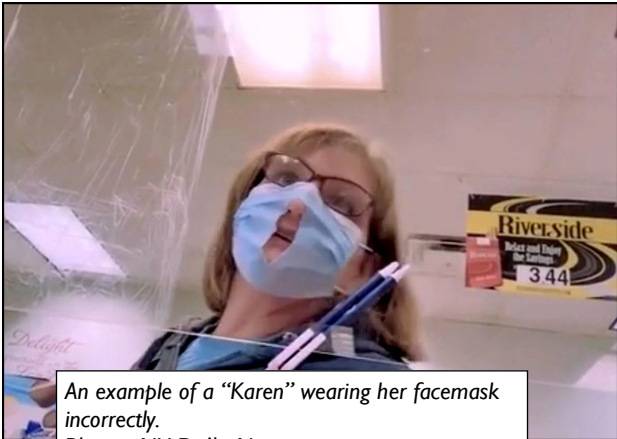
Beginning in March, the coronavirus pandemic has made a significant impact on our lives. We can't see our friends, go to the movies, the grocery store, or even to a Target without wearing a mask and socially distancing. Despite these restrictions being put in place in an effort to protect the community and get the country back on its feet, there has been widespread pushback. Even with more than seven million Americans affected, and around 210,000 dead, a shockingly large

majority of Americans still believe that the coronavirus isn't as detrimental as others claim, and choose to ignore necessary safety regulations.

This blatant disregard for the rules has sparked the creation of the online meme, "Karen" - encompassing the typical individual who, in an attempt to preserve their own freedom, refuses to abide by the restrictions, thus putting the population in danger. A very "Karen" thing to do would be to wear a face-mask incorrectly (only covering the mouth or chin) or worse - not wearing one at all. This form of toxic American individuality only further proliferates the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. Selfish and ignorant individuals like "Karens" are especially damaging because the only way to beat a pandemic is with compliance and teamwork.

Personally, what really infuriates me is when the same "Karens" who fail to abide by the rules, stating they're only "advocating for their freedom to make choices about their bodies" also credit their decisions of not wearing masks to their "inability to breathe in them." While scientists have already proven that wearing ANY type of mask or covering, whether it be a simple cloth mask or a KN-95, does not lower a person's oxygen intake, the statement "I can't breathe" is just downright offensive.

The California wildfires have been blazing since the start of September, destroying homes and causing mass pollution in the air for residents. Those people can't breathe. George Floyd, the innocent black man who died at the hands of police brutality



An example of a "Karen" wearing her facemask incorrectly.
Photo: NY Daily News

wrong, but it is completely disrespectful and insensitive to the people who actually can't breathe.

So, with Americans still believing COVID-19 is a hoax and masks aren't a necessity, I urge you to seek truth. Unlike other generations during this pandemic, we have the ability to distinguish right from wrong and can create change. A lot of us have been swayed and pressured to think a certain way based on what our friends, families, and political parties believe, that so many of our opinions aren't even our own. It is

not only important that we look at articles, look at the science, and gain our own perspectives on issues, but using this knowledge and being vocal is paramount in sparking change. Phoenixville is an amazing close-knit community, but it risks being destroyed by the lack of knowledge and selfishness that is hurting so many others. Please look for the truth in things. Because after all, the truth is all we have.

couldn't breathe. This same saying that Floyd repeatedly uttered (with a police officer's knee on his neck for eight minutes straight) before he died, is also now being spoken by the individuals who are trying to justify their refusal to wear masks during a GLOBAL PANDEMIC. Not only is using the saying "I can't breathe" as an excuse to not wear a mask



Picture of a BLM supporter wearing an "I can't breathe" mask.
Photo: CBS8 News

Student Forum on virtual school, mental health



Written by:
Sydney Eckhardt

The first Student Forum of the 2020-2021 year began

on September 17th and of course was held by Zoom call. From the start, there was lively discussion held by a diverse group of about 15 juniors and seniors. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Parkinson and Dr. Fegley with the intention of giving the students a platform in these difficult and unprecedented times.

One of the first questions posed was from the administration to the students:



"What are your thoughts on the virtual school year?" There was a collective answer among the forum: online school is draining. Not in the conventional physically tiring way; students described the virtual day as mentally draining and stale. Many felt as though it was difficult to stay engaged in classes as if the days blended

together into one. One student defined classes as "awkward," saying there is very little discussion or interaction.

There was no blame to be put on any teacher, administrator, or student. This issue is not because of a mistake or fault in the system, but because of the drastic change in environment and situation. Learning online was described by the group as impersonal, and even the most engaging classes have a difficult time combatting this issue.

While many students described their days as "going through the motions," everyone acknowledged that it is difficult for teachers to engage students while staring at names on a screen.

Junior Mackey Munion posed this question to the school board: "How can we proceed with clubs and student activities while we are online?" Involvement in student-run organizations has lowered, as providing assistance in the community during the pandemic is difficult. Because of loosening restrictions in our community, more organizations are accepting help and an increasing number of clubs at the high school are willing to provide this assistance.

One group of students who may feel neglected is the underclassmen, who have had very little time in the physical school building and almost no interaction with students in the grade above them. Providing clubs and service options outside of school will provide benefits to both the community and to students. Prior to this



year, the integration of students into the high school was much more of a hands-on approach, with freshman orientation and school-wide barbecues. COVID did not allow for large groups to meet, an issue that could not be prevented. The Student Forum, although made up of upperclassmen, ensured that the ideas of the lowerclassmen were well-represented during the discussion and that their ideas were presented to administration as well.

Mental health was another hot topic of interest within the discussion. Although students have been provided with mental health days, counselors, and resources, many students expressed that virtual learning has a negative impact on mental health. One student made the comment, "Sitting in front of a computer with our notes is not as easy as it seems." This feeling was mutual for many students who have not been in the school building since March.

"Increasing numbers of students say they feel overwhelmed, and not just about the health of their family and friends due to the coronavirus," Jessica Oyoque, a psychologist explained. She said online school can make students feel "feelings of isolation due to the lack of face-to-face interaction."

There is clarity to this ever-changing situation. On September 27th Dr. Fegley announced his proposal to begin the process of bringing students back into the school building. It is his recommendation that beginning Monday October 19th,

kindergarten students will begin a hybrid learning program. News that followed was the reintroduction of fall sports, with competition beginning in mid-October, which was approved by the school board on October 12th. Freshman return on October 19th, seniors on November 5th, and juniors and sophomores on Nov. 9th.

As stated in the proposal, the district plans to admit students as safely as possible back into the school buildings. Social distancing and mask wearing will be in effect, and students will be required to wear masks throughout the entirety of the school day. The administration has a strict plan that will balance the health and safety of the students who want to enter the school building, though virtual learning is still an option if students choose to stay home.

The Student Forum allowed for students to explain their point of view to the administration. The session productively introduced issues and solutions to problems that impact the majority of students not only at the high school, but in the district. The students and administration were in agreement: online school (or even blended learning) is not preferable or the most desirable option for learning, but both are necessary to ensure the safety of teachers and students until the pandemic is over.



SPEAK OUT!

What are you most looking forward to about going back to PAHS?



**Zach Olsen (senior) -
"Senior prank."**



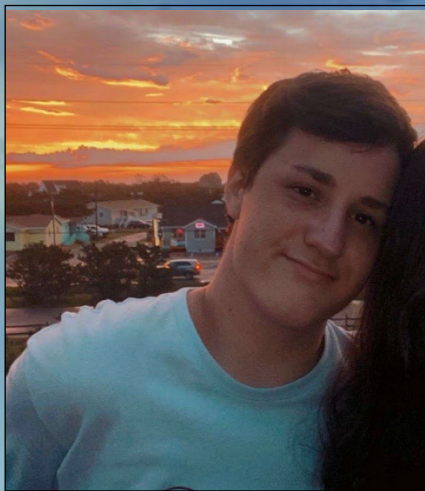
**Brendan Flick (senior) -
"Being able to not have
to sit in my room all day
and stare at a screen
for 6 hours is fantastic."**



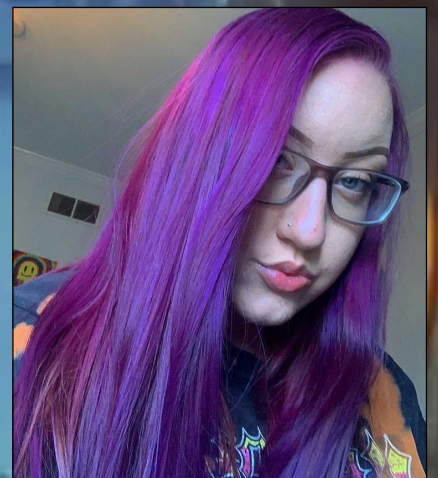
**Courtney Gable
(senior) - "Being able
to see my friends and
teachers in person."**



**Keith Jacoby (junior)
- "Actually being able
to learn."**



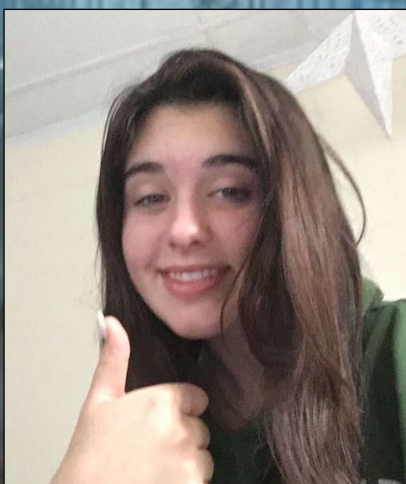
**Greg Lewis (junior) -
"Seeing the people I
haven't seen since
March."**



**Lauren Ferretti
(senior) - "Getting a
somewhat normal
senior year."**



**Audrey Smith (junior) -
"Students (hopefully)
selling chocolate bars
again."**



**Abby Speaker (junior)
- "I'm most excited
about having some
human interaction."**



**Stephanie Dinh
(sophomore) - "I'm most
excited to go back to
PAHS to focus in classes
more."**



**Katy Dietrich (senior) -
"Playing *Scribbl.io* in
study hall."**

**Luca Butera (junior) -
"I'm looking forward
to being tired outside
my house"**



Cameo: Celebrity messages delivered to your phone



Written by:

Tessa Martielli

Getting the perfect gift gets more difficult every year, especially during a global pandemic. But imagine your favorite sports star wishing you a personal birthday message. This is where Cameo is perfect. Cameo is an app that allows you to get personalized messages from your favorite celebrities in the comfort of your home.

The app was created in 2016 and is based in Chicago, Illinois. Though it has been around for four years, it didn't gain much traction until this year. There are now over thirty thousand celebrities on the platform. Cameo features celebrities from Broadway performers, to sports and reality TV stars. Cameos range in price from as little as \$5 to hundreds, depending on how famous the celebrities think they are.



Screenshot of Cameo from **Joe Anglim**, wishing Jocelyn a happy birthday
Photo courtesy of Jocelyn Martielli

The process of requesting a Cameo is simple. You search the app to pick out the person you want the message from, create an account, type out the message you want them to say, and book it. If the celebrity doesn't respond within a week, you will be refunded. But don't worry if they haven't responded as the day gets near! Some reply later depending on how many Cameo requests they have, or how busy they are. Wait until the message is officially declined before trying someone else.

Over the summer, my family gifted my sister Jocelyn a Cameo for her birthday. Since we were in quarantine, this was the perfect gift to make

her 16th birthday memorable. We requested one of her favorite reality stars, Joe Anglin from Survivor: Cambodia, which was around \$40. He replied the day before the due date, and it was well worth it. The video was around two minutes and mentioned everything we had put in the message box. We had mentioned that we had been to Cambodia because when he was in Survivor he played there. He added his own message about being 16 and the responsibility that comes with it.

Cameo is available as an app on all devices or can be accessed via their website. The most common type of celebrity you will find are those from reality/game TV shows. I will admit that some people are pricey, but some people are worth it. If the receiver of the message is a huge fan, then it is a unique gift that they can keep forever. Cameo keeps 25% of the fee and the rest goes directly to the celebrities. Some celebrities, such as Tom Bergeron and Desi Oakley, donate the money that they make. They are marked on the website by a white flag with a heart. Cameo held a fundraiser earlier this year to raise funds for COVID relief.

The question of 'how much is too much?' is still valid. Is Caitlyn Jenner really worth \$2,500? Probably not. Is Tom Felton (aka Draco Malfoy) worth \$333? Maybe. Scott Kingery of the Philadelphia Phillies for \$50? Probably. It all

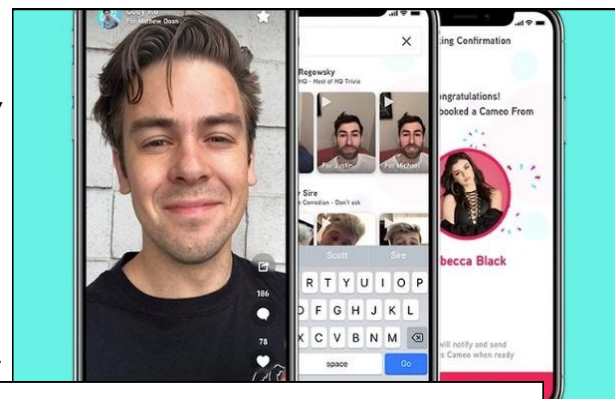
depends on who you chose. When in doubt, Jesus Christ himself is only \$28. Typically the bigger names are worth more, but anything in the hundreds of dollars is a bit extreme.

Based on personal experience, I would highly recommend Cameo as a gift option. It's personal and memorable for the gift receiver and easy for the gift giver. Next time you're in a crunch to make that birthday special, try out Cameo.

app
review

Grade: A

Creator: Steven Galanis
Celebrities: Carole Baskin, Lindsay Lohan, Snoop Dogg, and many more



Screenshots from within the Cameo app featuring YouTuber **Cody Ko**
Photo: bookcameo.com

"The Umbrella Academy:" Not your average family reunion



Written by:

Penelope Pappas

Around four decades ago in a world parallel to our own, 43 women gave birth on the twelfth hour of the first day in October. This would not have been a striking statistic if it weren't for the fact that none of these women were pregnant when the day had first begun. As suspicions of the supernatural origins of these miracle babies circulated worldwide, the successful industrialist and owner of a multi-million dollar umbrella manufacturing company, Sir Reginald Hargreeves, adopted seven of these children with the intention of forming a family-based superhero team who he would train to save the world.

The children, referred to by Reginald as numbers designated to each child on the basis of their potential and usefulness, are given names by their robot caretaker, Grace, and are raised together in the Hargreeves mansion with the company of Reginald's friend and assistant, a talking chimpanzee called Pogo. Throughout their childhood, Reginald sends his superhuman children, #1: Luther (Tom Hopper), #2: Diego (David Castañeda), #3: Allison (Emmy Raver-Lapman), #4: Klaus (Robert Sheehan), Number 5 (Aidan Gallagher), #6: and Ben (Justin Min) on various crime fighting missions and puts them to work as initiates of his "Umbrella Academy." During this time, Reginald keeps the seventh sibling, Vanya (Ellen Page), apart from the rest of the group, as she had not demonstrated any discernible power of her own.

"The Umbrella Academy," Netflix's adaptation of the Dark Horse comic of the same title, follows the members of the Hargreeves family, a dysfunctional band of superhuman siblings tasked with the duty of saving the world from an impending apocalypse. The four volume comic series was created and written by Gerard Way and illustrated by Gabriel Bá. The first season of the Netflix series was released in early 2019 and was quickly renewed for the highly-anticipated second season that aired on July 31st of this year.

The first season is set in the present day, long after the disbanding of the Umbrella Academy in the children's teen years, which ultimately resulted from the death of Ben, Number Five's disappearance (he is able to travel through time and space), and the continuation of Reginald's neglectful care. The siblings are in their early 30s in 2019, and are all living in different places: Luther (power: superhuman strength) is part ape and lives on the moon, Diego (power: can control air)

becomes a vigilante who struggles with a hero com-

plex, Allison (power: can convince people to do anything) is a famous actress, Klaus (power: can communicate with the dead) is a drug addict, and Vanya (no power?) is a violinist.

After receiving word of the death of their father, the Umbrella Academy reunites at the mansion for Reginald's funeral where they try to uncover the mystery surrounding their father's apparent "suicide." During this time, Number 5, now a grown man, returns back from the future in his teenage body, and reveals to his siblings that an apocalypse of unknown origin is imminent, and that the Umbrella Academy must be the ones to stop it from destroying the world. Meanwhile, Number 5's warning attracts a pair of time-travelling assassins called Hazel (Cameron Britton) and ChaCha (Mary J. Blige) who belong to "The Commission"- the place where all of the world's timelines are controlled. The threat of brutal assassination by the Commission's agents and the uncertainty behind the fast-approaching apocalypse causes the Hargreeves family to split even further as they begin to uncover their family's secrets.

While serving as an excellent coalition between an intense storyline and dark humor, "The Umbrella Academy" showcases several incredible performances by the actors (Sheehan and Gallagher's comedic delivery is especially notable). This show is an extremely enjoyable watch for a variety of reasons- the plot twist-filled storyline and dramatic fight sequences paired with the impeccable soundtrack

and pleasing visual aesthetic help to make this show one of Netflix's most uniquely popular. Be sure to start the series at the first episode of the first season, and hold onto your hat as a whirlwind of events unfold an intense storyline and complicated, yet beautiful, characterizations- you won't regret it!

tv
review



The assassins, ChaCha (**Mary J. Blige**) and Hazel (**Cameron Britton**), ready to fire.
Photos: IMDb.com



The Hargreeves family (from left), Diego (**David Castañeda**), Allison (**Emmy Raver-Lapman**), Luther (**Tom Hopper**), Vanya (**Ellen Page**), Klaus (**Robert Sheehan**), Ben (**Justin Min**), and Five (**Aidan Gallagher**), in the poster for the series' second season.

Grade Box:

Grade: A

Rating: TV-14

Genre: Dramedy

Starring: Ellen Page, Tom Hopper, David Castañeda, Emmy Raver-Lapman, Robert Sheehan, Aidan Gallagher, Justin Min, Mary J. Blige, Cameron Britton
Network: Netflix

"Phineas and Ferb the Movie: Candace Against the Universe"



Written by:
Hallee Reiman

In need for a laugh-filled family movie night? I have the perfect movie for you! The newly-released animated film, "Phineas and Ferb the Movie: Candace Against the Universe" is an amazing choice for the entire family. The "Phineas and Ferb" TV-series acted as a large part of many teenagers' childhoods. The characters are comical, the plots are great for the whole family, and it teaches kids valuable life lessons.

The Phineas and Ferb TV Series ran on Disney Channel from 2007 until 2015. Phineas and Ferb are step brothers who do almost everything together. Phineas is extremely outgoing, while Ferb is more reserved. They are both geniuses who build crazy inventions to spend their summer days, and their sister Candace always



Candace (voiced by Ashley Tisdale) being escorted off of the spaceship on the planet Feebla-Oot.

tries to get her brothers in trouble by telling their mom. In the first Phineas and Ferb movie, "Phineas and Ferb the Movie: Across the 2nd Dimension" (2011), Phineas and Ferb's friend group goes to an alternate dimension to defeat an evil Dr. Doofenshmirtz who controls the Tri-State area. The new 2020 Phineas and Ferb movie has been released for streaming only on Disney Plus.

The movie depicts a fun, family-friendly story where the characters are on a journey to rescue Phineas and Ferb's sister, Candace, and Dr. Doofenshmirtz's daughter, Vanessa, from aliens. At the start of the movie, Candace is trying to bust

her genius brothers when an alien spaceship abducts Vanessa and Candace. Phineas and Ferb manage to see that the spaceship is from the planet Feebla-Oot. They assemble a rescue team consisting of Isabella, Baljeet, Buford and Dr. Doofenshmirtz (Vanessa's dad). The team travels across the galaxy in hopes of saving their friends from an unknown alien species.

The characters are voiced by Vincent Martella (Phineas), David Errigo Jr. (Ferb), Dan Povenmire (Dr. Doofenshmirtz), Alyson Stoner (Isabella), Maulik Pancholy (Baljeet), Ashley Tisdale (Candace), Olivia Olson (Vanessa), and Bobby Gaylor (Buford). All of the voice actors do an exceptional job in capturing the energy and creativity of their characters. Dan Povenmire, who voices Dr. Doofenshmirtz, is also the co-creator (along with Jeff "Swampy" Marsh) of both movies and the TV series.

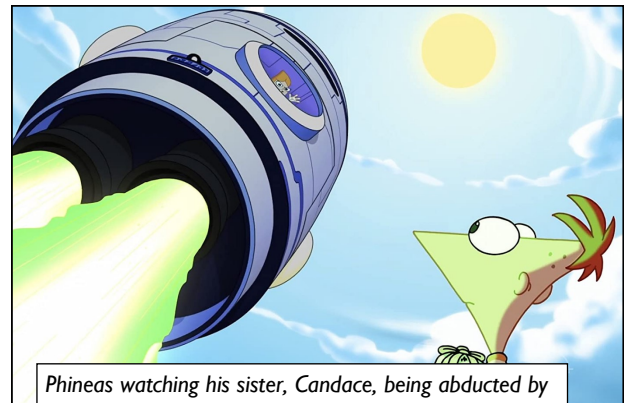
From giant mushroom trees to cowardly aliens, this movie is filled with twists and turns. Although it is aimed towards a younger audience, this movie has an interesting and entertaining plot

that can be enjoyable for people of all ages. The best thing about this movie is that you can watch it without having watched the show or the first movie.

In comparison to the first Phineas and Ferb movie, "Phineas and Ferb the Movie: Across the 2nd Dimension," the 2020 film can be seen as less eventful. The original Phineas and Ferb movie is extremely action-packed, and the plot has more depth. That being said, both of the movies as well as the show are great and worth watching!



Phineas, Ferb, Dr. Doofenshmirtz, Isabella, Baljeet and Buford travelling in Dr. Doofenshmirtz's Galactic-Travel-inator, or space ship, to rescue Vanessa and Candace. Photos: IMDb



Phineas watching his sister, Candace, being abducted by an alien spaceship. Photos: IMDb

Grade: A-
Genre: Children's Comedy
Starring: Vincent Martella, David Errigo Jr., Ashley Tisdale, and Dan Povenmire
Network: Disney +

"Red Dead Redemption 2": Outlaws to the End



Written by:
Ray Lewandowski

1899: the twilight years of the wild west era have come, with the area becoming more and more civilized and due to gangs being hunted down by the government and police agencies. The age of the gunslinger is on its way out, and you're caught right in the middle of it in "Red Dead Redemption 2," follow up to the massive hit "Red Dead Redemption" in 2010.

You play as Arthur Morgan, a high-ranking member of the infamous and collapsing Van Der Linde gang, on the run from a failed riverboat heist. Our story begins in the snow-capped Grizzly Mountains, where three of our gang members have died already before we've met them, and the rest of the gang needs to survive if they intend to go back to real civilization. They meet a widowed woman whose husband was murdered by the O'Driscoll gang, the longtime enemies of the Van Der Linde gang.

"Red Dead Redemption 2" was one of



Sadie and John battle a gang of bandits in Rhodes, Lemoyne.

the biggest games of 2018 and 2019. The game was published by Rockstar Games, the creators of other great franchises such as "Grand Theft Auto" and "Bully." It was released on consoles like the Xbox One and Playstation 4 in 2018, and had its PC release one year later in 2019, bringing in a whole new range of fans (such as myself) to the tale of Arthur and the Van Der Linde gang.

After the gang escapes from the law, the next few chapters of the game are wild ones. Chapter Two shows the gang trying to lay low after a train heist, but failing after the owner of said train, an oilman, finds their hideout. Chapter Three involves the gang becoming deputies of a small town in Lemoyne (Louisiana), which leads to the player experiencing the first death in the

diverse, allowing the player to do a bunch of activities when not doing any of the main story. For example, one of the more interesting aspects of "Red Dead Redemption 2" is the photo mode. This mode allows the player to travel around a small area of the world they are currently in and take a picture while everything is frozen in time, which allows for a lot of potential for beautiful photos. There are also a series of challenges for the player to complete, which include being a successful criminal, gambler, and horseman. Some of these challenges are harder than others, but that's part of what makes the challenges so fun and rewarding once you complete all 90 of them.

Another aspect that makes "Red Dead Redemption 2" such a fantastic game is that it doesn't skip over the controversial topics of both the world in 1899 and now in 2020. It shows how poorly people like

Native Americans were treated in 1899, and even makes a plot point out of it during Chapter Six where gang leader Dutch Van Der Linde exploits the Native Americans to fight the US Army so the gang can escape to a Pacific island and have a happy ending.

The fantastic elements of the game don't stop at just the historical accuracy. It also has a fantastic soundtrack, lifelike graphics, plenty of things to do outside the main story, and nearly infinite customization options. "Red Dead Redemption 2" is by far one of my favorite games of all time. For \$60, this game is a must-play for any fan of westerns, American history, or just a good story in general.



Dutch, Sadie, and Arthur escape the town of Valentine in a gunfight on horseback.



The protagonist of the story, Arthur Morgan and the second protagonist of the game, John Marston. Photo cred: Rockstar

Grade: A++
Publisher: Rockstar Studios
Developer: Rockstar Games
Platforms: Playstation 4, Xbox One, PC, Google Stadia
Ratings: M

Girls' Tennis: Restoring the dream team



Written by:
Max McMinn

Despite a summer of uncertainties about the fall athletic season, Girls' Tennis being one of three sports greenlit to play, started their unusual season in September. In a year with zero absolutes, Phoenixville's girls' tennis team- led by 16 seniors, including captains Annie Absher, Caroline Schwartz and Kiley Mangialardi, in the face of adversity- pulled together through positivity and adaptability. Although their record does not reflect their effort, the Girls' Tennis team served for a successful season.

In her seventh year as a coach and second year as head coach, Coach Summer Lindeman led the team with assistant coaches Laura Alvino and Abriana Nolan, both in their second season, to a record of 2-5.

The tennis season, like much of the world today, was anything but normal due to the coronavirus. "Our biggest impact



Caroline Mercer (senior) prepares to serve in a match.
Photo: Joe Hojnacki, LifeTouch

was the original [school board] decision to play singles only," said Coach Lindeman. "Besides our original singles only playing, we also split our practices into smaller group sessions, practiced social distancing both on and off the courts, wore masks, and gave everyone their own cans of marked tennis balls and scorecards. While we were extremely happy all along to still have the opportunity to play, we were even happier once we were able to play our regular doubles season too!"

"I knew it wasn't going to be normal, which was disappointing, but I realized that our team was extremely lucky considering others were not able to play at all

when we began," said senior Caroline Schwartz. "I was very unsure about how practices and matches would work, but my coaches were very conscious of the safety guidelines, making all of us feel safe and have our season be as normal as possible. It was unfortunately my senior season, but I am very happy that I was able to get on the courts with the team again before we all graduate."

To their detriment, the girls had to wait until October 1st to be allowed to play doubles. Before this decision they had to forfeit games against other doubles teams which led to several losses, hence the subpar record.

This year's singles varsity lineup was made of first singles player Caroline Mercer (senior), second singles player Victoria DeLuca (sophomore), and third singles player Kiley Mangialardi (senior). "[Earning first singles] meant that all the hard work paid off and I felt like I was in a dream playing the sport I love," said Caroline Mercer.

The doubles varsity lineup was made up of first doubles team Annie Absher (senior) and Rachel Wascoe (sophomore), second doubles team Caroline Schwartz (senior) and Elizabeth Snavelly (junior), third doubles team Isabelle Butera (senior) and Ellie Schulz (senior), and fourth doubles team Peyton McDonnell (senior) and Rosa Gerner (senior).

In addition to hard work on the court, the girls also hosted the Play for the Cure Fundraiser to assist Phoenixville Hospital's Cancer Center. However, with the unusual circumstances due to COVID-19, the team had to be creative.

"So far we held a very successful car wash on October 3rd, said Coach Lindeman. "We have bracelet sales and restaurant fundraisers in the works!"

Senior Day was held on October 5th. "It was a happy and sad day," said Mercer. "It was happy because I got to celebrate with the team. And sad because I will miss the team and miss playing tennis for high school."

"Since most of us seniors have been playing together since ninth grade so Senior Day felt especially meaningful," said Isabelle Butera (senior). "Even with all the obstacles and restrictions for playing this year, I'm so glad we had the chance to celebrate our last season together."

Despite the adversity, the future is bright for Phoenixville's Girls' Tennis with an incoming pipeline of talent. "Although we are losing 16 seniors, and 8 out of 11 of our varsity team, we have a strong group of juniors, sophomores and freshmen coming up" said coach Lindeman. "The recent addition of our middle school tennis team is also a great way for our players to gain more experience prior to joining the high school team, which will only make us stronger in the years to come."



Phoenixville's seniors line up for a picture before a match.
Photo courtesy of Coach Lindeman



A masked up varsity team poses for a picture
Photo courtesy of Isabelle Butera

Girls' and Boys' Golf: Mask on and tee up



Written by:
Ariana Ortlip

Despite the craziness of the year 2020, it was yet another substantial year of growth for the PAHS Girls' and Boys' Golf teams. Expectations for both teams were low due to coronavirus concerns, but the teams were led by some outstanding seniors and promising underclassmen. While the girls' PAC overall record was 0-3, the postseason was strong. The boys' PAC record was 4-4.

The coronavirus had an impact on both golf teams this year. Ms. Waltz, who has been coaching the girls for six years, said there was uncertainty as to whether or not they were going to play. She said that golf is a socially distant sport to begin



Kyle Resuta (senior) readies himself at the tee.
Photo: LifeTouch

with, so it was not really hard to keep the girls distant from each other. Mr. Winnick mentioned that the virus caused a lot of schedule changes so they did not have much time for skill development.

Ms. Waltz gives credit to her assistant coach, Mrs. Foresta, and her seniors, Emily Westerfer, Kaia Herzog, and Tessa Martielli. Of course, Mrs. Waltz praises her varsity golfers including Chelsea Frampton (junior), Kate Roberts (freshman), Taryn Blitzer (sophomore), Chloe Zach (sophomore), and Mackenzie Thompson (sophomore). Players who qualified for districts this year were Kate Roberts and Chelsea Frampton. Although just a freshman, Roberts finished strong with a 10th place finish in Districts.

The girls practiced at Waltz Golf Farm and Turtle Creek Golf

Course, where home matches were played. The team mainly focused on improving basic skills, since most of the players are new to the game. The girls are a young team and lacked the depth to really be competitive this year, but they are very positive and plan to work hard in the offseason.

Chelsea Frampton, a varsity player, said that a match that stood out to her the most was against Boyertown: "Not only was it Senior Day, but we were also able to win our match that day. It stood out to me because even though [Kate and I] did not do as well as we wanted, we were still able to win."

The Boys' team also had an unusual, but memorable season. Mr. Winnick, who has been coaching for 20 years, said (before coronavirus) that he thought they would make the Final Four, but it turns out there was no Final Four. The team did not qualify for Districts, but one of the team seniors, Kyle Resuta, made it to the second day of District competition. He said he would have liked to get to States, but reaching the second day of Districts was a big accomplishment for him.

Mr. Winnick depended greatly on his seniors, Resuta, Bryan Maguire, Justin Geiger, David Clipper, Matt Sims, and Antonio Valenteen. Resuta was his number one player, Maguire number two, and Geiger number three. Some promising underclassmen on the varsity were Ryan Jasudowich (sophomore), Mitchell Morris (junior), and Jake Geiger (sophomore).

A match that stood out to Resuta was the match against Pottsgrove, which was his best round of the year, as well as their best match as a team. He said what he will miss most about Phoenixville Golf is, "definitely the guys and the competition. Right now I'm not seeing my friends too much so it's nice to get out there and see them and do something that we like together."

Mr. Winnick said that this past season the boys' team was a little short on players, as they did not even fill a full Varsity/JV team. They only had 14 golfers but they usually have 16. They are losing six seniors this year, so the team could really use more players for next season, especially underclassmen.

Even though the coronavirus made this season chaotic, both teams can look back and see the great new memories they created with friends and healthy competition.



Junior **Chelsea Frampton** displays her usual putting finesse.
Photo: LifeTouch



Girls' Varsity Golf: **Chloe Zach** (sophomore), **Taryn Blitzer** (sophomore), **Chelsea Frampton** (junior), **Mackenzie Thompson** (sophomore) and **Kate Roberts** (freshman).
Photo courtesy of Coach Waltz

SPORTS OPINION

2020 Philly sports rundown



Written by:
Chloe Johns

This year, although filled with an abundance of misfortunes, has had one shining light for many sports fans all around the world. That is the fact that MLB, NBA, and NHL all returned at the same time, giving everyone a glimmer of hope for some normalcy; well, unless you're a Philadelphia 76ers fan.

Philadelphia 76ers: A playoff nightmare

The 76ers opened up their 2019-2020 season with a five game win streak, after what in my opinion was a terrible offseason. For starters, they signed and traded 5 time all-star Jimmy Butler to the Miami Heat in exchange for Josh Richardson, who is basically a worse version of Butler. They neglected to offer him a well-deserved max contract, which definitely contributed to him wanting to play elsewhere, along with the coaching and management issues. Instead, they signed Tobias Harris to a 5 year 188 million dollar max contract.

Then, they let veteran sharpshooter JJ Redick sign a deal with the New Orleans Pelicans. After playing two of his best seasons with Philadelphia, the 76ers were simply unable to offer him the money he deserved due to signing the bum that is Al Horford.

Yes, you heard me correctly. The Philadelphia 76ers allowed Jimmy Butler and JJ Redick to walk but signed former Celtic Al Horford, a then 33 year old, to a 4 year 109 million dollar contract. I hated this signing ever since it happened and it did not help the team much during this season.

Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons both received all-star selections this year, Embiid his 3rd and Simmons his second, all in consecutive years. The two were the leaders of the 76ers squad as they entered a new season coming off of a disappointing loss to the Toronto Raptors in the Eastern Conference Semifinals that knocked them out of playoff contention on a buzzer beater by Kawhi Leonard. This, I believe, was their motivator, especially for the two stars.

This year's starting lineup for the beginning of the season consisted of Ben Simmons, Joel Embiid, Josh Richardson, Tobias Harris, and Al Horford. The team got off to a great start and continued to grow as a unit, having so many new pieces added to the group. The 76ers had a record of 40-26

76ers. It was going to be a difficult matchup especially with the loss of Simmons who averaged 16.4 points per game, 7.8 rebounds, and 8 assists.

The series kicked off on August 17th with a 109-101 loss, with Josh Richardson shooting 7-17 and Tobias Harris 6-15. It wasn't enough to get the job done and they went down 1-0. The next game also resulted in a blowout loss for the 76ers, who dropped the game 128-101 in just a pitiful display of basketball. Players such as Al Horford and Harris became invisible on the court. The third game came and went just as the last two did, with a loss, but this one came with a punch to the gut to all Sixers fans that a team who played decently all season was about to get swept in the first round of the playoffs by their nemesis.

Can you guess what happened next? The 76ers got swept in the playoffs, the last game being their most competitive of the four, but nonetheless, not a single game was won. The loss of Simmons drastically hurt the Sixers' chances to win the series but to not even win one game was just embarrassing.

One could contribute a multitude of reasons for the Sixers' playoff implosion, but I believe that in the end, their offseason and giving up Jimmy Butler and JJ Redick, really did them in. A team can not give away talent like that and expect to win games. Hopefully, this offseason the 76ers gut their front office and sign some decent players (like Buddy Hield).

A few days after the 76ers season concluded, the team fired head coach Brett Brown. There were a multitude of possible contenders for the position but finally on October 1st, former Los Angeles Clippers head coach, Doc Rivers, was hired and signed to a five year contract. Rivers is a well-respected figure around the league and has had a great amount of success so far in his career, including a NBA title back in 2008 with the Boston Celtics. Hopefully he can turn this team around and finally make the Philadelphia 76ers true contenders to win a championship.

Philadelphia Flyers: A promising future

The Philadelphia Flyers' season began on October 4th, 2019, with a 4-3 win against the Chicago Blackhawks. The team was led by captain Claude Giroux along with alternate captains, Sean Couturier, Jakob Voracek, and Kevin Hayes. They also had the young goalie, Carter Hart, defending the

goal for most of the season and he was absolutely phenomenal in almost all of his appearances.

The scoring this season was led by

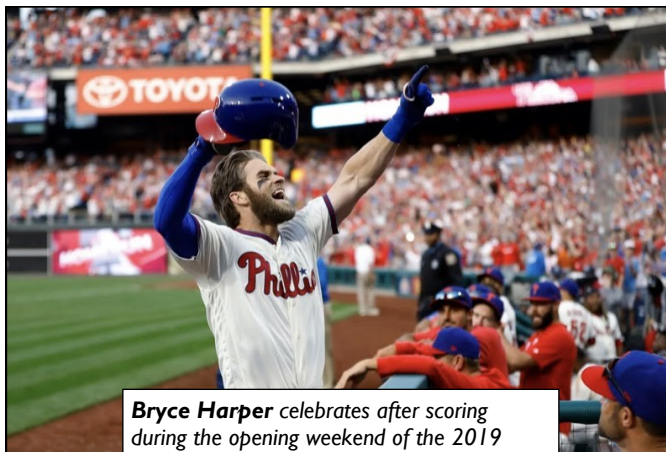
right winger Travis Konecny, who led the team in that category as well as points with 24 goals and 61 assists. These statistics earned him his first-ever all-star selection and made a name for the gritty player. Along with Konecny, Hart, and the team's captains, other key contributors included defenseman Ivan Provorov along with two young guys, Joel Farabee (left wing) and Philippe Myers (defenseman).

Throughout the entirety of the season, the Flyers held a solid record and were anticipated to make the playoffs. Along with fighting to make the playoffs, the team was fighting for first place in the Metropolitan Division. They ended up placing second in their division, just barely behind the Washington Capitals.

On March 12, 2020, the NHL announced that they would be suspending play until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Flyers' regular season was coming to a close with only a few games left

before the playoffs and with the stoppage came many uncertainties. Ultimately, the decision was made to resume play in two bubble-like structures located in Edmonton and Toronto Canada where players would be safe, and finally on August 1st, the NHL was back. Not only was hockey back, but playoff hockey had arrived as well, and the Philadelphia Flyers were back in the playoffs for the first time in 10 years.

The Flyers placed in the top four seeds going into the round-robin games which were played to decide the exact place each team would have. In the end, the Flyers defeated each of the three teams they faced, outscoring their opponents 11-3, thus earn-



Bryce Harper celebrates after scoring during the opening weekend of the 2019 season.

Photo: Philadelphia Inquirer

ing the number one seed in the playoffs.

The first team that the Philadelphia Flyers faced in the first round of the 2020 NHL playoffs was the Montreal Canadiens. On August 12th, the series kicked off for the orange and black. The Canadiens showed some fight but were eventually knocked out by the Flyers in game six that ended with a score of 3-2.

The Flyers headed onto the next round where they faced the New York Islanders, who are a very talented team. There were many concerns heading into this series, especially how none of the team's leading contributors, such as Giroux and Konecny, were scoring. Many key players were not playing to their fullest potential and to the standard needed in the playoffs.

Despite the growing concerns about the team's leaders, the series against the Islanders began on August 24th and it didn't start off on a good note. The opposition defeated the Flyers in a 4-0 shutout win, already putting the team in a hole. The Flyers took game two but lost both the third and the fourth, thus putting them down 3-1, an extremely difficult deficit to overcome.

In the next one, as they fought to stay in the playoffs, they earned a 5-4 win in double overtime. This game was a must-win and was the most exciting game of the season that ended with Provorov scoring with about 15 minutes left.

After fighting back from a 3-1 deficit, the Flyers had forced a game seven and were ready to fight like they had the past two games but it didn't end well. The Philadelphia Flyers were officially knocked out of the playoffs in game seven after losing in a shutout to the New York Islanders, 4-0.

Although the team was eliminated from the playoffs, this season was a huge step forward for the Flyers who have a young team that will only continue to improve. Many players saw their first playoff minutes, which are completely different from regular season play. These players will now be able to use this experience in the future and learn from what they did. All in all, I believe that the Philadelphia Flyers had an extremely successful season and will only get better in the many years to come.

Philadelphia Phillies: Nothing but disappointment

The 2020 Major League Baseball season was set to kick off on March 26th, but was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic before a single game was played. The Philadelphia Phillies were personally affected when numerous players and coaches at their spring training site contracted the virus, leading to the closing of the center.

After a long-fought battle between the Players' Union and MLB about games and salary, commissioner Rob Manfred was

forced to mandate a 60 game season, along with many other rules and regulations. With that being set, the season kicked off on July 23rd and for the Phillies, July 24th when they hosted the Miami Marlins and ended up losing 5-2.

The beginning of the season for the Philadelphia Phillies was a constant back and forth between having a .500 win percentage and being just below that. Some key players included outfielder Bryce Harper, shortstop Didi Gregorius, and catcher JT Realmuto who all got off to scorching hot starts. Other players, not so much, including Scott Kingery who was almost a guaranteed out whenever he came to the plate.

At the midway point of the season the Phillies sat at a record of 15-15 and were tied for second place with the Marlins in the National League East. But the team had an issue on their hands that had afflicted them all season: the bullpen. This bullpen is quite possibly the worst one anyone has ever seen, leaving fans wanting to turn off the TV once a new pitcher comes out, knowing that they will blow a lead no matter how

large it is. At its worst point, the Phillies bullpen earned run average (ERA) was 10.13 and their pitchers had allowed 48 runs in 43 innings. By the end of the year, the Phillies had led in 49 of their 60 games and managed to have a losing record. In total, the team led the league in blown saves with a whopping total of 13 in a 60 game season and had a 7.06 ERA, the second highest in baseball history only behind the 1930 Phillies. The inability to retain a lead was the Phillies' biggest downfall this season.

Nearing the end of the season, the team dealt with multiple injuries to key players which definitely hurt while coming down the stretch. First off, Rhys Hoskins, who was absolutely crushing the baseball, collided with a Marlins player resulting in him needing Tommy John surgery on his non-throwing arm. Then catcher J.T. Realmuto came down with hip issues and Bryce Harper had been playing with an injured back for weeks. Both of these players powered through and continued to play, but it definitely contributed to the team's playoff hopes going down the drain.

The Philadelphia Phillies ended their season with a record of 28-32 and placed third in the NL East behind the Atlanta Braves and the Miami Marlins. The team was a part of this year's NL Wildcard race and had to win two of their last eight games to qualify and well, they won one, thus knocking them out of playoff contention for the ninth year in a row.

Now the Phillies are to face a possibly franchise-changing offseason and could lose one of the league's top free agents in Realmuto, who they foolishly allowed to reach free agency. He should have been signed to a contract extension last offseason and now because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the front office is unsure about their financial situation. Realmuto is the best catcher in baseball and if the Philadelphia Phillies do not bring him back, it will haunt them for many years to come. They gave up one of the best up and coming young pitchers, Sixto Sanchez, for two years of Realmuto and failed to even make it to the playoffs. The team needs him.

Gregorius also becomes a free agent this offseason and should be re-signed by the Phillies as well. This guy had a phenomenal year slashing .284 on the season with 10 home runs and is obviously a team leader who would provide lots of upside.

The Phillies have already made a front office move that fans have been calling for all season and that is getting rid of General Manager Matt Klentak, who stepped down a few weeks after the season concluded. Hopefully, they can hire someone who is actually good at their job and will re-sign Realmuto as well as sign some quality bullpen arms.



Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons appear together during a game this season.
Photo: CBS Sports

when the Covid-19 pandemic shut down the NBA season.

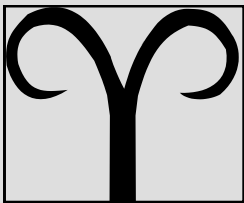
After almost five months of waiting and anticipation, the NBA resumed play on August 1st at the Disney World Resort in Orlando Florida where they created a bubble to keep the players safe. Each team invited to the bubble played eight games that counted towards their regular season record and also, for some, determined whether or not they made it to the playoffs. The 76ers went 4-4 in their seeding games and lost a crucial member of their starting rotation in the process when all-star Ben Simmons injured his left knee after jumping up for a rebound. It was later announced that he suffered a subluxation of his left kneecap and would be out indefinitely.

Unfortunately, the team was seeded to play none other than the Boston Celtics in the first round of the playoffs, a team who has long been considered a rival of the

Written by: Caleb Pearl and Eli Stevenson

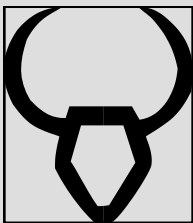
ARIES: (March 21 - April 19)

As Neptune moves into your star chart, prepare for trouble, and make it double. Both Neptune and Uranus appear, causing your luck to drop. Zoom? Not working. Homework? Not getting done. Nothing the computer is supposed to do is working, and you're left with doing things with paper and pencil! Oh no! Boredom will wash over you as there is nothing to do, maybe next month!
This month: Stab erasers with a pencil.



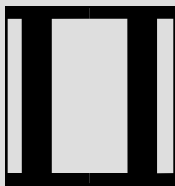
TAURUS: (April 20 - May 20)

Mercury is in your star chart and is ready to cause some mind tricks. You will continually forget your mask at home, and have to turn back and get it, making you late to every appointment! You will forget your keys in your car, then forget that isn't your car. After that, you'll realize you don't have your shoes! Then you will forget your name! Well, it's nice to have a clean slate!
This Month: Eat air for breakfast.



GEMINI: (May 21 - June 20)

As Venus leaves your star chart, you're going to notice people aren't as interested in talking to you. They seem to be elsewhere, or on a video chat with someone else. Even your teachers are busy with someone else! They won't call on you, and even forget you're there! When you go to Trick or Treat, nobody notices you! Are you a ghost? Perhaps you can use this time to do your missed assignments.
This Month: Throw away your chocolate candy.



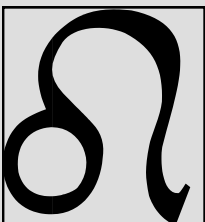
CANCER: (June 21 - July 22)

Nothing has entered or left your star chart, so nothing will happen. Your days will be boring and uneventful, just school, work, sleep, repeat. You will not notice all the special stuff around you, the same old routine keeps you going around and around. Not even Halloween will be interesting, it's just you and your bag to collect some simple candies.
This Month: Stuff your head into the ground.



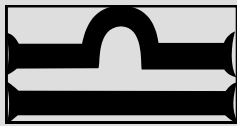
LEO: (July 23 - August 22)

Mars has entered your star chart, so your Zoom meetings and homework will be completed in a breeze, and no problems will arise. Your internet will be ultra fast and your teachers barely give you any projects! Relax and kick back in your chair, since you won't need to do much. Even your date for the Homecoming will approach you first; you didn't even need to try!
This Month: Hire your dog to do your homework.



VIRGO: (August 23 - September 22)

Uh oh, Venus has left your star chart. Your crush from that one class switched classes, and now you don't see him/her anymore. You won't be able find a new crush, since everyone else has their own. And on top of that, your teachers will assign more homework, and they don't seem to like you anymore. You don't even have a Homecoming date, and anyone you ask will reject your invitation. Come back, Venus!
This Month: Eat unholy amounts of cheese.

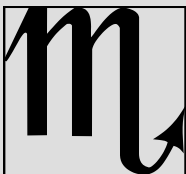


LIBRA: (September 23 - October 22)

This month is not looking good for you. As Mercury comes into alignment with your star chart, life takes a turn for the worst. Your virtual Zooms will periodically crash and you will be late for all classes. Canvas will crash and you will miss assignments. You won't even be able to make it to virtual Homecoming! On the bright side, you will get a date to the virtual Homecoming dance, but you will have to dance six feet apart on Zoom.
This month: Prep for virtual Halloween.

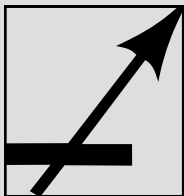
SCORPIO: (October 23 - November 21)

Scorpio is looking good this month, as Pluto and Uranus enter your star chart. You will be granted good luck and you will make honor roll this term. You will get all the candy for Halloween... if it happens!! You will meet new friends over Zoom and you will begin to appreciate Canvas. Be careful, as you will also have some bad luck. On the 27th your computer will crash and you will have to redo all your assignments!!
This Month: Go for a long walk around the Dunkin Donuts Drive Thru three times.



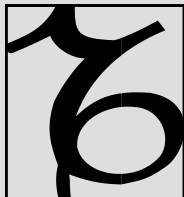
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 - December 21)

As Uranus moves into your star chart, you will be granted bad luck this Halloween. You will carve a jack-o-lantern but it will light on fire from the candle. You will lose your candy to a bet you make with your friends and they will make you enter a graveyard. You will also get a date to Homecoming but it will be one of your cousins. On the positive side, you will find some unopened Snickers on the street. Ignore the ants inside.
This Month: Make some Halloween cookies with tomatoes in them.



CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 19)

Pluto is moving into your star chart, meaning you will have an interesting fall. Everyone around you will be getting ready for Christmas. Can you believe it? You will even yell in anger to the sound of Christmas music being played before Halloween. Everyone around you will be asking you if you are getting ready for Black Friday Shopping. When Halloween comes, you will be greeted by Jack Skellington.
This Month: Start holiday shopping early. Buy a yodeling pickle.



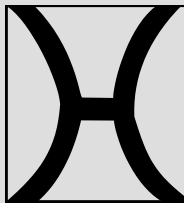
AQUARIUS: (January 20 - February 18)

As Neptune enters your star chart, you will be granted good luck. While shopping for candy online you will get scammed into buying the stuff you hate the most. You will throw your headset out the window in anger. Then you will try to buy a Halloween costume online, but when you get it in person it will look like baby Yoda.
This Month: Watch Avengers Endgame 20 times hoping for a different ending.



PISCES: (February 19 - March 20)

As Jupiter's outer ring moves away from your star chart, the haunting begins. First, a group of skeletons will enter your bedroom and steal all of your money. Then, you will find a four leaf clover, but it will be stolen by a trick-or-treater in a Leprechaun costume. You will try to find candy, but a man with a chainsaw will make you give it to him, giving you his arm in return.
This Month: Spend over 100 dollars on the most ridiculous costume you can find.



FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY

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Which Halloween Costume Are You?

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Similar to most events in 2020 so far, this year’s Halloween is expected to be nothing short of unusual. A rare blue moon display is anticipated on this Covid precaution-bound Halloween night, which is set for the last Saturday of this month. Although many traditional spooky-season celebrations will be modified to uphold the pandemic’s health and safety measures, your unwavering Halloween spirit can still be expressed through your choice of costume for your socially-distant night. Take this quiz to find out which Halloween costume best suits your personality!

1. What is your favorite Halloween candy?

A. Twizzlers
B. Swedish Fish
C. Sour Patch Kids
D. Snickers
E. Anything with chocolate!

2. Which spooky movie character do you like the most?


A. Count Dracula- “Dracula”
B. Jack Sparrow- “Pirates of the Caribbean”
C. The Sanderson Sisters- “Hocus Pocus”
D. Professor Lupin- “Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban”
E. Beetlejuice- “Beetlejuice”

3. Which fall/spooky activity is your favorite?

A. Watching scary movies at midnight
B. Going to a pumpkin patch with friends
C. Decorating for Halloween
D. Going outside after dark
E. Exploring abandoned houses

4. What is your opinion on pumpkin spice lattes?

A. I don’t really drink coffee
B. I drink at least 3 every day- I’m obsessed!
C. I prefer to drink tea!
D. I would much rather have a black coffee instead
E. I love it, but it goes right through me!



5. Which design would you rather carve into a pumpkin?

A. A scary face with big teeth
B. I usually paint my pumpkins instead of carving them!
C. A beautifully detailed scene- I love to show my artistic flare!
D. The words “Keep Out!”, or “Beware!”
E. The simple jack-o-lantern look

6. Which spooky song do you resonate most with?

A. “Teeth”- 5 Seconds of Summer
B. “Superstition”- Stevie Wonder
C. “Rhiannon”- Fleetwood Mac
D. “Thriller”- Michael Jackson
E. “Stranger Things” Theme- Kyle Dixon, Michael Stein

7. Which Halloween decoration is your favorite?


A. Anything with blood on it!
B. Fog machine
C. Colorful potions in weird bottles!
D. Anything that jumps out and scares you!
E. Spider webs

8. Which spooky TV show character do you like the most?

A. Damon Salvatore- “The Vampire Diaries”
B. The Flying Dutchman- “SpongeBob SquarePants”
C. Sabrina Spellman- “The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina”
D. Stiles Stilinski- “Teen Wolf”
E. Danny Phantom- “Danny Phantom”

9. What are you planning on doing this Halloween night?

A. Eating a ton of candy!
B. Looking at the decorated houses in the neighborhood
C. Listening to spooky music and reading a horror novel
D. Scaring people!
E. Watching scary movies with my friends



10. How much do you like Halloween?

A. It is the greatest holiday of the year
B. Wish it was longer than a day
C. I always look forward to it
D. Wish it was scarier
E. It is as spooky as any other day for me!

Scoring: Add up the number of times you chose each letter, then check your results below.

Mostly A’s: Vampire- You are a vampire! You enjoy the scary side of Halloween, and you love to give everyone a good fright. When it comes to fears, nothing scares you more than being in the spotlight. You’re a night owl and are more productive when working alone. You often find yourself wearing a lot of black clothes with long, cape-like sleeves. This Halloween would be the perfect time to grab those fangs, smear on some fake blood, and live as the vampire of your dreams for a night.

Mostly B’s: Pirate- You are a pirate! You are seen as the extrovert in your friend group and you are very passionate about all water-related things. Your friends characterize you as the captain of your own ship, since you have a bubbly and outgoing personality. You are the life of the Halloween party, and you can be seen on the dance floor shaking your pirate-booty, or dominating in the bobbing for apples competition. Grab your hook and eyepatch this Halloween, because a pirate costume is a perfect fit for you! Aye Aye, Captain!

Mostly C’s: Witch/wizard- You are a witch/wizard! When someone tells you they have a headache, you’re probably the first one to respond by getting all your crystals and spells put together. Your intuition is off the charts and people worry if you can hear their thoughts. Cleaning and organizing is one of your favorite tasks and if you can use your broom, even better! This Halloween, grab your crystal ball and your potions because a witch/wizard costume is the perfect fit for you.

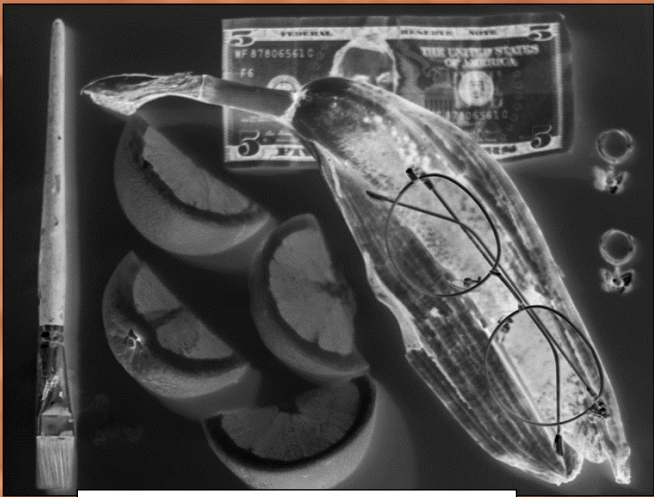
Mostly D’s: Werewolf- You are a werewolf! You are the quintessential “tough guy/gal” of your trick or treat gang. You are the type of person who walks through all the scary decorations in the Spirit Halloween store and doesn’t even flinch! When it comes to scaring others, you see yourself as the best of the best. You have a big personality and a loud voice, perfect for howling at the moon! This year is the perfect time to grab your claws and get ready to show off your wild side!

Mostly E’s: Ghost- You are a ghost! You are the type of person who is able to float from one activity to another and not complain. As long as your friends are having fun, you are too! Although you might seem shy and quiet, you absolutely love jumping out and scaring people from clever hiding spaces. You also like to enjoy the simple things in life. A white bedsheets and a good pair of scissors is just what you need to get your spook on this year!

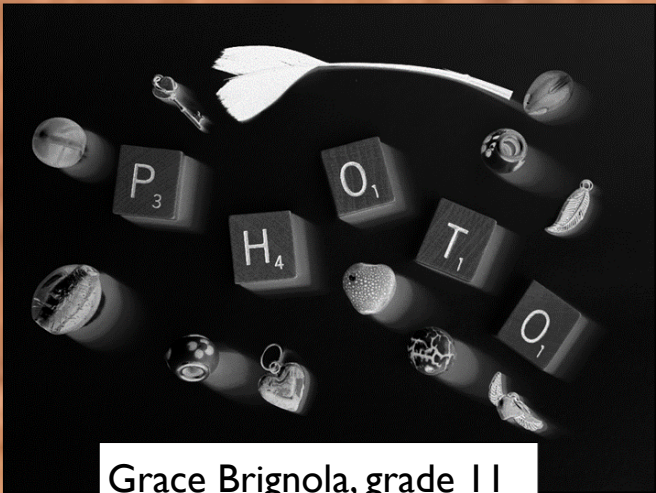
Written by: Katie Kramer, Sullivan Nowak, and Penelope Pappas

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo 1- Digital Photograms- students learned about the traditional photography process of making photograms and cyanotypes, and used these styles as inspiration to create their own digital images.



Aubrey Wright, grade 11



Grace Brignola, grade 11

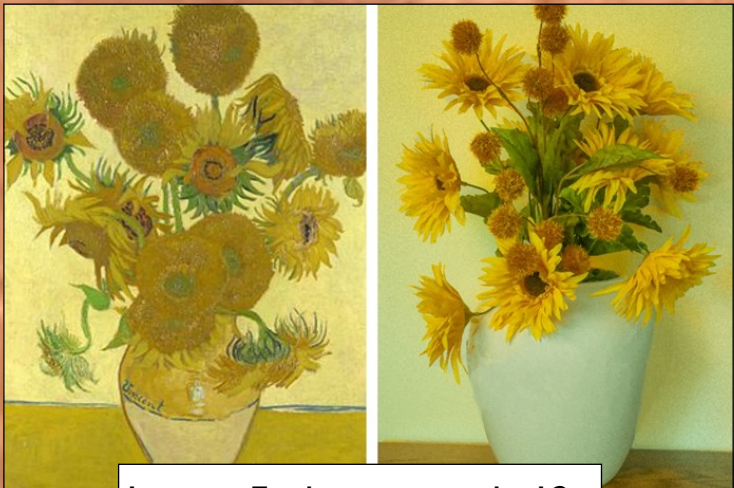


Evan Stout, grade 12

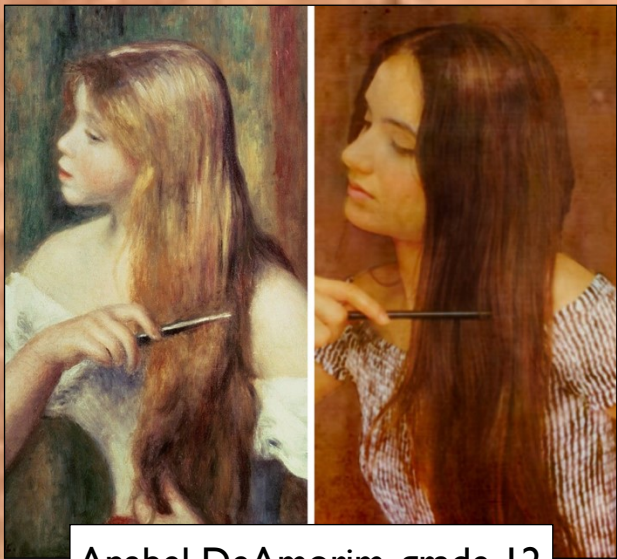


Nikhil Rangappagari, grade 12

Photo 2- Art History Double-Take Project- students chose an artwork they loved from art history and recreated it in a photograph. They created their own set-ups, chose any props that they needed, and edited in post-production to create a strong likeness to the original work! This is inspired by the "Getty Challenge"!



Laurn Fosbenner, grade 12



Anabel DeAmorim, grade 12



Ray Lewandowski grade 12



Sarah McCarthy, grade 12